



People abuse social media to talk about who is sleeping with who...

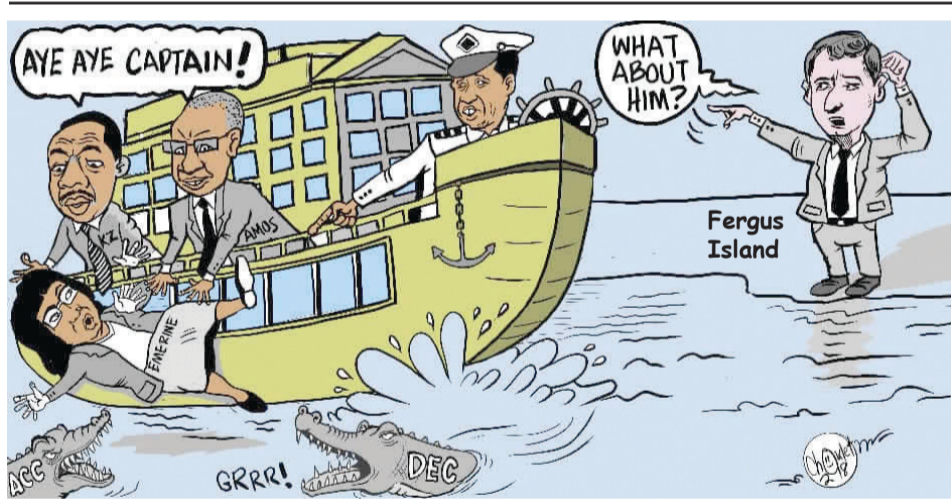
THEY CALL ME PROSTITUTE - LUO

By Mukosha Funga

Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo says social media in Zambia is not used for any meaningful development apart from people gossiping about who is sleeping with who.

And Prof Luo wonders how social media users have named her a prostitute when she is a distinguished professor; adding that such haters will need to be sternly dealt with.

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Some ministers' dogs eat better than poor Zambians – UPND MP

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Some of the ministers' dogs eat better than our poor Zambians, says Bweengwa UPND member of parliament Kasautu Michele.

Michelo said this when debating President Edgar Lungu's speech to parliament last Friday.

And Choma Central UPND MP Cornelius Mweetwa observed that instead of using his opportunity to talk about the constitutional amendment, the president wasted it on defending China.

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CSOs plan joint demo at parley ahead of budget presentation

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Zambia Women Parliamentary Caucus chairperson Prof Nkandu Luo addresses a call to action meeting on Cyber bullying against women leaders at Pamodzi Hotel yesterday

Lungu attacking Church because it's not supporting his cause - Chief Mukuni

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Zambia won't grant asylum to law breakers – Kampyongo

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo says there's no selective application when it comes to refugees and political asylum seekers coming to Zambia, but law breakers are not welcome. He was responding to a question from Kabwe central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube in Parliament, Friday, who wanted to know whether government had a set of rules that it followed when it came to refugees and political asylum seekers. "Honorable minister, I just I just want to find out, following up on your [ministerial] statement, it appears we have a different set of rules that we apply when it comes to political asylum seekers. In one week we saw on the Southern side, where some politician from Zimbabwe was trying to come in Zambia and some treatment was given to him. On the Northern side, on the Copperbelt we see some other politician who was very free to come in and interact with some people. I want to find out as to whether we do follow what the refugee law says or whether the immigration department acts on their own. I say so because Zambia has come in the spotlight. We have been the biggest hub of these refugees but now we are being doubted as to whether we have selective rules and selective laws. Under the UN regulations and under the UN rules, do we have one set of rules or we choose who should come in as a political refugee?" asked Ngulube. In response, Kampyongo assured Tutwa that everything government did was within the confinements of the law. "Thank you very much Mr Speaker and I appreciate the honourable MP for that interesting question. And I want to assure him, and I know as a legal practitioner himself he knows this very well, that everything that we do is done within the confinements of the law. We have the refugees act which is aligned to the international conventions which regulates the movement of people that are running away from fear," Kampyongo said. "Now, I know you have cited two examples, and I will explain them in their context. I know you must have been referring to an incident where Mr Tendai Biti and with your permission Mr

Speaker... (he said before he was guided by the Speaker to only outline the policies and the law to the extent that it related to his statement)... I want to say that yes indeed what we do is within the confinements of the law." And Kampyongo said if one was seeking asylum in another country, they should prove that they were not running away from the law. "And to make it very clear, on one part, like we always have elections in countries, and SADC where Zambia

belong to, observes elections. So if for example honourable Tutwa Ngulube, a Zambian politician, lives in Zambia and after elections here, elections declared free and everything is done, honourable Tutwa Ngulube goes on the street and incite people to break down order and something happens to the people, I don't think it will be wise in the first place for honourable Tutwa to run into Tanzania for example because they will ask 'what are you running away from sir'?

And you must show cause that indeed your fears are justifiable and not running away from the law," he said. "Because if you are running away from the law, we have got also international engagements especially with our neighbours where we agree on how on how to deal with law breakers regardless of their status in society. And so, that's what applies. And to put the story simple, we made sure that we bounced off to say 'is this indeed true' because we communicate as

member states. And when we get assurance to say that 'no no send that citizen back, he will be safe and you will be subjected to the normal processes of justice', you get that assurance and that's what you use." Kampyongo said anyone was free to come to Zambia so long as they were not running away from the law. "On the other hand, this country has been a host to so many people who have become Presidents in other countries, so if someone is

a citizen of another nation and he is free from anything, they can come here. There are some people who have lived here for a long time. So he's free to come here unless we are told that this citizen should not be allowed to be in Zambia, then we can act, and we communicate through formal channels. So there's no selective application whatsoever when it comes to assessing who should be a refugee, who should seek for political asylum," said Kampyongo.

Cabinet breaking the law by contracting loans without Parley approval – Sacika

By Mukosha Funga

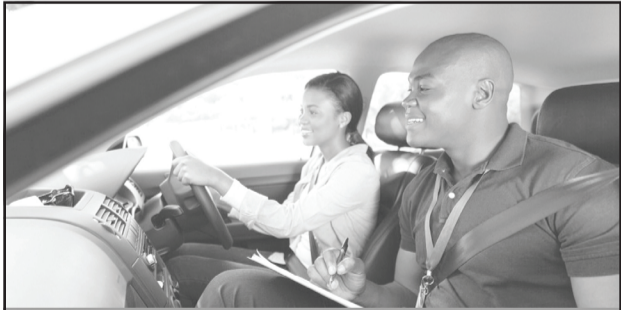
Former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika says Attorney General Likando Kalaluka is failing in his duties by not guiding President Edgar Lungu and Cabinet Ministers to adhere to the Constitutional requirement of seeking Parliament's approval before contracting any loans. And Dr Sacika says firing Emerine Kabanshi should not be used as a smokescreen but rather, an inquiry must be set up to fish out all those who misused donor funds. Recently, Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya said the reason why Cabinet did not seek parliamentary approval before contracting loans like the US\$30 million for upgrading of Mulungushi Conference Centre was because the clause in the constitution which provided for that was a lacuna. But in an interview, Dr Sacika said it was illegal for government to contract loans without Parliament's approval. "Dora Siliya's remarks on government contraction of debt are unfortunate and show a degree of ignorance and arrogance that is dangerous to society. The Constitution of Zambia is clear on how government should contract debt. Parliament must approve the debt before it is contracted. This is not a matter of choice but a constitutional

and legal requirement. And there is no lacuna about it. I was a member of the Constitutional conference in 2013 at which this matter was discussed and approved. The conference decided to put a requirement in the constitution that compelled the executive to seek parliamentary approval before debt was contracted because the people of Zambia do not want their government to contract debt unnecessarily and recklessly. Therefore, all the debt that has been contracted since the Constitution was enacted, without the approval of Parliament, are unconstitutional and illegal," Dr Sacika said. He observed that Kalaluka was failing in his duties by not guiding Cabinet to adhere to the Constitutional provision. "When the Constitution says that the executive powers of the state are vested in the President, it does not mean that the President is free to act as he pleases. What it means is that the President shall exercise the powers of his office according to the requirements of the law of the land. If the President does not follow the law, he can be impeached and prosecuted now or after he has left office. What has happened to the Attorney General of Zambia that ministers can make statements of the type Dora Siliya made? It





is the duty of the Attorney General to guide the President and his ministers on the requirements of the Constitution, that is why he is there. If the Attorney General does not do this, then he has failed and must give way to someone who will be bold enough to ensure that the rule of law is followed. I therefore challenge the Attorney General to state his position on the comments made by Dora Siliya. He must also tell the nation why he has allowed the government to contract debt contrary to the stipulations of the Constitution," Dr Sacika said. And Dr Sacika observed that the administrative inquiry which President Lungu ordered into the misuse of donor funds was not adequate. "The President has told the people that he has instituted an investigation into the social cash scandal, how does he fire Emerine Kabanshi before the investigation is completed and the results are put in the public domain? An administrative inquiry such as the President says he has instituted does not suffice because the social cash transfer scandal has very serious implications on our relations with outside countries that support our government programs. If the Zambian government does not decisively deal with the problem of corruption,


the donors will not be prepared to give us aid in future and this will affect us adversely. The President must therefore appoint a properly constituted Judicial Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the social cash transfer scandal with the view to punishing the offenders and making recommendations as to how a stop can be put to the misuse and theft of donor funds. Only in this way will the people of Zambia take the President seriously," said Dr Sacika. "There is rampant corruption in our system of governance because the system of

control, management and accountability has completely broken down. Our public service has become a huge criminal enterprise where theft of public funds is the order of the day because the access of management controls has created numerous opportunities for public officers to engage in acts of corruption. The sacking of Emerine Kabanshi should not be a mere smokescreen to please the British and other donors. All the people involved in the misuse or theft of donor funds in question must be brought to account."



