



LUNGU SACRIFICES



Vice-President Inonge Wina congratulates newly-appointed Minister of Community Development and Social Welfare Olipa Phiri after her swearing in at State House yesterday. Phiri is also Nyimba PF member of parliament - Picture by Salim Henry

KABANSHI

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But Kalaba says corruption is at the top in PF govt

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Govt to spend K6.4m on 42 fire tenders' insurance cover

By Abraham Kalito
Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale told Parliament, Tuesday, that K154,000 was spent as annual premiums in insurance cover for one single fire truck,

totalling K6,468,000 for the 42 fire tenders procured by government at US \$42 million. And Mwale says of the three fire trucks which were involved in accidents,

only the Solwezi truck had been completely damaged and ZISC was working on replacing it.

Mwale was responding to Chipili member of parliament Jewis Chabi, who wanted to know whether the fire tenders procured had been comprehensively insured; what the insured amount is; how many fire tenders were involved in an accident; how many were damaged and what the causes of the accidents were. To page 2



Katuba UPND Member of Parliament Patricia Mwashingwele with Bwacha PF MP and Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga in Parliament yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

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Government to spend K6.4 million as insurance cover for 42 fire trucks

By Abraham Kalito

Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale told Parliament yesterday that K154,000 was spent as annual premiums in insurance cover for one single fire truck, totalling K6,468,000 for the 42 fire tenders procured by government at US \$42 million. And Mwale says of the three fire trucks which were involved in accidents, only the Solwezi truck had been completely damaged and ZISC was working on replacing it. Mwale was responding to Chipili member of parliament Jewis Chabi, who wanted to know whether the fire tenders procured had been comprehensively insured;

what the insured amount is; how many fire tenders were involved in an accident; how many were damaged and what the causes of the accidents were. "Each fire truck has been insured for an amount of K10 million; three fire trucks have been involved in accidents namely: one for Chililabombwe; one for Solwezi and one for Chibombo. Only one was completely damaged, which is the truck for Solwezi. The insurance firm, Zambia State Insurance Company (ZSIC), is working on replacing the fire truck. The causes of the accidents are as follows: one, the Chililabombwe one was attending an incident; the

rescue team received a call for another fire incident in Kasumbalesa boarder post. On rushing to Kasumbalesa, the driver failed to negotiate a curve and the fire truck fell on one side on the rail line. Two; one for Solwezi; as the fire truck was turning out for a drowning case, other motorists failed to give way even though the siren and the beacon were on. The driver on the fire truck struggled to manoeuvre the vehicle

through the dual carriageway and hit into a car by the side and lost control hitting into stone causing the fire truck to flip," Mwale explained. "And three, the fire truck was enroute to Lusaka for service when an oncoming vehicle lost control and hit the side mirror of the fire truck. Mr Speaker, 42 fire tenders were procured for US \$42 million translating into US \$1 million each, which translates into K10 million, and that's what we have insured for.

I'm not very sure how long it should take for the fire tender to be replaced. But processes are being undertaken to ensure that the car is insured. These vehicles or trucks were insured for K10 million each, and this is the position of government. That is the amount insured. You pay less to have that insured. So, we paid less to insure it for K10 million. And that's how everything works. And the issue of the amount insured, how much was a premium and

for what, you know, amounts we were insuring, I'm not sure that we gave a position on how that is being portrayed, but I want to give you this position that, each was insured for K10 million and I haven't said how much we paid as premium for each one as I gave this answer." He said government had paid for insurance cover for councils that could not manage to raise the money and pay. "Some councils that are doing well managed to pay for the insurance; some councils that are not, government managed to pay for their insurance cover. Mr Speaker, if you are insuring a car for K10 million, you actually don't pay K10 million. The cover is worth K10 million, but they will charge you, maybe, US \$100,000. So, that is not how it works; you don't give them 100 per cent what the car is worth. So, premium is a different amount and cover is something else. So, in this case, we are paying annual premiums per truck of K154,000, and then K10 million the whole cover period is three years, like I said. So, we are not expected to pay K30 million, which is K10 million per year to cover a K10 million worth of truck, so, we are paying only K154,000 per year to cover K10 million premium because that is how insurance works," said Mwale. When asked how come the insurance figure had changed from \$250,000 which was initially announced by officials from his ministry, Mwale said he needed to check his records to confirm if any other figure other than what he had read out had been announced.

Failure to appoint Auditor General will escalate impunity – Chipimo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

National Restoration party (NAREP) president Elias Chipimo has warned that the Auditor General's office remaining vacant for too long may only increase the levels of impunity among culprits who are politically-connected. And Chipimo says until Zambians decide to change the type of leadership in office, cases of missing evidence at court will not stop. In an interview, Chipimo expressed concern that there would be an increase in the levels of impunity to those who may be politically-connected if Auditor General's office remains vacant for too long. "One thing that may actually impact is people's perception of what they can get away with because if there is no substantive office-holder, it can increase the sense of impunity that is already there. As you know, right now, even with the identified cases of fraud, theft and abuse of office; because there are no prosecutions against those who are seen to be politically-connected; people feel they can get away with literally murder. And so, where you have no substantive office-holder, it just reinforces that sense of impunity," Chipimo warned. And Chipimo noted that the ability by public officials to ignore the report has been a major problem. "In theory, it doesn't matter that the office of the Auditor General remains vacant because the key issue is the release of the report. And that can be done even by an individual who is acting in that capacity. The big problem

with the Auditor General's office, however, has been the ability of public officials ignoring the report and the lack of specific powers on the part of the Auditor General to follow-up on the specific cases of irregularity, abuse and misapplication that are identified in the report. So, their job is just to audit and produce a report. It's the job of other organisations and state entities and, indeed, leaders to act," Chipimo observed. "So whether you have an Auditor General there in the substantive role or an acting individual playing that role, the challenge still remains that the institution beyond producing a report has no teeth to take up the specific cases of abuse and misappropriation and misapplication that are

identified in the report. It actually doesn't change the fact that the report would still be produced. It would be produced by the acting person, but even if you have the substantive position-holder, the problem with that office is that it has no teeth to bite the culprits identified." And Chipimo said there was need for Parliament to take up the mandate of prosecuting those cited in the Auditor General's report. "So, what we actually need is a follow-up process on what Parliament can take up and pursue to make sure that the individuals are prosecuted. It needs to link back to Cabinet office so that disciplinary action is taken where there is misappropriation. Law enforcement agencies should

be linked in as well so that there is actually criminal prosecution from the DPP's [Director of Public Prosecution's] office where there is illegalities and fraud that is identified. All of these things are actually identified every year, but we never see any action. So, whether there is a substantive position or not, it doesn't change anything," Chipimo added. Meanwhile, Chipimo said until Zambians decide to change the type of leadership in office, cases of missing evidence at court would not stop. He was reacting to the missing cocaine, which went missing at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court last month. "It's not the first time it has happened. These cases of

missing evidence are rife. This is not new and all this does is that it really confirms that our society is now rotten to the very core. Corruption, theft, abuse of office, stealing of evidence is now such a common thing that it's almost accepted as part and parcel of how we do business in this country, which is very sad. I can assure you that very little will be done to get to the bottom of this issue. It has to first start with the leadership. We have to make sure that we put in power the leadership which cares for this country. Until you have that, I can tell you there will be very little that will change. So, we must start thinking very hard as we approach 2021 [on] what kind of leadership we really want," said Chipimo.

Kwacha hits K11 per dollar

By Stuart Lisulo

The kwacha has depreciated against major currency convertible to breach the K11 per dollar psychological barrier for the first time since April, 2016. And FNB Zambia says there is a sense of panic in the foreign exchange market as players do not seem to know where the kwacha's resistance levels will be. According to financial market players, the kwacha has breached the K11 psychological barrier per dollar to trade above K11.00 on account of heightened demand for dollars on the local market. The local unit was seen trading at K10.99 and K11.06 by mid-morning, Wednesday, for bid and offer respectively, according to the Bank of Zambia, down from an average of K10.30 per dollar in less than one week. This depreciation of around six per cent in less than a week also comes in the wake of revelation surrounding the British government's announcement to suspend its aid funding to the Zambian government.

The last time the kwacha depreciated to hit the K11 per dollar barrier was April, 2016, where it traded above K11.00 per dollar by the end of the first quarter of that year. And according to FNB Zambia, the kwacha has weakened significantly, depreciating to above the K11 per dollar mark, largely triggered by negative economic sentiments, amidst the usual demand-supply factors. "The local unit continues to slip against the greenback. At its climax, the mid-rate reached USD/ZMW11.02 in yesterday's trading session – levels last seen in April 2016. As sentiment continues to dampen, the local unit has had no firm footing against a basket of currencies," FNB stated in a daily treasury newsletter released, Wednesday. "Due to these elevated levels, a sense of panic has embraced the market as the resistance level of USD/ZMW remains unknown. Tuesday's trading opened at K10.90/K10.95 and closed

at K11.00/K11.05. We are of the view that the kwacha will continue on a bearish note." And Cavmont stated in its market report that the local currency has continued on its depreciating trend owing to the continued strong demand for dollars by corporates. "The kwacha continued its movement against the US dollar on Tuesday as demand continued to outweigh supply on interbank as well as from corporate buyers. In the interim, most market participants are likely to remain cautious as they seek to determine the kwacha's next move," stated Cavmont. Meanwhile, a check around several bureaus in Lusaka found the kwacha had significantly depreciated to over the K11 per dollar mark. The kwacha traded at K11.01 and K11.05 per dollar for bid and offer respectively at Ace-FX Bureau, while the local unit was quoted at K11.02 and K11.24 per dollar at Golden Coin Bureau by lunchtime yesterday.

