



RB EXPLAINS HIS MMD SUPPORT

By Joseph Mwenda and Mirriam Chabala

Former president Rupiah Banda says as a loyal member of the MMD, he naturally wishes that the party excels in its endeavor to return into power, but adds that he has no ambitions of ruling Zambia again, owing to his age.

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MTN acting chief executive officer Kombe Malukutula (l), winner of the Brian McKnight singing Competition, Munalula Lukonga and director corporate and Investment Banking Helen Lubamba pose during a concert build up press conference with Stanbic yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

FIC boss files for divorce again

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) Director General Mary Chirwa Tshuma has again filed a petition in the Lusaka High Court to dissolve her marriage with her husband

Kudakwashe Tshuma, a pastor of Beam of Hope International Ministries, saying he has behaved in such a way that she can no longer live with him. In May this year, Tshuma had filed for divorce, accusing

her husband of being in a habit of threatening to kill himself and also having inappropriate affairs with other women but had, however, wholly discontinued the petition in June.

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ERB rules out fuel price hike despite kwacha fall

By Abraham Kalito

The Energy Regulation Board is adamant to confirm whether fuel prices would remain unchanged in the short term despite a sharp kwacha depreciation this

week, which is a common price hike determinant.

ERB director consumer and public affairs Fred Hang'andu refuted rumours that fuel prices would be adjusted upwards on Thursday night. To page 5



Acting President Inonge Wina talks to British Prime Minister Theresa May's Trade Envoy to Zambia and Angola Baroness Lindsay Northover at State House yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

Kampyongo overrules police, allows CSO protest at parley

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Inflation down to 7.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

The annual rate of inflation has reduced to 7.9 per cent, down from 8.1 per cent recorded in August, triggered by the "base effect" arising from electricity tariffs adjusted last year, according to Central Statistical Office data.

CSO acting director of census and statistics Goodson Sinyenga said the reduced inflation this month was largely attributable to the "base effect" arising from electricity tariffs adjusted in September, 2017.

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Mining companies should stop holding government to ransom, warns EAZ

By Abraham Kalito

The mining sector's contribution towards Zambia's tax revenues is insignificant and as such, it is difficult to maintain a stable fiscal policy, says Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka.

And Dr Haabazoka says the mines should stop holding government to ransom because they fail to declare corporate income tax despite receiving US \$700 million in Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds, US \$240 million in electricity tariffs and US \$60 million in fuel subsidies. Earlier this week, the Zambia Chamber of Mines called on government to maintain a stable mining fiscal policy for continued stability and predictability.

But ahead of the 2019 national budget, Dr Haabazoka said in a statement that government should not promote consistency

of non-payment of corporate income tax because the policy favours mines.

"The Chamber of Mines has responded! They want to increase loss carry-overs from 7 to 10 years, meaning they want to extend periods of declaring losses when they know that in a fiscal year, they made profits, but declare losses on technicality. Then they demand the VAT refund arrears to be repaid. A brief history on that: VAT refund is not capital as the mines claim. VAT is normally refunded to companies to help them, reduce the cost of raw materials. The condition of VAT refund is that you need to prove that the materials you bought are for use in production. The best proof is to give receipts and show the final destination of your products. When then Finance Minister (Alexander) Chikwanda tightened procedures



Justice Minister Given Lubinda torches illicit small arms and light weapons surrendered to government through the amnesty program at police headquarters in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

of VAT refunds, most of our colleagues could not show evidence of the final destination and other requirements. That is why VAT was never given to them. Up to now, some have not complied but why do they want government to give them that money? Why call a subsidy working capital? I understand that mine tax policy should be consistent. But how do we promote consistency of non-payment of corporate income tax?" Dr Haabazoka wondered. And Dr Haabazoka,

who is the director at the Graduate School of Business at UNZA, said mining companies should stop holding government at ransom.

"Mines should stop holding government at ransom. It's a pity that every time government moves in to correct the wrong, the mines start retrenching employees. Instead of employees siding with government, they side with mines, therefore, promoting the same problems. As an individual, I get a salary, save some money, build

a house, put it on rent and government without even asking my source of income will tax rentals. No consideration of whether I built the house using a loan or not. So, why should the mines bully government on taxation? The Chamber of Mines mentions that they want to increase production to one million tonnes a year. As a country, we are not interested in that amount because the more they produce; the more we lose because their contribution to government tax revenue

is insignificant. How can you pay mineral royalty of 3.5 per cent and then fail to declare corporate income tax despite the fact that you receive US \$700m in VAT refunds, US \$240m in electricity tariffs, US \$60m in fuel subsidies? It's high time the mines came on board to help government raise resources. Government buys power from Maamba coal plant at 13 cents then sells to the mines at 6 cents when households and other companies pay 9 cents," Dr Haabazoka explained.

"What the mines should understand is that there are other investors watching on the terraces! This includes the option of nationalising non-profit posting mines. We are alive to the fact that copper is the next gold! A conventional car now uses about 12 Kgs of copper. An electric car uses about 60 Kgs of copper cables. By 2030, the European Union will move to 100 per cent electric cars! Other developed nations are also moving in that direction. So, copper is the past, the present and the future. Zambia has enough qualified specialists to move in. We are moving in slowly to correct the situation. Mines should find a way of posting profits like their counterparts in Chile. Mining in Zambia is easier than in Chile. And by the way, at the rate we are mining, we maybe only have a decade or two of copper remaining. I am even scared when we even increase the figures to one million tonnes."

He urged the Zambia Chamber of Mines to disclose where the US \$4.8 billion raised from the sale of 800,000 metric tonnes of copper is and how it was spent.

Mbula urges civil servants to be non-partisan, built an institution of integrity

By Thomas Mulenga

Former Secretary to cabinet in the Mwanawasa administration, Lesley Mbula, has urged civil servants to avoid partisan politics and be professional.

Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio's Lusaka star program this morning, Mbula who is also former Zambian high commissioner to South Africa, reminded government workers that the civil service was a professional institution that is not expected to change despite the change of regime.

"I have been secretary and deputy secretary to the cabinet for Dr. Kaunda who appointed me as deputy secretary, Chiluba confirmed me as secretary to the cabinet, Mwanawasa retained me as secretary to the cabinet, Rupiah Banda had me as his ambassador, Mr. Sata when I was secretary to the cabinet he was minister without portfolio, a very important position. So I can claim that I served also with Mr. Sata. So I served under all the presidents except the current one and that is the experience I have. And because I operated as a professional, any president who came after, took me, because they knew I did things which were for

the good of the people and not the party in power.

"This is my message to the colleagues in the civil service that they must be officers who can serve any party in government and this can only be done if we focus ourselves on professional performance in our duties otherwise we shall be suspects by incoming parties and we will have changes after changes. You need a civil service that is permanent that is why a man who heads a ministry is called permanent secretary, at individual level he is not permanent but the system that he represents is permanent and therefore, we must have civil servants who must serve professionally so that other parties which come into power can retain them for continuity. This is very important," he said.

Mbula said Turkish philanthropist Fethullah Gülen who is behind Horizon School in Lusaka is a good man who was among the first Turkish investors in the country.

"When I was high commissioner to South Africa, a group of wives of diplomats from different countries were visiting Soweto... they made an appointment and came to my office where they told me about Horizon School. I was attracted by

three things that they mentioned about this school. They said our school emphasises the teaching of Mathematics, Science, ITC and morality. But you know, Turkey was painted as a very bad country by the British, they told us about the invasion of Cyprus and as commonwealth members, they told us that Turkey was not a good country to associate with," Mbula recalled.

"So I asked for permission from my government to visit and I went to Turkey with a team of technocrats from the ministry of education. During my 14 days stay in Turkey, I concluded that they are good people and I recommended to my government that we should allow the Turkish to set up a school in Zambia. And the Turkish flag was flying for the first time in Zambia. And the Turkish Embassy was established after the School was already built, so the school led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Fethullah Gülen is a moderate Turkish Moslem cleric, he is a very moderate and tolerant man. He has been teaching about, fighting poverty, fighting ignorance and intolerance."