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Some ministers' dogs eat better than poor Zambians - Bweengwa MP

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
 Some of the ministers' dogs eat better than our poor Zambians, says Bweengwa UPND member of parliament Kasautu Michele. Debating on President Edgar Lungu's speech to parliament last Friday, Michelo also said the entire PF government beginning from the president, had failed the nation. And Choma Central UPND

member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa observed that instead of using his opportunity to talk about the constitutional amendment, the president wasted it on defending China. "Madam speaker, the leadership they are providing to our people here in Zambia is not inspiring. The entire PF government beginning from

the president to the last man in PF are failing this nation. We are not going anywhere and if we the Zambian people continue allowing this PF government to rule us beyond 2021, I think even dogs will start eating better than us. Already, the fact is that some of the dogs for the ministers right now they eat better than our poor people in Zambia. This is what is happening," Michelo

observed. "The speech which was given by His Excellency President Edgar Lungu last week was just a mere academic, just to fulfil a constitutional requirement. There was completely nothing in it and the entire presidential speech was not even backed by figures. It can only liken it to a Tommy and Jerry type of presidential speech. Our economy right now is suffering and it is suffering from negative energy balance which has got limited capacity to bring it to normality. When you look at also the theme "working together to achieve vision 2030" I don't think that President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his team to your right can manage to bring development to this country. They don't have capacity." At one point, Michelo indirectly referred to President Lungu as a Malawian, but he withdrew his remark on the Speaker's instruction before continuing to talk about tribalism in the PF regime. "The country is in a shambolic manner [because] most of the development just goes on one side and this motto of calling 'One Zambia One Nation' is no longer making sense. The motto of one Zambia one nation has become one Zambia one Chipata and I will justify that. We have not seen development in the areas where we come from. We have only seen some of these infrastructures like the tar marks. There is no way you can only be constructing tar marks to places where you know that you can be selling rats on the roadside. You can't do that," he said. "The thing is you cannot only be developing social roads, you need to construct

the Kafue-Mazabuka road and the Monze-Namwala road [because] those are economic roads. Madam speaker, when you look at the PF government and its leader Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the way they have become international beggars, it is not helping our country. There is no way a president and his entire ministers can become international beggars in this country. Imagine 54 years after independence, you are still trotting from one country to another to go and ask for money when we can manage on our own. Shame indeed. There are some people even in this honourable house who are saying that when Edgar Lungu is out of office in 2021, there are people who think that we better have a Chinese president instead of a Zambian president which is a shame to this country. and we are not going to allow this as Zambians." But Michelo's debate provoked some PF ministers who felt that the member of parliament on the floor was insulting the President. "Honourable members on my right, you are not helping the situation. The Honourable member for Bweengwa granted is giving the house a little discomfort but he is expressing his opinion and for as long as he is within the rules of the house and he is not using unparliamentary language, he will be allowed to continue with his debate and I urge the right to take note of what he is saying so that the impression being created can be corrected. He has said [that] 'there are some people who are saying that they would like to have a Chinese president.' That's his opinion," deputy speaker Cathrine Namugala guided.

Namugala also counselled Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo and advised him that good leadership entailed that one listened even the things they didn't like. "Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, that Honourable member for Bweengwa has a right to come to this house and debate just like everybody else. My role here is to help him debate within the rules of the house which I have just explained. Let us allow the debate to continue. The time will come sometime next week for the right to respond. And as I have said always [that] the hallmark of leadership is to sit while things that you don't like are being said, but listen anyway," Namugala said. Meanwhile Mweetwa said instead of using his opportunity to talk about the constitutional amendment, the president wasted it on defending China "If I were to grade this particular one (presidential speech), I think it was 3/10. And the three marks I have given is because (i) he met the constitutional provision, (ii) he appeared and (iii) he read what was written for him. That particular presidential address was below par and anybody who is serious about the development of this country going forward was not inspired by that speech. The citizens though that President Lungu would address the nation as to the stage where the constitutional amendment is, but the president I should have said he was mute he was usually quiet on such an important matter. On a state of national address, you turn it into a national address in defence of China," said Mweetwa.

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It wasn't Lungu's mandate to disclose irregularities in

social cash transfer – Mwanakatwe

By Mirriam Chabala

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says it is not President Edgar Lungu's mandate to tell the nation about irregularities in the social cash transfer scheme but to brag about the impact of the programme in his address to Parliament. And Mwanakatwe says government does not yet know for sure how much of the \$4 million British aid to Zambia meant for the social cash transfer scheme was stolen until. Mwanakatwe was responding to Kabompo UPND member of parliament Ambrose Lufuma who wanted to know why government allowed President Lungu to lie to Parliament about the irregularities in the social cash transfer, Thursday. "Honourable Minister, I am glad actually to hear that you were the first to hear about these fraudulent

activities in the social cash transfer. But I wonder, we in the UPND, we must inform you that we knew eight months ago that there were fraudulent activities in this Social Cash Transfer and you have confirmed the same. Now, having confirmed minister, why did you allow the President on Friday last week to come here and mislead this House and the general public that the Social Cash Transfer was all rosy and everything was okay, according to what he said here in Parliament on Friday, why minister did you allow that to happen?" asked Lufuma. But Mwanakatwe told the House that the President cannot say such things in Parliament because the office he holds cannot allow him to do so. "Honourable member of

parliament for Kabompo, the Social Cash Transfer programme has been a resounding success. It has been a resounding success and this is why my President is speaking about it to the House. He is not coming here to tell 'oh there is a forensic [audit], oh there is an audit, why should he do that? He's the President [and] he will tell you about the impact of the programme, that's what he will come here to do Mr Speaker. And us on this side (members from the ruling party), we are very proud of this programme and we will continue to support it. It's our baby and we like it and we like the impact that it has on the community. This is why we are saying we will play our part of it and commit to make sure that anything that is due

to the beneficiaries is done by the end of December. So we love this programme and the President will keep bragging about it, that's why he is keenly taking interest on the goings on of this particular programme," Mwanakatwe said. And responding to Mufulira PF member of parliament Evans Chibanda, who wanted to know exactly how much money had been stolen, Mwanakatwe said she would not speculate because investigations were ongoing. "Mr Speaker, money has been misapplied here, we don't know whether it's just donor money or government money or a combination. This is why for us, we don't even know how much money has been stolen because a forensic is what is going to

tell us how much money has been stolen and the forensics have not yet been concluded. I will not even speculate on social media matters honourable member of parliament for Mufulira. I will stick to the facts and the facts are, committed funds for 2018 amount to 20 million [either Kwacha or Dollar] for social cash transfer. This is the impact of withholding of support on the 2018 budget and they are 13.9 million for the education sector. We are however confident that these matters will be addressed in a manner that is satisfactory to both cooperating partners and government. Once satisfactory collective information measures have been undertaken it is expected that the funding will resume. The point

am making is, we do not know the amounts of the misapplication of funds. Once those are known, I will be the first one to come to this House and share those numbers with you," Mwanakatwe said. Meanwhile, responding to a question for oral answer from Choma Central UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa, Mwanakatwe explained why the UK government had frozen its bilateral aid to Zambia but emphasized that only funds meant for the social cash transfer were affected. "The United Kingdom through its department of DfID has been supporting Zambia in many areas, major ones being the following, education sector budget support, Zambia social protection and expansion programme which is social cash transfer which provides small grants to vulnerable households to assist them with regular monthly income to meet their basic needs. Thirdly and fourthly in the area of governance and the area of agriculture... Mr Speaker, I wish to indicate that the UK has only withheld its financial support to the social cash transfer programme and the education sector budget support. Support to other areas has not been affected. This is because the support which was put on hold was necessitated on account of reported concerns of financial mismanagement under these two programmes which include both the cases of misapplication of funds, underpayment of beneficiaries, irregular payment of gratuities, non adherence by Zampost to the signed MOU as well as insufficient capacity by Zampost to facilitate payment to the beneficiaries," said Mwanakatwe. "The impact of the withholding of the support on the 2018 budget is to the extent of the committed funds in the budget which amounts to 20 million for social cash transfer and 13.9 to the education sector. We are however confident that these matter will be addressed in a manner that is satisfactory to both the cooperating partners and government. Once satisfactory corrective measures have been taken, it is expected that funding will resume. The government is greatly concerned about these reported financial irregularities concerning the social cash transfer programme and education sector budget support."

