



FUEL UP TO K17

Where is "Cheap Saudi Oil?"



Motorists in panic buying following the announcement of fuel price hike yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala. See story on page 2

Prof Lumumba a disgrace to educated people – Phiri

By Abraham Kalito
PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says Kenyan law professor Patrick Lumumba is a disgrace to educated people because whilst claiming to be an intellectual, he plagiarised someone else's academic work last year. To page 7

Debt repayment may go upto 2038 – Maggy

By Abraham Kalito
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says allegations of asset takeovers by the Chinese should be treated as "hogwash," but added that external debt repayments may go as far as 2038.

And Ernst and Young tax partner Patrick Mawire has warned that the introduction of the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) as an industry regulator will cause conflict with the authority's role as a tax collector, prejudice taxpayers and subsequently make sales tax 10 times more difficult to administer compared to Value Added Tax (VAT). To page 3

Lungu urges citizens to venture into fish farming business

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I'm still in good books with UPND – Gary

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says if the party had forced him to resign from his position as parliamentary whip because he was under investigation for murder, he would not be chairperson for elections. And Nkombo says Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe should have told the nation how the 2018 national budget performed before presenting next year's financial plan. To page 5



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema interacts with traders in the Lusaka Central Business District yesterday - Picture by Brian Mwiinga

Magistrate seeks to be tried by higher court in theft case

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HH warns Sunday; you'll run from this country when PF is kicked out

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Fuel price hike sparks public outrage, panic buying

By Joseph Mwenda

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has hiked the fuel pump prices effective Tuesday, October 2nd evening, citing international market prices and the falling Kwacha. But the public has expressed outrage at the development, with some citizens asking the whereabouts of the much talked about "Cheap Saudi Oil" which government announced. Meanwhile, former chief government spokesperson Chishimba Kambwili says "this is the beginning of the PF's end". In a statement, ERB board chairman Raymond Mpundu announced that the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene had been adjusted by K2.31, K2.64 and K2.49 per litre, effectively making low sulphur diesel the most expensive at about K17 per litre. Mpundu hastened that the increment was long overdue, adding that the imported Saudi Arabia fuel only lasted 13 days for petrol and six days petrol. "The Energy Regulation Board has reviewed the current petroleum feedstock cargo together with the finished products component of the consignment, and determined that there would be an upward adjustment in prices per litre by K2.31 for Petrol, K2.64 for Diesel and K2.49 for Kerosene, due to changes in the fundamentals that determine fuel prices. The key drivers for this fuel price review are the international oil prices and the exchange rate of the Kwacha against the major trading currencies, especially the US Dollar," Mpundu stated. "During this price review period, the government imported the following consignments at a total cost of US\$169.07 million: 102,610 metric tonnes of crude petroleum feed stock cargo; 14,6899.56 m3 of petrol and 61,084.10 m3 of diesel as finished petroleum products; and 15,256.11 m3 of petrol and 15,151.52 m3 of diesel under the Saudi Arabia government to government deal. It should

be noted that the Saudi Arabia deal translates to about 13 days stock of petrol and about six days stock of the diesel for the Zambian market. It therefore had minimal impact on the general supply patterns and consequently the local prices of petroleum products." He noted that ERB had not increased the fuel price since February. "It should be noted that the last upward price review was on 12th February, 2018, despite subsequent cargos being assessed, there were no price adjustments on 9th April and 15th June, 2018 as the required adjustments were below the ERB set threshold of 2.5 per cent. Further, the 14th August 2018 price review could not be implemented as there was need to take into account the Saudi Arabia cargo which was to arrive separately... Further, since the last price adjustment, the Kwacha depreciated by K7.89 per cent from a monthly average of K9.89/US\$ in February to average of K10.67/US\$ in

September 2018. Due to the volatility of the Kwacha in the last two weeks of September 2018, the daily exchange rate averaged K12.50/US\$ implying a depreciation of 26.39 per cent since the last price adjustment in February 2018," stated Mpundu. And Kambwili condemned the move, saying this was what he meant when he said the PF government is composed of thieves. "When we have been saying that these people have been stealing with the Chinese, people have taken it lightly but now the effects have started showing. Do you know why the cost of fuel has gone up? It is because the Kwacha has lost value to the United States dollars. If you talk about the pound, you cannot even comprehend it. Right now we are spending a lot of forex every month to service our debt, secondly, we are spending a lot of dollars to pay Chinese contractors because all the jobs are given to the Chinese contractors and finally, these