He further dismissed claims by the

Turkish Ambassador to Zambia who claimed that some Turkish nationals linked to terrorists were running some schools in Zambia.

"We have heard about these concerns and as the board of directors, we have been to government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Inspector General of Police, including the United Nations agencies; they have not found any of the Turkish nationals working at Horizon School and staying in Zambia, who is associated with terrorism. They are men and women of integrity; I have associated with them because I know they are people of high integrity," said Mbula.

"As at now, Guleni lives in the United States of America because he is threatened by the Turkish government. The government of Turkey started by going to Barrack Obama and asked him to extradite Guleni. Obama told them that this man can't be the terrorist, if he was, we would be the first country to know. When Obama left, the Turkish government went to Donald Trump and Trump said 'this man can't be a terrorist, he is a great man. If he was a terrorist, we could have been the first country to know.'"

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Court jails corrupt cop 6 months for soliciting K5,000

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has convicted and sentenced a Zambia Police officer to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for corrupt practices involving K5,000. According to a statement issued by Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) public relations manager Timothy Moono, Thursday, Akayombokwa Siyomunji, 36, of Lusaka West, was arrested by the ACC in May, 2015, and charged with two counts of corrupt practices contrary to section 19(1) as read

with section 41 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012. "In the first count, it was alleged that on unknown dates, but between August, 2013, and December 2013, Siyomunji, being a public officer namely a police officer under the Zambia

Police Service, did corruptly solicit for K5,000 cash from Mhlupheki Ndlovu and actually received K1,000 through ZOONA money transfer, as an inducement for himself to discontinue investigations into allegations of fraud

and theft against the said Mhlupheki Ndlovu, a matter or transaction that concerns the Zambia Police Force, a public body," Moono stated. "In the second count, it was alleged that on unknown dates, but between October 18, 2013, and December

31, 2013, Siyomunji, being a public officer namely a police officer under the Zambia Police Service, did corruptly solicit K5,000 cash from Makhosana Ndolo and actually received K400 through ZOONA money transfer as an inducement for himself to discontinue investigations into allegations of fraud and theft against the said Makhosana Ndolo, a matter or transaction that concerns the Zambia Police Force, a public body." And Moono stated that on the case to answer stage, Magistrate Humphrey Chitalu found Siyomunji with a case to answer on count one and put him on his defence and acquitted him on count two. "In his judgment delivered yesterday, September 26, 2018, Magistrate Hon. Chitalu convicted Siyomunji on count one and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour effective from September 26, 2018," stated

PF has succeeded to put more money in people's pockets, insists Hamukale

By Zondiwe Mbewe

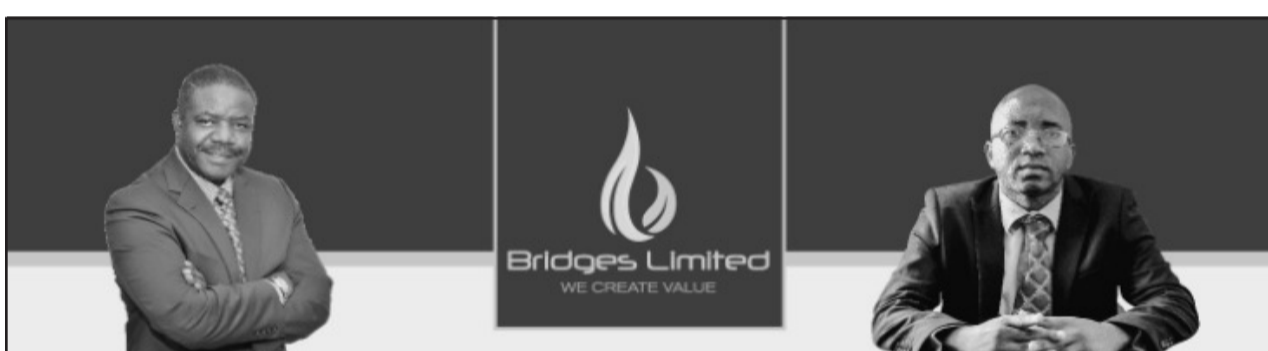
The Patriotic Front has indeed put more money in people's pockets as can be seen from the value of properties in Zambia going up as a result of tarred roads, says Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale. And Hamukale has lamented that both agriculture and livestock production in Namwala District has been affected because senior politicians are grabbing land from the poor. Debating President Lungu's address to Parliament, Wednesday, Hamukale explained the PF's concept of 'more money in your pocket', arguing that because government had put up tarred roads, value on properties had increased. "Allow me to expound a little on the 'more money in your pocket' concept, which has been misunderstood in this country. Indeed, the Patriotic Front government has put more money in the people's pockets. First of all, wherever you put tarred roads, the value of land along those roads and properties, including houses, the value has gone up. Land [was] going say, for a K1,000 per acre and now is K4,000 per acre, so that's a gain of K3,000 per acre. If you talk of rentals, a house could have been fetching say, K2,000 when the road was gravel, when you put tarmac the rentals increase, sometimes threefold. That is more money in the pocket," Hamukale claimed. "If you talk of motor vehicles, all of us know that vehicles depreciate. If they are driven on good surfaces, good tarred roads; the effect is that you spend less on maintenance. That saving on maintenance is money in your pocket. If you talk of commercial activities; goods and services now are being delivered at a faster rate. So, this is a concept of more money in your pocket, which everyone should digest and see sense." And Hamukale announced that 160,000 farmers on the FISP programme were expected to be brought on board for the 2018/2019 farming

season in Southern Province. "On the Farmer Input Support Programme, in keeping with the President's line of thought on this subject, we held workshops with the banks, agro-dealers and other stakeholders, to emphasize the need to strengthen partnerships with the private sector over the distribution of agro-inputs. 160,000 farmers on the FISP programme are expected to be brought on board for the 2018/2019 farming season in Southern Province. The e-voucher system has proved to be efficient, transparent and accountable in the manner it is administered," Hamukale argued. But he lamented that agriculture and livestock production in Namwala District had been affected because senior politicians were grabbing land from the poor. "But, unfortunately, Mr Speaker, both agriculture and livestock production in Namwala District is being affected because land is being grabbed from the poor! We have senior politicians in our land who are taking away land that is ancestral in nature from the poor. And I hope they are listening," he said. Hamukale said the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) was expected to procure 43,000 metric tonnes of maize from Southern Province this year. He added that there was more maize for the private sector to buy with the projection of over 300,000 metric tonnes of maize harvested in the province this year. "The crop marketing season opened on a good note this year with the maize [purchase] price at K70 for 50 Kg bag. You will be happy to note that both the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and the private buyers have been actively buying maize from farmers across the province this year. FRA is expected to procure 43,000 metric tonnes of maize from Southern Province this year. We are hopeful that with the projection of over 300,000 metric tonnes of maize harvested this year in

the province, there is a lot more for the private sector to buy. On this account, we are

urging farmers in the region to partner with the private sector on value-addition projects

even as a way of ensuring that no stock goes to waste," appealed Hamukale.



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Inflation down to 7.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

The annual rate of inflation has reduced to 7.9 per cent, down from 8.1 per cent recorded in August, triggered by the “base effect” arising from electricity tariffs adjusted last year, according to Central Statistical Office data.

Announcing Zambia’s annual rate of inflation for the month of September, CSO acting director of census and statistics Goodson Sinyenga said the reduced inflation this month was largely attributable to the “base effect” arising from electricity tariffs adjusted in September, 2017. Base effects occur when variations in the annual

growth rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are attributable to an unusual movement in the index 12 months earlier owing, for instance, to significant changes in commodity prices.

It refers to the impact of the rise in the price level in the previous year over the corresponding rise in the price levels in the current year.

“The year-on-year inflation rate as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September, 2018, decreased to 7.9 per cent from 8.1 per cent recorded in August, 2018. This means that on average, prices of goods and services increased by 7.9 per cent between September, 2017, and September, 2018,” Sinyenga told journalists

in Lusaka, Thursday.