World Bank downgrades Zambia's GDP growth to 3.3%

By Stuart Lisulo

The World Bank has revised Zambia's real GDP growth projection for 2018 downwards to 3.3 per cent, down from 4.3 per cent, triggered by dampened agricultural activity, among other factors. And World Bank country manager Dr Ina-Marlene Ruthenberg says the country's lending rates remain too high for the private sector to borrow credit and create enough jobs in the economy. According to the Bank's latest Economic Brief released in Lusaka, Thursday, Zambia's real GDP growth projection for present year has been revised downwards to 3.3 per cent, down from 4.3 per cent, triggered by dampened agricultural activity, among others. Data from the Brief shows that the agricultural sector, among other key sectors of the economy, will face severe headwinds this year, and as a result, will negatively impact on growth recorded this year. "Key sectors of the economy face headwinds. Agricultural output has contracted in 2018 due to poorly distributed rains and an El Niño is forecast for the 2018-19 season. Copper prices have fallen by 20 per cent from their four-year highs that were reached in June, 2018, due to weaker demand from China, and could fall further as global supply increases," the World Bank states. "Reflecting on these developments, and that the 2017 revised growth is now lower than the initial estimate, we have revised Zambia's real GDP growth projection for 2018 to 3.3 per cent, down from 4.3 per cent in the previous issue of this Economic Brief." The Bank, however, added that growth is expected to improve slightly next year to 3.6 per cent, and again in 2020 to 3.8 per cent, assuming a recovery in agriculture, and that an orderly fiscal consolidation and reforms to strengthen the financial and operational sustainability of Zesco Limited will be implemented, among others. Further, Zambia's multi-year fiscal expansion, financed by expensive borrowing, has increased debt towards an unsustainable levels, according to the World Bank.

The Bank also warns that the country's debt burden will worsen if the Zambian government continues with its expansionary fiscal policy on infrastructure projects. "If the trend in foreign financed projects continues as in H1 2018, the debt burden would worsen further. Evidence from the Eurozone debt crisis and the pre-debt relief period in Zambia shows that an increased debt burden undermines macroeconomic stability and the provision of social services by: (i) increasing debt service costs; (ii) reducing foreign reserves; (iii) increasing the cost of new financing for the government and private sector, and thus growth and employment, and (iv) increasing the cost of restructuring the existing debt," the Brief narrates. "Failure to address the debt situation urgently would risk a spiral of debts, where new borrowing would be channelled towards paying back pre-existing debt, and not towards financing development and wealth creation." And Dr Ruthenberg said lending rates in Zambia remain too high for the private sector to borrow credit and create enough jobs in the economy. "A very important aspect is, Zambia needs to create jobs; a lot of young people – you can see them everywhere! And the fiscal-debt situation impacts interest rates, and they are very high! Too high for the private sector to borrow and invest for job creation," Dr Ruthenberg said in an analysis of the Brief during the launch at Intercontinental Hotel. She also explained that Zambia's economic growth rates are too sluggish to create jobs and reduce poverty. "On the broader macro-economic front, Zambia's economy is still expected to grow in 2018, but frankly, the growth numbers are not exciting. Zambia needs to grow about seven per cent a year to reduce poverty. And at present, we are hovering around about half of that, so that's not where we really want to be. And we all know that, most of the challenges are related to fiscal and debt situation; it impacts so many things, and above all, it impacts also job creation," she told stakeholders.

Meanwhile, World Bank economist Dr Zivanemoyo Chinzara, who was one of the authors of the Brief, explained that Zambia was not in a debt crisis yet, despite being at high risk of debt distress. "If you are in high risk of debt distress, it doesn't mean you are in debt distress; it doesn't mean you are in a debt crisis. It means you need to take action because if you don't take actions, the consequences can be dire. And the consequences can include: macroeconomic instability; they can include: more spending going towards debt service, but less going to other sectors of the economy," Dr Chinzara said. He, however, urged the Zambian government to disclose the country's full indebtedness and improve debt reporting by producing regular reports to quell speculation on the country's true debt stock. "We have heard debate about debt. So, improving debt reporting is very key because rumours may have an impact on the costs at which you borrow. We have seen some articles appearing in newspapers, but there has also been some confusion in some of these articles. Loans are not equal debt," said Dr Chinzara. "This is why it is very important for the government to be releasing the information more regularly. Because if you don't release the numbers, this is partly what's been happening; there are many people with an interest in debt information; we have investors, analysts...they need this information for making informed decisions. But we also have citizens who have the constitutional right to information. We may also have mis-informers; if they don't get the information, then they exploit that lack of information to misinform." The World Bank's latest Zambia Economic Brief is the 11th instalment in a series of publications, produced twice a year, that focuses on macroeconomic developments locally, as well as regionally and beyond. The 11th Brief was dubbed: "Agro-led Structural Transformation."

By Thomas Mulenga

The term 'autism' may not only be strange to ordinary citizens who have not stepped in a medical lecture theatre, but also to the men and women who have spent years dismantling huge books of medical theories. However, as strange as the name may sound, 'autism' is a common condition across the world, and Zambia is not an exception.

As the world is still in the dark on the causes of autism, one Zambian is going against odds, leading the way to find best ways of taking care of 'autistic' children.

Joakim Nyoni, a Zambian PhD student at the South African University of Cape Town, in the School of Health Sciences, Department of Health and Rehabilitation, is leading a research project in Zambia, seeking to establish the challenges faced by parents and other stakeholders in taking care of children with autism.

Before giving a professional definition of autism, Nyoni confirms that the condition is not very well known in Zambia, hence the need to delve into empirical evidence by conducting research on the condition.

Zambian scholar leads research on Autism, NGO steps in with awareness

"I am doing a study on disabilities, more to do with issues of health. This study is a participatory action research trying to look at available services for families with children living with autism. Autism is not a very well-known disability in our country, but in other countries, especially the developed countries, people are aware of it. But a survey from a Zambian perspective shows that very few people know and understand what autism spectrum disorder is. Autism is a neuro developmental disorder, which affects the child's communication aspect, the child has communication deficit,

language deficit and even social interaction is affected.

"These children have different characteristics, some of them have repetitive behaviour, for example, an autistic child you may find instead of playing with a toy car in a normal way that any other child does, he may be playing with wheels and if he wants something he may continuously stick to that, so they have that stereotype of behaviour. Of course, some of them are very intelligent children," Nyoni says.

The ignorance about the condition, especially among people who have flipped medical books, the doctors, is a source of

worry for Nyoni. His worry is that if medical professionals do not know about autism, there is no way they can care to dedicate their efforts in finding the cure and ways in which to take care of autistic children.

"The research is in three phases; in the first phase, I have been working with parents to identify the challenges they have in accessing the services that would help to take care of these children, what future support services would they need; who are the stakeholders who would help to bring about advocacy and self-determinism. So, I have interviewed parents from both rural and urban areas

within Lusaka Province, I have also interviewed professionals, mainly those from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Department of Social Welfare, I have also interviewed policy-makers to find out the challenges they have as professionals. Some of the professionals, including doctors do not know about autism. Go to the school of medicine, there is a very small component about autism and a lot of students don't know autism. If we have students who are learning medicine do not learn more about autism, then it's a challenge; there are very few doctors who have ventured into this aspect," Nyoni added.

Nyoni, a University of Zambia (UNZA) masters graduate in psychology, said his research is participatory action-based, which is also raising awareness and promoting advocacy for recognition of autism as a serious, independent health condition that should be given serious attention by all stakeholders.

He added that the study is also seeking to establish the knowledge that different stakeholders that include medical professionals, teachers, policy makers and parents, have about autism.

"My research is a participatory-action research; I am looking at the services available to families of children with autism. My thinking is, 'what is it which professionals know about autism?' 'What is it which they don't know about autism?' 'Do we have any statistical data about the number of children with autism?' The answer is no! Go to Central Statistical Office (CSO), there is nothing; go to Ministry of Health itself...., information is only found in the (assessment) centres; there is no database where somebody can go and get the number for children with autism. If you go to Ministry of Education, you will find the number of visually-impaired, they have the number of those who are deaf, but autism is silent, it is embedded in the intellectual disabilities instead of bringing it out."

Delving into the details about the condition, Nyoni explains that autism affects boys more than girls.

"Research shows that one in every five of autistic children is a girl, and four in every five are boys. So, it catches more into the boys as compared to girls. It's a spectrum, which means that some of them maybe on the higher side in terms of behaviour, in terms of hyper-activeness, intelligence, while others maybe on the lower side. You may find that even their performance in school maybe low. One thing about these children is that, it's difficult when you meet them in the streets, you can't know that

this is an autistic child," Nyoni observes.

He further stated that autistic children are at a higher risk of social vices, such as rape and general violence, as some people may take advantage of their condition.

Nyoni added that based on research, parents with autistic children are more stressed than other parents with children living with other forms of disability.

"Studies have shown that parents of children with autism have more stress than any other disability and yet it is silent, and the numbers are growing. So, here is a disability, which makes people more stressful than any other disability and yet it is silent, and the numbers are growing. So, the aim of this research is to have a clear understanding on how it is to have a child with autism, what are the services that they can access," Nyoni said.

Nyoni did not let the opportunity go without making his honest appeal to government, especially on policy formulation.

"Where there is no policy, people will do it at their own will. So, if there is a policy, which says, 'let children be examined according to their interests and their need' because they have been identified and labeled as autistic children and you have known their characteristics. So, why should you expect them to write the same exam with other children? So, a policy in that direction would help. We are also saying, if you have a sixteen-year child with autism, you go to town or a shopping mall and she says, 'daddy I want to go to toilet, as an adult man, where do I take that child for help, men's toilet or women's toilet? Can't we have the policy for such disabled children, which can look into such needs?" wondered Nyoni.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tamara Chansa Kabali, an UNZA psychology lecturer, who is also one of the founders of 'Mulenga Autism Foundation,' an organization advocating for awareness on autism in different parts of the country, said so far, there is no research that has revealed the causes of autism, making it difficult to find the cure for the condition.