Zambians respond to Lungu:

"You only care about remaining in power..."

AFTER UK ANNOUNCED AID FREEZE TO ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU REACTED IN A STATEMENT BELOW:

Four months ago, I ordered an administrative inquiry into suspected misuse of the Social Cash Transfer funds, and a comprehensive report was submitted to my office on 14th September 2018.

I have therefore given Secretary to the Cabinet Dr. Roland Msiska one week to take decisive action to curb all malpractices in the administration of the Social Cash Transfer programme because malpractices hurt the poor who survive on this vital safety net.

I have further directed that the Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Hon. Emerine Kabanshi and Minister of Finance Hon. Margaret Mwanakatwe must continue with their engagements with donors to assure them of the remedial measures Government has been undertaking since suspected cases of misuse surfaced earlier this year.

Following my dissatisfaction with the pace of the ongoing administrative measures, I have directed for quicker forensic audits by the Auditor-General and other relevant Government internal audit systems. We need to get to the bottom of this for the benefit of our people.

In the meantime, I appeal that we give investigations a chance.

I thank you.

...AND ZAMBIANS RESPONDED ON HIS FACEBOOK PAGE:

"Your administration is not inspiring any more Mr President. Corruption and poor service delivery have dented your humble image while poverty is getting from bad to worse amongst your people. Your Ministers and those close to you seem to be the only ones benefiting from this crisis." - Maiko Zulu

"Mr Edgar Lungu the problem with you is that you pretend to be a very humble man but actually you are very arrogant and dictatorial in nature. You don't want to listen to people when they complain. Maybe you think that you will be a president forever." - Jack Solozzo

"The truth your Excellency is that you are now exceedingly irrelevant to the governance of our nation. We used to love you but now we regret having voted for you. Cursed is the day we voted for you in 2016... You are a burden to Zambians sir and the earlier you realize this the better. You are the MOST CORRUPT president since independence." - Judith Mutale

"Sorry sir! You encouraged them to eat but not to eat together with the seed, look now balya nembuto kumo. (they've eaten together with the seed)." - Tomy Clive

"I don't have a problem having you as a President, but I have a problem with your presidency, you have been so senile pertaining to the real issues that are affecting this country, you have been complacent dealing with corruption, embezzlement, looting etc there has been enough outcry about them same but you came out asking for evidence from us...that was unfair to say the least. You need to work really hard to win public confidence in your leadership, someone worked hard for you to enjoy the democracy you are enjoying but you aren't doing the same for us young people." - Janny M. Nyendwa

"If I were you I would have suspended Emerine Kabashi on to pave way for investigations, but in your usual way of not taking things seriously, you still want her to sit with donors and talk about what...???" - Derrick K Kalasa

"There is a report that came from FIC and Auditor General but we haven't heard any firing, but now it had to take donors to stop funding that's when the action will be taken" - Lyson Johnson Mhango

"So you actually knew about this four months ago yet in your speech to parliament you read what people wanted to hear. Am very disappointed in you sir because all this time, I have always said I need to give you a benefit of a



doubt.

Do you realize how many people are suffering because of this attitude towards your job? Awe twapapata tufwileniko uluse. Eh humility iyi? How do you even sleep at night? Chasoni sana." - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

"You're a good pretender sir, how can you not know about all this when you're the one who is giving all instructions to all the pipes in government... sort out your mess or we will not support you in 2021.... Things are becoming difficult every day..." - Ken Zikhale Ngala

"Misuse surfaced earlier this year and nine months down line nothing... why didn't you do something when misuse surfaced...? Sure sir...!" - Brian Bashi Mapalo

"With due respect, I have been a PF supporter for a long time because I had hope that after Mr. Sata MHSRIP you were going to lead Zambia to prosperity but alas, you have driven us into more problems. You personally allow wrongs to continue even when you know the end result will haunt you. We have heard how the money meant for the same social cash transfer has been diverted by broke Zampost to buy posh vehicles for themselves and you found it OKAY. Zambia is for all Zambians but in your administration you award contracts to PF cadres in construction even when they have no knowledge of the same. Am saying give contracts to qualified Zambians regardless of their political affiliation because tomorrow you will be answerable. For me, borrowing money for development is not a problem but I feel the quality of works done on most of our newly constructed infrastructures is bad. All in all, you are the head of state and all blames are on your head because of the decisions you make. Sorry sir, am no longer supporting you and the PF." - Chintool Vincent Bakateka

"What about the auditor general report you didn't see it that now you are lamenting like a child, you should be serious sir, you are leading the nation not animals." - Kelvin Simwanza

"Leadership qualities is really cardinal, I feel he lacks this, and mostly his ministers praise him a lot, so to him he thinks everything is ok. Shame on him." - Andrew Ny-k

"Up to now we don't even have a substantive Auditor General in office and one wonders how you are fighting corruption. Unfortunately the people that will vote for you in 2021 don't even understand what is going on here and impact to them. Ultimately the people that will suffer are innocent hardworking employees through increased taxes which are already unbearable. We really need an electoral college voting system it is really unfair." - Mwenya Zulu

"This speaks volumes about your leadership capabilities and I am very sure, the people within your circles don't take you very serious. That's why they are comfortable to keep you waiting for a report for 4-months... You need to pull the trigger Mr President... And the lives of Zambians are on your shoulders right now. Stop

focussing so much on foreign trips...we need to sort out our problems without fear or favor... This is what happens when you decide to put your party above the country.. you produce a bunch of cadres who can steal with impunity, harass your citizens with impunity, disregard even the decisions you make etc. Let us clean up the entire system. And you should be more worried about the people within your circles than even the UPND... Am very sure, they are up to something..." - Muyunda Akufuna

"I waited for four months", says the head of state, he that holds the most power in the country. Honestly this just shows how people don't respect you, so much so, they made you wait for 4 months to get the report and worse off, you did nothing about it, I doubt if you are even going to do anything about it. You and Regime do nothing but prove how irrelevant you have become to the nation. It's one disappointment over the other, and the only ones benefitting are those in power with you, while the rest of us suffer thanks to all of you." - Patience Sisya

"But I wonder why he is so reluctant to act on the public outcry. When Zambians cry over something it means there is a problem. Ichibemba chitila "Apakomaila nondo ninshi pali ubulema"... People have been crying over the misuse of funds and corruption. He only said bring evidence then we will act. Reports with evidence came ati Iyo this is someone's opinion etc. Nomba moneni ifyo chaba. The Aid is cut. Who will suffer? It's the same poor voters who put PF in govt. Failure to act on time has cost us. I wonder why he is shocked that the report has come out 4 months when it has taken a donor to withdraw then he realised ati "fyapena"! Wanyeka munzi! Lesson learnt here. Time to be proactive! Otherwise there will be no other better time to fire the incompetent people in his government. #napwisha" - Moses Kandela

"Mr President we have suffered.. you only care about remaining in power and punishing those that don't sing with you sir .. yes the action you now taking on social cash transfer is correct but just one of the many things sir , we have suffered and if you know what is good for us stand down sir." - Whyted Rapheal Nyirenda

"You don't wait for an outsider to discover your weakness in dealing with such misapplications of donated funds which are meant for the poor. People have talked about corruption in social cash transfers but they were given a deaf eye but see how disgusting this issue has become it is people in your government who stall the money as you are putting it though people can't believe now because it took you to come in the matter the owners of the money discovered corruption. Where were you? in Zambia or on holiday for such to happen? We have people capable of doing a better job but busy employing pa chibulu these ate end results can't be ashamed of Zambia is all over the Aljazila, BBC, CNN and many more in a negative way as if we the people you are ruling sir we are dead minded people. Look never should you take advantage of people's patience because one day they will make you regret ." - Peter Zulu

By Mirriam Chabala

United Party for National Development president Hakainde Hichilema says the Patriotic Front must go because they are a bunch of thieves. On Tuesday, President Lungu ordered Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Rowland Msiska to conclude investigations and take decisive action within a week. President Lungu also directed that the Minister of Community Development and Social Services Hon Emerine Kabanshi and Minister of Finance Hon Margaret Mwanakatwe to continue with their engagements with donors to assure them of the remedial

PF must go, they're a bunch of thieves – HH

measures government has been undertaking since suspected cases of misuse surfaced earlier this year. "I want a speedy and decisive investigation into the matter to establish the status of the disbursement of the social cash transfer programme. Wherever cases of abuse requiring criminal investigations may arise, such

cases must be reported to relevant agencies and where administrative action is required, I want to see prompt action taken," Chanda quoted President Lungu as saying. But in a statement, Wednesday, Hichilema observed that President Edgar Lungu could not stop corruption. "We have noted the action

taken by the UK and other government's suspension of funding, over the PF corruption and fraud as stated in the AGs report. This social cash transfer programme for which funding has been suspended will affect the poorest of the poor, and not the men and women in PF who drive black tinted land

of dollars. This action puts the PF on the spotlight after vehemently refuting that they are a bunch of corrupt, heartless and selfish individuals. The PF and Mr Edgar Lungu cannot stop this corruption because they are direct beneficiaries. But what is more heart-breaking is for them to plunder donor funding meant for the old,

women and children who have no other means of survival," stated Hichilema. "Social services have suffered because of debt, and even the little aid we have received is now being swallowed by debt if not stolen. This is just plain cruel. This must end people of Zambia. It is only morally upright that in order to save themselves as PF leaders and our country, the entire PF team must step down forthwith. PF must go now, they have proved that they are crooks, cruel, thieves and corrupt to the core. This rot must stop now." UK, Sweden, Finland and Ireland have all frozen aid to Zambia owing to suspected misuse of funds and corruption.

