

President Edgar Lungu welcomes members of a Swiss business delegation at State House yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

PF, UPND, NDC vie for Mangango, others opt out

By Mirriam Chabala
Three political parties namely; the ruling Patriotic Front (PF), the opposition UPND and National Democratic Congress (NDC) have so far declared

their participation in the Mangango parliamentary by-election slated for November 20, 2018.

But the National Restoration Party (NAREP) and People's Alliance for

Change (PAC) have opted to stay away from this particular poll, saying they are better off spending their resources on strengthening the parties ahead of the 2021 general elections. **To page 4**

Give govt benefit of doubt on barring of Lumumba, says YALI

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Young African Leaders Initiative president Andrew Ntewewe says citizens must give government a

benefit of doubt on the barring of Kenyan law professor Patrick Lumumba from entering the country. **To page 7**

Debt talk infuriates Mwanakatwe; give me a break please

By Abraham Kalito
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has complained that she needed a "break" from questions around Zambia's official debt position, adding that the 2019 budget will be mere rhetoric if it does not receive support from Zambians. **To page 5**

CSOs needed protest to please funders, Kampyongo mocks

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says he allowed the civil society organisations to protest at Parliament last week because it was necessary for them to show their funders that they were working. **To page 3**

Reverse Lungu's pay rise, says Habasonda

Story page 3

IT'S STUPIDITY -

PROF LUMUMBA

I'll write Lungu, AU over my displeasure

To page 6

WHY DEBT CONCERNS YOU:

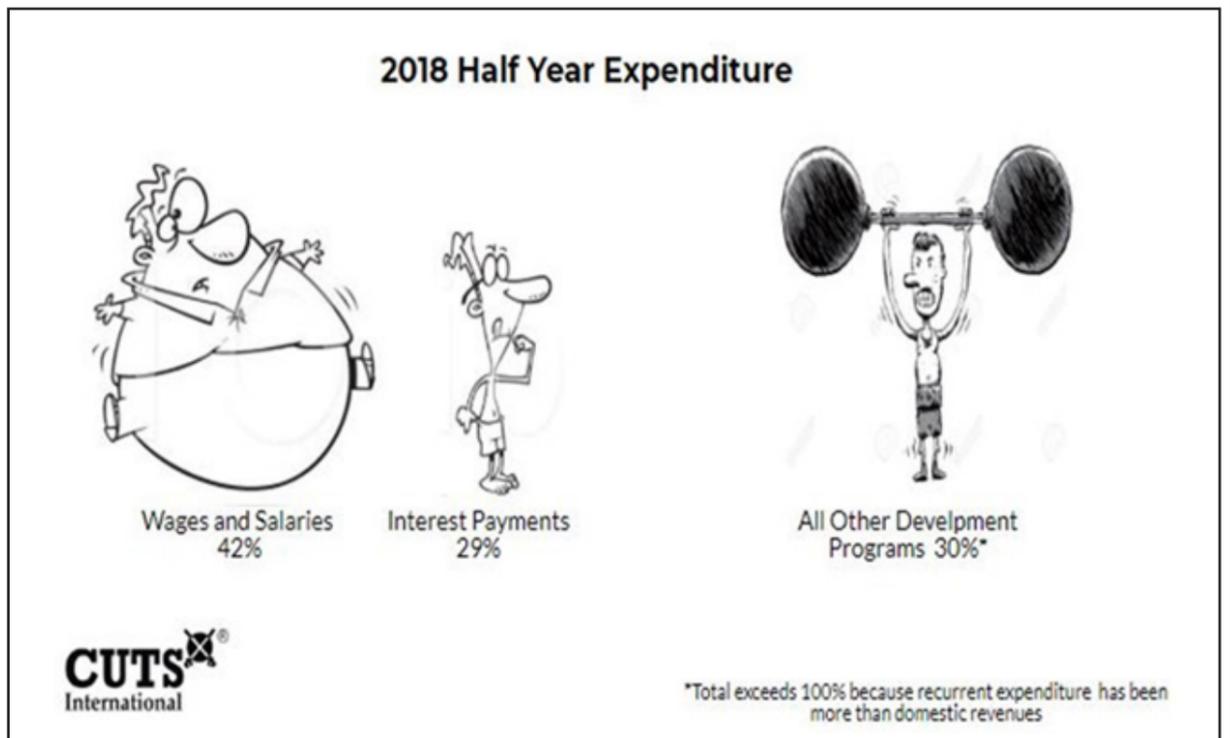
High impact on social spending

#DebtConcernsMe

In our last column we outlined Zambia's alarming debt position and explained how it came about. As we continue our series one particular cause for concern that we want to highlight is that increased debt has seen higher interest payments consume a large component of our national budget in 2018. As a result, less funds are available to spend on initiatives that help reduce poverty or support job creation in the country.

The amount spent on debt servicing which includes interest payments as well as payments towards reducing the actual amount borrowed has increased significantly since last year. According to the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), the Government spent K9.1 billion on debt servicing for the first half of 2018, which was more than planned the budgeted amount of K6.2 billion. This K9.1 billion on debt servicing for the first half of 2018 is almost equivalent to the entire amount spent on debt servicing payments for the year 2017 which amounted to K9.8 billion. During the first six months of 2018 personal emoluments, that is, wages and salaries, accounted for 42% of domestic revenues, while 29% accounted for interest payments. As such, only 30% of government revenues was spent on all the remaining government programmes which drive the country's development, such as health, education, social protection, agriculture and so on. The amount spent on debt servicing is only expected to increase in the coming years. *As we have seen in last week's budget speech, the amount Zambia is paying for debt servicing is still increasing as the available budget for social services is decreasing. In this year's budget external debt servicing costs doubled from K7.2 billion in 2018 to K14.9 billion in 2019.*

A look at the current situation on the ground on the status of public services and poverty reduction initiatives in Zambia shows that there is urgent need to ring-fence money, that is, to guarantee that funds allocated for a poverty reduction initiatives will not be spent on anything else in order to protect the poorest and most vulnerable in society. An analysis carried out by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) in five provinces namely Eastern Province, Luapula, North-Western, Southern Province and Western Province on the quality of social sector



services highlights a number of challenges that show that the quality of service delivery in these provinces has been deteriorating.

Education provision is suffering from a lack of funding. The teacher to pupil ratio has remained high with an average ratio of 1 teacher to 60 pupils and there is limited access to teaching aids and support infrastructure such as desks. The health sector is under-resourced, with most rural health centres and clinics not having medical doctors and support staff such as pharmacy technologists, lab

ZIPAR, Debt servicing and delivery of social services, 2018 technicians and midwives. Also, support for farmers has fallen due to a lack of extension officers: the ratio of these officers to farmers is as high as 1 to 1200 in some areas, three times the ideal of 1 to 400. This lack of investment is hindering Zambia's development as the country needs a well-educated, healthy and productive population to prosper.

In an effort to gain a perspective on the ground CUTS conducted an interview with Mr Alick Muleya, Council Chairman of Sinazongwe District, Southern Province. He expressed how the lack of quality public services has left his district under-developed. The district has 13 health posts of which only 6 are functioning: the remaining 7 are not operational due to lack of funds to pay health workers and staff houses to accommodate them. He also noted that 32 schools in the district did not have electricity and other essential infrastructure resulting in students having to sit on bricks because there are no desks or chairs.

With high levels of government spending going towards debt servicing, less money is left to improve the quality of public services.

Further to this, the government is already struggling to fund key budgeted activities due to the need to redirect resources to debt repayment. For instance, it was reported by ZIPAR that only 27% of the funding for the Social Cash Transfer Scheme Pension Fund was released in the first half of 2018. Additionally, no funding has been released for the Food Security Pack initiative and other empowerment programmes this year. Not only are the budgets for development programmes small, they are not being spent, as debt levels squeeze spending.

High debt levels should concern all of us as no one is immune to its impacts. There is need to recognise the importance of social spending for us all as citizens and for the country as whole. Good quality education and proper health care are necessary to build a productive workforce that can help develop the country and lift people out of poverty. The impact of the cost of servicing the country's debt is reducing social spending, which will negatively impact us all, especially the poorest in society. There is therefore need to recognise the importance of social spending and ring-fence it from cuts to protect the poorest in society and drive the country's development.

Continue to follow the series for the next coming weeks and follow the conversation on social media #DebtConcernsMe.