Speaking when her organisation held a sensitization meeting at Namalombwe Primary School in Chilanga District, Dr. Kabali, who also has a child with autism, called on parents and other stakeholders to show love and care to autistic children as the surest way of helping them.

"Unfortunately, even as we speak, there is no research that has been done that has successfully revealed the causes of autism and if that is the case, then it means there is no cure. Everywhere in the world, in America, UK, there is no established cause of autism, but because here in Zambia where we don't even have advanced facilities, we are more affected. However, studies are ongoing and we hope we get the information. The most important thing is to understand the condition of the child as a family and ensure that all stakeholders, such as teachers, the police, friends and other community members, know the condition of a child so that they don't mistreat that child. Children with autism need more love and care from parents and the family," said Dr. Kabali.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Vice-President Inonge Wina says the country's debt has been dramatized in such a way that is being used as a tool to destabilize people's confidence in the PF government in order to force a regime change.

And Vice-President Wina says investors will only have confidence in Zambia if citizens stop posting bad news about what's happening in the country in a deformed manner.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina has warned politicians who use hate speech that they should not be shocked when they are visited by the law.

Vice-President Wina was responding to questions from members of parliament during Vice-President's question time in the House, Friday.

Chifubu PF member of parliament Frank Ng'ambi wanted to know why the country had an outcry from the "minority part of the society" over the accrued debt.

"Your honour, international credit markets or capital markets only extend their credit to countries which have visionary leadership, committed leadership, prudent and dedicated leadership as they aspire to protect the interest of their investors. Zambia has so far accrued some debt from these capital institutions that have extended credit to

Zambia's debt being used to force regime change - Wina

Zambia. My question is, why do we seem to have some outcry from some minority part of our society?" asked Ng'ambi.

In response, Vice-President Wina said the issue of Zambia's debt was being dramatized to destabilize people's confidence in the PF government in order to force regime change.

"Many countries have accessed loans from China including the biggest economic power in the world, the United States of America. And America alone, if I recollect, has borrowed \$1.1 trillion. Countries like South Africa are negotiating for a \$5 billion, Kenya has borrowed \$3.6 billion, Senegal has borrowed \$1 billion. The issue of the Zambian debt is being dramatized. Zambia's debt has been taken out of proportion and Zambia's debt has become a camouflage, a tool to destabilize Zambian people's confidence in their government and to force a regime change," Vice-President Wina said.

"The cordial relations between China and Zambia

is at the core of this fight. There has been a heightened smear campaign and slander to paint Zambia red. Mr Speaker, the champions of international capital will stop at nothing to destroy this country simply for their interest. The interest of Zambian people means nothing to them. The way these champions are tarnishing the image of this country, hoping that the Zambian people will rise to get rid of this government is very unfortunate. And I hope these champions of foreign capital will reflect on the few words that I have expressed." She said Zambia was at peace and was not in any economic crisis.

Vice-President Wina reiterated President Edgar Lungu's pronouncement that Zambia would trade with any country in the world especially those that offered concessional loans like China.

"The country is at peace, the country is not in a crisis. There is no crisis whatsoever in the economy of Zambia. Crises are being created by people who I do not want

to put more adjectives to. The Minister of Finance is coming to the House on September 28 to present her budget pronouncements. Surely, if the country was in a crisis, where would we get the money even to have a national budget? The Zambian government will trade with any country in the world especially countries that offer concessional loans, including China. We look forward to Zambians accepting the cordial and good relations that President Lungu has created around the world with friendly countries that want to support Zambia's development agenda," she said.

And responding to a question from Monze Central UPND member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu who asked what measures government was putting in place to ensure that they instilled the confidence in the eyes of donors that had been eroded because of corruption and misappropriation of money in the ministries, Vice-President Wina said investors would only have

confidence in Zambia if citizens stopped posting bad news about what was happening in the country, in a deformed manner.

"It is true that the British government through its program has suspended funding to the Social Cash Transfer. But yesterday (Thursday) morning, I was visited by three British members of parliament and we discussed these matters. They were very happy at the measures that government is taking to address discrepancies in the financial management of government. And Mr Speaker, whenever the Auditor General's report comes out, government does not sit idle. The culprits, some of them had faced administrative punishments, others have been taken to court. So its not that government is condoning what is going on in certain ministries where there has been reports of financial misappropriation of government funds. The confidence of the investors will be there if only Zambians stop posting bad news about what is happening in a very

deformed manner," she said. Vice-President Wina said not all civil servants were corrupt.

"Let me also clear the notion that all civil servants are corrupt, starting from the permanent secretaries downwards. There may be some bad fish among some of our public workers, but not all civil servants are corrupt," she said.

Meanwhile, Mufulira PF member of parliament Evans Chibanda asked, "of late there has been a lot of hate-speech in the country and a lot xenophobic statements made by the opposition especially by the UPND against the Chinese nationals. What is government's intention against such organisations that are propagating xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals?"

In response, Vice-President Wina warned politicians who were using hate speech that they should not be shocked when they were visited by the law.

"Hate-speech is something that the law enforcement agencies usually follow. And for those leaders or politicians who have the propensity to use hate speech, when they are visited by the law they should not be surprised. Government takes these actions because it wants to prevent conflicts in the country. This country doesn't know how to fight a war, we have never experienced war and we should keep it that way. But the way we are using words carelessly, I can assure you that the more you use hate-speech, the more you will lose the confidence of the Zambian people," said Vice-President Wina.

Civil societies plan joins demo at parley ahead of budget presentation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

About 7 Civil Society Organisations have written to Lusaka Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri, informing him that they wish to hold a peaceful protest to advocate for prudent and accountable use of public resources at Parliament, next week.

The Alliance for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti signed the police notice on behalf of ActionAid Zambia, Caritas Zambia, GEARS Initiative, NGOCC, Transparency International, ZCSD and activists like Fumba Chama, Pamela Chisanga and Lewis Mwape.

In the letter of notice, Miti informed Phiri that the peaceful protest would be held on Friday, September 28, when Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe would be expected to present the national budget.

"In accordance with the Public Order Act, Chapter 113 of the Laws of Zambia, ACA on behalf of the undermentioned CSOs and individuals, wishes to notify your office of the intention of the said CSOs

to jointly organise and hold a peaceful procession and demonstration at Parliament on Friday, September 28. The purpose of this peaceful demonstration is to raise citizen concern on a range of public resource accountability issues to include debt, taxation, corruption and mismanagement of public resources," she stated.

"In accordance with the law, we wish to hold this demonstration from 14 hours to 18 hours on the day the national budget will be presented by the Minister of Finance, we feel budget presentation is an appropriate day to raise our concern on public resource management in the country." She assured Phiri that the peaceful protest would not disturb the proceedings of the House.

"The procession will take form of members of civil society and ordinary citizens peacefully holding up placards on the side of the road leading up to Parliament. We would like to assure you that the members of parliament proceeding to and from the House will

not in any way be disturbed, neither will demonstrators seek to enter Parliament precincts. We look forward to the police service facilitating this Constitutional citizen right and duty to raise their concerns to those that

govern the country," she stated.

Last year, Miti, PeP president Sean Tembo, Zambia Council for Social Development executive director Lewis Mwape, Fumba Chama (Pilato),

Bornwell Mwewa and Mika Mwambazi, were arrested outside Parliament building and charged with one count of disobeying lawful orders, as they were protesting government's purchase of 42 fire trucks at US\$42 million.



"SALUTE" Service Chiefs and their Aide Camps Salute as President Edgar Chagwa Lungu takes off at City Airport on Saturday, September 22, 2018 - Picture by Salim Henry

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia Women Parliamentary Caucus chairperson Prof Nkandu Luo says social media in Zambia is not used for any meaningful development apart from people gossiping about who is sleeping with who.

And Prof Luo wonders how social media users have named her a prostitute when she is a distinguished professor; adding that such haters will need to be sternly dealt with.

Meanwhile, former LAZ president Linda Kasonde submitted that only real abuse of social media will need to be dealt with, as people's liberties to freely express themselves need to be respected.

Giving a keynote address at a programme for call to action on cyber bullying against women leaders at Pamodzi Hotel, Sunday, Prof Luo, who is also Higher Education Minister said she had observed that Zambians used social media for gossip.

"For those of us in parliament and politics, time has come for us to call for legislation because in other countries there is legislation that deals with cyber bullying and we can't accept it. Appreciate that this is going to stay, social media, but it has to be used responsibly. As minister in charge of education in this country, who is promoting

People do not use social media for any development, they call me prostitute - Luo

even ICT; I would like us to use it responsibly. I would like us to use ICT for development and not for destruction. I have also been analysing how much is on social media that is educative, I have also been analysing what is on social media that is developmental and the answer is zero! The Zambian social media does not discuss development. The Zambia social media does not discuss educative topics. It is about who did what, who is dressed in what, who is sleeping with who, who is found in the bush, we can't!" Prof Luo exclaimed. "As a country, we need to bring that to an end. This is a country that is yearning for development. This is a country where we should now be looking at the topics that are important for moving the country forward. The government has done its part, we as citizens also need to pick up and say 'well, if we are going to industrialise, what is it that we are going to do?'. If we are going to diversify in agriculture, what are the things

which we should be discussing on our platforms? Those of us who are doing well in seed multiplication, how do we share that information, those of us who are doing well in cassava growing, how do we share that information, there is never anything like that on our social media, unfortunately. So if it is here to stay in Zambia, it has to take a different form. And the form should first of all depart from insulting female political leaders."