"Sida is freezing support over suspected misuse of funds within Social Cash Transfer programme in Zambia. Finland, Great Britain and Ireland are also suspending their support. Sweden supports cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable in Zambia through the Social Cash Transfer programme. Increasing evidence suggests that cash transfers is an effective means to combatting poverty. The poor and vulnerable get increased possibilities to make economic decisions over, for instance, minor investments in their household or towards increased productivity in their farming, buying more nutritious food or to pay for school fees. A high proportion of the beneficiaries are women. After strong suspicions concerning misuse of funds within the social cash transfers, Sida and the other donors have frozen the use of funds. Problems within the programme were discovered during the spring of 2018, but not until August were there suspicions of misuse of funds," Sida posted on its website, Tuesday. "The Zambian Office of the Auditor General is making an investigation into the matter and Sida is carefully following the developments. There are not yet any reports on the amount suspected to have been misused. The agreement between Sweden and the Government of Zambia on support to the Social Cash Transfer programme, covers a total of 165 MSEK for the years 2016-2018. Out of these 130 MSEK has been disbursed up until now. Sida is part of a group of cooperating partners, which includes Finland, Great Britain and Ireland, who provide financial support to the programme. The main part of the programme, however, around two thirds, comes from the Government of Zambia. Corruption is a societal problem that hampers development and makes it more difficult to combat poverty. Sida works actively to detect corruption, acts on all suspicions of corruption of misuse within our contributions and supports anti-corruption in our cooperation countries."

Clause on Parley approval for loans not a lacuna – TIZ

By Mukosha Funga

Transparency International Zambia has wondered why the PF is trying to avoid getting parliamentary approval before loan contraction if it is well intended. And TIZ has warned that there will be chaos if Zambians started categorizing any part of the constitution they did not like as a lacuna. On Monday, Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya said government did not need Parliament's approval to acquire loans because the Republican Constitution contained lacunas on clearly defining the Legislature's role compared to the Executive. She was reacting to a question posed by Diggers! on why government did not wait for Parliament to approve the acquisition of a US \$30 million loan recently contracted by government to upgrade the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC), among a series of other loans from China. "I think that we have been going through a window where a number of issues relating to the Constitution are under discussion. And I think there is a good argument going around that, how is it possible that if the separation in government of the Executive, of the Judiciary and the Legislature; and the Executive elected by the people is expected to perform a certain job. And when they perform that job, who should then provide the oversight? It should be the Parliament. And the argument people have been giving is that, if the Parliament is going to participate in a function of the Executive, how then will they supervise the Executive? And I think these are the discussions that are going on and this is why the Minister of Justice (Given Lubinda) has led the way to provide consultation that there are still lacunas in our Constitution, and we need to find a way to clear them," said Siliya. But responding to a press query, TIZ president Rueben Lifuka wondered why the PF was trying to run away from Parliamentary scrutiny if the loans were well intended. "In 2014, the PF government approved the National Planning and Budgeting Policy intended to promote a Responsive, Transparent, Accountable and Results-oriented development planning and budgeting process. One of the policy measures proposed is to strengthen National Assembly oversight over public finance. The question therefore -Is the PF government walking away from this Policy and this specific measure on the National Assembly? If these loans are well intended, why is government averse from seeking parliamentary approval? These loans are not repaid from personal finances of our leaders but from public taxes and other revenues mostly raised by the people themselves and it is simply proper that we know what our government is committing us to for the near future," Lifuka stated.

And TIZ has warned that there will be chaos if Zambians started categorizing any part of the constitution they did not like as a lacuna. "The Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) No 2 of 2016 is categorical in its provisions and Article 63(2) mandates the National Assembly, in the discharge of its oversight of the performance of executive functions, to approve public debt before it is contracted. This is what the constitution says and this is a product of the PF Government. It therefore behooves Government to abide with every provision of the constitution, regardless of what they now see as lacunas. Until such a time that amendments are proposed and passed by the National Assembly, the PF government should and must conform to the constitution. We wish to remind Hon Dora Siliya and her colleagues of Article 1(3) which indicates that the constitution shall bind ALL persons in Zambia, State organs and State institutions. It will be a sad day for our democracy if this administration is in the forefront of advocating for defiance of constitutional provisions for any reason-real or imagined-without following due process of bringing about resolution of whatever shortcomings the document has. We shudder to think of the chaos that may ensue if citizens who are unhappy with one or two provisions of the constitution, equally adopt the PF Government's stance to do as they please on the premise that the constitution has lacunas," Lifuka warned. "The cure of these lacunas does not lie in ignoring or defying the constitution, but through taking appropriate amendments to the National Assembly. That said, we find the argument being pursued that the approval of public debts by the National Assembly blurs the line between the roles of the executive and the legislature, unfortunate and a deliberate attempt to essentially dilute the requirement for strict checks and balances in the performance of executive functions. Zambia is a Representative democracy and instead of the people directly exercising sovereign authority, this is done by our elected representatives in the National Assembly. Therefore, transparency and accountability are key principles of good governance and since the PF government is procuring public debt on behalf of the people of Zambia, there is nothing unusual that before the Executive goes ahead and signs for loans and other forms of public debt, the people through their representatives should give the necessary approval. It is one of the functions of the National Assembly to ensure equity in the distribution of national resources amongst the people of Zambia. It is equally one of the guiding principles of public finance espoused in the constitution that the Government should ensure sustainable public borrowing to ensure inter-generational equity.

Public debt whether for infrastructure development or procurement of services, should be obtained for the sole purpose of advancing the well being of the people and this is the lens that our MPs are supposed to use in determining whether loans or public debt in general, should be procured." He noted that Siliya's arguments raised fundamental questions. "Some of the arguments advanced by Hon Minister of Information on the role of the legislature vis-a-vis the executive, raise fundamental questions. For instance, is it the role of the executive arm of government to determine how the legislature should conduct its oversight functions or the people of Zambia should be the ones to determine these parameters? And why is it that the executive seemingly have no objections to some oversight functions of the legislature except for the ones relating to approval of public debts? In a few weeks' time, the Minister of Finance will table before the National Assembly, the 2019 budget -basically estimates of revenue and expenditure. The revenue side includes an indication of the external and internal borrowings that government will seek to obtain to finance the budget. According to Article 202 of the constitution - The Minister is expected to specify the maximum limits that the Government intends to borrow or lend in the next financial year. In essence, it is the Executive determining the maximum limit of borrowing and once the National Assembly approves this, the Executive are expected to work within these limits. Why should the same executive have a problem to go back to the National Assembly when it needs to borrow beyond what was approved in the national budget?" Lifuka asked. "In Article 211, the Minister of Finance is expected to present to the National Assembly a Financial Report, together with the opinion of the Auditor General, and this report which highlights the performance of the approved budget by the National Assembly, is expected to include information on revenues received by the Republic and the debt repayments made. Now, is it the suggestion of the Executive that it should be possible for them to go ahead and acquire debt/new forms of revenue outside the approved budget and merely go back to report on it in the financial report made to the National Assembly? Government operates on the basis of a budget and one that the people of Zambia approve through their representatives and if for any reason, this budget is inadequate, the executive should seek approval for supplementary budget as well as any public debts procured for the purpose of financing the budget. Transparency and accountability is the bedrock of democracy and the suggestions made by Government will not serve our democracy well."

By Joseph Mwenda

President Edgar Lungu has fired Community Development Minister Emerine Kabanshi, just days after an investigative report revealed that over US\$4 million British Aid to Zambia meant for social cash transfer beneficiaries was stolen.

On Monday, British High Commissioner Fergus Cochrane-Dyett confirmed that his government had frozen all bilateral aid to Zambia, adding that UK does not tolerate corruption and fraud.

President Lungu fired Kabanshi in the face of a probe into the misuse of donor funds. The Head of State has since replaced Kabanshi with Nyimba member of parliament Olipa Phiri.

And President Lungu promoted Acting Zambia Air Force commander General David Muma to Lieutenant General and effectively appointed him as Zambia Air Force commander.

Lungu fires Minister Kabanshi after UKAid theft exposé



“Do no hesitate to let me know if there are shortcomings in the establishments you will

be leading. I don't want to be told the day I decide to relieve you of your appointment that

things are not okay, I should have reported earlier. If these things are beyond you, let me

know so that I help you, that's why I am here. All said and done, we are a team. We work together to bring prosperity to the people of Zambia,” said President Lungu when he swore them in.

“Some people forget that I am the appointing authority and I am the one who can change the team at any time, I even told those who were appointed much earlier when I was swearing him in. I am the coach and I will decide when to substitute the team...there's no limit to the number of substitutions which I can make.”

In February this year, the National Democratic Congress reported Kabanshi, Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of

Infrastructure Ronald Chitotela, and Luapula province Minister Nixon Chilangwa to the ACC for using State facilities, including Zambia Air Force planes during their recent political campaign trail to Luapula province.

At the said Campaign rallies, Kabanshi distributed money and over 2,000 cell phones, among other gifts to the voters in the name of social cash transfer benefits.

“Ba Lungu bali bomba. Bali mupela ulupiya uwabalanda kuno ku Samfya, impendwa ifikile kuli 17,000 abantu bali pali social cash transfer. Ukufuma apo banamayo, mwe bali 2000 nalimileta ama phone, namutampa nokufola ama K1,000 mwebali 2000. Bushe kukaba umuntu ukeisa mipela impiya efyo baLungu balempela? Takwakabe aini? (Mr Lungu has worked. He gave you money for the poor here in Samfya and the social cash transfer programme has reached 17,000 people. And for the women, I already brought phones for 2000 of you and you are already getting paid K1,000 each. Do you think anyone else will come and give you money the way Mr Lungu is giving you? There will be no one),” said Kabanshi.