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They needed that protest to please their funders, Kampyongo mocks CSOs

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says he allowed the civil society organisations to protest at Parliament last week because it was necessary for them to show their funders that they were working. And Kampyongo says it is not true that Congo DR's opposition leader Moise Katumbi entered Zambia using a Zambian passport. Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Kampyongo said he allowed CSOs to protest because government wanted to create space for those who were operating within the confines of the law. "I mean they are civil people but they are also supporters, they have to justify to those that are funding them mind you, they also have sources of resources where they go to ask for resources. And when you see them clad in T-shirts, it means someone is funding them to do that and we want to create as much space as we can for every stakeholder who operates within the confinements of the law," Kampyongo said. "It was not unusual and I want to put the context very clear that it was not over ruling the police. The police were well premised when they said [that] they wanted to focus on making sure that the presentation of the budget went instance free. And they had suggested to those that

wanted to picket to have another day on which they could do that. So a consensus was reached to say that 'okay, maybe get those people who were asking to be given some space on why they wanted to show their messages and see how they can marshal that event of theirs and make sure that you deploy enough police to make sure that they don't do anything other than what they asked for.'" Asked to comment on the suspected PF supporters who attempted to attack the protesters, Kampyongo warned that no law breaker would be protected. "It doesn't matter who you are, as long as you are a law breaker, we will arrest you. No one is above the law. So it doesn't matter which sympathizers those people were [but] what

they did was wrong and the police were firmly right to apprehend the perpetrators of that violence. And mind you, we know that one of our newly elected MPs had his vehicle stoned and we can't entertain that, we can't tolerate that. And anyone who wants to claim to be a sympathiser of the ruling party must be the first one to respect. So there was nothing like over ruling the decision of the police. That decision came from within the [police] command," he said. And Kampyongo said it was not true that Katumbi entered the country using a Zambian passport. "It's not true [that he entered Zambia using a Zambian passport]. Moise Katumbi is free to come here just like any other Congolese but this government can do nothing. It

can't impose him on the people of Congo. How can we support Mr Katumbi? Can we go and tell the people of Congo to say 'vote for Mr Katumbi? How? What role can we play? He is just like any other Congolese who is free to come to Zambia unless the Government of Congo says 'don't allow this person because we have these issues with him.' So he came here as a free citizen of Congo as far as we know and we have communicated with the embassy here. Mr Katumbi travelled to Zambia using a Congolese passport which even the embassy has acknowledged that is an official passport. What we are not going to do is to permit sanctuary to someone who has broken the law and who is supposed to go through the due process of

the law, just like any other country can't do," he said. Meanwhile, Kampyongo said attacks on China were unnecessary because Zambia and that country were enjoying a rich relationship. "If you are talking about China, Zambia and China have got this rich relationship. Today after independence, the first development that we got in terms of infrastructure cannot leave out China [such as] the TAZAMA pipeline and if there is anything that we can do as Zambians is to learn how we can benefit mutually. Zambians must know that the law can still visit those want to perpetrate xenophobia and if you do anything, you have got citizens in China. But I want also so assure Zambians that anyone who comes here and commits a crime,

it doesn't matter, Chinese or any other will be made to face the same law," he said. He also expressed happiness with the budget allocation to his ministry in the recently announced 2019 national budget. "It appears to be a big component and sometimes you may need to understand the mandate of the ministry and look at the portfolio functions of the ministry that it performs to appreciate that even as we may say that there is so much that has gone into the ministry, you will understand. I may not say that we've gotten what we would have wanted but we are content with what the Ministry of Finance has provided. So we all participated in the budget that the minister delivered," said Kampyongo.

Zambians can earn money from solid waste – HIVOS

By Salim Dawood

HIVOS, an international non-governmental organisation, says Zambians can turn the growing problem of solid waste into a money-making venture. Speaking during a workshop which brought together

solid waste experts, business people, entrepreneurs among other stakeholders in Lusaka last week, HIVOS Southern Africa Enterprise development strategist Cordelia Kunaka said Zambia and particularly

Lusaka had great potential for enterprise in solid waste. Kunaka said recyclable solid waste industry was growing and Zambian entrepreneurs should not be left out. "There is money in waste. There are people who are

making money by collecting and selling waste. And the good thing is there is no entry barrier to those who want to start the business because all one needs is willingness," Kunaka said. "For example in Zimbabwe, we have a company that is recycling used plastic to make purvors. So these are the kind of ideas we need to bring to Zambia where we should start using waste to create products. For instance paper can be used to make tissue. People should not burn waste because it they can earn from it. Waste collection is not only for poor people, it can be a source of income for anyone." Kunaka observed that the issue of waste was a growing problem in Lusaka that needed to immediate attention. "But where there is a problem, there is a money making opportunity," Kunaka observed. She said the solid waste industry provided and opportunity for many jobless youth and women to become entrepreneurs and earn money. The three-day HIVOS-organised workshop which

took place at Palmwood Lodge involved field tours to industry players ranging from waste collectors, aggregators and buyers. And Nambula Kachumi the executive director of "WeCreate Zambia" a women's entrepreneur resource centre said the solid waste industry was had high potential achieving economic diversification. She said business was happening but the sector was not growing as fast as it should because many people saw it as a sector for government and non-governmental organisations. "We think this is a good opportunity that can spread entrepreneurship. We have seen business grow but we need support. Women entrepreneurs participate in the lower end of the business as collectors and there is a lot of stigma around that and yet there is a lot of potential," said Kachumi. She said her organization was happy to partner with HIVOS to create awareness and provide training to women in taking up the opportunities in solid waste entrepreneurship.

Lungu's salary increment must be reversed – Habasonda

By Mirriam Chabala

University of Zambia Political Science lecturer Lee Habasonda says it is inappropriate to raise salaries for the President and senior government officials when the country is in jeopardy and at risk of defaulting on its obligations. Responding to a press query from NewsDiggers! Habasonda noted that the increment of President Edgar Lungu's monthly salary and allowances was against the principle of austerity measures. "It is puzzling that President Lungu and his senior officials have implemented a pay rise for themselves at a time their own government is implementing austerity measures. Clearly the President and his team risk being misunderstood about their commitment to these measures. An important objective of a policy of economic austerity is the maintenance of investor confidence in the government's ability to manage its finances. This determines not only its ability to borrow now and in the future, but also the terms and conditions upon which creditors are willing to lend," Habasonda, who is a former TIZ president, said. "It would appear this action is inappropriate considering that

expenditure related to consumption will undermine the measures that are attempting to significantly curtail government spending in an effort to control public-sector debt, particularly when we are in jeopardy and at risk of defaulting on our obligations. It is worrying that those in the higher bracket of income are the first to increase their pecks under these difficult circumstances." Habasonda urged government to reverse the salary increments. "We are concerned about a situation where half-hearted measures may not achieve the intended goal but could hurt the poorest in our country. My own view is that President Lungu and his colleagues should reconsider the decision and reverse the increments and channel the savings towards productive sectors to mitigate on the impact of the measures on the weakest in society. Leadership demands that they be the first to sacrifice but unfortunately, this is not sending the right message to the citizens who have reposed trust and support to government. Yes I have confidence they can lead by example and we await to see that they do not ignore this clarion call," said Habasonda.

By Mirriam Chabala

Three political parties namely; the ruling Patriotic Front (PF), the opposition UPND and National Democratic Congress (NDC) have so far declared interest in participating in the Mangango parliamentary by-elections slated for November 20, 2018. But the National Restoration Party (NAREP) and People's Alliance for Change (PAC) have opted to stay away from by-elections, saying they are better off spending their energies and resources on strengthening the parties ahead of the 2021 general elections. Meanwhile, the United Prosperous and Peaceful Zambia (UPPZ) says it is also likely to participate in the Mangongo by-election which has been necessitated following the death of its

3 parties eye Mangango seat as PAC, NAREP opt out

occupant Naluwa Mweene. Mweene died in a road traffic accident at the Itezhi Tezhi turn off along the Mongu-Lusaka road in August. In random interviews conducted by News Diggers! following the announcement of election dates for the Mangango Parliamentary seat, Chairperson's by-elections in Lupososhi and four other ward by-elections, the PF through

its Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri confirmed interest to participate in all the three by-elections. "Oh yes definitely! And you can't even ask me such a question because Lupososhi is our stronghold. We will definitely take part in that by-election but since the notice has just come out and you know us as PF, we don't make decisions as individuals, we have to take

that to the central committee and then we will agree. I will just encourage people in our party... and you know we lost that seat narrowly and now I expect that we are actually going to get it. Since it has come out we are going to advertise. We are not going to lose that seat this time around and just like I said, we narrowly lost that seat. Even before we had a member of parliament from there, if you

remember very well," said Phiri. And UPND Secretary General Stephen Katuka expressed confidence that his party was going to scoop the Mangango parliamentary seat because that area was its stronghold. "How can we not participate in Mangango? That was our seat, that's common sense. There is no way we cannot participate because we are defending our seat. If we had proper systems they were just going to tell us that 'you replace the MP' and we have been trying to change the law to avoid by-elections because we feel there is a lacuna there, we missed out something because in the NCC we were even proposing that when a member of parliament dies, the party should replace. We made those proposals at the NCC. So now coming to your question, it's not possible for us to fail to participate because that is our seat, at any cost we have to participate and defend our seat. Win or lose but we are participating without fail," said Katuka. "So now that the date for elections has been announced, we are starting the selection process and by the end of this week or next week we will have a candidate ready. This time we are being very cautious because we are dealing with rocks and we know anything can happen, so we will have some people on standby so that if the PF buys one, we can still replace them. Mangango is our seat and we will do everything possible to reclaim our seat. So if PF feel Mangongo is their seat then they are living in the past. The people of Mangango will replace the late MP with our MP because they still have the confidence in us and that lace is our stronghold and when an election comes, we are going to work tooth and nail to reclaim it." Secretary general Mwenya Musenge of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) said he was optimistic that his party would emerge victorious in the by-election. "We are definitely going to participate, we have received good response from a number of our members how would want to participate. Right now we are going through a process of trying to scrutinize and then pick a candidate. I must be quick to mention that this time around, we won't be able to announce the names our candidate because we are trying to avoid this cheap way of playing politics by PF who always want to buy off candidates of their opponents. We already have three candidates so far and we are just finalizing on who to pick but all of them are very very eager to participate and I can assure you we will be able to compete effectively in Mangango and Zambian people will be able to see that NDC means well for the people of Zambia. And we have a