And Prof Luo wondered how social media users had named her a prostitute when she is a distinguished professor.

"Women parliamentarians on social media have been referred to as prostitutes. In fact, I recall reading something, 'why does Professor Luo always talk about prostitution, working with TASINTHA, is she a prostitute? Where have you seen a professor who becomes a prostitute for goodness sake? Do people understand what this is all about? Because I cannot earn money so use my body to earn money? And if

you are a professor and you haven't made it in life, then forget it!" she said.

"There is a big distinct difference because they want to bring you down and not even celebrate who you are, they will liken you to something that is negative and yet someone is just helping to lift the lives of the other women out of the hazardous situations to be who they can be also and be counted. And we can't continue as a country like this, time has come for people to celebrate women. Unfortunately, in Zambia, one of the platforms where we are abusing democracy is on social media and we believe as a country that social media, or democracy is about bullying others through insults, through images that they don't identify with and then when we now stratify for the cyber bullying, it is the political leaders that are abused more than anyone else. And again when we stratify for gender, it is the women that are abused and all of us seated in this room have been victims of cyber bullying one way or

another."

And Kasonde said only real abuse of social media would need to be dealt with, as people's liberties to freely express themselves need to be respected.

"In terms of cyber bullying, as I mentioned I myself have been a victim and I think that it is important to address it but also to do so in a manner that does not curb people's rights to privacy and freedom of expression so there must be a way of doing it in a way that does not create harm in itself and cause people to be censured where they shouldn't, only real cases of abuse should be tackled," Kasonde said.

"What makes cyber bullying much more dangerous is that because people feel that they are anonymous, they feel that they can say things on social media that they wouldn't be able to say to your face, terrible things and it really dehumanises not just the victims but really the perpetrators. On whether women get more of the abuse, just as an example, in the last

US presidential election Hilary Clinton received three times more online abuse than her male colleagues so there are actual statistics and I don't think Zambia is unique. I am sure if a study is done in Zambia you would find pretty much the same sort of thing," Kasonde said.

She also highlighted the need for men to join the cause if cyber bullying against women.

"Also, I think it is important that we need male champions to celebrate this cause. I mentioned the campaign that civil society had done on sexual bullying and I recall that we received a lot of support from for example honourable Vincent Mwale who was key to see the vice is curbed. This is something we can't change without the men and so I am happy to see a few men in the audience and those supporting this cause," said Kasonde.

"And we hope to see political parties take ownership of this process as well because without the leadership in political parties that create an atmosphere of zero tolerance against sexual bullying, cyber bullying and just actual attacks by cadres on other political parties or within the party itself, we need to see that stopped and condemned in no uncertain terms in all political parties."

And a ZICTA cyber security specialist Chewe Mutale revealed females were victims in 90 per cent of cyber bullying cases which the authority dealt with so far.

Meanwhile, Zambia Police supervisor of cyber crimes Prince Kalala urged women to be careful what kind of material they shared with their boyfriends, warning that it could be used against them if they decided to aspire for leadership positions later in life.

Lungu attacking the church because it's not supporting his cause - Mukuni

By Mirriam Chabala

Chief Mukuni of Southern Province says it is unheard for a Head of State to accuse the Church of being political just because it is not supporting his cause.

On Saturday while officiating at the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches and official opening of the 31st General Conference of the Council of Churches in Zambia, President Lungu charged that the Church was being political over dialogue.

"As government, we look forward to the Church to foster unity among the people of Zambia. The Church should be in the forefront sowing seeds of love and not discord. I'm saying this in light of what is going on. The Church wants to become political, but please don't be political. We have an institution that we established ourselves in ZCID (Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue). So for the Church, come as Church not as politicians. Those in the church that want to come into politics, they must come and we will treat them as politicians," said President Lungu.

But speaking when Bahati member of parliament Harry Kalaba paid a courtesy call on him at his Palace on yesterday, Chief Mukuni said it was sad that the President had turned against the Church "simply because the body of Christ had opted to stand for the truth".

"It's sad that you can see the President rebuking the Church, it's unheard of for him to say they are becoming political. [How is it that] they are not political when they

support his cause, when they stand for neutrality or they are on the right side of issues he says 'they are being political, let them come out of there so that they become politicians'. That's very very sad," Chief Mukuni said.

"We only have one country which is Zambia, but my only disappointment is that I think as Zambians I didn't know that our gullibility went this far, I used to think that we would not take in the nonsense in Zimbabwe that was happening sometime back. I used to say that Zambia would stand their ground and say 'no! Here we stop'. Now I realise that we can be stretched to the extent where we can even break. But I am not one of those, I always stand for what I believe is right. When something goes wrong I always speak out my mind."

And the traditional leader who is also a successful businessman said it was true that the Chinese had taken over control of the national broadcaster.

"The state of affairs is there for everybody to see that we have problems, where even ZNBC has been taken over. Even though the Chinese keep on saying it has not been taken over but they have 60 per cent shares in the ZNBC [joint venture Top Star]. They still keep telling us that 'no we haven't taken over'. And at the rate that we are actually getting loans from China it's worrisome, in the sense that our future generation I think we are putting them in a very awkward and very difficult position. Also the public order Act I think it's a concern for

everybody else, whereby you find that for others it's free for all when others are actually stopped from having meetings. We have situations where they even having to ask for police permission to go to Church. So it's a sad development," Chief Mukuni said.

And acknowledging Chief Mukuni's welcome, Kalaba requested that the Chief allows him to interact with all his subjects.

"Your Royal Highness I am

particularly happy that I have come back home here and I have always looked forward to interacting with you. Firstly because your Royal Highness for a very long time you've been progressive in the way you've been handling issues of land around your Chiefdom. You have minted a lot of accolades because of the way you have distinguished yourself in handling the affairs around here, helping your people and being a beacon

of hope for everybody. That is as it should be your Royal Highness," said Kalaba.

"And I came to ask of you your Royal Highness to permit me when you hear that am in Livingstone to pave way for me to meet and interact with people of the Chiefdom because I know that unless your Royal Highness paves way, you can't be moving in the Chiefdom with blessings. so thank you very much your Royal Highness."

Airports Corporation posts 28% surge in domestic passenger movements

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) has recorded a 28 per cent increase in domestic passenger movements in the second quarter of 2018, triggered by reduced air fares, among others.

And ZACL says the introduction of RwandAir flights on the Lusaka-Johannesburg route has proven to be a success so far.

According to ZACL communications and brand manager, Mweembe Sikaulu, over 101,000 domestic passengers passed through the four major airports in the country in the second quarter ending June 30, 2018, up from 79,658 during the corresponding period last year, representing an 28 per cent surge.

Sikaulu noted that the 28 per cent surge is attributed to reduced air fares due to increased competition in the local aviation sector, which has largely been influenced by the latest entrant, Mahogany Air, and Proflight's new fleet of aircraft servicing the existing domestic routes within the country.

"101,937 domestic passengers passed through the airports in comparison to 79,658 in the second quarter of 2017

resulting in an increase of 28 per cent," Sikaulu stated in a press release issued, Friday.

"Similarly, international passengers increased by 39,050 resulting in 11.2 per cent increment compared to 2017."

She stated that the increased capacity on crucial local and international routes were among the main reasons for the upsurge in passenger traffic last quarter.

"Significant increased domestic uplifts to Livingstone, Lusaka and Ndola by Mahogany Air and Proflight Zambia resulting in a positive domestic variance of 26 per cent, 51 per cent, 17 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, at Kenneth Kaunda (KKIA), Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe (SMKIA), Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula (HMNIA) and Mfuwe (MIA) International Airports when compared to the same period last year. This signifies that an actual growth has been recorded rather than a split in the passenger numbers following the introduction of Mahogany Air in August, 2017," Sikaulu explained.

"Reduced ticket fares due to increased competition. This development is expected to increase economies of scale in the

medium to long-term. Proflight Zambia introduced a bigger capacity aircraft servicing both Ndola and Livingstone. The aircraft type was Fokker 70 with a seat capacity of about 73. Proflight are in the process of introducing a Boeing 737-500 with 114 seats."

And Sikaulu disclosed that the introduction of RwandAir flights on the Lusaka-Johannesburg route has proven to be a success so far.

"The introduction of RwandAir flights on the Lusaka-Johannesburg route has also proven to be a success. RwandAir further upgraded their fleet to include an A330, with a seat capacity of 270, while maintaining other aircrafts such as the B737, CRJ and a Q400 on the route. This resulted in increased capacity on the route," she narrated.

According to ZACL data, a total number of 488,640 general passenger movements were recorded collectively last quarter, up by 14.4 per cent when compared to the same period last year.

Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) continued to be dominant with 113,289 paying passengers having been recorded during the period under review.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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President Edgar Lungu says his primary objective as leader of this country is to fulfil the dream and build on the legacy of PF founder Michael Sata. This has been his campaign message since 2014 when he was adopted presidential candidate. He was the chosen one for this purpose; we were made to believe.