“The decrease in the annual rate of inflation is mainly attributed to electricity due to the base effect arising from the adjustment in electricity tariffs in September, 2017.” According to Sinyenga, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.5 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for a total of 3.4

percentage points.

However, the annual food inflation rate spiked to 8.6 per cent this month, the highest on record this year, triggered by sharp price increases in mealie meal, among others.

“The year-on-year (annual) food inflation rate for September, 2018, was recorded at 8.6 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent recorded in August, 2018,

indicating an increase of 0.3 percentage points. The increase in the annual food inflation rate is mainly as a result of price changes of breakfast mealie meal, roller meal and maize grain,” said Sinyenga.

This annual rate of inflation of 7.9 per cent recorded this month is the second highest on record this year so far behind last month’s 8.1 per cent.

FIC boss files for divorce again

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) Director General Mary Chirwa Tshuma has again filed a petition in the Lusaka

High Court to dissolve her marriage with her husband Kudakwashe Tshuma, a pastor of Beam of Hope International Ministries, saying he has behaved in

such a way that she can no longer live with him.

In May this year, Tshuma had filed for divorce, accusing her husband of being in a habit

of threatening to kill himself and also having inappropriate affairs with other women but had, however, wholly discontinued the petition in June.

But on September 17, 2018, Tshuma again, filed a divorce petition in the Lusaka High Court, reiterating the submissions in her previous petition. She stated that her husband had numerous inappropriate affairs with a number of women and that when confronted, he threatened to kill himself. Tshuma stated that at one point, her husband had attempted to drink ‘Omo’ bleach, and at another time, attempted to throw himself into the swimming pool at their home in full view of neighbours and the house guard.

She stated that in March this year, after arriving home from a trip a day earlier than expected, she overheard her husband enticing another woman on phone, while masturbating, and when confronted, he claimed that the woman was his old

girlfriend.

“On March 17, when the petitioner arrived home from a trip a day earlier than expected, before entering the main bedroom, she overheard the respondent while in a state of undress in a process of enticing another woman on phone, while masturbating by telling her that, ‘I want you now’ and he also asked where he could go and pick her up from. And that point the petitioner walked into the bedroom and the respondent became confused and dumbfounded. When consulted, the respondent claimed the woman he was talking to was an old girlfriend,” read the petition.

She stated that she thereafter moved out of the bedroom to the spare-bedroom and a week later her husband confronted her and grabbed her official phone and violently broke it.

“The petitioner ran outside the house, but the respondent pursued the petitioner with intent to beat or assault her in full view of the maid, guard and neighbours,” read the petition.

Tshuma stated that the threats by her husband to kill himself caused her anguish and mental distress on account that her previous husband had committed suicide.

She further stated that her husband was also confrontational with her children from her previous marriage, and as such, they lived in fear.

Tshuma further stated that her husband had also been dishonest with money.

Tshuma wants the court to dissolve the marriage and that each party bears their respective costs incidental to the proceedings, saying her husband has behaved in such a way that she can no longer live with him.



Minister of National Development Planning Alexander Chiteme receiving the medal from AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry Albert Muchanga on behalf of President Edgar Lungu on 26 September 2018. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), African Union, Food and Agriculture Organisation, UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank have jointly conferred a medal of recognition on President Lungu as a champion of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3). PHOTO | CHIBAULA D. SILWAMBA | MNDP

Kampyongo overrules police, allows CSOs protest at Parley

By Mirriam Chabala and Zondiwe Mbewe

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has, following an appeal, overruled the Lusaka Division police command’s decision to stop nine Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from demonstrating against the mismanagement of public resources by government, an activity which is expected to take place today Friday, being the day of the 2019 national budget presentation at Parliament. Police had earlier told the protesting CSOs to apply for a protest permit

on a later date other than the day for budget presentation, but following a successful appeal to the Home Affairs Minister by the applicants, the police have rescinded their earlier position, urging the participants to observe law and order.

This was contained in a rescinded letter availed to News Diggers by NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale.

“Following an appeal, you are allowed to go ahead, but observe law and order,” read the letter signed by M. Zimba, Officer

Commanding – Lusaka Urban District Headquarters, dated September 27, 2018.

And the Alliance for Community Action (ACA), which is among the several CSOs scheduled to voice out against the rampant abuse of public resources, have reiterated their intention to participate in the public demonstration.

ACA executive director Laura Miti confirmed yesterday that Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo had instructed the police to allow them to protest today.

“Yes, it is [still on]. The police have allowed it today (yesterday), the Minister of Home Affairs instructed them to allow us. We will be at Parliament between 14:00 and 18:00 hours. It will be a peaceful protest. We will be holding up placards and making sure that we are heard about accountability, debt, corruption and all issues that are worrying citizens; that our public money is being mismanaged, while ordinary citizens are living very poor and deprived lives,” Miti told News Diggers! in an interview in Lusaka.

Indo-Zambia Bank sues Thornhill Sch over K406,000 debt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Indo-Zambia Bank (IZB) Limited has dragged Thornhill Boarding and Day School to court for failing to remit over K400,000 to the bank, being monies collected by the school after deducting loan repayments from its borrowing employees.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Tuesday, the bank stated that on January 5, 2016, they made a written agreement with Thornhill and the school agreed to facilitate a scheme whereby its employees would access loan facilities from the bank.

The bank stated that by clause 4.2 of the agreement, Thornhill was obliged to deduct loan repayments from its borrower employees and remit to the bank's designated account at the bank's Manda Hill branch.

They further stated that pursuant to clause 4.8 of the agreement, Thornhill agreed to make good any monies deducted from respective borrowers, but not remitted to the bank, inclusive of interest accrued during the period the money was deducted, but not remitted. The bank further stated that pursuant to the provisions of the agreement, the bank signed facility agreements with Thornhill's employees.

They stated that as at the date of filing this writ of summons and statement of claim, Thornhill had deducted a total of K406,602.81 from the various borrowers aforesaid, but had deliberately withheld the said monies from the bank.

They stated that the said amount continued to accrue interest pursuant to clause 4.12 of the agreement at 27.5 per cent per floating.

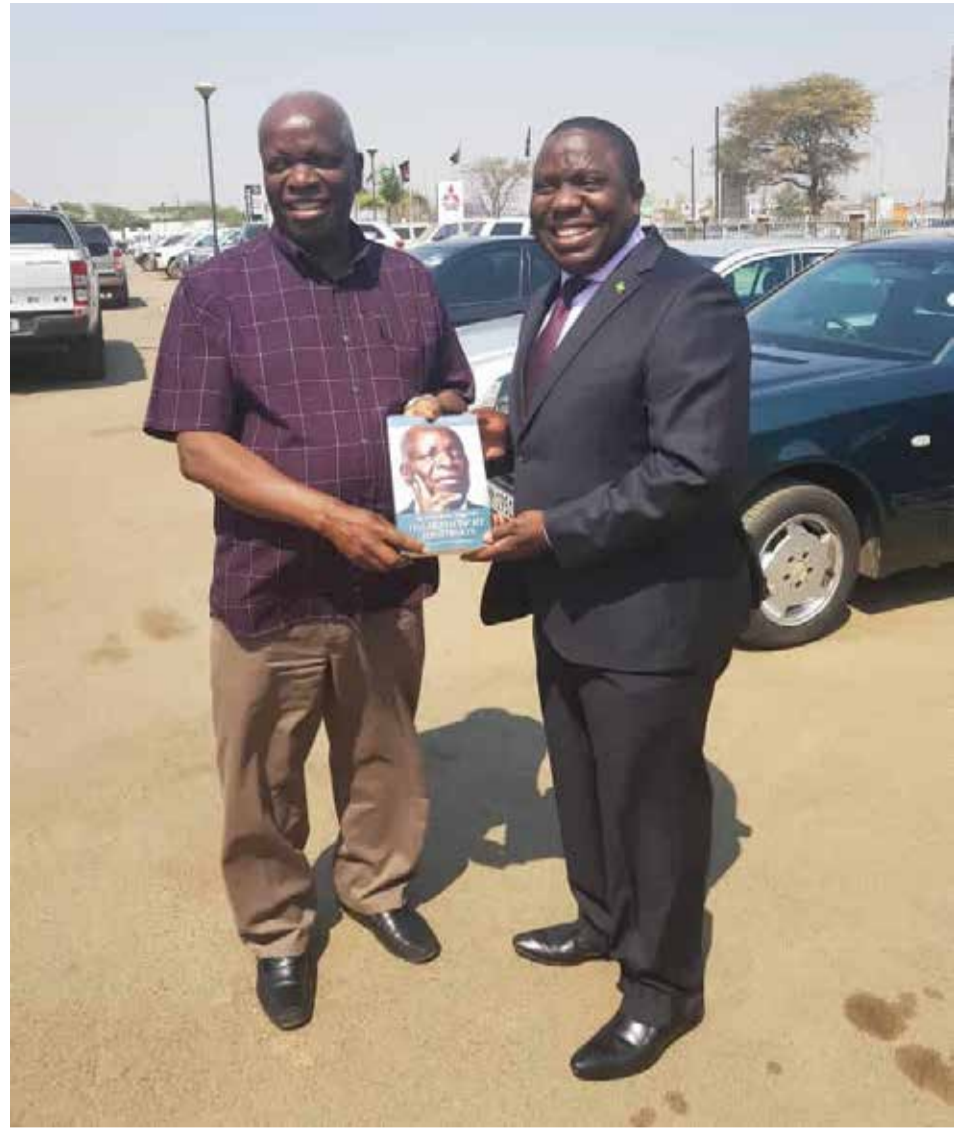
The bank disclosed that despite several written demands from the bank and its lawyers, Thornhill had refused to settle the debt, and as the result, the bank had suffered losses.