“Social cash transfer nalampela naiimbi ikeisafika 23,000 (social cash transfer will reach more people so that it covers 23,000 people). Eh kumitemwa bamitemwa baLungu (this is how much Mr Lungu loves you).”

UNZALARU calls off go-slow

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

University of Zambia lecturers have called off their go-slow after holding fruitful meetings with the Ministry of Labour, the union, and the university management.

The decision follows UNZA management's application to the Labour Commissioner to terminate the union's recognition agreement.

University of Zambia Lecturers and Researcher's Union (UNZALARU) secretary general Dr Kelvin Mambwe disclosed this in a statement, Tuesday.

“We would like to inform students and the general public that at a Special General Meeting of the University of Zambia Lecturers and Researcher's Union (UNZALARU) held this afternoon, the membership unanimously resolved to call off the go-slow that was initiated last week. This decision follows a fruitful meeting held this morning between the Labour Commissioner

and representatives of both management of the University of Zambia and UNZALARU, one that was occasioned by management's application to the Labour Commissioner to terminate the Recognition Agreement with the Union,” Dr Mambwe stated.

He stated that after engagements with the Labour Commission, the union and management were advised to resolve their differences through dialogue.

“In a ruling that was welcomed by both management and UNZALARU, the Labour Commissioner guided the two parties to resolve their differences through dialogue and resume good faith negotiations on all points of disagreements. In this spirit, the membership decided that it would be appropriate to call off the go-slow to pave way for the said dialogue,” Dr Mambwe stated.

And he commended university management for agreeing to return to the

negotiating table as earlier requested.

“UNZALARU would like to express its gratitude to the Labour Commissioner, Mr. Kaziya Chanda, for his fair settlement of the dispute and to the media for giving coverage to the concerns of the union membership. We would also like to commend the university management for agreeing to return to the

negotiating table, as the union had all-along requested,” stated Dr Mambwe.

“We welcome this positive turnaround on the part of management and hope that it serves as a foundation for the cultivation of a more harmonious relationship, established on mutual respect and trust. It is our considered view that co-operation between unions

and their representatives and representatives of management is crucial to the smooth running of our cherished university, and is not something that should be hastily discarded by either party in order to achieve a perceived short-term advantage. We look forward to this dialogue beginning and being conducted in a co-operative spirit.”

Lead by example, hike civil servants' wages first, JCTR tells government

By Abraham Kalito

Government should lead by example by hiking civil servants' wages if the minimum wage increment for domestic workers is to prove effective, says the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR).

And JCTR says the revised minimum wage will help to close the income gap between the rich and poor as well as to provide some relief on low-income households.

In a statement released, Wednesday, JCTR urged government to first lead by example by hiking civil servants' wages first if the minimum wage increment will prove effective in its implementation. The Ministry of Labour issued Statutory Instrument no.69 (Domestic Workers) Order, 2018 earlier this month, which saw domestic workers' pay rise to a total of K993.60 from K522.40.

“The JCTR is, therefore, urging government to implement and lead public sensitisation and awareness on the revised minimum wage. Making the public aware about the revised minimum wage is key to successful implementation of the revised minimum wage law as some employers and employees do not understand what the law means and what it entitles. Further, the Centre recommends that in situations where employers could have a challenge to meet the revised minimum wage, they

should mutually engage their employees to explore ways that would ensure their obligation is met and justice prevailed. Government should also lead by example in the pursuit of paying living wages to workers by revising upwards wages for civil servants who might be the major employers of domestic workers,” JCTR stated in a press release issued via its social & economic development programme officer, Chanda Paul Chileshe, Wednesday

JCTR noted that the increment in minimum wage had the potential to lead to some job losses as some employers would not meet the requirements, but equally urged employers to find other means of meeting the requirements. “JCTR welcomes this development and commends government. Not too long ago, the Centre called on government to attach great importance to revising the minimum wages in view of the rising cost of living. The JCTR has, however, observed that the increment in the minimum wage may lead to loss of some jobs for some domestic workers as the new wages may be beyond the financial capacity of their employers whose salaries have not received a corresponding increment. In such a situation, the Centre urges that ways on how the minimum wage could be met should be explored between employers and employees to ensure that justice

prevails, but more also to avoid job losses,” the Centre added.

And JCTR said the revised minimum wage will help to close the income gap between the rich and poor provide some relief on low-income households.

“The results of the JCTR's Basic Needs Basket, for a family of five, have shown that the cost of living has consistently been on the increase in the past 12 months. For example, the Lusaka cost of living has risen from K4,928 in August, 2017, to K5,402 in August, 2018. This increase in the cost of living has caused a lot of financial distress, especially in the low-income households. In respect of this situation, the Centre urged government to prioritize the enactment of laws in the employment and labour sector that will protect workers from being exploited by their employers. The increment in the minimum wages will, therefore, provide some relief on low-income households. More also, the revised minimum wage will help to close the income gap between the rich and poor. The JCTR has observed that despite the wide gap between the cost of living and the revised minimum wage that still exists, the increase will help mitigate domestic workers and other category of workers affordability of basic essentials, such as basic food and services (electricity, water),” stated JCTR.

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Lack of transparency on Chinese deals causing anxiety – PAC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda has challenged government to make all Chinese contracts public so that citizens can be assured that their interests are protected. And UPPZ leader Charles Chanda says China is not here to help Zambia but to make money. In an interview, Banda said lack of transparency on government's dealings with China was causing anxiety. "I think the biggest issue that is causing all these anxieties, suspicions and rumours as a result that the government has not been transparent in their dealings with China. So what we would ask for is that there should be transparency in their dealings with China. I think that's what would help. The Zambian people want to know what has been agreed in all these contracts, where are the contracts and why can't they put them on the table? Because the truth of the matter and as a position of PAC, we don't have issues dealing with China because everyone does from America, to Britain, to Russia, but the issue is that we don't know what is contained in those contracts as far as we are concerned, between Zambia and China," Banda said. Banda observed that if all Chinese contracts and agreements were made public, citizens would not cry foul if their interests were protected. "So if those contracts or whatever agreements they have cannot be put to the table, cannot be given to the public, it will be difficult for the public to conclude to say whether what they are saying is true or not, because the fact of the matter is that the PF government has lied to us for far too long. So it's very difficult to believe them without them producing evidence or some kind of exhibit to say this 'this is what we have agreed with China [and] there is nothing sinister that we are talking about.' They can also tell us exactly for example regarding ZESCO, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, and ZNBC. They need to tell us all the companies that are working with these institutions," he said. "For example if its ZESCO, they need to tell us that 'these are the companies that are working with ZESCO, and this is what has been agreed, this is how much they are doing and after they complete this work, this is how much we

will owe them and there is no collateral to say no we have put ZESCO as collateral based on these works, we have not agreed to say if we fail to pay the debt, part of ZESCO for example distribution is going to be taken by the Chinese.' So all those things can only be sorted out once the agreements are put on the table." He said the problem with China was that it was giving out money anyhow without considering if benefiting nations were serious about the fight against corruption. "The biggest problem that we have with China is that it's giving money to anybody. They don't care about whether there is good governance, whether there is some robust fight against

corruption. They just give anyone and you see in the end, that money just ends up going to people's pockets. And that's the difference between the IMF and China. So the issue is that government needs to be more transparent in dealing with China. They need to be open and they actually need to give us more information. Since this is a hot issue, I would advise the government to dedicate some level of human resource to educate the people about all this Zambia-China relationship and tell us exactly all the agreements that we have," said Banda. "The only thing that I support the Western countries is that they don't give money anyhow.

I think if it's going to be easy to be getting money, corruption is going to be on the rise. When there are things attached for example, the Chinese don't care even if that money is squandered, they don't care [because] they know that there is something that they are going to get out of it. But I think I would prefer loans that have some strings attached because there is going to be proper management of the government as they will have to fight corruption, they will make sure that the cost of running governments is lessened and all that kind of things. I think I may stand on the side of the Western guys because it looks like China is giving a blank cheque."

And speaking when he featured on Joy Fm's 'The Platform' programme, Monday, Chanda said Zambians did not like the way Chinese people were conducting business with them. "The Chinese are not here to help us, they are here to make money on us. There is nothing wrong with the Chinese money, there is nothing wrong with the Chinese loans but there is everything wrong with the way China wants to conduct business with Zambia and I have no apology on that. We need to correct that as citizens. You cannot allow a situation where a Zambian contractor will not even be given to dig a foundation, a Zambian contractor will not even be given

chance to paint a house. If we are going to pay this money back, we must be in control of this money, the money should be in this country. even the foreign contractors, let no one cheat us, people are also receiving cuts there. That is why you can hear that a minister is donating K150 thousand, where will a minister get K150 thousand/ look at his salary, maybe he is getting K18 thousand, the money is coming from these same contractors. So they are also eating, the foreign contractors are also paying. That is why you can have one company doing all the contracts. That company should God allow me to become president, I am going to investigate it," said Chanda.