But today, all evidence seen from the implementation of PF policies suggests otherwise. We are seeing a complete 180 degrees U-turn from where late Michael was taking this country. Betraying the legacy is what President Lungu and his current Cabinet are doing.

Just last week, we heard the Chief Government spokesperson Honourable Dora Siliya declaring that it is a Constitutional lacuna to have a clause which demands that all loan contractions must be approved by Parliament. We accept madam Siliya's plea of ignorance on the subject because she was not there when Michael and his team sat to develop the PF manifesto, which won them the 2021 general elections. More understandably, Madam Siliya is employed to justify the bending of rules, so we treat her arguments with the deserving contempt.

But it got us worried to hear the Minister of Finance support this position, saying Parliament should not be allowed to ratify loan acquisitions because there was already an able Cabinet for that function. As Minister

How Lungu's Cabinet is destroying Sata's vision

of Finance, Honourable Margaret Mwanakatwe is not expected to debate like a cadre without reading the policy document that she is employed to implement.

On page 36 of the PF manifesto under Fiscal Policy (loans and grants) the governing policy document clearly states as follows:

Despite the writing off of Zambia's huge debt under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, Zambians have not seen any benefits from this programme. Instead the MMD government has continued to borrow without regard to monetary and fiscal policies.

Additionally, grants received from cooperating partners have not been directed to productive areas and activities due to rampant corruption and abuse of office by the MMD. This has led to unmitigated levels of poverty and erosion of confidence in the MMD

government by the Zambian people.

In order to redress the above, the PF government shall introduce legislation to allow the National Assembly to ratify all loan agreements in order to promote transparency and accountability;

This is not the UPND's suggestion, it is not a suggestion from the Transparency International or any of the civil society organizations. This is a directive in the PF manifesto, they promised to do this. They are the ones who put this provision in the Constitution, how can it be a lacuna? No madam minister, stop fooling the people. This is your manifesto and we expect every Cabinet minister to have it at home and in their office.

So when the Minister of Finance starts speaking to the contrary, we wonder if these people take time to read the policy document that is supposed to guide them, or they just drink

alcohol and agree to get loans under the influence.

Those who worked tirelessly, day and night, to develop the PF manifesto knew that parliamentary approval on loan acquisition would enhance transparency and accountability. So in rubbishing this provision in the PF manifesto, Honourable Mwanakatwe is telling us that Michael Sata and his team were dull or couldn't think as Cabinet, so they needed Parliament to do the job of the Executive.

Honourable Mwanakatwe and Honourable Siliya know very well that in Cabinet everyone speaks with one voice and there is no transparency while Parliament has critical divergent views. Zambians would follow through on radio, television and newspapers how much their government would like to borrow and for what purpose. The reason why Zambia's true debt is unknown today is

because of the secrecy that Cabinet attaches to loan contraction.

Michael Sata did not support excessive borrowing, or borrowing for consumption. So this provision in the Constitution for parliamentary approval on all loans is not a lacuna, it was a conscience decision by the founder PF leadership.

Even the Social Cash Transfer money that is now being embezzled and abused for campaigns; Michael saw this happen in the MMD and he promised in his manifesto that theft of social protection money would be stopped.

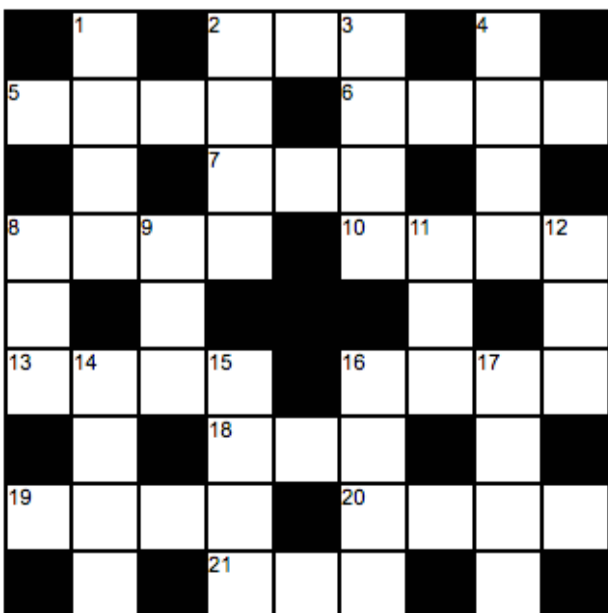
On page 21 of the manifesto under Social Protection, the PF condemns The MMD government for having politicized the social cash transfer and for abusing donor funds for political expediency, resulting in delays and inefficiencies in the sector. Look at what is happening in the PF

today. Is this party still green or it has completely been swallowed by the MMD blue?

And by the way, President Lungu is not the only one to blame for this loss of vision. There are people who were much closer to Michael Sata, who understood the dream and even helped him implement the manifesto while he was still alive. But today they are pretending to be ignorant about this, they have gotten jobs in diplomatic service and pretending all is well. These are people who promised Michael that they would fight for his legacy; today they are flying in business class from country to country with diplomatic passports and telling the world out there at important gatherings that 'Zambia is prospering under the new and able leader who has taken the footsteps of the PF founder'.

President Lungu never had a vision to lead this country and he was honest from the onset, so we forgive him and blame the voters. But these people who are now cheerleading the President are the ones who have heartlessly betrayed Michael. Painfully so, some of the betrayers are his own family members and trustees. They have surrendered Zambia into the hands of the wicked and have accepted to be part of a destructive regime. They can't open their mouths to tell President Lungu that he is sailing Zambia in the wrong direction, as long as they are eating. How shameless!

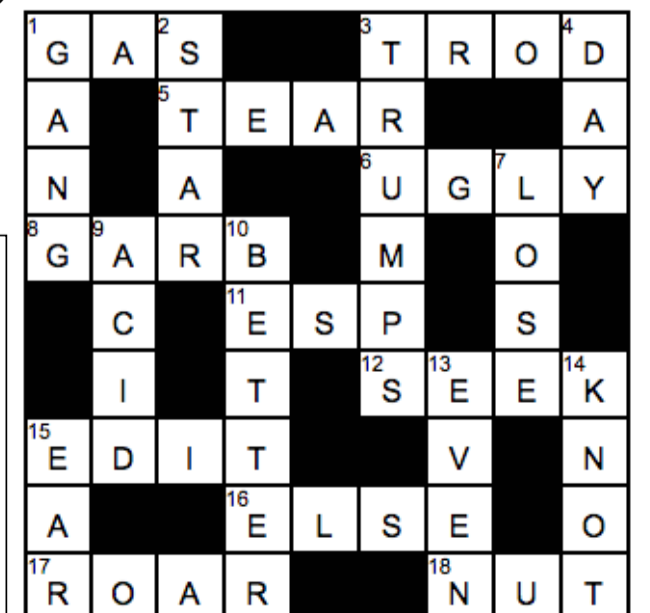
Crossword puzzle 193



"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction." - Rachel Carson

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <p>2. Drench</p> <p>5. Not odd</p> <p>6. Opposite of redo</p> <p>7. Not on</p> <p>8. Eye or high ender</p> <p>10. Took off</p> <p>13. Has been in debt</p> <p>16. Very old</p> <p>18. Big galoot</p> <p>19. Glitch</p> <p>20. Said at end of prayer</p> <p>21. Title for a knight</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>1. Happily ___ after</p> <p>2. Winter forecast</p> <p>3. Breathe heavily</p> <p>4. Lazy; doing nothing</p> <p>8. Scare word</p> <p>9. Praiseful poem</p> <p>11. Chair part</p> <p>12. Parent</p> <p>14. Alcoholic beverage</p> <p>15. Retriever and Shepherd</p> <p>16. Way off yonder</p> <p>17. Sporting sword</p> |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 192