"That despite several written demands from the bank and

its lawyers, Thornhill has refused and neglected to settle the debt or any part, thereof, and the bank, which uses other depositors' monies in its business of lending has, thereby, suffered loss and damages," read the statement of claim.

The bank is now claiming payment of K406,602.81 being monies collected by Thornhill from its employees, which the school had failed to remit to the bank in breach of the terms of an agreement dated January 5, 2016.

They are further claiming for interest at contractual rate of 27.5 per cent per annum floating, from the date the amount was due up to the date of payment and costs.



Former Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba poses after buying former Finance Minister Ng'andu Magande's book "The depth of my footprint"

MTN partners with Stanbic bank to bring Joe Thomas, Brian McKnight

By Tenson Mkhala

The Stanbic Musical Festival enters its fifth year next weekend with two American R&B musicians Joseph Lewis Thomas a.k.a Joe and Brian McKnight live in Zambia.

And MTN Zambia has partnered with Stanbic Bank by sponsoring the

festival with support valued at K360,000 that includes the MTN's state-of-the-art mobile satellite.

Joe and Brian McKnight became global stars in the 1990s with numerous R&B hits and jazz-themed flavours that topped the charts in the United States and Europe.

The two globally-renowned artists will be supported by a number of local female artists, who includes the soulful Wezi, who will make her third appearance at the festival.

Other local supporting acts include: Kiki, Salma Sky and gospel artist Esther Chungu.

Speaking during a joint-press briefing in Lusaka, Thursday, MTN Zambia acting chief executive Kombe Malukutula announced that the company would support Stanbic Bank's engagement with festival goers, reaching more than 3.5 million customers across the Lusaka, Southern and Copperbelt provinces.

"As a proud sponsor of the festival, MTN Zambia will provide support valued at K360,000 that includes: MTN's state of the art mobile satellite. The company will also support Stanbic Bank's engagement with festival goers, reaching more than 3.5 million customers across Lusaka, Livingstone and Copperbelt Province," Malukutula said.

"The Stanbic Music Festival is a prime example of how we can bring people together. As MTN Zambia, we are always striving to help Zambians make meaningful connections through the many platforms we offer. Whether it is through our mobile money, data or voice call platform, our passion in giving Zambians connectively is what attracted us to be part of the festival this year."

And Stanbic Bank corporate investment bank director Helen Lubamba said the bank focuses on

uplifting the lives of the community through local cultural and tourism.

"As part of our commitment to our investments in Zambia, we focus to uplift the lives of the community through local sponsorship; cultural and tourism. We have also made a social impact in this country, which is a key part of what we do. We have sponsored the number of traditional ceremonies in addition to this music festival, which includes: Ukusefya Mangwena in the North-Western [Province]; Ncala in the East and Chakwela Makumbi in Chongwe and the Kuomboka in the Western Province," Lubamba said.

She added that the Zambian music industry had grown in the recent years because of the quality of music being produced.

"As a bank, we have seen how Zambian music has grown in the recent years and it is because of the quality type of music that is being produced," noted Lubamba.

This year's festival will be held on Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6 in Lusaka at the Polo Grounds.

Tickets are still on sale and are pegged at K500 (standard); K1,500 (VIP), as well as K2,000 (golden circle).

Court rejects bail application by Milupi's maize swindler

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has refused to grant bail pending appeal to Hendricks Nyambe, a man who is accused of swindling ADD leader Charles Milupi in a maize transaction. Nyambe, who is charged with theft was initially on a K30,000 bail but jumping without any proper explanation to the court.

In this matter, it is alleged that Nyambe, a director of Food Agency Zambia and his deputy, Mercy Phiri, on March 7, 2018, in Nkeyema District did steal 312,040 kilogrammes of white maize valued at K656,040 belonging to Milupi.

The court had cited Nyambe for contempt of court for jumping bail without any proper explanation to the court, which led to his bail money in the sum of K30,000 to be forfeited to the State.

Magistrate Nsunge Chanda had further ordered that the accused be remanded in custody during trial.

However, the defence counsel made another application for bail, pending trial in respect to the accused person.

The State had strongly objected to the application, saying the accused had failed to honour the bail conditions.

And when the matter came up for a ruling on an application for bail pending trial, Thursday, Magistrate Chanda noted that it was sad that Nyambe had failed avail himself before court and that his sureties had produced fake documents.

"I find that as much as this court can be lenient to ask that the accused person be placed on bail or admitted to bail, it is sad that the accused did not avail himself to appear before this court. And all the sureties that the accused brought before this court were not genuine. They had produced fake documents," Magistrate Chanda said.

She observed that by jumping bail, the accused had undermined the power of her court.

She, therefore, declined the defence's application for bail pending trial, saying the application lacked merit.

"Accused was admitted to bail and he jumped bail. This clearly shows that the accused undermined the power and authority of my court. There is a likelihood that the accused person will make it difficult for justice to prevail in this matter. For a speedy trial, this court has declined after analysing this application. I order and say that the application has no merit to admit the accused person to bail pending trial. I, therefore, decline to admit the accused to bail pending trial," Magistrate Chanda ruled.

However, Nyambe's new lawyers from the Legal Aid said they were not ready to proceed as they needed to go through the records.

The matter has been adjourned to October 9 and 10 for continuation of trial, as Nyambe remains in custody and bail has been extended for his co-accused.

By Abraham Kalito

The Energy Regulation (ERB) is adamant to confirm whether fuel prices would remain unchanged in the short term despite a sharp kwacha depreciation this week, which is a common price hike determinant.

In an interview, ERB

ERB rules out fuel price hike despite kwacha fall

director consumer Hang'andu, who refuted would be adjusted upwards that depreciation of kwacha and public affairs Fred rumours that fuel prices on Thursday night, admitted and increase of oil prices

I wish for the MMD to excel, but I'm too old to be President again - RB

By Joseph Mwenda and Mirriam Chabala

Former president Rupiah Banda says as a loyal member of the MMD, he wishes that the party excels in its endeavor to return into power, but adds that he has no ambitions of ruling Zambia again, owing to his age.

The 82-year-old who lost power to Michael Sata's PF exactly seven years ago, says although he was invited by the Felix Mutati-led MMD faction to grace a card renewal exercise in Eastern Province this Saturday, he is not sure if he will attend.

In this verbatim Interview, the former president who ruled for only three years following a by-election necessitated by the passing of Levy Mwanawasa who died in office in August 2008, explains his loyalty to the MMD and also to President Lungu at the same time.