By Mirriam Chabala

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba says the country's top leadership is responsible for corruption and fraud. And Kalaba has attributed the ballooning of Zambia's to corruption, abuse of office and overpayment of shoddy contracts. Kalaba, who resined from government citing rampant corruption, was commenting on the freezing of donor funding on suspicions of misuse in a statement, Wednesday. He observed that President Edgar Lungu was a defender of corruption whose fight against the vice was restricted to speeches which were written for him. "The country's top leadership must be held accountable for the syndicated grand corruption and fraud as these vices are mostly of their creation. It is no coincidence that the only time our President appears to fight corruption is when he is reading a speech prepared for him. He continues to be faint hearted about corruption and continues to tolerate and embrace those with the unmistakable scent of corruption," Kalaba stated. He observed that whilst Zambia had proper systems to fight corruption, it lacked a leadership which could make use of such systems. "I urge His Excellency the President of Zambia to have a heart for Zambians for a change and to control and stop the corruption by respecting the constitution, policies and institutional frameworks that prevent,

Top leadership responsible for corruption – Kalaba

expose and fight corruption. This county is not short of policies and regulations to fight corruption as intimated in the President's speech to parliament the other day. This Country is only short of elected leadership that has a political will to fight corruption. The tools are there but who to use them?" Kalaba asked. "With our current debt burden at almost US\$16 billion, bilateral aid may be the only available resource to lubricate the social services engine. Zambia will be required to maintain a debt service of at least US\$2.26 billion annually for the next twenty years to be anywhere near liquidating the country's current indebtedness. This represents close to 32.4% of the total annual national budget. We know that the country has already exceeded the US\$585 million in annual debt service and this figure will rise with the Chinese loans that had 4-5-year moratorium (grace periods). The country's foreign exchange earnings, 70% of which are still generated by the mines, who earn north of US\$5 billion, only contribute 6% (US\$300 million) to the country's treasury in taxes and royalties. The true burden of debt servicing

is being carried by the ordinary Zambian with income that is not generated from the country's mineral wealth but from their sweat. Please Mr. President, let's not add to these miseries by toying with aid funds through weak institutional frameworks and arrogant, carefree, public servants. The litmus test to measure government's commitment to tackling our debt crisis and strengthening oversight institutions will reflect in the upcoming budget for 2019 to see to what extent the budget will bear reductions in unnecessary expenditure and funding of the Auditor General's office." Kalaba noted that the freezing of aid would affect the lives of vulnerable groups, at the expense of selfish leaders. "My heart goes to the women and children of Zambia who are at the receiving end of this sad development which has put a dent on Zambia as a country and on us collectively as a people, at a time when our people are struggling to have decent livelihoods because of insatiable greed and our leader's cold indifference concerning their plight. The vulnerable women and children who were the target beneficiaries now have had their lifeline curtailed due to gross mismanagement

of the country's wealth by those entrusted as custodians of their National wealth and resources. The freezing of the aid will further compromise the ability of the vulnerable and incapacitated households to have a decent meal a day and hence drive them into worsening abject poverty. Women and children will have difficulties to access quality health services leading to worsening mortality and morbidity of innocent souls. It is also clear that this development hurts our sluggish trajectory to enhanced human development anchored on quality education for all, universal access to health and ending poverty," he stated. And Kalaba attributed the ballooning of Zambia's to corruption, abuse of office and overpayment of shoddy contracts. "The United Kingdom has been Zambia's all-weather friend since Independence and has provided budget support for many years. Now we understand that they have frozen aid funding to Zambia, after our government admitted that \$4.3million (£3.3million) meant for Education, Health and nutrition, as well as the Social Cash transfer which benefit a lot of poor families had gone missing

on account of corruption and poor attitude to public accountability in the current administration. The whole world is asking how the country's debt has escalated from US\$1.2billion in 2008 after the HIPC debt forgiveness to almost US\$16 billion in 10 years which is obvious to the naked eye. I have always asserted that the under-current to this debt accumulation has been the evident lack of accountability, abuse of office bordering on corruption and overpayment of shoddy contracts, but more detrimental has been the obvious lack of national interest by government officials to safeguard national resources in pursuit of greedy and personal gains and this same arrogant attitude is now being directed towards aid funds which for this carefree team of leaders provides the opportunity of low hanging fruits," stated Kalaba. "The UK's decision has also incited Ireland, Finland and Sweden who have also suspended aid funding to Zambia. Many more donors may follow suit because most of our bilateral donors have adopted a zero tolerance to corruption and yet we continue to bury our heads in the sand, claiming all is well."

Is Zambia ready for the Saudi Arabian goat and sheep export market?

Is Zambia ready for the Saudi Arabian goat and sheep export market?

Market access has a pull and push effect on livestock production. There is no doubt that the Saudi Arabian market expectation has already started pushing up the goat production in Zambia with the number of emerging farmers (middle-income earners) engaging in goat production. However, some questions still come up in farmers' minds. Among other questions are:

1. Can Zambia afford to export one million goats a month?
2. Does Zambia meet the standards of the Saudi Arabian goat market?
3. Are we free of diseases that may pose a risk to the Saudi Arabian goat trade?
4. Since more than 80% of the goat trade is informal (IAPRI, 2017), who will participate in this export market? Will it be the farmer, intermediaries or private agro-food companies? Who are we empowering? Is the Saudi Arabian export market pro-poor?
5. The price that has been thrown around and which has got the farmers excited is Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) to Saudi Arabia. Will the farmers in Zambia afford logistics?
6. Which port will Zambia use to export the live goats? Dar-salaam or Walvis Bay? Or maybe via cargo planes? Are we going to compete with countries in the horn of Africa favourably?
7. Are we negotiating for export of goat meat so that we develop our goat value chain? If so, do we understand that Saudi Arabia has a high Islamic population? Thus the biggest constraints for the market are strict quality checks and phytosanitary norms, along with Halal requirements? Processes, such as stunning and automated mechanical slaughter, do not accommodate Halal procedures, making these methods of slaughter unsuitable for the region. If Saudi Arabia was to accept this offer (which is unlikely), do we have facilities?
8. The fact that Zambia is landlocked, Is the cost of exporting to Saudi Arabia cheaper than that of the regional market? For instance, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Has the government conducted a cost-benefit analysis as they are preparing for this market?
9. Who will meet the transaction costs for export? These will include costs like bulking of goats from different parts of Zambia, quarantine, animal health management, transport to the port of origin, veterinary costs for the veterinarian accompanying the live goats to the port of destination, conformity assessments, insurance, etcetera. Note that, the final price of a goat at the point of destination is the total of expenses of several intermediate steps.

To answer some of these questions, let us briefly understand the Saudi Arabian livestock market, the trends in the countries (major exporters) that are currently exporting goats and sheep to Saudi Arabia, what it takes to export livestock, and what Zambia should start doing in preparation for this high-value market.

Arabian livestock market

Saudi Arabia has a population of about 32 million people (World Bank, 2016). Strong economic and population growth are the major drivers of increased consumption of meat in Saudi Arabia. Due to its location

and lack of natural resources necessary for livestock production, most of Saudi Arabia's edible meat is imported, to meet its domestic demand. Currently, Saudi Arabia can meet only 56% of its edible meat demand, i.e., chicken, beef, goat and sheep, with domestic supplies (Mordor Intelligence, 2017). Most of the live goat and sheep imports are from Somalia/Somaliland and Australia. High volumes of goats and sheep are imported during Eidul-Adha, or feast of sacrifice in commemoration of the prophet Abraham. During this time, almost every family slaughters a four-legged animal, mostly goat and sheep.

Trends in top countries currently exporting goats and sheep to Saudi Arabia In 1990, Saudi Arabia banned the import of sheep from Australia due to a disease called scabby mouth (Orf) and quality. Orf is a viral disease which is transmissible between animals and humans. We have scabby mouth (Orf) in Zambia, and no vaccinations are currently being conducted (Simulundu et al. 2017). The ban was lifted in 2000 with strict animal health, age requirements, proper trace back and animal management system. At the same time, Australia could not meet the demanded number of goats due to a limited number in the country.

Similarly, Saudi Arabian banned the import of sheep and goats from Somali/Somaliland in 2000 due to an outbreak of a disease called Rift Valley Fever (a mosquito-borne disease which affects both animals and humans). There is the possibility of the presence of Rift Valley Fever in Zambia although there is no scientific evidence (Dautu, 2012). The import ban affected exports caused significant economic and trade loss. The ban was lifted in 2009. Since 2011, the country has gone on recovery with major improvements in infrastructure. In their quest to entirely formalise the goat and sheep value chains, the Somali government banned the slaughter anywhere apart from abattoirs in 2013.

However, Saudi Arabia again banned the Somali livestock imports in September 2016 following reports of an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in the Horn of Africa country but lifted the ban within a year.

What does it take to export livestock to a country like Saudi Arabia?

Sheep and goats are collected from different parts of the country by a trader who has sourced for the export market. They are then bulked (quarantined), and all animals are vaccinated, dewormed, and de-ticked a few weeks before export. For Saudi Arabia, the animals must be disease free and weigh between 25-40kg. The importing country (Saudi Arabia) may decide the accredited laboratory that must screen the animals against diseases and issue an international health certificate. It is a requirement that animals have to be at the port two weeks before departure and fed on feed that they will eat on the ship at least a week before they come to the port of departure, meaning that they have to be quarantined at least for 21 days. All paperwork and export requirements are done during the time that animals are in quarantine, sent to the importing country which then authorises the export once all conditions stipulated in the import permit are met. A veterinarian accompanies animals to the port of destination with maximum attention to the

animals on the ship. The veterinarian from the country of destination will conduct inspections, and if the animals pose a low risk to the goat and sheep trade in the country, they are allowed. It is important to be aware that during this quarantine period, some animals die due to inanition, and the exporter will meet the cost of dead animals.