Reader's feedback

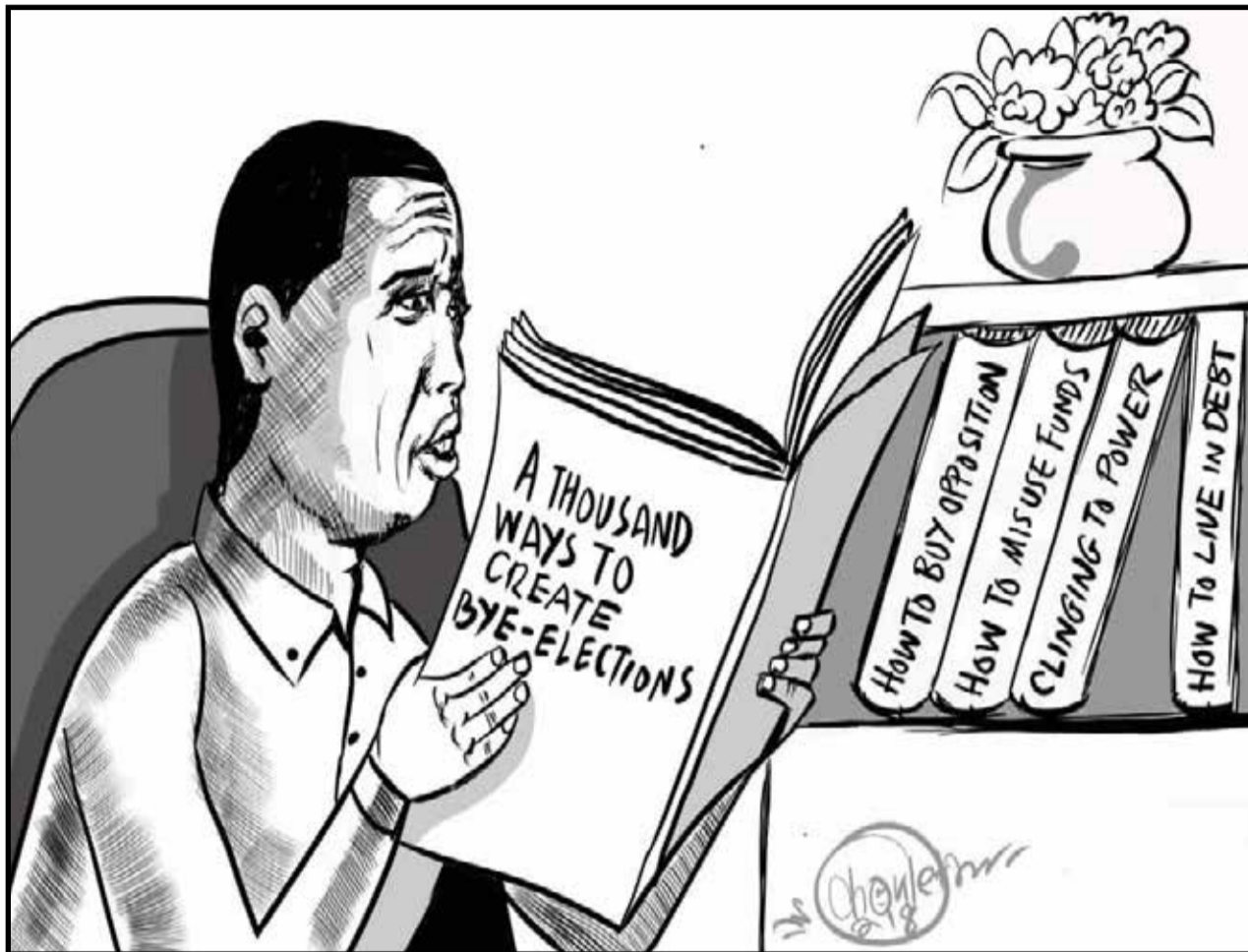
Kambwili's claim that frozen UK aid has vindicated him

Dear Editor,
 "Government of thieves, indeed. Crooks. Cheap thieves." - Chikisi Chisa

"If we are to fix Zambia, we need to start by sending people like Ba Kambwili in the back seat. If the man is real, let him stop eating from the party he claims to be corrupt. We need new blood not recycled." - Angel Mwamba

"And we owe Dr Guy Scott a big apology for rubbishing his warning about Lungu and friends of sending ourselves to early graves with those in power..." - Chanda Marcus

"It was coming, and to make it all happen, State Counsel Wynter Kabimba was hounded out using treachery so that the scheme he objected to, succeeded." - Masauso Mtonga



Kwacha's continued depreciation

Editor,

"The kwacha depreciation is obvious. Zambia is weak on exports. The copper mining industry is in the hands of foreigners. We trade the copper in pounds and dollars at the London Metal Exchange. So, the owners of those currencies control the goings-on. When they mop up their donor funds, the forex market literally collapses. The sad part is that the PF and its supporters think the growth of the national economy is measured by the traffic congestion on the CBD roads in the inner city of Lusaka, coupled by building of 'mansions' from stolen donor funds, while the targeted recipients are wallowing in squalor in our villages and townships." - Christopher Kalima

"Double tragedy; the price of copper just went down by almost 2 per cent due to latest war of tariffs between China and the US." - Mazabuka Mwanakalando

"Awe sure, we are in for it. K11? This is bad. They need to do something." - Conrad Chilekwa Moonga

"We're in deep trouble!!!" - Amos Phiri

"Another Venezuela." - Joseph Kashiwa

"And then gullible people will be called to convene for prayers on the 18th of October to pray for the kwacha. Most of our problems are self-made through bad leadership. The voters and the voted alike." - Noah François Fas

ND's OPINION: Lies have short legs; Fergus has outrun government lies

Editor,

"Well analysed, News Diggers! I like this one." - James Masuwa

"Expecting corrupt chaps to fight corruption is not different from expecting a stone to produce milk." - Keith Moono

"The British High Commissioner is doing some good works in Zambia." - Temfuma Sam

"Surely, what do you expect from a lawyer whose practicing license was suspended by LAZ after being found guilty of professional misconduct or in simple terms, STEALING client's money???" - Kavwima Shimaponda

"The same institutions ECL is fighting to fail will fail him when the Zambian people make him take the stand. They will not protect him because he has not protected them. They will not defend him because he has failed to uphold the Constitution of Zambia as he had taken oath. This is so shameful." - Kapampa Musukwa

"This man has killed all the government institutions that are meant to help him to manage the affairs of the country. What a shame! AG, ACC, DEC, FIC, police, Judiciary..."

all these are just a name that they do exist, but in actual sense, they don't. There is no seriousness on the part of the leadership in the fight against corruption because they

thrive in it. ND, you are our hope now. Continue with the good work you are doing. You deserve credit from all well-meaning Zambians." - Edward Banda

Dora's argument that Executive doesn't need Parley's approval to acquire loans

Editor,

"This one should just shut up because she is embarrassing herself. So, now, she thinks the Executive is independent of the people?" - Muzumbwe Hakwaambwa

"Even Parliament, they don't need you ministers to make laws in Parliament. Appoint Cabinet outside Parliament, PLEASE." - Frank Frankie

"It seems this Constitution was signed in a haste, why? Do we, the citizens, take it that that was to allow for the so-called lacunas to be used as excuses for the Executive wing of government to overstretch their powers knowing full well they'll not be held accountable for the excesses such as in this case? Question is, for how long are you folks going to continue to account for your misdeeds using constitutional lacunas as an excuse if not just for your selfishness? Your time is surely running out and very fast. Put your house in order now before it's too late!" - Donald Oscar Phiri

"Is it because the Constitution has lacunas or because Parliament is a public platform and you need this money in secret so that the public can't question how it's used? Don't hate Parliament for your own benefit; it is there for a purpose. Make it active." - Michael Wiz Simz

Families bury victims as Tanzania ferry disaster toll passes 200

Grieving families were on Sunday preparing to bury victims of Tanzania's devastating ferry disaster, with more than 200 confirmed dead after the crowded boat capsized in Lake Victoria.

Hopes were fading of finding any more survivors three days after the ferry sank on Thursday, even after rescuers pulled out an engineer who had managed to find refuge in an air pocket in the upturned vessel.

"We are going to start burying bodies not yet identified by relatives," said John Mongella, governor of Mwanza region, where the MV Nyerere ferry had been coming in to dock on the island of Ukara.

"The (burial) ceremony will be overseen by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, in the presence of clergy members of different denominations," Mongella said Saturday on TBC 1 public television.

Divers were also set to continue their grim search in the waters around the boat, where late Saturday they were watched by anxious crowds gathered just metres (yards)

away on Ukara's shore. Mongella said 218 people had been confirmed dead, while 41 escaped the tragedy

with their lives -- a total figure far above the official capacity of the boat, which was in theory only able to

carry 101 passengers. One survivor was an engineer who shut himself into a "special room" with

enough air for him to stay alive until he was found, said local lawmaker Joseph Mkundi.

Transport Minister Isack Kamwelwe said on Saturday that 172 of the victim's bodies had been identified by relatives.

State television cited witnesses reporting that more than 200 people had boarded the ferry at Bugolora, a town on the larger Ukerewe Island. It was market day, which usually sees the vessel packed with people and goods.

Witnesses told AFP the ferry sank when passengers rushed to one side to disembark as it approached the dock. Others blamed the captain, saying he had made a brusque manoeuvre

Dozens of wooden coffins lined the shore on Saturday, waiting to be seen by families as police and volunteers sought to keep hundreds of curious locals at bay.

Aisha William came to collect the body of her husband. "He left on Tuesday around noon, but he never came home. I do not know how I am going to raise my two children," she said. **AFP**



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vowed a "crushing" response after assailants sprayed a crowd with gunfire, shooting dead at least 29 people including women and children Saturday at a military parade near the Iraqi border.

The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the rare assault in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, while Iranian officials blamed "a foreign regime" backed by the United States.

A local journalist who witnessed the attack said shots rang out for 10 to 15 minutes and that at least one of the assailants, armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle,

wore the uniform of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

"We realised it was a terrorist attack as bodyguards (of officials) started shooting," Behrad Ghasemi told AFP. "Everything went haywire and soldiers started running." "The terrorists had no particular target and didn't really seem to care as they shot anyone they could with rapid gunfire."

Ahvaz lies in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq that has a large ethnic Arab community and has seen separatist violence in the past that Iran has blamed on its regional rivals.

Iran summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain over their "hosting of some members of the terrorist group" which carried out

the attack, state media said Sunday.

"It is not acceptable that the European Union does not blacklist members of these terrorist groups as long as they do not perpetrate a crime on... European soil," official news agency IRNA quoted foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi as saying.

After addressing a similar parade in Tehran to

commemorate the start of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Rouhani warned that "the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the smallest threat will be crushing".

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the attack was carried out by "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime". "Iran holds regional terror

sponsors and their US masters accountable for such attacks," he wrote on Twitter. IS claimed the attack via its propaganda mouthpiece Amaq and, according to intelligence monitor SITE, said the attack was in response to Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region.