huge feeling that we will lift the [Mangango] Parliamentary seat, we are participating in the parliamentary by-elections for the first time and we just have to in our very best. As for the Lupososhi Chairmanship, Lupososhi if anything is one of those areas we treat as our strongholds and we are going to take part in the Council Chairmanship elections. Right now our officials in Northern Province are on the ground to try and identify the best candidate," said Musenge. And when contacted, UPPZ Spokesperson Francis Kope said "We will be participating but I cannot give an official statement at the moment, we need to sit as a party and agree who will be our candidate." Meanwhile, PAC through party president Andyford Banda said his party had resolved to stop participating in parliamentary by-elections because it wanted to focus on strengthening its structures countrywide ahead of 2021. "For Mangango, we met last weekend to discuss the statement from ECZ and the decision of the party was that we shall skip. Reason is that we want to focus more building the party countrywide as opposed to just focusing on by-elections because we've participated in a number of by-elections and they have gotten our resources first of all. We are not PF who get government money or social cash transfer. Us we use money from well wishers and we've noticed that we've been spending so much money... instead of mobilising, we've been spending money on by-elections. So what we have decided is that strategically right now we are going to move to North Western Province. So instead of participating in the parliamentary by-elections, we are going to participate in the local government by-elections in North Western Province. Our strategy for the last part of the year is to cement our structures on the Copperbelt. So it will be easy for us to participate in an election in North Western while we are cementing our structures in Copperbelt and we are spreading our wings across the country. This will also give us an opportunity to give the UPND a chance to retain their seat. I think it will be good for them," said Banda. And NAREP president Elias Chipimo said his party had also opted out of participating in by-elections. "Probably not, at this stage, we really want to direct our focus on 2021. However, it's going to be for the National Executive Committee to make that determination. So I don't want to pre-empt what decision they will make. But they should be announcing soon what our position will be. The NEC is reviewing the party's position and we will be able to revert within the next two days," said Chipimo.

Magistrate, others in court for theft of ephedrine

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Four people, among them a Lusaka based magistrate Maggie Tantameni Kunda, a public prosecutor from the National Prosecutions Authority and two court officials have been dragged to court for allegedly stealing 34 Kilograms of ephedrine, property of government. Felix Mkandawire, a court interpreter, 35, of Kanyama, Francis Mphanza Senior Public Prosecutor, 37, of Woodlands, Maggie Tantameni Kunda, magistrate, 39, of Avondale and Didie Kangwa a senior Clerk of

Court, 39, of Kalingalinga, are charged with two counts of removal of property under lawful seizure and stealing by persons in public service. It is alleged in count one that Mkandawire, Mphanza and Kangwa on November 8, 2017 in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together, knowingly and with intent to hinder or defeat the process, did conceal 34.0 kilograms of ephedrine valued at K1,

870.000, which ephedrine was taken under the process of authority of the court of honourable Tantameni. And in count two, it is alleged that Mkandawire, Mphanza, Tantameni and Kangwa between November 8, 2017 and December 30, 2017 in Lusaka, being employed in the public service as court interpreter, senior public prosecutor, magistrate and senior clerk

of court respectively, jointly and whilst acting together did steal 34.0 kilograms of ephedrine valued at K1, 870.000 the property of the Government of the Republic of Zambia which came into their possession by virtue of their employment. When the matter came up before magistrate Kenneth Mulife, Monday, all the accused persons were not present in court. Magistrate Mulife however allocated the matter to a Chisamba based magistrate, Mangalashi. The matter comes up on Tuesday for plea. And the Lusaka Magistrates' Court has adjourned the matter in which Laura Miti and five others are charged with disobeying lawful orders, to November 19 this year due to the absence of two remaining state witnesses. In this matter, Alliance for Community Action Laura Miti, PeP president Sean Tembo, former Zambia Council for Social Development executive director Lewis Mwape, Pilato, Bornwell Mwewa and Mika Mwambazi, are charged with one count of disobeying lawful orders. The accused were nabbed outside Parliament building in Lusaka on September 29, 2017 as they were protesting the purchase of 42 fire trucks for \$42 million. When the matter came up for continuation of trial before magistrate Mwaka Mikalile, Monday, the State said they were not ready to proceed with calling their last two witnesses because one witness was sick whereas the other one had a bereavement. "The State is not ready to proceed. Our remaining two witnesses are not in court. The Arresting officer has a bereavement, then Mr Kunda is not well," the State said. The matter has been adjourned to November 19 for continuation of trial.



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Debt talk infuriates Mwanakatwe: Please give me a break from negative debates

By Abraham Kalito

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says the 2019 budget will be mere rhetoric if it does not receive the much-needed support from Zambians because the country is in a trying period. And Mwanakatwe complained that she needed a “break” from questions around Zambia’s official debt position. Speaking during a Deloitte breakfast meeting in Lusaka, Monday, Mwanakatwe, who eventually became emotional as she responded to queries in a bid to defend the 2019 national budget, said the budget is aimed at balancing the books and giving hope to vulnerable Zambians. Last Friday, Mwanakatwe unveiled a record-breaking K86.8 billion national budget next year, expected to be supported by increased tax revenues amounting to nearly K6 billion more than the 2018 budget. “It has been a very difficult period. It has been very difficult to construct this budget. Very, very difficult, but we did it. Having done it, what gives me a lot of courage is that, as a Cabinet, we have actually retrieved it to go and cover with the measures that we did. And the ownership around the Cabinet table is total. It is our budget, and it will only work if we put our minds to it. Otherwise, it is rhetoric! We need to get off our rhetoric as Zambians. The budget is doing a very simple thing: it is balancing the books. And that is why it was tough. This budget is ensuring that we are truly protecting the social aspect, the vulnerable. In many areas increase it because the inequalities are many. It was a tough debate. Revenue growth, very critical. We must broaden that revenue base. I was looking for a budget of hope to give people hope because there is so much despondence,” Mwanakatwe lamented yesterday at International Continental Hotel. And Mwanakatwe said she needed a break from questions around Zambia’s official debt position. “Hiding debts; I’m not sure whether if you borrowed money from a bank, the bank would not come after you when it’s time to pay. You can’t hide debt; surely, you cannot keep it in a drawer, how? When it’s time to pay, the bank will come after you. So, when we say our external debt is US \$9.37 billion as at end of June, that’s exactly what it is. When we say our stock of government securities is K51.8 billion at the end of June, that’s what it is. When we say our domestic arrears at K13.9 billion, that is what they are. Chinese debt of the US

\$9.4 billion is just between 28 and 30 per cent. ‘Siungabise nkongole, nkongole ungabise sure?’ (Can you hide debt?) Please, please, let us keep telling these people outside and change these perceptions that we are hiding debt. If we had defaulted on the debt, the Eurobond holders would have come after us because there is a cross default, you have defaulted on this and that one. The first Eurobond is due in 2022, four years from now,” Mwanakatwe added. “The Sinking Fund has begun; only two weeks ago, we were putting US \$10 million in the Sinking Fund to get ready for 2022. After that, US \$1 billion is due in 2024. So, what’s the hullabaloo? What’s the hullabaloo? How do I default something that’s not due? Please, let’s start speaking positively about ourselves because we only have one Zambia. It’s not an easy period to deal with; what we need to deal with domestically and to be battered continuously internationally. Please, I need a break! And my break will come from you when you start speaking positively about this country, about the things you are doing because you are the ones growing the GDP. You are the ones paying taxes to enable me to pay my debt. If you fail, I fail, so talk positively about these things.” She also noted that Zambian bonds were performing poorly, and that the kwacha was constantly depreciating because of negative perceptions about the country coming from locals. “Something you wonder; why the [foreign exchange] rate is going the way it is. It is simply because of one thing; perception. Why is my bond yield out there performing poorly, 16 per cent on the bond yield, Zambian bond, why? Perception. So, start saying good things about yourselves please, ladies and gentlemen. Change your narrative, it is killing us! Why would my bond be yielding at 16 per cent today? If you look at the exchange rate in South Africa right now it has gone down, down, down, but do you hear them talk about it the way we talk about it here in Zambia? No! It’s as if the country is on fire. Are we on fire? We’ve got to change the narrative, I’m a politician. I’m less believable than you, you are more believable, start saying the good things,” appealed Mwanakatwe. “There is a good story in Zambia, and I need you to tell it more and more. I am going to IMF (International Monetary Fund) on the 5th of October and they are waiting for me. Everybody wants to see me, everybody! And I will tell you what he first question

is going to be, debt. And I am ready for them because I have nothing to hide. People are constantly asking me about IMF, even when I came back from meeting them and went to Bauleni compound, they said, ‘Bamayo kwali shani ku ‘IMweF?’ (Mum, how did it

go with IMF?) Even Bauleni knows about IMF! There was a question that we are over-taxing a few, I think it is true; we must accept that taxing the formal sector has been a challenge and this is why we want turn-over tax. It’s much easier, much simpler and we

hope that more people can come into this tax bracket. We shouldn’t be seen that we are over-taxing the very few.” To finance the 2019 national budget, government proposed that K56.1 billion will derive from total domestic revenues of which total tax revenues

amounting to K46.95 billion are expected to support next year’s budget, which will constitute around 54.1 per cent of the national budget. Tax revenues anticipated to fund the 2019 budget are up from K41.1 billion announced in the 2018 budget.