Self-assessment

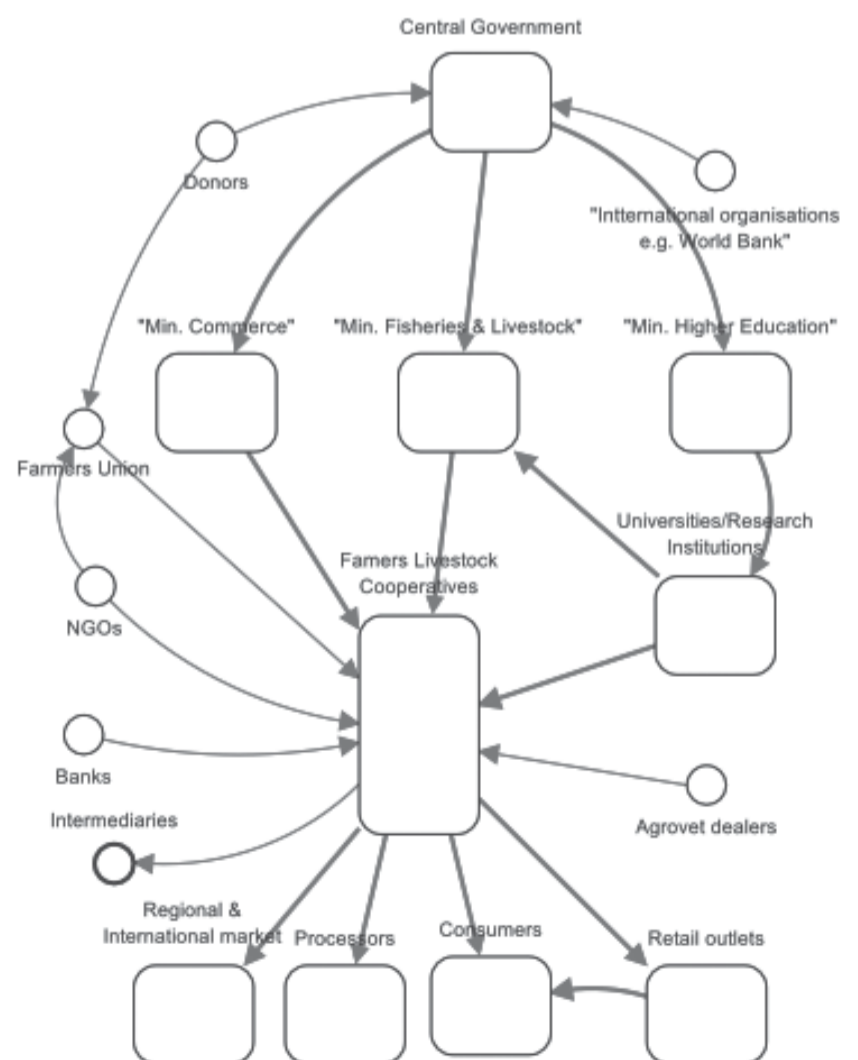
During the ZNBC TV1 main news on 7th September 2018, the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Honourable Kampamba Mulenga revealed that President Edgar Lungu will flag off the export of goats to Saudi Arabia next month following the completion of an import needs assessment that was carried out by the Saudi Arabian Government (<https://www.znbc.co.zm/ecl-to-flag-off-goats-export/>). Looking at the facts presented thus far, are we ready for the export? Will this be sustainable? In my opinion, certainly not, until some measures are put in place to formalise the goat market in Zambia. The additional costs of putting these measures in place might be more than the profit arising from the export market. However, until a systematic economic evaluation (partial budget analysis) is conducted on the Zambian goat enterprise, the lucrativeness of the Saudi Arabian export market remains speculative. Zambia should rather concentrate on formalising the goat and sheep value chain and exploit the lucrative regional market before embarking on this long journey. A case in point is the failed creation of disease-free zones with the view of exporting beef to the European Union market. Do we want to repeat the same mistake? There is potential in the regional market. But are we sure we have met the local demand before we export?

What should Zambia do to prepare for the Saudi Arabian export market adequately?

Since the goat and sheep market is mostly informal, the government and stakeholders must start by formalising it through a cooperative market model. This can be achieved by organising farmers in cooperatives (bulking centres) just as is the case for smallholder dairy farming in Zambia. These cooperatives must be run by the farmers with the government only playing the market or value chain governance role (policy and technical guidance). The cooperatives must run as market hubs where all activities such as training in production technologies, business management, research and innovation, animal health management, extension services, feedlots, butchering, buying and selling of live goat/sheep and other small livestock etcetera will be conducted. Some of the advantages of cooperatives include risk pooling, bargaining power, easy access to finance and centre of excellence. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, with the engagement of stakeholders, MUST quickly develop the livestock policy to facilitate livestock market models such as the one in the figure below. Currently, the Second National Agricultural Policy (SNAP, 2016) attempts to address the livestock aspects, but there is a need for a strategy to operationalise the objectives already set in the policy, as we develop a nexus livestock policy.

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Proposed Livestock Market Model for Zambia



News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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We would like to start by congratulating the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Fergus Cochrane-Dyet, for coming out strong to confirm that his government has effectively frozen all aid to Zambia as a result of rampant corruption, fraud and embezzlement of donor aid.

We are specifically glad that the High Commissioner refused to sweep the corruption frustrations under the diplomatic carpet, because we needed someone at that high level to confirm what we have been reporting about. There are many foreign diplomats accredited to Zambia who feel doing what the British Envoy did is disrespectful to the host country. They watch their taxpayers' donor money stolen and misused by officials at Ministry of Water Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education; but they stay mute.

Even when we report the truth that donor money is being squandered, our distinguished diplomats do not want to agree with us; they would rather deal with the matters away from the press. But that is exactly what this PF regime wants. They want you, the diplomats, to help them clean the mess when they steal. So, when you remain quiet, you give them confidence to rubbish anything we publish.

In the eyes of this PF government, there is no private media house that reports the truth about corruption; we are all liars. Whatever we expose is regarded malicious and sensational. We reported the theft of drugs at Medical Stores, and we were dismissed with an aggressive rebuttal from the Ministry of Health for 'misleading the public'; until the Global Fund itself came out to confirm the theft with a demand for a US\$1 million refund.

Just look at how the Chief Government's Spokesperson madam Dora Siliya rubbished the Africa Confidential report, which we extensively quoted and re-published. Honourable Siliya said there was no donor aid that had been frozen, adding that the British support

Lies have short legs; Ambassador Fergus has outrun govt lies

through DFID was intact and still coming through. Citizens were made to believe the Minister, while condemning us, together with our Africa Confidential colleagues, as professional misfits who were bent on alarming the nation with false reports.

Dear readers and foreign diplomats accredited to this country, our government leaders have been caught pants down on their lies – not by the Africa Confidential report or by the News Diggers' story – but by the British High Commissioner. The UK Envoy has shown us that, indeed, lies have short legs. If he had opted to stay quiet on this matter, Honourable Siliya would have gotten away with a lie and there was not going to be any statement from President Edgar Lungu. Now, they are scampering in all directions like rats under a burning shrub, but there is nowhere to hide.

It only took one well-crafted tweet from the British High Commissioner to say, "Yes, this media report is correct that

we have frozen all British aid to Zambia because we do not tolerate fraud and corruption". In a fruitless attempt to put out the fire, President Lungu issued one of the most desperate press statements ever and followed it up with the dismissal of Minister Emerine Kabanshi.

"Four months ago, I ordered an administrative inquiry into suspected misuse of the Social Cash Transfer funds. I regret that a comprehensive report was only submitted to my office on 14th September, 2018. I have given Secretary to the Cabinet Dr. Roland Msiska one week to take decisive action to curb all malpractices in the administration of the Social Cash Transfer programme," said President Lungu.

"I have further directed that the Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Hon. Emerine Kabanshi, along with the Minister of Finance Hon. Margaret Mwanakatwe, must continue with their engagements with donors to assure them of the

remedial measures government has been undertaking since suspected cases of misuse surfaced earlier this year. Following my dissatisfaction with the pace of the ongoing administrative measures, I have directed for quicker forensic audits by the Auditor-General and other relevant government internal audit systems. We need to get to the bottom of this for the benefit of our people."

How can a Head of State say that, 'I have instructed the ministers to engage the donors and give them assurance that we are taking measures?' Why send ministers and not him as Head of State engaging with the donors? Clearly, this is a statement from the President confirming that he doesn't care about fighting corruption and he doesn't value donor support.

In our opinion, it is not by mistake that President Lungu is directing the Secretary to the Cabinet to take preventive measures, instead of directing the police and ACC to arrest the culprits who were named

by the Auditor General in this fraud case. The Head of State is shielding criminals because he shares common traits with them; they belong to one club. Firing Kabanshi or the Post Master does not prove anything; we want to see prosecutions in court so that the donors can know who else benefited from this theft. Don't leave us speculating why you fired these people.

And Mr Lungu, sir, the reason you are seeing that theft report now after requesting for it four months ago is because no one believes that you can fight corruption. You are in the forefront calling for evidence of theft, but whoever does so risks their job. This is what you did to the Financial Intelligence Centre, your own government institution. You lambasted the FIC boss Mary Tshuma and unleashed criminals to hound her out of office, simply for telling you how money was being stolen and stashed away. As things stand right now, we wonder if the FIC will release a trends report next year.

Doesn't it make President Lungu feel stupid to realize that the Auditor General's office reported this fraud directly to the donors a year ago, and left him in the dark until last week? He must ask himself, "why?" And the simple answer is, because of the animosity that his administration, especially State House, shows towards oversight institutions.