JM: Good morning Your Excellency?

RB: *Nilibwino aMwenda how are you?*

JM: *Nilibwino* (I am fine). *Namvwa nkhani yakuti* (I have heard a story saying) you are heading to the East for a card renewal exercise *na* (with) Honourable Mutati and I wanted to find out *ngati ni chendi* (if it's true), and if you are trying to help the MMD get back on its feet.

RB: Yes, *Muli kuni mweo?* (Where are you?)

JM: *Apa nili ku office, koma ningawe kwamuli* (I am currently at the office, but I can come to where you are) if you prefer that we talk in person.

RB: *Lelo nina alwendo* (today I have visitors) who are coming to visit the whole of this morning. But we can talk, what is the point you were making?

JM: My question is; is it true you are going to Eastern Province with Honourable Mutati to help with the card renewal exercise? And if so, are you trying to help the MMD get back on its feet?

RB: (chuckles...) First of all, I am a member of the MMD. As you know I was president of the MMD and after I lost elections, I have remained a member upto now. It was through the MMD that I was able to support my brother [who is] the current President. So I have remained a member of the MMD. That is what is true. But whether I am going to help; if I do go, I will be going to renew my [membership card] like everybody else will be doing.

JM: Okay, and when is that?

RB: Well, its tomorrow (today) but up to now, I am not even sure that I am going. I have got some other programme also. So I am not sure.

JM: Do you think your party still has a chance and capacity to mobilise its structures across the country and be able to bounce back into power?

RB: I don't know, you will have to ask that question to the President of our party. Me I'm just a member like any other. I was president and I appreciate the honour they gave me to be their president, but I have nothing to do with the organization of the party. The moment I stepped down as president of the party, immediately I left everything in the hands of the current president of our party Mr Felix Mutati. So he is the one who can answer your question. I wonder why you are asking me that question Joseph.

JM: Well, I'm asking because you have been Head of State through the MMD before, and you understand the MMD structures even better than Honourable Mutati. I believe that you still have links with the grassroot members who could be reaching out to you for help in mobilising the party and saying "we want you to come back"

RB: That is normal, people will always want to help. If you belong to a party, you want that party to grow and

excel naturally. People will always do that but... nobody is passing those messages to me.

JM: And Honourable Mutati? Are you in constant touch with him as your president and giving him guidance?

RB: Yes of course. Occasionally I do speak with him, I do call him. Every now and then he passes by and so on. I think that it's a question of courtesy. I mean, I was his president for some time. And even me, he is my minister now and when I need anything I go to him for help.

JM: Since your retirement to date, we haven't seen you actively involved in politics. Is this a sign that you still have the edge to, perhaps, seek another chance - given an opportunity - to lead this country?

RB: Certainly not! I have no ambitions to be President again. Look, I am 82 years old now. I have got young kids in school in England. My best time is when I go to England to stay with the Children for a month; then I go to see my grand children playing football in Spain and things like that. I am enjoying my retirement.

But going back to your [original] question, I am not even sure if I will travel to Eastern Province yet. And whenever I am going out of town, I always inform my brother the current president.

I haven't even gotten that clearance and it's tomorrow when they are going, so I am not sure that I am going.

JM: I wonder though how it would be perceived if you went, because just recently, your president publicly announced that the relationship with the PF was not smooth.

RB: The relationship between who and who?

JM: The relationship between MMD and PF; Honourable Mutati announced that "we have issues with our relationship with the PF, which need to be resolved", while urging party members to start campaigning ahead of 2021.

RB: Honourable Mutati sits on the Cabinet with the President, he is his appointing authority, so if there are those problems, they should be able to talk. I'm outside, so I don't know about that.

JM: Well, thank you very much Your Excellency for your time.

RB: Thank you Joseph for calling.

Meanwhile, **MIRRIAM CHABALA** reports that the Felix Mutati-led MMD is looking forward to welcoming Banda at the card renewal exercise this weekend.

Party national secretary Raphael Nakacinda said in a separate interview that a number of founder members had been invited to the launch scheduled for Chipata's

Mpezeni Park this Saturday.

"I know that people like and enjoy creating drama around MMD programmes, maybe as a result of our work relationship with the Patriotic Front. We are undertaking a normal constitutional required programme of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy. We are not like other political parties that don't have membership cards, we do and we keep the record through the membership register.

So, the [party] president is obliged, once every year, to renew his cards and when doing that, he's launching the card renewal programme. This time around, the national executive committee of MMD decided that the launch of the card renewal be held in Eastern Province," explained Nakacinda.

"And founder members of the party have expressed willingness and availability to attend that launch and former president, Rupiah Banda, was one of those that was invited and he was gracious enough to accept the invitation to attend. We are not shy to identify and express the fact that we are proud that even having served as Republican President, and having retired from active politics, he (Rupiah Banda) has continued to identify himself as a member of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy."

on the international market are the main determinants for fuel price.

However, he could not say whether the price of the commodity would be adjusted upwards before end of the year.

"It's basically a rumour. An unfortunate rumour as far as we are concerned. There is no such thing as fuel hike; we follow a system, which is open to public scrutiny. We price our petroleum products on the basis of the cargo that is received. The cargo constitutes petroleum, and finished petroleum products. We buy fuel every day or every week. The cargo that we bought recently lasted for a period of about 60 days. So, our price review system is based on the period the cargo is in, so right now, I can tell you with certainty that there is no cargo and the fuel hike are just rumours they should just be ignored," said Hang'andu.

"But whether fuel will increase before the year ends, that I cannot say because the key fundamentals, obviously, are the international oil prices and the exchange between the kwacha and the major currencies. Now, these fundamentals tend to change every time. What is cardinal is at the time that we are buying that cargo. So, I would lie to you if I were to say that this is what is likely to happen. What I can tell you is that three things might happen when we receive the next cargo: one; either the fuel prices will remain the same; two, fuel prices will increase and three; fuel prices will be reduced. We don't know until we interrogate the numbers when we receive cargo."

NDC urges its members to join protesting CSOs at Parley

By Zondiwe Mbewe and Mirriam Chabala

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has asked its party functionaries in Lusaka to join the nine Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) expected to protest against the mismanagement of public resources by government today.

On September 24, a group of CSOs, led by Miti gave notice to the police for a peaceful demonstration at Parliament on September 28, which is the scheduled day of the 2019 national budget presentation.

The demonstration is aimed at raising public awareness on the way that public resources were being mismanaged by leaders amidst high debt levels in the country.

The CSOs have since asked the general public to turn out in numbers

for the peaceful demonstration.

And in a statement, NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge noted that the idea by the nine CSOs to protest against "reckless" borrowing by the PF government was an act of patriotism.

"The NDC fully backs plans by the NGOCC [and other civil society organisations] to protest outside Parliament over government's continued borrowing. As a party, we urge all our party functionaries in Lusaka to join the said protests tomorrow (today). The intention by well-meaning civil society groupings, such as NGOCC, to speak out on the reckless borrowing by the PF regime is an act of patriotism. Ordinary citizens have already started feeling the consequences of the aimless borrowing by this regime," Musenge

stated.

He further urged the police command not to block Friday's protest, saying "we are aware that the NGOCC has fully notified the police command in Lusaka over the planned protest."

Musenge also called on Attorney General Likando Kalaluka to explain why Cabinet was abrogating the law with impunity over the contraction of loans.

"As NDC, we are worried that the PF has continued contracting new loans without the full approval of Parliament. In this regard, we urge the Attorney General, who is the Chief Legal Advisor to Government, to explain why Cabinet is abrogating the law with impunity over the contraction of loans. As NDC, we also urge our legislators to demand for a detailed report from the

Minister of Finance over Zambia's exact debt. Figures from government over the staggering debt are highly contradictory. In the midst of all this, we further demand that government immediately stops contracting new loans. The NDC is also disappointed that President Edgar Lungu has allowed his salary and allowances to be increased. If Presided Lungu truly cares for his people, we urge him to reverse the hike of his personal emoluments. It's unfair that the President's emoluments can be increased following fiscal measures announced by government to reduce public spending," stated Mwenya, who also urged President Edgar Lungu to reverse the hike of his personal emoluments, amidst fiscal measures announced by government to reduce public spending.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Every now and then, we find ourselves faced with the responsibility of looking around to identify at least something that the Patriotic Front government is doing well; something that deserves recognition and praise. This is not an easy job because almost every positive development coming out of our government is a by-product of corruption.