CSPR questions defence budget hike

By Abraham Kalito

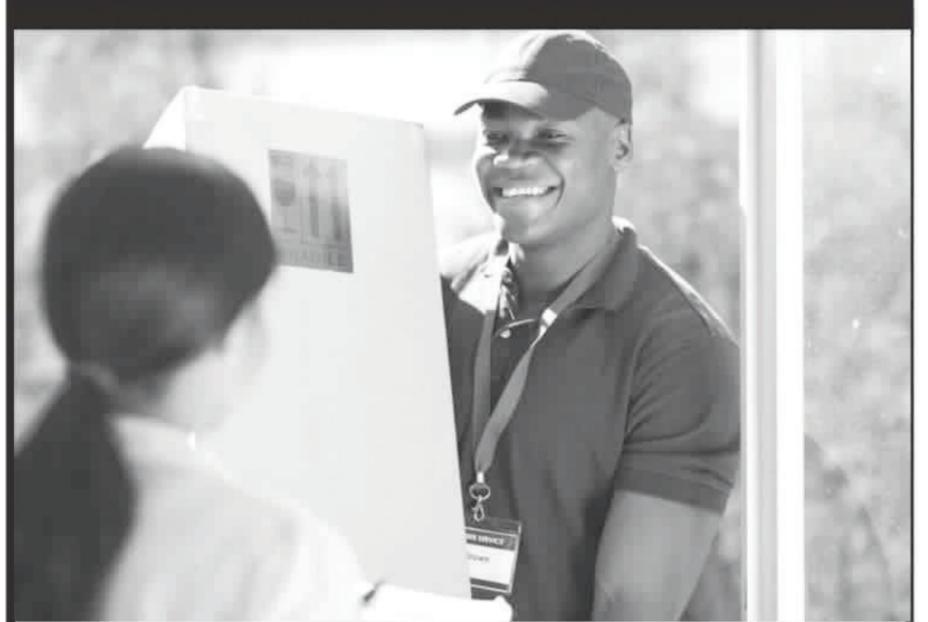
Government’s increased budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Defence in the 2019 national budget needs to be explained to all stakeholders in view of the austerity measures, says the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR). Government has proposed to increase the Ministry of Defence’s budgetary allocation next year to around K5.1 billion, from K3.5 billion in this year’s budget. This represents an increase of over K1.5 billion and gobbles around 5.8 per cent of the 2019 national budget, while also more than doubling the allocation for social protection whose funding is only K2.2 billion, down from K2.3 billion allocated in the 2018 budget. Speaking during the ZICA-EAZ 2019 national budget analysis dinner held at Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, Friday, CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano asked government to explain why defence spending had increased when the country was not at war. “So, top-line talk always, from our perspective is that, debt repayments continue to be a challenge, external debt doubled to K14.9 billion against K7.2 billion representing 23.6 per cent of the national budget. But also, of concern and something that we would like to hear is the issue of foreign financing, which is at 28.4 per cent. But also, one of the things we have been calling for is more toward non-concessional long-term borrowing, which will not again crowd out our spending in terms of social sectors. Social protection case again there is a drop despite the nominal value increase I indicated. 2.5 per cent against 3.2 per cent. It’s not enough to put allocations; we want to see commitment towards fund during the fiscal year,” Nshindano, a key-note

speaker at the event, said. “But also I think one of the things that struck me was the increase in the defence budget. It’s something I would like to get an explanation, especially in an austerity period and the fact that we are not at war. But also, one of the things we note, like I indicated as part of our expectation was the provision of some sort of relief. No personal income relief, but also additional erosion of the relief with the introduction of a number of these levies coming on, such as the Health Insurance Bill. The sales tax

is highly applauded, but also one of those things we would like to get an understanding on. So, I hope that we will get to understand in terms of the burden structure.” He also urged government to institute measures aimed at addressing poverty and inequality instead of depending on the ‘trickle-down effect’ way of resolving the matter. “...We need to be recognisant of the state in which we are poverty levels still remain extremely high at 54.2 per cent and for us this is the

biggest challenge. And it needs to be tackled head-on and it shouldn’t be an issue of trickle-down; there should be deliberate policies that are going to tackle down that issue. But also of concern is the ever-growing inequality where a few people are benefitting from the wealth of the nation at the expense of the majority, and if you had to see the child wellbeing indicators you will see that we are not doing well as a country. Investment into social sectors becomes very critical,” noted Nshindano.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

It's stupidity to declare a person like me who bears no arms as a national security risk, says Kenyan Professor Patrick Lumumba.

And Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba told that country's national broadcaster that the barring of Professor Lumumba is a regrettable incident.

Professor Lumumba was denied entry into Zambia last week when he came to officiate at a graduation ceremony and was later scheduled to conduct a public lecture on Chinese investments in Africa. Immigration Department officers followed him on the arriving Kenyan Airways

It's stupidity, I will write to Lungu and AU - Lumumba

plane and ordered him not to disembark on "national security" grounds.

But in an interview, Professor Lumumba wondered whether he posed a security risk to Zambia or Zambia was a security risk to him.

"For reasons that I am unaware of, the government of Zambia took a view that my presence was a security threat. I don't know whether it is my security

that was under threat or the Zambian security, that I do not know," the celebrated Anti-Corruption Africa hero said.

"There is no proper reason [given] that my presence in Zambia would be a security threat. How can an individual bearing no arms and only bearing ideas and opinions be a threat to a country at all? It's insanity or stupidity if one may wish to say."

The Professor said he would formerly write a complaint letter to President Edgar Lungu and also to the African Union to register his displeasure.

"I shall formally write a letter to His Excellency the President of Zambia to express my displeasure and I shall also copy the letter to the African Union. When you are talking about free movement of labour, free movement of

people, a professional is denied entry to an African country," he said.

And Professor Lumumba said it was important for people debating his Zambian incident to correctly state that he was barred entry and not deported. "I think let's also be very practical about this. Deportation is when you have entered a country and you are removed [and] I did not enter

the country [but] I was denied entry. Let us therefore be practical about the use of these words so that we get the correct meaning. I had not entered Zambia [and] therefore I could not be deported. I was outside of Zambia and therefore I was denied entry," said Professor Lumumba.

Meanwhile, Mwamba said the incident was regrettable and hoped that the Professor would be allowed to come back to Zambia and address the people.

"It's regrettable like I stated. We are yet to find out what security concerns the Immigration Department raised, you know the refusal of entry by the Immigration Department happens so regularly. We have one of our foremost activist in our country called Laura Miti who was refused entry in South Africa just a few weeks ago. They cited the status of resident permit and she was returned to Zambia. It is normal by migration [and] that is why I'm saying [that] I am yet to get the particular details relating to Prof Lumumba's denial of entry," said Mwamba on SABC.

"But that it (his presence) can influence discussions in our country or that we are afraid of his opinions, no, that's not a matter that we get concerned about. For us we encourage the organizers to approach government and ensure that prof Lumumba comes and speaks to the forum that they had invited him for as soon as we clear what could have led to his denial of entry into our country."



President Lungu (1) chairs the 17th Cabinet meeting at State House yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

Zambia's external debt servicing costs escalate to \$706m – WB

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia's cost of external debt servicing has drastically risen to around US\$706 million in 2017 from just US\$63 million in 2013, a new World Bank report has revealed.

According to the Bank's latest Economic Brief, the PF-led administration spent US\$706 million on meeting external public debt servicing costs last year, up from only US\$63 million in 2013, a staggering increase of US\$643 million in a four-year time period.

"The cost of debt service has increased substantially. In 2017, interest payments as a percent of domestic revenue rose to 23 per cent from 6 per cent in 2011. External debt service accounts for 54 per cent of total debt service and has become the main source of foreign currency outflows. Foreign currency outflow to service external public debt was US \$706 million in 2017, from US \$63 million in 2013," the Brief, released last month, states.

"In Q1 2018, debt service has already consumed over a third of its annual budget, prompting the government to increase the initial budget allocation to debt service by 26 per cent."

The 11th Brief, dubbed: "Agro-led Structural Transformation", also notes that the huge debt servicing costs have squeezed fiscal space for other critical social sectors like education.

"The cost of debt service has gradually reduced fiscal space for social services and productive spending. For example, as the cost of debt service has averaged 22 per cent above its budget between 2011 and 2017, the following sectors have seen their actual disbursement below budget allocations: education (by 35 per cent), economic sectors (by 25 per cent), social benefits (by 14 per cent), and health (by 12 per cent)," it states.

The Bank explained that the kwacha's rapid depreciation, experienced back in 2015, was among the factors leading to an escalating increase in debt servicing costs.