Chinese are now doing even the small businesses like rearing chickens so a lot of money is externalised, as a result, there is no dollar on the market," he said. "Now because of this increase, all prices of commodities including food will go up and the end result is now poverty on the people. The externalisation of this money is now having a toll on the poor Zambians. This President is a failure and the end result is that every Zambian is going to suffer. Imagine a civil servant who gets about K3,000 a month, to go to work with a vehicle now is impossible because previously, one could put a K50 in the tank and it would take him to work and back maybe for two days but now, K50 is completely nothing, you can only get two litres. This is the beginning of the end of PF." He said Zambians must be careful when voting next time. "I have warned Zambians before that let's be careful the way we select Zambians

to be President because not every Jim and Jack can be President. We go and even bring a chokolwa to come and lead us, now this is the end result. But bad things are still coming. This is just the beginning because we don't have a government. It is now suffering for everybody. I feel sorry for the people in Kalingalinga, I feel sorry for the people in Chawama, I feel sorry for the people in Kanyama and for the people in Mporokoso because they are the ones who are going to feel the effect. Let me just tell the Zambians that the time for change is now and the time to put in leaders who care for the poor, leaders who know why they are in politics is now. And I can tell you that it is not long from now, I will come and wash this country, this country is too dirty and I will come and wash this country clean. Even all the chibuku and the Jamesons that will be left, I will come and clean everything so that people can breathe," said Kambwili.

Meanwhile, Chief government spokesperson Dora Siliya took a grilling as she tried to explain where the cheap Saudi Arabia oil had gone. This was after Mwebantu News Media twitted a picture of the Zambia Daily Mail newspaper headline "Cheap Saudi Oil in", to which the minister responded "For the record, the Saudi oil was only enough for 6 days". This attracted further outrage from twitter users who questioned the minister how US\$20 million worth of fuel imports could be exhausted in six days. "Yes, it was only 10 million litres petrol and 10 million litres diesel. Consumption is about 2 million litres for each per day," explained Siliya. "Mmmm boza, US\$20 million worth of fuel consumed in just 6 days? Dora, drink some water mwaana," argued Matakala Muyoba as Miss Bwalya added: "I don't remember that 6-day supply going down to K5.50 as promised by you people."

Zondiwe Mbewe

A suspended Lusaka magistrate, Maggie Tantameni Kunda has asked the court to refer her case to the Constitutional Court in order for it to determine whether she can be tried by a court of equal jurisdiction. In this matter, Tantameni is jointly charged with Felix Mkandawire a court interpreter, Francis Mphanza, a senior public prosecutor and Didie Kangwa a senior clerk of court with three counts of abuse of authority, removal of property under lawful seizure and stealing by persons in public service. In count one, it is alleged that Tantameni and Mphanza on November 8, last year,

Magistrate seeks to be tried by higher court in theft case

in Lusaka being persons employed in the public service as magistrate and senior public prosecutor respectively, jointly and whilst acting together, did use the position of their respective offices to obtain property, profit or benefit for themselves or another. In count two, it is alleged that Mkandawire, Mphanza and Kangwa on November

8, last year 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. The ephedrine was taken under the process of authority of the court of Tantameni. And in the third count, 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. The drug was valued at K1, 870,000 the property of Government of the Republic of Zambia which came into their possession by virtue of their employment. And when the matter came up for plea before a Chisamba based magistrate Susan Mangalashi, Tuesday, Tantameni, through her lawyer Prosper Muyatwa, submitted that the Constitutional Court should render its opinion on whether the principal resident magistrate Kenneth Mulife, who is the complainant in this matter on behalf of the Judiciary, can allocate the case to magistrate Mangalashi, who is also a magistrate like her. "This honourable court has similar authority as accused number three and for this court to try A3 on matters she dwelt with during the course of her duties as a magistrate will be a gross assault to the course of justice," he said.