But be that as it may, we would like to develop a habit of spotting a sector where we can see growth and treasure it. One such area where we have seen tremendous development is the road infrastructure. We want to emphasize that we are fully aware of the fact that this is the sector where corruption is manufactured, and so we are here to only talk about the resulting by-product.

Roads have been built by this regime more than under Frederick Chiluba, Levy Mwanawasa and even Rupiah Banda's governments combined. Granted, the last governing president of the MMD can be credited for conceiving some of the projects in his final year in power, as he was also hoping to gain public endorsement for his continued stay in office. But

Thanks for stealing, but leaving us good roads

we recall how late president Michael Sata passionately spoke about building a truly interconnected road network across the country.

It was Michael Sata's dream that when you want to visit Muchinga from Chama, there must not be a reason to navigate through the Luangwa Valley through the Great East Road all the way to find Cairo Road in Lusaka before switching to Great North Road. In the same vein, those wishing to travel from Mongu needed a smooth way of going to Livingstone via Senanga, Sioma, Katima Mulio and if they wish, proceed to the East without passing through Lusaka. That is what Sata promised to do for the people if they voted out the MMD.

Indeed today,

one can attest that although a majority of our citizens who live in these far flung areas do not own vehicles, the roads are there yawning for motorists to use them, as they link key towns. Of course there are roads which have been deliberately neglected for political reasons, but over and above, we believe that the PF has delivered on this promise.

In Lusaka, the urban roads development programme has actually brought about a new wave of traffic congestion problems. We are seeing Chinese closing off roads which they are expanding from single lane to dual carriageway. Burma Road, Chilimbulu Road, Mumbwa Road, Great North Road, Ring Road, to mention but a few, look totally transformed. It feels like you are in a

different city, especially at night when the streetlights are shining the way.

This development may never get any single praise from government critics, especially among opposition political parties because, by default, opposition is designed to find faults. The well lit road that goes to Mr Hakainde Hichilema's house in New Kasama is part of the PF's urban roads development programme, but we won't hear him appreciate, on grounds that all this is just a by-product of PF corruption. The truth is that when we use these roads, we know it in our hearts, despite being disgusted by the Patriotic Front's criminality, that while they are stealing, we are grateful that they are leaving us some

good roads.

To us, on a scale of 1-10, we give the PF an emphatic 8 on road infrastructure. Not 10 out of 10, for the simple reason that even this dubious development is selective and tied to regional politics. If the PF can give Easterners an entirely brand new Highway from Luangwa all the way to Chipata, but struggle to even patch up the Kafue-Mazabuka road which is taking motorists to the grave every month, then there is a tribal problem.

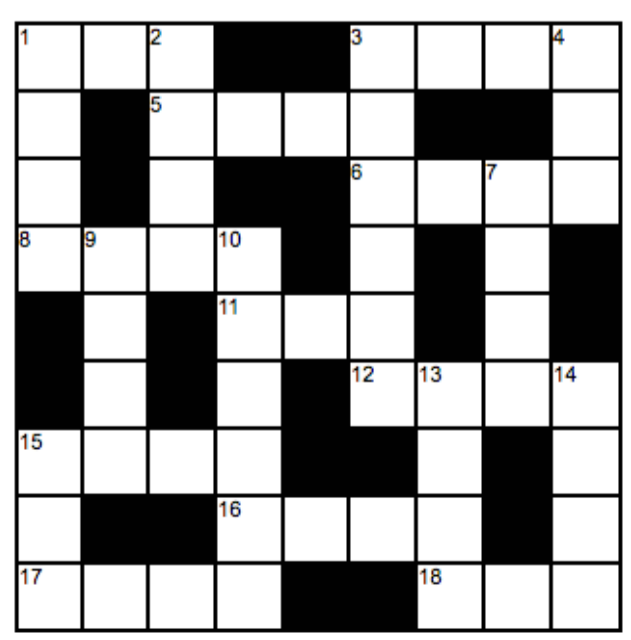
So, why are we praising criminals today? Well, because we have seen what is happening in nearby countries where you hardly see any construction sites. Infrastructure development is stagnant and the roads are not receiving

any attention since the early years after Independence; yet the politicians there are getting loans too and stealing just like our own are doing here in Zambia.

Yes, the PF leadership borrows US\$50 million for a road project worth US\$20 million, spends only US\$10 million on it and pockets the rest. But we have hit rock bottom in terms of morality among our politicians in Africa, to an extent that we have to acknowledge the consequential benefits of their corruption.

On roads, the PF has delivered. Sadly, Zambians will have to pay through the nose to settle the debt accrued for the construction of these tarmacs, because the leadership that has succeeded Sata is a mafia regime that has taken up stealing as a hobby. We know that, because of this infrastructure development and road sector growth, Zambia is in bigger problems than it was during Chiluba, Mwanawasa and Rupiah Banda's reign. But even a judge rewards a convicted criminal with leniency in mitigation before sentencing. We are happily sad for the good roads you are making ba Pompwe!

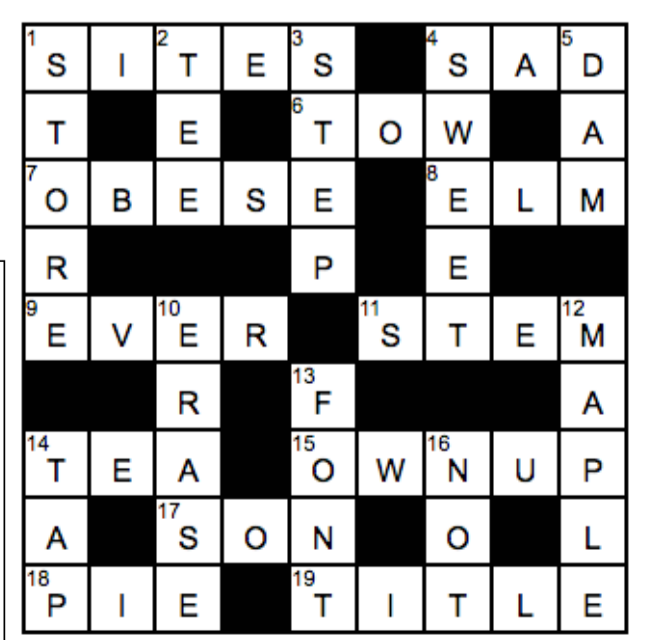
Crossword puzzle 197



“Often, it’s not about becoming a new person, but becoming the person you were meant to be, and already are, but don’t know how to be.” - Heath L. Buckmaster

- | Across | Down |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Chief executive officer | 1. Squish in |
| 3. Capable | 2. Aroma |
| 5. Medication | 3. Made a pact |
| 6. Impolite | 4. New Year's _____ |
| 8. Red planet | 7. Pub missile |
| 11. Bind | 9. Not quite closed |
| 12. See socially | 10. Unit of hair |
| 15. Specialty | 13. Excelled |
| 16. Naked | 14. Begrudge |
| 17. Leader | 15. Cigar residue |
| 18. Mon or Fri | |

Solutions to puzzle 196



Reader's feedback

Bweengwa MP right that some ministers' dogs eat better than poor Zambians

Editor,

"Yes, their dogs eat expensive foods from shopping malls. They look healthier than poor Zambians in the rural areas. Our brothers and sisters eat food without cooking oil!" - Chiundule Wansimbi

"That's very true." - Sydney Mumba

"They even take their dogs to expensive private clinics, while the poor line up at UTH only to be told there is no medicine." - Harrison Malambo

"Not some; all ministers', including carders' dogs, eat better than average poor Zambians." - Musonda David

"Their dogs even go with them on vacation at the expense of tax payers' money!" - Siliyah Peter