"Three factors are behind the fast increase in the costs of debt service. First is the successive increase in the cost of external commercial debt issuances. For example, the coupon on Eurobond issuance increased from 5.4 per cent in 2012 to 8.5 per cent in 2014, and 9.0 per cent in 2015.

Second is the depreciation of the kwacha in 2015, which led to a substantial increase in the cost of external debt service.

Third is the high proportion of Treasury Bills (40 per cent) in domestic debt, which makes domestic debt vulnerable to changes in interest rates," states the World Bank, who further advised government to regularly issue quarterly and annual debt reports.

"Having issued non-concessional debt, Zambia now faces a high demand for timely and comprehensive debt reports. Yet, annual debt reports were last produced in 2012, and quarterly debt reports are not being published. Although global debt reporting guidelines recommend, and the current Loans and Guarantees Act requires that guarantees are reported regularly, they are not recorded along with the debt numbers."

Zambia's stock of external debt as at end of first quarter this year was around US \$9.4 billion, with the stock of domestic debt at K51.86 billion as at end June, 2018, while the country's domestic arrears in the first quarter of 2018 increased to K13.91 billion from K12.77 billion

due to a rise in arrears-related to roads construction.

The country's external debt stock has risen from only US \$1.6 billion in 2011 when the

PF assumed office, according to Ministry of Finance data.

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.

Workers' union rises against councils' extravagance

By Daniel Chansa

The Zambia United Local Authorities Workers' Union president Kingsley Zulu says some councils are diverting about 20 per cent of the local government equalization fund to buy flamboyant vehicles at the expense of service delivery to local communities.

Addressing a media briefing in Ndola, Monday, Zulu asked the Ministry of Local Government to start strictly monitoring of how the local government equalization fund was being used.

"The union wishes to register its disappointment in the manner some principle officers in local authorities are administering the offices of both the membership and the council at large. It is quite disappointing that instead of concentrating on service provision to the residents in local communities, some managers are flamboyantly competing on buying the latest vehicles on the market at the expense of service provision," Zulu said.

"The 20 percent component of the local government equalization fund meant for capital projects has been diverted in most cases to the procurement of these expensive vehicles for personal to holder vehicles for luxury purposes which is unfortunate.

These vehicles are purchased at a huge cost which, funds if properly and prudently utilized would improve service provision as opposed to benefiting a few individuals."

Zulu warned that the union would expose some managers who were infringing on the rights of the workers.

"We are going to expose managers who are infringing the rights of our members. The union has made great strides in ensuring timely disbursement of the local government equalization fund and for that, we want to commend the Minister of Local Government Vincent Mwale and his PS," he said.

"While government has put in austerity measures, some principle officers are galavanting all over the country. They have become local tourists and this tendency has resulted in councils being in huge expenses in these trips resulting in delay in provision of services. We demand that councils should set aside resources for salaries. That no mayor or council chairperson should drive official vehicles on personal errands, failure to which, our members will impound the vehicles. We want the minister to regulate and monitor the trips to save the little resources," said Zulu.

Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama
 Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist
 ...Only in **Diggers!**
 Ear to the ground

The Four Correct Reasons Why We Go To School

By Simon Sakala (Guest Columnist)

In the previous articles, I shared my career story and some important lessons I learned along the way. The climax of all the lessons was the realization of the four right reasons why we go to school.

I acquired all my formal education, that is, primary and tertiary education, in Zambia. I have a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Zambia. However, due to the circumstances I found myself in, I ended up doing work that is different from that I was trained for at college and in a language I never learnt at school, and a country and culture different from the ones in which I went to school. Everything suddenly changed except for one thing, my education. In retrospect, the education I had acquired had prepared me for the changes, only that I had not realized it until much later. Had I realized that I had the necessary education but only that I had to think about how I could apply it under the then prevailing circumstances, I was not going to go through the stress and frustration I did as I was searching for something “right” to do. I was stuck because I did not know the four right reasons why we go to school. Thankfully, now I know them and I am going to discuss them in this article.

I think it is now even more important than ever for younger generations to understand the right reasons why they go to school. This is so because, in the near future, they are bound to find themselves in circumstances very different from what they think they are ready for. It will not necessarily be as a result of them moving to a different country like I did, but rather as a result of change coming to their country and community. The rate at which business models and whole businesses, for instance, are changing is alarming. This means that at one time in the future, may be soon, knowledge that is being acquired will substantially change in its application, if it does not become obsolete altogether. This possibility makes it necessary for the young to undergo an education that will endure. An education that endures is that which provides the right mindset and skills that remain relevant despite rapid change. It is an education that will produce graduates that will create jobs rather than look for jobs, because most jobs will be taken up by technology or will simply disappear. British author, speaker and international advisor on education, Sir Ken Robinson, said and I quote, “We have to go from what is essentially an industrial model of education, a manufacturing model,

which is based on linearity and conformity and batching people. We have to move to a model that is based more on principles of agriculture. We have to recognize that human flourishing is not a mechanical process; it’s an organic process. And you cannot predict the outcome of human development. All you can do, like a farmer, is create the conditions under which they will begin to flourish.”

I entered the education profession as an outsider. That is, I was not schooled in the school of education, but rather in the school of engineering. My background made me start questioning a lot of conventional methods, practices and wisdom in the school of education. In engineering design, things are looked at first from the first principles and empirical analysis. I brought this approach in education. For instance, when I started teaching English, I noticed that it was, and still is, common practice to make children memorize English words, expressions and grammar rules. The problem I had with this approach was that it was not helping children to speak English. In my search to find a solution, I resorted to the first principles and empirical evidence. I asked the simple question, “How did I learn my mother tongue?” and “How do children acquire language?” The answers to these questions helped me develop an effective approach to teaching not only English but other subjects to children.

Raising the bar, I asked myself the question, “Why do we go to school, anyway?” I also tried to ask the question to a number of children starting with my own. Here are some of the answers I got,

- “We go to school to learn so that we get a job”
- “We go to school because everybody goes to school”
- “We go to school because our parents sent us to school”
- “We go to school because we need to learn about life”
- “We go to school to learn skills”

Dear reader, what is your answer to the question? After considering all that education has been able to achieve, I came up with a list of the four correct reasons why we go to school. Below are the summaries of each reason.

1. We go to school to learn about how to stay alive and healthy. In biology and chemistry, we learn about our bodies, how they function and what substances are good and what are harmful if ingested or inhaled. We learn about plants and how useful they are as a source of food, medicines, oxygen and shelter and how they help the environment. In environmental sciences, we learn about

how to conserve our environment. We learn about chemical substances that can be used to cure diseases.

2. We go to school to learn economics, that is, how to generate, preserve and manage resources. In first grade we learn arithmetic so that we can know how to deal with quantities of resources. As we progress, we learn other advanced subjects that help us understand how resources flow and are consumed and the consequences thereof.

3. We go to school to learn about leadership or people skills. We learn history, geography, civics and so on to learn about people, where they live, how they live and the activities they do. We learn about who a good or bad leader is and the results of their respective leadership styles. We also learn that nothing happens except people cause it to happen.

4. We go to school to learn about how to make our lives more convenient and more effective, that is, how to innovate. We learn physics and other subjects to help us understand physical processes and energy and how that can be used to our benefit.

In my view, an education that emphasizes the right purposes for learning has the potential to stimulate the curious minds of young learners to become solution oriented. A purpose driven education can create responsible business and political leaders.

I would like to suggest that if the four right reasons why we go to school were incessantly emphasized and were printed on posters and the posters were hung in every classroom, staffroom and office, they are bound to create innovative mindsets in learners and workers. The revolution of the work place and in political leadership should start by pre-framing the mind of the first grader, not only by teaching them the right reasons for going to school, but also by structuring all teaching methods in such a way that the children can immediately relate what they are learning to a practical purpose for learning.

I hope you found something useful in my articles. I am really grateful to Chibamba Kanyama and the Diggers News for giving me this opportunity to share part of what is in my heart. I was already hinted that I am going to have another opportunity in the near future and I look forward to that. Simon Sakala is founder and Owner of Oasis English Schools and Tako Education and Education Business Solutions (TEEBs), both based in Sagamiyara, Kanagawa, Japan.

By Mirriam Chabala

Young African Leaders Initiative president Andrew Ntewewe says citizens must give government a benefit of doubt on the barring of Kenyan Law professor Patrick Lumumba from entering the country.

In an interview, Ntewewe said government was privy to certain information which could have informed its decision.

“As Young African Leaders Initiative, we want to put it on record that from the citizens point of view, you want to think that it’s regrettable that Prof Lumumba was denied entry. It’s regrettable because you want to see even people with divergent views come in the country and express themselves. We would have wanted to hear from him the merits and demerits of what he has been talking about in

Give govt benefit of doubt on barring of Lumumba – YALI

terms of Chinese investment on the African Continent and Zambia in particular. But at the same time, it’s very important to indicate that as much as that is the case, you want to give government the benefit of doubt in terms of why they could have denied him entry. And why we want to give government a benefit of doubt is that they have a right to determine who comes in and who does not come in the country. And there could several reasons that would actually cause a country or State not to allow someone entry into the country,”

Ntewewe said.