Muyatwa said Mangalashi was not in a position to impartially and justiciably dispense justice to try Tantameni in the state she was in. He added that it was a serious misdirection because her immunity must first be lifted, which process he said must be moved by the prosecution pursuant to the correct section of the law and the court of competent jurisdiction because immunity was a Constitutional issue. "As it stands A3 is a constituted magistrate who only happens to be on suspension and Section 7 of the Sub Court Act applies to her in the sense that all magistrates exercise equal jurisdiction," he said. And Muyatwa said the case against his client should have been disposed off through a disciplinary process because it was embarrassing to prosecute a sitting magistrate. He hoped that the order to refer the case to the Constitutional Court could be granted so that the ends of justice could be secured. Meanwhile, the prosecution applied to have the case adjourned to enable them respond to the submissions. The matter has been adjourned to October 10, 2018.

ACC arrests Chirundu council secretary for corruptly employing son

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested a deputy council secretary in Chirundu for corruptly employing his son to be part of the poll staff during the 2016 general election without declaring interest. According to a statement issued by ACC public relations manager Timothy Moono, the suspect has been identified as Derick Chongo, aged 53, of Mulolo Compound in Chirundu. Moono stated that the suspect, in his capacity as part of the team constituted by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to recruit poll staff for the general elections, failed to

declare interest in writing and went ahead to employ his son. "Particulars of the offence are that in June, 2016, at Chirundu District, Southern Province of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Chongo, being a member of a panel constituted by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) to recruit poll staff for the 2016 Referendum and General elections, did fail to declare interest in writing to the said panel and participated in the recruitment process in which his son, Cedrick Mwenya, was an applicant," stated Moono. Moono stated that the suspect has since been released on bond and the matter is scheduled to appear before court so

By Abraham Kalito
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says allegations of asset takeovers by the Chinese should be treated as "hogwash," but added that external debt repayments will go as far as 2038. And Ernst and Young tax partner Patrick Mawire has

Debt repayment may go as far as 2038 - Maggie

warned that the introduction of the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) as an industry regulator will cause conflict with the authority's role as a tax collector,

prejudice taxpayers and subsequently make sales tax 10 times more difficult to administer compared to Value Added Tax (VAT). Speaking during an Ernst and

Young 2019 budget analysis breakfast meeting in Lusaka, Tuesday, Mwanakatwe said thinking about debt makes her "fail to sleep," but assured citizens that there will be

no Chinese asset take-over. "Three years ago, when we borrowed, it was zero. Zero plus three was okay, but now, three plus three it's done. That's what we are having to

deal with hence the pressure on our resources. Hence us saying, let's reduce the pace of accumulation. Let's also postpone some debts, let's cut some and cancel some. That's the area of debt. So, in looking at 2019, we will be able to manage that. How are we able to manage that? Revenue base extension is absolutely critical. We have seen that we need to apply our minds through that. The decision on sale tax was a tough one... So, when you hear that Zesco is now owned by the Chinese, [the] international airport is now owned by the Chinese, Zambia National Building Society (ZNBS) is now owned by the Chinese, that's hogwash because any Chinese debt, if it is by-passed as a sovereign guarantee, no sovereign guarantee," Mwanakatwe said. "The debt of Zesco, if you look at Kafue Lower Gorge, that's a Chinese debt, which has been put in a special purpose vehicle with no assets such as Zesco being put as collateral. So, it's impossible for that to happen. The same with international airports; we are still constructing. We haven't even gone into payment on the principle so how does someone come and take an asset from you that you are still constructing? ZNBC, again, special purpose vehicle, whose assets have not been attached. So, you can see the things that are making me stay awake at night. They keep me awake. So, as you go out, just treat these things as hogwash! We have looked into this and we have actually gone up to 2038 in terms profiling into the future so that we can see where there are traps and have a steady flow of how and when we can pay the debt. We have gone up to when we are likely to finishing paying debts so that we can see where there are rifts." Meanwhile, Mawire warned that the introduction of the ZRA as an industry regulator would cause conflict with the authority's role as tax collector. "We have seen how difficult it was to administer VAT; sales tax will then be ten times more difficult to administer! There will be more trouble to determine how to go about it. The only concern that we have there is that, currently, my dear colleagues from the ZRA will confirm, there is no separation between criminal investigations and ZRA and normal audits. That means that, for example, if I am a director, I'm responding to queries from the ZRA audit, it could well end in criminal investigations," said Mawire.