Kampyongo's insistence that Zambia won't grant asylum to law-breakers

Editor,

"How does a minister judge that a person is a law-breaker when the law says every person is innocent until proven guilty?" - Muyunda Kalaluka

"I am laughing apa...when did you become a judge to prove people guilty? Moreover, you should start doing that simple favour because I am sure you will need it in return." - Moses Breezy Olsen Lukumba

"Music to my ears! Other countries should do the same especially when it come asylum seekers from Zambia so that when PF is booted out people like Kampyongo have nowhere to run. You will rot in jail for your theft." - Lushomo Mumba

"You are making a good case record; the day you will need asylum as well, this law must apply to you, too. Why didn't allow Biti to go to any other country of choice?" - Banda Brighton

"The time will come when you will need it as well." - Soans Zidan

"Who defines the laws of Zambia? The Foreign Ministry or the Justice Ministry? Imagine being judged a law-breaker by the immigration system?" - Silavwe Mwendu Simon

"It such reasoning that has led this country to where we are. It's a shame that a Minister would respond in such a manner when no court has ruled over the matter." - Muzumbwe Hakwaambwa

'Luo should not blame social media for receiving abuse'

Dear Editor,

"Nkandu Luo should not blame social media for her personal problems; social media is here to stay. It is a vital tool for people to communicate and also learn about many subjects. Nkandu Luo is too talkative, that's why she attracts negative comments." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"With or without social media, people will address you the way you dress or speak. Choose to change than to close the platform." - Edward Banda

"Mama, it depends on what you want from social media. I'll recommend the following for you: Mast, News Diggers!, BBC, CNN, and African Confidential." - Mofi Kaseketi

"I am fed up with this song of 'professor thing.' Maybe she has failed to come to terms with reality that she is a professor. Please madam, be reminded that we're content with our simple meaningful jobs, which are contributing to your salary." - Emmanuel Mulenga

"Lesson! Let's use social media to analyse, support or critique policy, not insulting and attacking personalities. Some people we insult are elderly. Secondly, government should allow a free atmosphere for criticism

or else citizens will turn to social media to insult." - Lubasi Lubasi

"And she is ever on the some social media, even during Parliament sittings." - Oliver Bandah

"Social Media is here to stay! If you don't want to be abused, be an inspirational leader, lead by example and have a heart for the people. You're none of these things Luo!" - Lushomo Mumba

'Riots in Buchi, C/Belt shows frustration against PF'

Editor,

"Tempers are already high. People are angry with this PF govt already. One small incident is all it takes to spark chaos. The frustration levels are 99.9%." - Sean Saapi

"What is the matter with our police officers, kanshi? Lawlessness because Zambians are frustrated." - Kaseba Golden

"Soon, PF and police will set this nation on fire." - Davies Nyirongo

"I wish the government could wake up and change the system of doing things; people's lives are no longer safe. Remember that these people that are being taken advantage of today are not fools. This is a time bomb." - Given Daniels

"That is what happens when lawlessness becomes normal for one day; you may fail to contain 'people power.' Ask KK." - Callaghan Mwamba

"That's what poverty does. When 2021 comes, you forget your problems after been given chitenge and T-shirt." - Sydney Mumba

"The guy stoned the police officer when Nkana Water tried to disconnect the line at the car wash Kazembe Road." - Howard Chishya

Anti-India protests, clashes in Kashmir after shepherd killed

The "cold-blooded" killing of a 26-year-old civilian has sparked fresh protests in Indian-administered Kashmir with Indian authorities placing certain areas under curfew and shutting down mobile internet service.

Saleem Malik was killed in the early hours of Thursday and family members told Al Jazeera he was shot dead without any provocation after the Indian soldiers suspected him of being a rebel.

"He heard some noise and went out to check on his sheep in the shed," said 27-year-old Riyaz Ahmad, a relative of the slain civilian. "He was shot dead without any reason. The army did not even fire a warning shot. It was a cold-blooded murder."

Anti-India protests and clashes erupted in several places across the region following the murder of Malik who, a senior police official said, was killed in a "cross-fire".

"There was a brief gunfight during the night and two militants fled. The house owner [Malik] was killed in the incident," the official told Al Jazeera.

Hundreds of people poured onto the streets at several places in downtown Srinagar, calling for the end of Indian rule. They chanted slogans like "go India, go back" and "we want freedom" as some of the residents barraged police and paramilitary soldiers with stones.

Government troops fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to quell the protests, while

authorities restricted movement in old quarters of the city.

"Even the mourners were not spared. The forces fired tear gas at them," said a resident Gulzar Ahmad.

"If there was a gun battle, how did the rebels manage to escape in the presence of a large number of forces. There was nothing. Malik was just killed like everyone else is killed in Kashmir."

Anti-India sentiment runs deep into the Muslim-majority Kashmir region.

The region has witnessed renewed violence after 2016 when a popular rebel commander Burhan Wani

was killed in a gunfight.

The two-decade-old armed struggle has now been mostly replaced by street protests, generating intermittent tensions in the region. *AL JAZEERA*

Kenya mothers 'pressured to kill disabled babies'

A new study has found that nearly half of Kenyan mothers with disabled babies were pressured to kill them.

The two-year research, carried out by the charity Disability Rights International, also found that such mothers are often blamed for the conditions of their children.

More than two thirds of mothers interviewed said disabled children were considered a curse.

They told researchers they were accused of having sinned - and brought it upon themselves.

One said her grandmother suggested she put needles in her son's veins to kill him slowly. Another that she should feed her child acid.

The study did not however reveal the proportion of parents who actually ended their disabled babies' lives.

But the BBC was told that infanticide is carried out secretly and often goes unreported.

Many communities across the world which carried out infanticide in the past have ended the practice. It is illegal in Kenya. *BBC*



Delegates pose for a photo at the One Planet Summit at the Plaza Hotel on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. *AFP*

Hong Kong banks hike lending rates for first time in 12 years

Two of Hong Kong's biggest banks raised their lending rates on Thursday for the first time in 12 years, ending an age of cheap cash that could hit the city's famously red-hot property market.

The moves by HSBC and Standard Chartered came after the Hong Kong Monetary Authority -- the city's de facto central bank

-- lifted its borrowing costs following an increase by the US Federal Reserve. The HKMA is required to lift rates in line with the Fed owing to the dollar peg. HSBC boosted its lending rate 12.5 basis points to 5.125 percent, before Standard Chartered lifted its rate from 5.25 percent to 5.375 percent.

"Today's change in rates marks the start of the normalisation cycle for local interest rates and we believe Hong Kong is well prepared for the change," said Diana Cesar, HSBC's chief executive in Hong Kong.

More of the city's commercial banks are expected to follow HSBC's lead and hike their prime rates, meaning higher mortgage payments for loans that are linked to it.

The Federal Reserve raised the benchmark interest rate on Wednesday for the third time this year in a widely anticipated decision, citing the strong US economy and jobs market.

After the HKMA raised interest rates to 2.5 percent, its chief executive Norman Chan warned the public to be "on high alert" over increases and to manage associated risks, adding that property and assets would be affected.

"The current global economic conditions and financial environment are full of uncertainties for

Hong Kong," he said.

Hong Kong's finance secretary Paul Chan wrote in his blog earlier this week that the city's low interest rate environment was "coming to an end soon".

"According to some market figures, the property market has shown signs of cooling over the last few weeks with both prices and volume of transactions falling," he wrote, adding that residents should be vigilant about the risk of a possible downturn in the housing market.

The HKMA has spent billions this year supporting the currency as it hits the bottom end of its permitted HK\$7.75-7.85 band against the US dollar.

That has dented the huge well of cash in the city's banking system that previously kept the crucial Hong Kong InterBank Rate (HIBOR) subdued.

Under the Linked Exchange Rate System, the authority is required to buy the local currency at HK\$7.85 to US\$1 if local banks request it. *AFP*

India's top court rules adultery no longer a crime

India's top court Thursday ruled that adultery is no longer a crime, declaring a colonial-era law that punished the offence with jail time unconstitutional and discriminatory against women.