“So it’s our belief really that we can give government a benefit of doubt that they know much more than we do. I know that ultimately there could be a lot of people who would say ‘but why is government stopping people from coming’ but in reality, there are a lot of citizens of the world out there who have been denied entry into the country where we may not even have the privilege to actually know to say this is the decision that has been made. But because Prof Lumumba is known that’s why the information

has just out very quickly to say he has been denied entry. But also there are Zambians citizens who have been denied entry in other countries. And those countries do not have an obligation to indicate the reasons as to why they denied someone entry. So for us from the YALI point of view, we want to give the benefit of doubt to government because probably they know much more than what we may know.”

Ntewewe, however, said it would have been better if government had communicated its

reservations with Eden University, which invited Lumumba.

“Secondly we would like to call for the bridging of the information gap because we think that the Zambian government was aware that Prof Lumumba had been invited by Eden University. So given the fact that they were aware, probably the communication between government as well as Eden University could have been on top of the game so that we don’t have a situation where this University spends a lot of money and they get

money from participants and then government makes that decision. So maybe that communication can be improved but ultimately the truth of the matter is that government has the right and truthfully speaking, we may not have and we are not privy to all the information. And the way the State operates is that sometimes they may not give you that information as to why they have actually done it. But ultimately they have to protect the livelihood of the people of Zambia. Imagine for arguments sake if government allows someone to come into the country and then something goes completely wrong, who is going to be held accountable? it’s the State who will be held accountable. So at this particular time I think we can give government the benefit of doubt,” said Ntewewe.

When a nation gets to a point where it's not only what citizens say that has to be censored, but also what they must hear, then you know that your country has hit rock-bottom. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Zambia; when we think there is nothing worse that can happen, we are proved wrong. There is no rock-bottom for us to hit, ours is a country falling in an abyss.

What happened to Kenya's anti-corruption hero Professor Patrick Lumumba last Saturday was a bizarre demonstration by an insecure nation. Indeed, like Professor Patrick Lumumba has aptly put it, he was denied entry into the country because Zambia was a security risk to him and not the other way round. A man armed only with shared ideas and opinions cannot be a security risk to any nation, but countries like Zambia pose a great threat to their security.

Let's try to be magnanimous and believe government's explanation that the Immigration Department, working with other security wings across the borders, found that Professor Lumumba's trip to Zambia had the potential to cause a breach of national security. Is this the way to humiliate a celebrated African

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Can't Kaunda help?

think tank? Unless the government informs us that this man was bearing arms when he arrived on that plane, we don't see how he can be chased like Zodwa Wabantu from Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

In our view, and in respect to the cordial relations we hold with Kenya, Professor Lumumba should have been allowed to disembark from the plane, interviewed by the security wings and if necessary, he could have been guided on what he could and could not do while in Zambia. We say this because the events that Professor Lumumba was scheduled to attend were not organized in secrecy. The institutions that invited him published adverts, stating exactly what he was coming to do in Zambia. The system knew that this man was coming, but they did not engage the organisers of the

events to say that, 'this man you are inviting is a persona non-grata to Zambia.' Why?

The trouble with bundling Professor Lumumba, Zimbabwe's Tendai Biti, South Africa's Mmusi Maimane and a stripper called Zodwa Wabantu in the same cluster where they can all be rejected without a clear explanation is that it sends fear to communities that wish to organize international events in this country. They will never know who will be allowed entry into Zambia and they wouldn't want to waste money. Instead, these organisations will opt to take prestigious and lucrative events to our neighbouring countries. In the end, this denies us tourism revenue and much-needed foreign exchange earnings.

Let us not forget that, as a country, we have been charged with a responsibility of hosting

the 2022 African Union Summit for Heads of State. Along with such events comes bilateral and multilateral trade partnerships, as well as investment opportunities in various sectors. In January, some international delegates of a socialist movement, who were invited from abroad were sent back at the airport – no reasons advanced. What image are we building for our country? Is it safe to travel to Zambia for any business? Between Professor Lumumba and Congolese dealer Moses Katumbi, who can pose a national security risk?

Chinese are building illegal military camps in our own country and drilling our poor citizens as militias; handling deadly weapons and firearms, but we don't consider any of them a security risk when they are arriving in Zambia. What we consider a security risk is the person who comes to

wake us up, to warn us to be careful with Chinese business influence. Are we normal? It's utter stupidity – to borrow the language of enraged Professor Lumumba. Indeed, we are a stupid nation!

But this begs an answer to the question: can't Dr Kenneth Kaunda be useful in this situation? Clearly, our President needs help. He needs real advisors who can pump sense into him, not advisors whom he advises himself. That is why we ask, where is the father of the nation in the face of this?

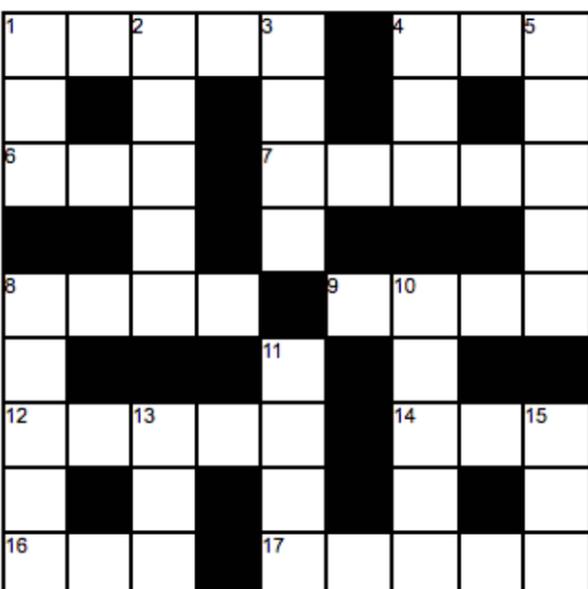
We don't want to believe that he is too tired to engage himself in national service because we see him every other week officiating at insignificant events; sometimes as useless as people's birthdays. Why can't president Kaunda use that energy to engage President Lungu and tell him that he is taking the country astray? We will ignore president Rupiah

Banda because he is the top beneficiary of this regime, which is keeping him out of prison.

Our interest is Dr Kaunda whom we regard as a true statesman and patriot committed to Pan-Africanism; is he happy with the state of affairs in Zambia? If not, why is he silent? We want to see press statements coming from the Office of the First Republican President announcing that the founding father met with President Edgar Lungu to discuss ABCD issues of national interest. At that point we can say, "everyone has tried to help our President, but he doesn't want to listen."

Dear readers and fellow citizens, we only have one Zambia. In order to recover, we need to first find a bottom, hit it and then start to rise. Even if our President is "Chagwa", we can't be on this free-fall forever. It must pain us to see our Republican Flag, Coat of Arms being soiled and disgraced in the hands of crooked people, mocking our national dignity like Roman soldiers gambling with Jesus' clothes after crucifixion. Wake up Zambia!

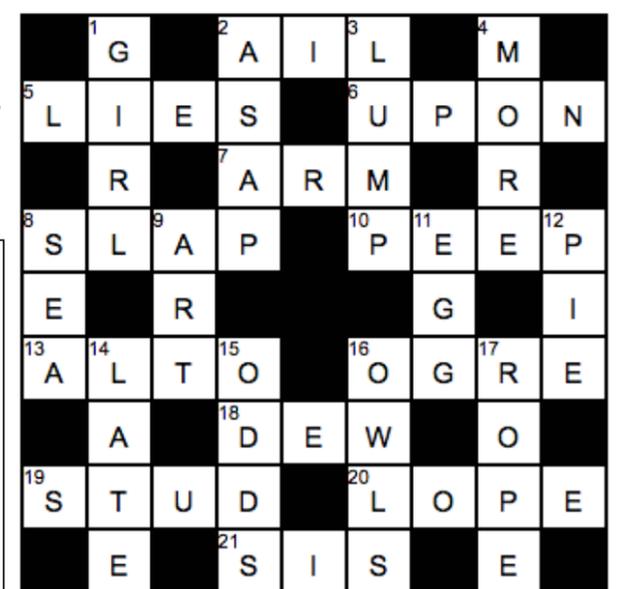
Crossword puzzle 199



"Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men."
- John Adams

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|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outdo 4. Aardvark snack 6. Custodian's tool 7. Regarding 8. A bit extra 9. Left after cut heals 12. Cross the goal line 14. Family's animal 16. Portable bed 17. Position detector | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of cat 2. Bunk option 3. DVD remote button 4. Much ___ About Nothing 5. Private instructor 8. Songs for example 10. Like many superheroes 11. Doe or fawn 13. Not in 15. Sticky black substance |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 198



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

ND's OPINION: PF fighting its own manifesto

Editor,

"News Diggers! On point again. Apparently, it's the MMD in PF fighting the manifesto that dislodged them from

power in 2011." - PoliCritic Lungu

There is no enemy so potent as the one fighting from within. Dora Siliya, Margaret Mwanakatwe, Felix Mutati, Joseph Malanji, Matthew Nkuwa, Vincent Mwale, etc are all MMD blues turned green and busy adulterating the original PF manifesto.