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Sales tax will ensure Zambians reap maximum benefits from mines – AMSC

By Abraham Kalito

The Association of Mine Suppliers and Contractors (AMSC) says the 2019 budget is a progressive document which will ensure that citizens benefit from the extractive industry through policy changes pronounced. In a statement, Association president Augustine Mubanga expressed joy at the upward adjustment to the mineral royalty tax, transfer pricing and the introduction of sales tax.

“We take note with happiness the changes to the mineral royalty tax by increasing 1.5% on each sliding band and the 10% rate that will trigger at \$7,500 and above. These changes will ensure that benefit in terms of tax collection is derived and ensure that the people of Zambia benefit from their resources. Most notably is the increase from 5% to 8% of Cobalt MRT. However, we think that Govt could have done more on this tax, considering the fact that cobalt MRT has not changed in a long time, a fair adjustment of 10 15% was going to ensure that maximum revenue collection is achieved. We would like to urge the Mining Houses to support this move especially that in the last 3-4years Government had ensured that the sector stabilizes from world economic stress of 2008, 2014 and 2015 By maintaining a constant tax regime. We hope that The Mine Houses will not use this increase as an excuse to deny Zambians business,” he stated. “We further encourage these mine houses to even do more in supporting local suppliers and contractors to access even more opportunities. We note with great interest the intention by the Hon Minister to consider bringing the act to parliament for amendment. We have advocated for reforms in the mining sector as opposed to Nationalization. We feel that reforms such as mandatory listing of the Mines at LUSE will provide an opportunity to Zambians to own shares and participate directly into the running of the Mines, and also Govt can take advantage and increase its shareholding through ZCCM IH.” He proposed that government regulates procurements in mining sector so that 40% was given to local Zambian owned supplier and contracting

companies as a measure to increase revenue collection. “We further propose that a regulated 40% of procurements in mining sector is given to local Zambian owned supplier and contracting companies. The mining sector spend between US\$3billion to US\$4.55billion annually this includes CAPEX, If 40% is captured it will increase economic activities thereby increase contribution to

the GDP and employment. The Mines have taken advantage of this gap to procure 80-90% of goods and services from outside. The marginalization of the mines embarked on, on local companies denied business to them intentionally, this behavior can be restrained by putting up stringent laws that should protect the local suppliers and contractors. The measure taken of increasing the penalty

fee for transfer pricing to K24million is a welcome and commendable move, but we must be aware of the fact that prosecuting incidences of Transfer Pricing Crimes are very difficult. The Association proposes that all selling contracts of copper should be done here in Zambia,” stated Mubanga. “ZRA must be a witness to these agreements and registered with both 302

and ZRA, this can help ZRA and 302 forecast revenue well. Further all contracts of sale of Copper that have been done outside the country must still be registered locally. This can promote transparency and reduce suspicion. The association welcomes the introduction of sales Tax over VAT, this will enhance revenue collection from the Tax payer. However, as an association whose

membership deals with the Mines and the issue of VAT is very prominent, we appeal to government to give enough time for changeover. This will enable companies to upgrade their software’s Manage the transition in terms of training. If the Tax payer is dealing in a variety of products that might attract different tax rates, the management of sales tax might be a challenge from the initial point.”