State television gave a toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded, while IRNA said those killed included women and children who were spectators at the parade.

Three attackers were killed at the scene and the fourth died later of his injuries, said armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi.

The Revolutionary Guards accused Shiite-dominated Iran's Sunni arch-rival Saudi Arabia of funding the attackers, while Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also blamed Iran's pro-US rivals.

Tehran-backed Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah condemned the "terrorist" attack, saying that "repulsive Satanic hands" were behind it.

"This operation was a continuation of the other forms of war the United States and its allies are waging, directly or indirectly," it said. **AFP**

Iran vows 'crushing response' after gunmen kill 29 at army parade

China comes out ahead in Vatican deal - analysts

The landmark deal between China and the Vatican is a win for Beijing, giving official recognition to bishops appointed by the government despite a crackdown on religion, and potentially softening the ground for full diplomatic relations after 67 years of estrangement, analysts said.

The two sides signed a provisional agreement on Saturday on who gets to name senior churchmen, an issue that has bedevilled ties for decades, and China quickly said it hoped for an improvement in relations.

That is bound to mean consequences for self-ruled Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province, and which has watched helplessly in recent years as its giant neighbour has picked off its few remaining

diplomatic partners.

With its outsized international influence, the Vatican is the most important of Taiwan's 17 remaining friends, and its only European partner.

The agreement on bishops makes no mention of diplomatic relations, but some see the writing on the wall.

"It's difficult not to see this as the first step towards a switch," said Jonathan Sullivan, a China expert at the University of Nottingham.

"It's not on the cards yet, but Beijing has made no secret of its desire to poach Taiwan's most important remaining ally."

Ying Fuk-tsang, a professor of divinity at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said Beijing is bound to use

any new leverage to seek the Holy See's recognition.

The current Taiwan government has taken a toughened line against Beijing, which knows that turning the Vatican would be "a major blow to Taiwan's diplomacy," Ying said.

Beijing and the Vatican severed ties in 1951, two years after the Communist Party seized power.

The party tolerates no alternative power centres and a decades-long impasse has played out over who presides over the now roughly 12 million-strong Catholic faithful -- communist-approved prelates or those who preach to "underground" pro-Rome churches.

Since taking office in 2013, Pope Francis has sought to improve ties with China. **AFP**



Indonesia's newest poster boy Anthony Sinisuka Ginting has already gained a reputation as a giant slayer - en route to the final, he beat top seed Viktor Axelsen. AFP

Cazorla concedes Arsenal lacked self-belief under Wenger

Arsenal have struggled to challenge for the Premier League title in recent years because of a lack of self-belief under Arsene Wenger, according to former Gunners star Santi Cazorla. The London club last won the title in 2003-04 and have finished runners-up just twice since, the most recent coming in 2015-16. During Cazorla's six-year stay, Arsenal

finished in the top three just twice and were rarely considered to be a genuine threat to those clubs who were fighting for the crown. Cazorla has since departed for Villarreal, following Wenger out of the exit door after an injury nightmare at the club. And the Spaniard feels the final years of the Frenchman's tenure were mired by mentality issues. [YAHOO](#)

Balotelli beasted by Dante as fiery Italian told to take more responsibility

The flamboyant Nice striker is taking in another eventful season, with even his club colleagues questioning his attitude and physical fitness. Mario Balotelli has been told to stop making excuses and take more responsibility for his actions by Nice team-mate Dante. The enigmatic 28-year-old has taken in a colourful career to

date, with his name never far from the headlines. Another eventful campaign has been opened in 2018-19, with a summer of transfer speculation seeing the former Manchester City and

Liverpool striker eventually decide to stay put. He was then returned to the Italy fold, only to be subsequently dropped by Roberto Mancini as questions over his physical condition

surfaced. Balotelli has rubbished claims of his weight leading to fines at Nice, but his club form has done little to help his cause. Another disappointing showing was put in against

Montpellier on Saturday, with Dante among those to criticise his efforts in the wake of a 1-0 defeat. The Brazilian defender told Canal+: "It's up to him to step up and take charge in attack,

to take on some responsibility. "He's not in great shape physically, we know that, but it's up to him to work and train to improve his fitness levels. "At some point, he simply has to take control of the situation. "There's no point blaming the team and saying we don't get the best out of his qualities. No!

Suns, Looters square off as Pacers edge Buffaloes

By Alex Chilumbwe
Munali Suns and LCC Looters basketball teams on Saturday, proved their double efforts and team work on the court were not in vain when the two collected maximum points in week 11 of the Midlands basketball league. Munali Suns beat a tired giant Matero Magic 80-71 while Looters endured unlikely toughness from Nishati Denvers and won 86-78. Long time rival UNZA Pacers beat Green Buffaloes 93-90. "Let the young win. My boys are not as experienced as Magic in the super league but look at the result. They could have been either out powered or outplayed but we outscored them. We will keep pushing for maximum results while we gain more experience," teased Suns coach Martin Muchena. Looters coach Levy Nkandu took comfort in his boys' unrivaled endurance against Denvers. "They fight until the final whistle. They were down at some point but they did not give up. I have good forwards and topmen like Kaswayi Makwati who

shoots accurately too. Their Nalumino and Chuma Chuma with good drive ins that attract fouls and the alike. It is a good good team that should go all the way," said Nkandu. The highlight of the evening was Green Buffaloes against Pacers. Buffaloes kept lead from first quarter and dominated play until the

last two minutes of the fourth (final) quarter. Like their football counterparts, Buffaloes basketball had slid into a habit of failing to maintain lead and losing in the end. Siphon Nakalowa, a substitute changed Buffaloes game fate when he made three easy three pointers just a minute before game time

clocked. A three shot try by Nelson Mabaso remained a try and Pacers got the rebound that Siphon benefited from and made a three points shot that gave Pacers an unlikely victory. Suns and Looters are tied on first position with 19 points, Pacers is second with 18 points while Magic is now fourth with

16 points on the table. In the feminine league, Honeys beat Magic Sparks 68-62 while Buffaloes beat Hotspurs 74 - 47. Lootresses beat Nishati Shells 59-49 respectively. Honeys has stayed on top of the league and Buffaloes is now second placed while Magic Sparks and NAPSAs Breeze ate tied at third position.

"There were times when the team didn't play so well and I defended them, but we must always be self-critical and question ourselves at every turn to make sure we're doing our best." Balotelli followed up a 17-goal debut campaign with Nice by netting 26 times across all competitions last season. A return to form saw him linked with several leading clubs across Europe before the decision was taken to stay in France. Big things were expected of him in 2018-19, but he has seen just 166 minutes of Ligue 1 action so far and is still waiting on a first goal. [goal.com](#)

Kamanga hails Copa Coca-Cola tournament

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ President Andrew Kamanga has commended Coca Cola and the Zambia School Sports Association (ZSSA) for their efforts to develop football at youth level. Speaking during the finale of the 2018 Copa Coca Cola Schools tournament on Saturday, Kamanga said football was a practical way of life that targeted young people and promoted physical health and well-being. "Most Zambian football icons developed from

the youth system and have developed their careers to become role models of the current generation. FAZ will demonstrate its continued support towards football development and its commitment towards nurturing budding soccer talent in the country," Kamanga said. Kamanga further advised young footballers to stay disciplined if they are to attain success in the industry. "The growth of any talent is highly dependent on high level of discipline. I therefore urge

you to be as disciplined as possible so that your talents do not go to waste. Any behaviour that does not support your personal growth should not be entertained," said Kamanga. Choma Boarding Secondary school beat Highridge Secondary School 1-0 to win the boys 2018 Copa Coca Cola, while Choma Day Secondary School beat Arakan Girls Secondary by the same scoreline to become the first female team to win the Copa Coca-Cola.

That we're league leaders doesn't mean it's easy - Lwandamina

WE FEEL THE PRESSURE

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina says the future of Zambian football is bright. Lwandamina was impressed by the competitiveness of teams in the FAZ/MTN Super Division and their will to keep on fighting even under difficult financial situations. "The future for Zambian football is bright. We have seen how clubs have made sure they fulfill their fixtures under difficult financial situations. There are also younger players in the super league that are playing very good football and if all this keeps getting improved, the future will stay bright. There is a lot of talent in the country, all we need to do is find means of nurturing it," Lwandamina said. "That we are league leaders does not mean this year's super league has been less competitive infact, it is more competitive than last season's," Lwandamina added. This time last year, Lwandamina's side had sealed the league title with only 74 points while this

season, the Zega boys have 76 points but still fighting to retain their crown. Second placed Nkana has kept the pressure on with impressive wins while Green Buffaloes and Green Eagles are equally giving ZESCO a run for its money. Lwandamina summed up the thrills he had noted in the super league this season. "This season has extremely been exciting, unpredictable and quite challenging. All these teams are playing such good football that even when they lose, it is all with dignity. There are times when a club is not performing well but it has been encouraging to note how they would go back to the drawing board and make workable amends," noted Lwandamina.



Joshua ended Povetkin's challenge with a brutal finish in the seventh round. AFP



US Open winner Osaka had started the Pan Pacific final as the favourite, but Pliskova secured a clinical victory. AFP



Tiger Woods salutes the crowd as he closes in on victory at the Tour Championship. AFP