"I am personally not surprised that the entire PF that Michael C Sata created has deserted him in death. His own son and nephew have ditched his ideas. Dr Guy L Scott has been made to look like a fool on many occasions, even mocked in some instances. For this reason, I forgive our White and Indian Zambians for shunning our politics where you have to play second fiddle to whoever is leading the political party, even when they are leading it into hell fire as Mr Lungu is doing with the PF." - Christopher Kalima

"This was noted by the likes of Harry Kalaba and resigned, but still, people are accusing Kalaba that he was also to blame!! I don't know what else he should have done than that?? This is the MMD in-making; no argument!!!" - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"The weakest link is Edgar Lungu. Since he has no vision, his only plan is to ensure how he can remain president no matter what." - Gregory Zaza

"It is in an African context that we very often assume that leadership can be inherited when in fact that is far from the truth. No wonder so many businesses fail after the demise of those with the vision." - Greg Kalaluka

Chitotela's rubbishing of foreign media reports that govt selling off assets

Editor,
"Corruption not sticking, how? When donors are stopping one by one to fund, when are you going to accept and change your attitude, PF leadership? You have no heart for poor Zambians and it's unfortunate the poor are still accepting your false hoods. But before 2021, they will know what is wrong, and surely, no matter how much you will make plans to steal elections, you will not manage." - Blessings Blessings

"If the corruption tag is not sticking, why did Britain

and other donors freeze aid to Zambia?? Why are our leaders living in denial?? Is it because the led are docile??" - Michael Sandala

"For Chitotela, corruption will only be seen to him when the Chinese start pulling out assets. Because they do not donate funds like these other donors, but buildings." - Justin Mwila

"As the saying goes: 'you can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time. But you can't fool of all the people all of the time.'" - Mike Colinese

Kalaba's view that Zambians have allowed mediocrity for too long

Editor,

"Harry Kalaba is absolutely right and I support him fully; can't wait for someone to take out evil PF into oblivion." - Mutinta Mulonda

"Hon Kalaba is right; it won't be removing, but uprooting - no roots remaining." - John Chibiya Sahando

"Kalaba may be saying the truth now. But after ignoring the truth for so long, we stopped listening!" - Lubasi Lubasi

"Please, you people in PF, understand Kalaba's advice; a normal person is now seeing how the country is being looted out of the wealth in some ministries E.g. Health, Education and Transport." - Gilbert Mulena

"It's really difficult to believe what the Honourable MP is saying, especially that at one point he even told off Dr Guy Scott on TV for not supporting them." - Albert Jean Sipiya

"When did this mediocrity start? When you left PF? Are you not among those who brought this suffering?" - Poza Nom

"Correct Message. Wrong Messenger." - David Phiri

Iran fires missiles at Syria 'terrorists' after deadly attack

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Monday they launched a missile strike against a "terrorist" headquarters in Syria in retaliation for an attack that killed 24 people in the Iranian city of Ahvaz.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had vowed a "crushing" response to last month's assault -- claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group -- on a military parade commemorating the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"The headquarters of those responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz was attacked a few minutes ago east of the Euphrates by several ballistic missiles fired by the aerospace branch of the Revolutionary Guards," the Guards said on their website.

"Based on preliminary reports, many takfiri terrorists and the leaders responsible for the terrorist crime in Ahvaz have been killed or wounded in this missile attack," they added. The term "takfiri" refers to Sunni Muslim extremists.

The Guards released pictures of what appeared to be missiles lighting up the night sky, leaving trails of smoke as they soared above a desert region with a rugged mountain in the background. Iran's Fars news agency said the Guards fired "a number of medium-range" Zolfaghar and Qiam missiles, with a range of 750 kilometres and 800 kilometres (465 and 500 miles), respectively.

The agency said the missiles hit the Syrian desert border town of Albu Kamal on the west of the Euphrates River, in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor.

"On at least one of the missiles was written 'death to America', 'death to Israel' and 'death to Al Saud,'" it said, a reference to the ruling family in Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, "heavy explosions took place at dawn (Monday) in the last pocket under IS control near Albu Kamal".

Albu Kamal itself, located on the border with Iraq, is held by regime forces and allied regional militiamen who

seized it from IS in 2007.

Twenty-four people were shot dead in the attack by five gunmen on a military parade in the mainly ethnic Arab city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran on September 22.

Ahvaz is the provincial capital of Khuzestan, a border

region which was a major battleground of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and which also saw ethnic unrest in 2005 and 2011.

Iranian officials initially blamed Arab separatists backed by Gulf Arab allies of the United States for the

attack.

But on Monday supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appeared to link the perpetrators to jihadists operating in Iraq and Syria, where IS once had major strongholds.

"This cowardly act was the

work of those very individuals who are rescued by the Americans whenever they are in trouble in Iraq and Syria and who are funded by the Saudis and the (United) Arab Emirates," Khamenei was quoted by his official website as saying.

The next day Iran's intelligence ministry published photos of five men it said carried out the Ahvaz assault, identifying them as "jihadist separatists".

IS, a Sunni Muslim extremist group which Iran and its Damascus allies are fighting in Syria, has claimed responsibility for the attack and said all five assailants were Iranian, including four from Ahvaz.

It also threatened to carry out new attacks in Iran.

IS had already claimed responsibility for twin attacks in June 2017 on the parliament and the tomb of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran that killed 17 people.

After that assault the Guards said they had fired missiles into Syria that had successfully hit IS targets. *AFP*



Search and rescue workers evacuate an earthquake and tsunami survivor trapped in a collapsed restaurant in Palu, Central Sulawesi [Antara Foto/Muhammad Adimaja/ via Reuters]

The UN special adviser on prevention of genocide has called for immediate investigations into a wave of killings in Cameroon's English-speaking regions. Adama Dieng described the atrocities being committed in the country as "concerning" and said both sides of the conflict should "sit around the table and dialogue to end the conflict".

"The crimes committed by both parties need to be properly and independently investigated and perpetrators of those crimes need to be brought urgently to justice so that people know that no-one is above the law - that all Cameroonians are equal," he said.

Top UN adviser calls for Cameroon investigation

Groups calling for independence of the region they call Ambazonia have been staging attacks against government forces, which have responded with what has been condemned as a brutal crackdown.

The separatists are riding on long-held complaints by residents of the South-West and North-West region over what they see as marginalisation by the

French-speaking majority. They say they are forced to use French in schools and courts.

Both sides have been accused of kidnappings, extra-judicial killings and the burning of villages.

"My worry is that we still have many people being killed, so far more than 400 people. We have seen atrocious crimes being committed. We need to have

political dialogue but also demand for justice," he told me.

Cameroon government forces have also been accused of human rights crimes against civilians in their fight against Islamist militant group Boko Haram in the far north of the country.

Recently, a BBC investigative report analysed a horrifying video that showed two women and children being blindfolded and shot multiple times by Cameroonian soldiers.

The Cameroon government has since arrested some of the soldiers shown in the video despite initially dismissing the footage, which was widely shared on social media.

Mr Dieng also defended the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) after US President Donald Trump made scathing attacks against the Hague-based court, saying it lacked legitimacy and jurisdiction. Some African countries have

also threatened to withdraw from the Rome Statute that set up the institution.

"It is very unfortunate that there is today this perception that the ICC is selective. That's not true," Mr Dieng said.

He said the court was an important deterrent to war crimes being committed in the world.

"History has shown that the ICC is an independent court governed by the law. We saw the case against Kenya's current President Uhuru Kenyatta being closed, and we also saw what happened with the case of [ex-Democratic Republic of Congo warlord] Jean-Pierre Bemba, who on appeal was also acquitted."

"I supported African leaders when they said they wanted to have their own court, but since they adopted the protocol to set it up, how many Africa states have ratified the protocol? Not more than five. It's very unfortunate," he added. *BBC*

Bobi Wine treason case adjourned to December

The treason case against Ugandan lawmaker and musician, Robert Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine, and 34 of his co-accused has been adjourned to 3 December.

The government told the Magistrate's Court in northern Gulu that it needed more time to conclude its investigations before the trial can begin.

The accused were arrested following a by-election campaign in the northern town of Arua in August and

are alleged to have stoned President Yoweri Museveni's convoy. They deny the charges.

Treason charges have been brought against Mr Museveni's political opponents in the past but the cases either drag on in court or the charges are eventually dropped.

At the last hearing in August, there were 33 people charged in this case but since then two more of Bobi Wine's associates have been added to the charge sheet, making a total of 35 people. *BBC*

While the Barcelona star has remained tight-lipped on his future, the Argentinian legend believes the country cannot ask anything more of him

Argentina legend Diego Maradona has advised Lionel Messi to make his retirement from international football permanent as the uncertainty continues over the star's future with the Albiceleste.

Messi and Argentina suffered a mediocre World Cup campaign, crashing out in the last-16 after a tournament plagued with internal conflicts and sub-standard performances.

The exit cost coach Jorge Sampaoli his job, while Messi has not been included in the two squads subsequently selected by interim boss Lionel Scaloni.

And while the Barcelona star has refused to confirm his international future, his former Argentina boss believes he should not return.

"What would I tell Messi? To not come back any more. To retire," the current Dorados coach told Clarin on Sunday.