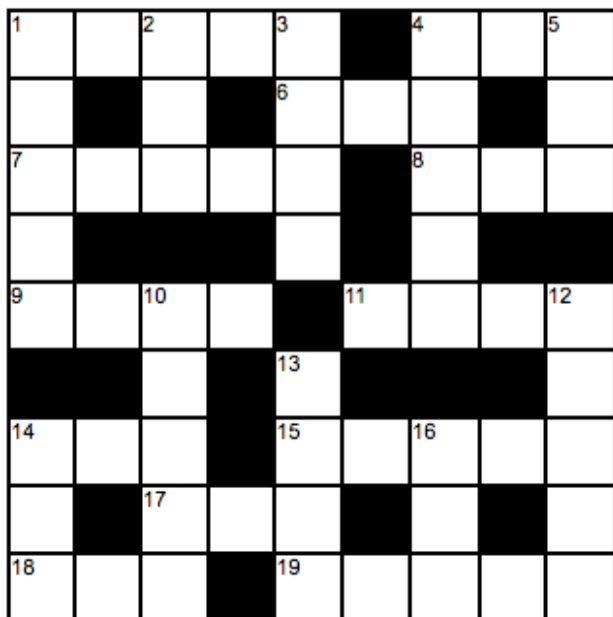
It is too soon for us to forget how this regime treated former Auditor General Ron Mwambwa who had to resign after suffering endless humiliation at the hands of high-ranking government officials. Mwambwa found it very difficult to do his job without interference. We recall instances where even the Solicitor General would criticize the Auditor General during parliamentary committee hearing. We recall instances when government officials and the Patriotic Front leadership would rubbish his reports as highly sensational meant to excite the public.

So, Your Excellency, sit down! There is nothing you are talking about with regards to the office of the Auditor General speeding up its audits. You don't have any respect or interest for that office. If you had, you would have already appointed a new substantive Auditor General and have him or her ratified quickly so that he/she gets down to work.

The office of the Auditor General operates with a substantial amount of donor aid because cooperating partners depend on it to know how their money is spent in Zambia. Right now, President Lungu has kept the institution headless, and he will be expressing shock when he hears that donors have frozen aid to the AG's office. Is that a President who is fighting corruption or fighting for corruption?

In our view, expecting President Lungu to fight corruption is like asking a coffin-maker to pray for a dying patient. He will do it to please the relatives, but his honest prayer will never be heard in public.

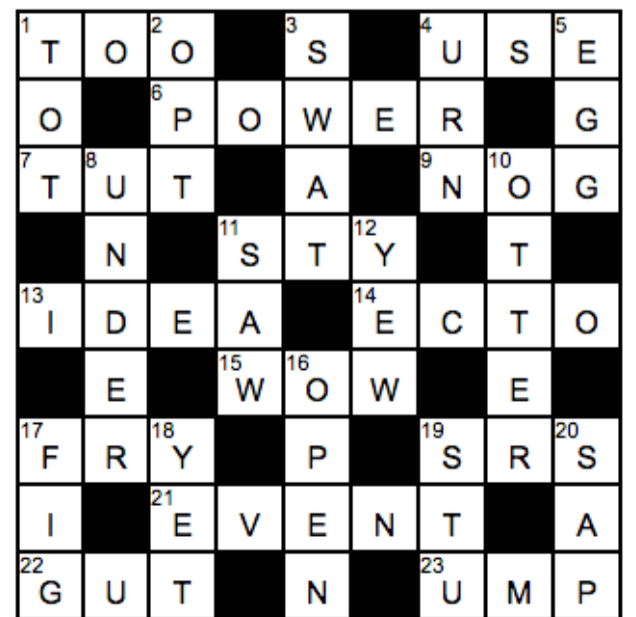
Crossword puzzle 191



"Never attribute to malevolence what is merely due to incompetence"
- Arthur C. Clarke

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Imagine 4. Practical joke 6. Freudian subject 7. Pageant topper 8. Elderly 9. Not shut 11. Ogles 14. Gorilla or Chimp 15. Rental agreement 17. Wee drink 18. Youngster 19. Web-footed mammal | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Likewise 2. Estimated Time of Arrival 3. Nasty 4. Pal of Mickey 5. Heavenly father 10. Goings-on 12. Control direction 13. Food for Fido 14. Beautiful creation 16. Perform in a play |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 190



Reader's feedback

ND OPINION: Justice Mwanamwambwa doesn't hate HH, but knows the buttered side

Editor,
 "I totally agree with the editorial team on this one. So, all those manoeuvres are well-calculated." - Elijah C Silwamba

"Excellent editorial comment, guys. Keep 'em flowing. You are so on point!!" - Maurice Muzhoka

"Honestly, how possible is that a person from Lufwanyama can write such a complaint to the Chief Justice who in turn endorsed it? He was sponsored." - Rhodes Chipengu

"Why wasn't a charge of contempt laid against him amidst so much evidence? Who knows, maybe it would bring out issues of the petition. Just thinking!" - Lubasi Lubasi



Kalaba on PF and his 'swelling popularity'

Editor,

"Don't overrate yourself, Hon. Kalaba. Kindly join any existing political parties and speak with one voice as opposition parties." - Chanda Emmanuel

"Is it deception which is at play or what? Someone forms a political just now and in two years' time he thinks he can be voted as Republican President? Where and how? Wrong timing and missing the point as this is disadvantaging some people who claim to have solutions for this country." - Godfrey Handondo

"But sir, with due respect, you are a man of principles. But why did you support this kind of what is happening today? Dr Scott by the then said it, now see to what is happening to our mother Zambia? Anyway, I will still support you with other opposition leaders; HH and CK. Go forward!" - Joseph Sinyangwe

"First and foremost, apologize to Dr Guy Scott, my brother." - Albert Jean Sipiya

"With or without what you call a third term, your political semantics and rhetoric is not igniting any sparks in most of us to see anything out of the extraordinary to propel you to State House. However, they say never say die until the cast is done. Impossible is nothing in politics, but surely only time will tell." - Steven Mazyopa

"We're together HK; sanity politics is what we're yearning for; when leaders will be ashamed on morals." - Pious Emmanuel Sungh

Chinese Envoy's take on Zambians worrying about Chinese debt

Editor,
 "Okay, we have understood, but repatriate all your prisoners to your country and let Chinese people with clean record come to work in Zambia rather than these prisoners with serious criminal cases, okay! Otherwise, you will provoke us. Remember what happened to Maamba Colliers Mine Chinese boss some few years ago.....I rest the matter here." - Gideon Kasonde

"The good Ambassador must be reminded that it is not debt that we are worried about. It is our capacity to repay the debt that is worrisome. In addition, it is what happens after failing to pay back the debt that is the problem. Further, it is also the extraction of our raw natural resources to power and feed Chinese manufacturing industries, while leaving us as producers of raw materials that is giving us sleepless nights. How long does it take for our earth to make our minerals and to grow that timber being harvested indiscriminately? That is what is worrying the people who are speaking!" - Kanyata Mubita

"The undiluted fact is that our economy has rendered us vulnerable to Chinese maltreatment. Some of our brothers and sisters working for Chinese are beaten, insulted, killed and paid slave wages. I would rather rest in a grave than labour under Chinese masters." - Boydrick Shamabanse

"If youths do not rise up and take their country back, there's no hope for Zambia." - Monk Gyatso

"More than 50 years after independence, it's

heart-breaking that we still can't put our house (country) in order. Leaders have come and gone but things keep moving from bad to worse despite few developments here and there which again doesn't benefit the majority

of our citizens wallowing in poverty. Don't we have brains that can sit and find solutions to our country? I believe we have. I have no problem borrowing for good causes either from China or anywhere." - Kakoma J. Pwela Chiyomba

Lungu's order of probe into stolen UK aid

Editor,

"Bwana Lungu! You are in the forefront aiding and abetting theft and corruption ati 'ubomba mwibala'...Now you are feigning frustration? This is the height of hypocrisy, kwena." - Micky Jericho Nsangwe

"The hypocrite is now feeling the heat; arrogance is before the fall. Now, he has learnt to fight the corruption that he has been shielding." - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"First, you need to fire Hon. Kabanshi and possibly the PS for that Ministry. Then, fire the Zampost MD and finance director. Then start investigations. You can't investigate whilst the people that abused the money are still working. It defeats the purpose." - Mukalya Mwangala

"Crocodile tears. Meanwhile, my relatives in Kabombo and Zambezi have to suffer the wrath of this because of a few corrupt elements. May that Social Cash Transfer haunt everyone who has squandered it up to your graves!!!! Including those who haven't initiated the political will to make sure its gets to the right people." - Choolwe Michelo

"So, what was the denial all about? When will these fellows ever accept truths?" - Mbinji Mufalo

"That's why we want easy Chinese money; they don't care whether the money is eaten or drunk, no questions asked." - Stan Li

Uganda police warn Bobi Wine ahead of his return

Police in Uganda have warned that any welcoming rally for musician-turned-MP Bobi Wine will be unlawful.

Police said they expect Bobi Wine - whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi - to abide by traffic laws when he returns on Thursday. He has been in the US for medical treatment after allegedly being tortured by the military.

Security agencies had received intelligence of "countrywide mobilisation" to welcome him at the Entebbe International Airport, police said.

Only his immediately family would be allowed to receive the MP at the airport, and he would be "availed security" to go to his home, police added.

The government's media centre has been tweeting details about the police's press conference:

Bobi Wine hit back in a tweet, saying: "Well, for your information, no single family member will receive me at the airport." He added: "I am a free Ugandan with the right to move freely in my country. The police has no business telling me who receives me and who cannot or where I go and where I cannot. This impunity

must stop now. Wama see you friends tomorrow."

The MP - who has been charged with treason - also gave a glimpse of his itinerary. **BBC**



'Tortured' Ugandan star Bobi Wine 'flying back from US'

Malaysia ex-PM arrested over \$628 million linked to 1MDB, to be charged



Malaysia's toppled leader Najib Razak was arrested Wednesday and will be charged over allegations that \$628 million linked to state investment fund 1MDB ended up in his personal bank accounts, officials said.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said in a statement that it had detained Najib as part of its investigations into the fund and "the entry of 2.6 billion ringgit (\$628 million) into his personal account".