The more than century-old law prescribed that any man who slept with a married woman without her husband's permission had committed adultery, a crime carrying a five-year prison term.

"Thinking of adultery from a point of view of criminality is a retrograde step," unanimously declared the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court.

Women could not file a complaint under the archaic law nor be held liable for adultery themselves, making it solely the realm of men.

The court said the law deprived women of dignity and individual choice, and treated them as the

property of men.

It also said that adultery, while valid grounds for divorce, was a private matter.

The court upheld the legality of the crime in 1954, arguing that in adultery "it is commonly accepted that it is the man who is the seducer, and not the women".

A petitioner had challenged the law earlier this year, describing it as discriminatory. *AFP*

NAZ suspends Madalas league

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) has with immediate effect suspended the Madalas league because of teams' failure to comply with rules and regulations that govern the netball league. In an interview with Goal Diggers! League Match Commissioner and Fixture Secretary Lydia Nanyangwe said there were a lot of teams and players that were not adhering to the sport regulations and noted the need to suspend the league after discussions with NAZ officials. "Most teams were disrespectful towards umpires, had arrears especially with umpires' fee and general indiscipline on the court. There is simply no way one umpire could officiate three games in a day and not receive his or her umpire fee. It is a cumbersome job especially when you are alone. The Madalas and the Men's league unlike the Regular one only has one umpire officiates all the games of the day. We could not continue with the league because there was nothing beneficial out of it. All teams only played their first round games then we got it suspended," said Nanyangwe. And NAZ president Getrude Mukumi said she was still uninformed about the total amount of allowances netballers were supposed to get after the African Netball qualifier tournament the country hosted on 13th August, 2018. Mukumi however confirmed each had since received K2 000 and would receive the 'unknown balance' on 'unknown dates.' A week after the tournament, Mukumi confirmed every player

had received K2 000 as part of their unknown total amount each player was meant to receive. "The ministry has not made it known as to how much the balance is and when

the ladies would get it. As NAZ president, I'm not informed as well and we are waiting to hear from the ministry. I understand we are supposed to know before the players know but

as of now, there is nothing I can confidently comment on concerning their allowances," said Mukumi. NAZ is however the country's netball mother body that prepared the

budget for the hosting of the tournament that saw Uganda and Zimbabwe qualify for 2019 Liverpool world cup, as well as the players' allowances. Speculations from the

netballers indicate worry as to how the association cannot know the budget that it prepared. The Sports ministry has not commented on the matter either.



Paris Saint-Germain's players celebrate after winning the French L1 football match between Paris Saint Germain and Reims, on September 26, 2018 at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. Photo credit - Anne-Christine POUJOLAT / AFP

Barclays Cup meeting with Buffaloes worries Kaindu

By Alex Chilumbwe
 Our 2-1 win against Buffaloes is a good one for the top four finish in the league but somehow a disadvantage to us in the Barclay's Cup challenge, says Power Dynamos coach, Kelvin Kaindu. Kaindu said it was not an easy victory against the

combatants and noted there was need for his 'Aba Yellow, Ababusaka' boys to work even harder. He said this in an interview with Goal Diggers! "It was a hard fought victory against Buffaloes. The pressure was felt even by the technical bench but am glad we carried the day. I think

this win against them will somehow disadvantage us in the Barclay's Cup because Buffaloes will work on what were the loopholes in the super league against us and make amends. They have seen our strengths and they will train to defy them. They are a good side already but this does not mean we will

give in. We will play to win just like them," said Kaindu. And Buffaloes coach Biltone Musonda expressed disappointment over his midweek loss to Power Dynamos and recalled the recent meeting he had with his bosses about the losses his side was recording. "It is unfortunate we lost to

Power not because they are a weak team but because we trained to beat them. We are just coming from a meeting where our losses were being questioned by our bosses. They surely expected us to win our immediate game after the meeting and we have lost. It is not a good picture to display. Our goal now is to look for ways of beating Power in the Barclays Cup and wondered all the remaining games in the super league so that we finish on top four now that it is obvious ZESCO United defended the league title," said Musonda. The Barclays Cup quarter finals will be played this weekend (29th September, 2018) at Arthur Davies stadium where ZANACO will play against Young Green Buffaloes while Power Dynamos will play against Mufulira Wanderers. Green Eagles will face Green Buffaloes and the biggest one pins Nkana football club against league title holders, ZESCO United. The teams will be battling for a K400 000 top prize.

Champions League confirms introduction of VAR for 2019-20

UEFA has announced that the technology will be used in Europe's elite club competition from the 2019-20 season and at the finals of Euro 2020. The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system will be used in UEFA tournaments including the Champions League from next season, European football's governing body has confirmed. VAR will also feature in the finals of Euro 2020 and at the 2019 UEFA Super Cup. The Europa League will not use the technology until the group stage of the 2020-21 campaign and the 2021 round of Nations League finals,

not those in 2019, will be the first to have VAR. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said: "We are confident that introducing Video Assistant Referees in August 2019 will give us enough time to put in place a robust system and to train match officials to ensure an efficient and successful implementation of VAR in the UEFA Champions League, the world's flagship club competition." FIFA rolled out VAR for the 2018 World Cup following a number of earlier trials, while it is also being used in four of Europe's five major leagues. The Bundesliga and Serie A introduced VAR

in 2017-18, with La Liga and Ligue 1 following suit for the current campaign. In English football, Premier League clubs voted against using VAR in 2018-19, with trials extended for another year, but it will continue to feature in the Carabao Cup and FA Cup this season. The Premier League uses the Goal Decision System to rule whether the ball has crossed the goal-line, having introduced the technology in 2013-14. Later on Thursday, UEFA's Executive committee will select the host of Euro 2024 at its meeting in Nyon, Switzerland. goal.com

CHAMPS EYE

BARCLAYS

We're a resilient team, we can do it - Jesse Were

By Alex Chilumbwe

We will work towards winning the Barclays Cup tournament with uttermost resilience now that we have successfully defended the league title, says ZESCO United top striker Jesse Were. His statement comes after his club became elect league title winners yesterday Wednesday, when they beat Nchanga Rangers 4-0 and accumulated 80 points that no other club on the table can square up based on the number of games each club had remained with. And Were also said winning the FAZ/MTN league title twice and consecutively was a dream come true that he would cherish forever. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Were highlighted some of the secrets he believed helped them defend the league title. "We are a very resilient side that relates well with one another. We also knew that if we needed to defend the title, we have to start from the word go and not relax a bit. It has not been easy because the competition is extremely tough and we also had an engagement with CAF games. Our coach and other officials made sure we stayed motivated and focused. They know perfectly well that a happy player can deliver very well hence our win," Were said. The Kenyan international also said his two year deal with ZESCO would seem too short a period as he had created a good bond with teammates, but did not mention he would want the deal renewed after two years.

"My stay at the club is everything. I have a very good and strong bond with my teammates as we relate so well. I may miss home once in a while but this club has also become my home. Of course, it cannot be all rosy but trust me, the good times outweigh the bad ones. Football in Zambia is very competitive and my fighting and scoring capabilities have been improved by it. Yesterday it was a memorable win for us and the joy is still overflowing. Let us see what happens with the Barclays Cup," said Were smilingly. In 2017, Were's two year deal with ZESCO United had reached its final throe and South African club Ajax Capetown made advances towards the striker. Were however turned down the offer and signed another two year deal with ZESCO. Were was the club's top striker in the FAZ/MTN 2017 season. His counterpart Idriss Mbombo on the other hand left the ZESCO United for a Saudi Arabian club.



Defeated: Liverpool players antagonized after Eden Hazard came off the bench to score Chelsea's winner in a 2-1 League Cup victory over at Anfield.



Lionel Messi grimaces during Wednesday's loss to Leganes as Barcelona stunned by defeat at lowly Leganes losing for the first time since early 2015. Supersport



Real Madrid conceded three-first half goals in a 3-0 loss at Sevilla on Wednesday, squandering a chance to take the Spanish league lead after Barcelona lost 2-1 at last-place Leganes. USATODAY