"The Under-15s lose and it is Messi's fault, the fixture list in Argentina puts Racing against Boca and Messi is to blame. He is always to blame.

Stop breaking my balls.

"I would tell him: 'don't go anymore, man. Let's see if they can handle that. Let's see if they're really big men.

"I would have liked to see him tell us all to f**k off. Because he is not to blame for us not being world champions. Fine, we all placed our hopes in him, but when you go to the racetrack you hope your horse wins and he comes in eighth.

"In Formula One Vettel has a great engine and Hamilton beats him. Right now the national team doesn't do anything for me or for the people. We have lost that. The passion. It cannot play against Nicaragua or Malta, no, brother. We are throwing all the prestige we earned down the toilet."

When questioned over who he would like to see succeed Sampaoli, Maradona backed

Messi should not play for Argentina again - Maradona

1978 World Cup winner Cesar Luis Menotti, now 79 years old.

And he was particularly scathing when asked about Scaloni's decision to leave the No. 10 jersey vacant while Messi weighs up his future.

"[Scaloni] is an idiot. He seems like an idiot. Because if I went and gave the 10 to Messi, Messi should give it to the next 10. It's ridiculous, it gets me angry," he fired.

"Scaloni is a great kid but he can't even manage traffic.

How can we give the national team to Scaloni?! With everyone who has passed through that team, who got their teeth and heads broken, you're going to put Scaloni in?

"Now Scaloni says 'I am prepared'. I've never even seen you score for Argentina.

No offence. As a person, let's go and share a barbecue. But as a coach and in the national team, no." goal.com



Russia's World Cup hero Akinfeev 32 retires after 15 years with the national side, playing 111 times for his country. Supersport

'You want me dead?!' - Pogba declines interviews as Mourinho rift continues

As speculation over a breakdown in his relationship with the manager continues, the midfielder passed up the chance to speak to the media Paul Pogba has added fuel to the fire of his rapidly disintegrating relationship with Jose Mourinho by turning down interviews in the wake of Manchester United's latest defeat with a four-word reply: "You want me dead?"

A 3-1 loss at West Ham on Saturday means United have taken 10 points from

their first seven games of the season, recording their joint worst start to a Premier League season, equalling the beginning of the ill-fated David Moyes era.

Pogba was replaced by Mourinho during the second half at the London Stadium to wrap up a week of controversy involving the pair, who were seemingly involved in a training ground confrontation on Wednesday.

That came after Mourinho's men were dumped out of

the Carabao Cup by Frank Lampard's Derby County at home and while the Portuguese denied a row with Pogba, he has stripped the France star of the vice-captaincy.

After a 2-1 home win against Leicester City on the first weekend of the season, Pogba indicated in post-match interviews that he could not speak his mind for fear of being fined by the club.

But Pogba did not hold back in his apparent criticism of United's tactics in a tame

draw against Wolves at Old Trafford, saying the team should "attack, attack, attack" at home in what was widely regarded as a barb at Mourinho's gameplan.

Saturday's loss at West Ham represented a new nadir for the Mourinho era and while Pogba turned down the chance to criticise the result, he once again intimated he is unsettled at United.

Asked by reporters to stop in the post-match mixed zone, Pogba replied: "You want me dead?"

Pogba has been linked with a January move to Barcelona, while Juventus are also reportedly interested in buying the World Cup winner, who became football's most expensive player when he left the Serie A giants to return to United in August 2016.

Mourinho's long-term future at the club is also heavily in doubt, with reports suggesting former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is being lined up as his successor. goal.com

Chambeshi plots Power fall

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkana coach Bestone Chambeshi has noted the need to intensify Barclays Cup semi final preparations as he looks forward to play Power Dynamos on 20th October. Chambeshi said there should be no room for relaxation adding that all teams involved had unbelievable talent and determination. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Chambeshi outlined his concerns about other teams that were still competing in the tournament. "Teams are playing good football and there should be no room to relax just because we are second in the super league. We all saw how well Young Green Buffaloes played against ZANACO and Mighty Mfulira Wanderers against Power Dynamos. They are both division one teams with super league experience. My boys and I should train harder and harder for the semi final against Power," said Chambeshi. Meanwhile, Power Dynamos coach Kelvin Kaindu

kept in mind the ball was round and that any result was bound to happen despite training for a win. "Nothing will come easy in this tournament; we just have to fight for a win. It may be a win or loss especially that the odds do not favour anyone. Winning would mean our training has yielded a positive result but I also have to keep in mind the result can favour the other team too," said Kaindu. Meanwhile, soccer analyst Victor Mwiinga applauded Nkana for a colourful and professional kind of play in the quarter finals of the Cup. "Nkana has a great side and one wonders how they picked up late in the super league. They would have been the ones to win the league title. Its players are in good shape and just their way of play is absolutely amazing. If they continue like this, them winning the Barclays Cup will not be a surprise," noted Mwiinga. Nkana will play against Power Dynamos while Young Green Buffaloes will face Green Buffaloes in the semi finals of the tournament on 20th October.

Qatar's beIN demands \$1 bln compensation for Saudi 'piracy'

Qatari pay-TV provider beIN on Monday launched a \$1-billion compensation claim against Saudi broadcasters it accuses of "flagrantly breaching international law" by illegally showing hundreds of live sports programmes. At the same time the state of Qatar also launched an action at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, accusing the kingdom of violating intellectual property rights. Both moves were announced in statements from the Doha-based sports broadcasting giant and Qatar's ministry of economy and commerce, though it is unclear yet where the compensation claim will be heard. It is the latest escalation in a long-running dispute over illegal broadcasts fuelled by a bitter and ongoing diplomatic crisis between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. AFP

By Alex Chilumbwe

Six Zambian basketball clubs yesterday Sunday, took a Malawi hosted basketball tournament called Brave Hearts International Basketball Challenge by storm when all of them played their ways to semi finals in Lilongwe. Matero Magic, UNZA Pacers, Munali Suns and Hawks represented the country in the masculine category while Magic Sparks and UNZA Honey represented the feminine one. Other participating countries that had three clubs each were Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Matero Magic emerged winners after an expected final against their super league challengers, UNZA Pacers while Munali Suns was third and Hawks fourth. In the feminine category, Magic Sparks was second while Honeys came out third. Matero Magic's Sylvester Mufungeni was the final's Most Valuable Player (MVP) while Paul Kashishi of Pacers and Augustine Kainda of Magic were chosen in the All Stars team in the masculine category. Dorcus Marondera of Honeys and Precious Bwali of Sparks were also chosen in the All Stars team in the feminine category. The Men's final was officiated by an international FIBA referee from Zimbabwe alongside

ZBA CLUBS DOMINATE IN MALAWI

Zambia's Trustone Botha. Botha had been frequenting international basketball duties as referee and has officiated in South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Malawi. He shared his experiences in an interview with Goal Diggers! "Every game whether in our local super league or

international tournament is a learning opportunity for me. There is not a time I feel I have reached a desired standard and I believe that helps me improve. I do all the FIBA referees' clinics and learn more. The experiences gathered at the end of the day give me recognition to other

countries," Botha said. Querried on his refereeing aspirations, the overwrapping referee set the bar high and expressed optimism he would reach it. "I think I would be glad to officiate at the African National Basketball Association level. I know I can reach there. There

you meet and guide all the biggest basketball stars on the continent. You know they are all playing to your whistle and it can be a great feeling. I cannot wait to reach that level," said Botha. Botha's improvement in officiating had been a quick one as he had been a NAPSA Hurricanes most

defensive player for two years in the Zambian B league and Super league. His Malawi final was a second straight one he officiated while the first one was in Swaziland earlier this year. In the local league, Botha is always at the helm of all the big games alongside Billi Eustus.

Juventus president wants fresh faces after CEO Marotta's exit

Juventus president Andrea Agnelli said Monday that a younger wave of management will take over the Italian champions after the surprise exit of chief executive Giuseppe Marotta. CEO Marotta, 61, revealed that the club "made the decision" for him to step down after eight successful years in Turin. "The leadership will go to young and prepared people, we want to remain among the big names in Europe," Agnelli, 42, told a press conference. "The management model of Juventus remains substantially unchanged .. based on three pillars: sport, revenues and services." Marotta had been one of the architects of the club's recent successes with seven Serie A titles, four Italian Cups and two runners-up finishes in the Champions League. "I think it's a bit much to say I was kicked out. I simply have to follow the decision of Juventus," Marotta told radio show 90 Minuto. "I am a company man, I understand, and therefore it is only right that other people step forward." AFP

PUBLIC DISCUSSION FORUM (2)

News Diggers in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) is cordially inviting governance stakeholders, Members of Parliament, Civil Society Organisations, Church Leaders, Traditional Leaders journalist's and members of public to the second public discussion forum.

Topic: Donor Aid, how much does Zambia get and where does it go?

GUEST SPEAKERS



Mr Mukuli Chikuba
Ministry of Finance
Permanent Secretary



Mr Chola Chabala
Ministry of National
Development Planning
Permanent Secretary

VENUE: CHRISMAR HOTEL

DATE: WED, 3RD OCTOBER 2018 | TIME: 18:00 HOURS | CHARGES: FREE!!