Allegations that huge sums were looted from the investment vehicle by Najib and his cronies were a major factor in the shock defeat of his long-ruling coalition at elections in May to a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Since losing power, Najib has already been arrested and hit with seven charges related to claims he pocketed some \$10 million from a former unit of 1MDB.

However his arrest Wednesday related directly to one of the most damaging allegations in the long-running scandal -- that huge sums from the fund flowed into his bank accounts ahead of a hotly contested election in 2013. When the allegations surfaced in 2015, they dramatically ratcheted up the scandal surrounding Najib and his inner circle.

The attorney-general later cleared him of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a personal donation from the Saudi royal family. **AFP**

North Korea's Kim Jong Un agreed to make a historic visit to Seoul soon and close a missile testing site in front of international inspectors at a summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang Wednesday.

Progress on the key issue of the North's nuclear arsenal was limited, but the two signed a document to strengthen ties between the two halves of the divided peninsula.

Building on a growing rapprochement, they agreed to create a facility to hold family reunions at any time, work towards joining up road and rail links, and mount a combined bid for the 2032 Olympics.

The agreement "carries the people's fresh hope and the people's strong, flaming desire for reunification", Kim said. His trip to Seoul would be the first by a Northern leader since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when hostilities ceased

with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving them technically in a state of war.

Moon added that the visit could happen this year and would be a "monumental milestone in inter-Korean relations". In their agreement, the North also agreed to "permanently close" a missile engine testing site and launch facility in Tongchang-ri "in the presence of experts from relevant nations".

Moon, who brokered Kim's historic summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June, had hoped to bring fresh momentum to stalled talks between his hosts and Washington.

Whether that would happen remained unclear. In Singapore Kim declared his backing for denuclearisation of the peninsula but no details

Kim Jong Un to visit Seoul, shut missile site

were agreed. Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved.

Trump welcomed Wednesday's declaration, tweeting that Kim had "agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to

final negotiations" and adding: "Very exciting!" But experts were sceptical. The North -- whose ballistic missile

programme is banned under UN Security Council resolutions -- has carried out several long-range rocket launches from the site, also known as Sohae, but has also used many other locations including Pyongyang airport. **AFP**

Liberia mystery as 'banknotes worth \$60m vanish'

The Liberian government says it is investigating what has happened to two huge consignments of money that were printed abroad and brought into the country between November last year and August this year.

The money, said to be local banknotes worth about \$60m (£45.6m), has allegedly disappeared.

One media report says

containers packed with the money left the port in the capital, Monrovia, under security escort in March and were thought to be headed for the central bank, but they vanished.

The consignment that came through the international airport cannot be account

for either.

The justice ministry is asking the public to remain calm while a panel of security officers investigate the matter.

Minister of Information Eugene Nagbe has told state radio that President George Weah, who took office in

January, is "unhappy" that he was not informed about the situation until now.

"This is alarming," Mr Nagbe said.

No arrests have been made so far, but the information minister says he is certain they will get to the bottom of the suspected scandal. **BBC**

SIA urges clubs to operate within their capacities

By Alex Chilumbwe

Sport in Action (SIA) director Frankson Muchindu has advised other sport oriented clubs to desist from overloading their financial and technical capacities with more sport disciplines when their major ones are already struggling to meet their goals. Frankson noted there was need for such organisations to work on yielding good results from their major disciplines and mend loopholes that were reducing their efficiency. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Frankson shared the secret to the successes his organization had enjoyed in four years of active participation in four sports disciplines. "We recruit teenagers in all sport disciplines that are hard to teach or mentor but we have succeeded in the four years we have actively participated in football, netball, volley and

handball. This is because we have not rushed to have a lot of disciplines with little capacity. We

have started by making the most out of the disciplines and ensuring we are recording

reasonable successes," Muchindu also appealed to sports organisations to

give uttermost attention to the sale of groomed players to big clubs. "Grooming a player of

any sport is not easy and as such, I expect such sports agencies or academies to make sure that they benefit from player deals. There is a lot of things that go into the grooming of a player and the sale of any player should be as professional as possible. Young players are not as focused as older ones because they are still facing a lot of distractions. It is for this reason that sports directors and coaches should ensure their academies or organisations benefit from the sale of players," said Muchindu. SIA has since sold four netball players to Nkwazi and NAPSA clubs while most of them are loaned so that they gain super league experience.



Lionel Messi scored his 48th career hat-trick as Barcelona thrashed Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven in their opening Champions League group game. BBC

Lyon winger Memphis Depay believes he "became a much better player" after leaving Manchester United. Depay, brought to Old Trafford by Louis van Gaal in 2015 from boyhood club PSV in a £27.9m deal, had a frustrating 19 months at United - registering seven goals and six assists in 53 appearances.

Jose Mourinho's arrival ensured less minutes for Depay with the 24-year-old appearing just four times in the Premier League before making a January switch

to Ligue 1 side Lyon for £21.7m.

Since moving to Lyon, who face Manchester City in the Champions League on Wednesday, Depay has been a first-team regular - scoring 28 times in 74

appearances.

"Everybody knows the story of me and Manchester United was not successful and I'm just happy that I'm the player I am today," said the Netherlands international, ahead of

Wednesday's trip to the Eithad.

"I can look back and say I didn't want it to go like that - nobody wanted that - things happened and I became a much better player. I can feel it in the

games, I mean everybody can see it I think as well.

"After one season, I couldn't find myself in the team. I was still young, didn't get a lot of opportunities, but I must say that the first season I didn't put the

quality on the table that I thought."

"I believe for sure that the city is still Red and tomorrow I'll be trying to get a good result against the Blues."

United's all-time leading scorer Wayne Rooney, speaking last week, revealed Depay went against his words of advice while in Manchester - turning up to a reserve game in his Rolls Royce, wearing a cowboy hat and red leather jacket following a poor performance against Stoke.

Depay, though, took the comments in his stride and revealed he was confused by one aspect of Rooney's account.

"Some people can't take a joke and me and Wayne are very good friends," he said. "I understand what he meant with it and that's it.

"When I heard about it, I was just questioning it like, 'I don't have a red leather jacket', of all my thousands of jackets I don't have a red leather jacket.

"It's in the past and I'm a flamboyant guy and like nice stuff but that doesn't mean I couldn't be more smart. I've become more mature.

"You go through experiences in life on and off the pitch. When I came back today [to Manchester] I felt like a different person. SKYSPORTS

Memphis says Manchester United exit improved him

Rafael Nadal pulls out of tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to knee injury

Rafael Nadal has pulled out of the upcoming tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to a knee injury.

The world No 1 was forced to retire during his US Open semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro last month due to a problem with his knee, after losing the opening two sets 7-6 (7-3) 6-2,

The Spaniard has suffered with tendinitis in

his knee during his career and his medical team have decided he needs more time to recover before returning to competitive action.

Nadal announced the news on Twitter, saying: "Hello everyone, as you know I had to retire from the semi-final match at the US Open and this past Monday I was in Barcelona looking with the doctors the situation of my knee.

"While the discomfort in my knee is nothing new, we have decided together with my medical and technical team not to participate in the Asian tour to recover the knee the way we have always done.

"I'm sorry I can't be with all the fans in China and with the organisers of the Beijing and Shanghai tournaments, who have always looked after me and my team." SKYSPORTS

SHEPOLOPOLO ELATES FAZ

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ President Andrew Kamanga and the Executive Committee have congratulated the Zambia Women National Team and Technical Bench for qualifying to the semifinals of the 2018 COSAFA Women Championship. Kamanga said the ladies had done the country proud with their victory in three matches without conceding a goal and urged them to stay focused and proceed to the finals. "They are representing the

country so well and winning convincingly. We all need to rally behind them and ensure they receive support. I would just urge the team to remain focussed and aim even higher at the tournament

so that they proceed to finals," Kamanga said. The football chief also said the tournament would help Shepolopolo prepare adquetly for Africa Cup of Nations.

"The ladies should also remember this is a good opportunity for them to prepare for Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana. They need to keep that in mind and keep improving at every

chance given. I'm aware fans are following the tournament and are just as expectant. Congratulations to the team on their achievement so far, we hope that this step will inspire everyone to go a little

further and bring joy to the country," said Kamanga. Zambia plays Cameroon on Thursday in the semifinals with South Africa and Uganda playing in the other match.

Roberto Firmino's last-gasp strike gave Liverpool a 3-2 win over Paris Saint-Germain in a thrilling encounter on the opening night of the Uefa Champions League group stage on Tuesday, after Lionel Messi's latest hat-trick handed Barcelona a winning start.

There were dramatic late goals around Europe, including for Inter Milan against Tottenham Hotspur, and winning starts for several of the leading contenders, with Atletico Madrid battling back to beat Monaco.

But the heavyweight encounter of the evening was at Anfield, and the Group C match between last season's beaten finalists and the ambitious PSG lived up to expectations. Liverpool were rewarded for their excellent start as they found themselves two goals up after 36 minutes, Daniel Sturridge getting the opener before James Milner netted a penalty.

But the French champions pulled one back before the interval through Thomas Meunier – the goal allowed to stand despite Edinson Cavani being offside in the build-up.

The two most expensive players in the world then combined for the 83rd-

Firmino hands Liverpool flying UCL start over PSG



minute equaliser that looked set to earn PSG a draw, Neymar assisting Kylian Mbappe to score. Those two had not played

well though, and Mbappe was caught in possession just before Firmino, on as a substitute, struck the winner in the second

minute of stoppage time. "I can't say enough good things about Bobby. To come off the bench after his injury at the weekend

is incredible really," said Klopp of Firmino, who was poked in the eye by Jan Vertonghen in the weekend win at Spurs.

PSG next face Red Star Belgrade, who marked their return to the big time with a 0-0 draw against Napoli. *Supersport*