The west using intellectuals in anti-Chinese crusade – Wynter

By Mirriam Chabala

Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says it is an exaggeration to say that the Chinese nationals are taking over Zambia. And Kabimba has charged that the West is using African intellectuals like Kenyan law Professor Patrick Lumumba in their anti-Chinese crusade. Speaking when he featured on Prime Television’s Oxygen of Democracy programme, Monday, Kabimba said Zambians were exaggerating their concern over the presence of Chinese nationals in Zambia. “Zambia and China share a very strong bilateral relationship from way back. The Chinese did stand by us during the apartheid regime when the West had gone to bed with Boers in South Africa. But to say that China is taking over Zambia? No I think that is an exaggeration. What I do not agree with is to give preference to a Chinese over me in my country, that I do not agree with and I think that’s ridiculous,” Kabimba said. “But on issues of land yes I do agree. But on issues of contracts, that money is coming from China and the Chinese want that money to go to Chinese contractors. So we are a poor country, we can’t decide. The Chinese government does not want their money to go to a British company. This is their money and they choose who their money should go to and we can’t complain. But on the issue of land, the Chinese own more land in this country than you and I and that what’s I am saying.” And Kabimba charged that it was possible that Prof Lumumba was being used

by Western countries to promote the anti-China crusade because he was speaking their language. “That’s why am saying I wish Lumumba had been allowed to come and deliver the lecture, we missed an opportunity, I wanted to attend myself. [But] let me tell you, it is easy for an African intellectual to be used by the West in this anti-China crusade. The guys are very clever, they select intellectuals, that’s why tomorrow he’s appearing on CNN, on Tuesday he will be BBC. He’s speaking their language, he’s running the crusade on behalf of the West. So they are in love with him...,” Kabimba charged. “So I am hoping that tomorrow (Wednesday) as he appears on CNN in America, since he’s a Pan African and Pan Africanism is about justice across the continent, I hope he’s going to talk about black lives matter in America. How black Americans have been gunned down by white police officers in America. So I hope he’s going to take on the American government about all the injustices going on there as he features on CNN. I hope he’s going to condemn the American President [Donald] Trump for having referred to African countries as shit countries if he’s a Pan African. If your actions or your words are going to cause anarchy or disorder in the country or to disrupt the unity then you may be labeled as security risk... and how is Lumumba our interest? He was coming into Zambia, so what? What was he bringing to Zambia that would have changed the price of oil in Zambia?”

Kabimba said he wished Lumumba had been allowed entry into Zambia so that he could debate with him “I don’t know Prof Lumumba personally. I started reading and hearing about him from social media in the last three or four months. Before that, I didn’t know there was a Prof Lumumba so I can’t vouch for him, I can’t vouch about his character, even his international reputation. I received an invitation from Eden University last week where they said ‘he’s a good orator, he’s eloquent, he’s an intellectual’ and that kind accolades. So I have not met him personally, he’s not like old [Professor] Ngugi wa Thiong’o whom I have met personally and I have interacted with him. I remember when I was Secretary General of the Patriotic Front we invited him here under the Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) to come and

deliver a public lecture. So I have met Ngugi wa Thiong’o , I have not met Professor Lumumba, so am limited in what I can say about him. I wish I knew the reasons for the denial of entry by the Zambian government. I watched a clip yesterday (Sunday) evening on ZNBC and the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo said ‘we have the right to refuse entry to anybody as a sovereign nation.’ I don’t think that was enough explanation, I didn’t hear him talk about security aspects,” said Kabimba. “So I actually do not have any facts, I wish he had been allowed to come and present the lecture. If it were the time when I was government, I would have told President Michael Sata ‘allow him to come in’ and we will take him on, we go and debate with him. That would be the right thing to do, you don’t kill an idea! Ask the guy to

come in. Don’t kill an idea by deciding not to listen to it, because sometimes you will just be promoting a guy who is going to say nothing really. You just give them credit for nothing. Just because the guy has been described as an orator, as eloquent... I wanted to come and listen to how eloquent he is because the fact that you are eloquent does not mean that you are making sense. The fact that you are an orator does not mean that you are making sense. And in fact, from the invite that I have, the guy (Professor Lumumba) was not going to come and talk about the relationship between Zambia and China. I think his topic was ‘China – Africa challenge’ or something like that ‘and the due dynamics’ so he had a very broad topic about the relationship between China and Africa, except that he was to deliver that lecture in Zambia.”

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Closing Date; Friday 12th October, 2018

By Thomas Mulenga

Patriotic Front deputy media director Antonio Mwanza says Zambia is not a kantemba where anyone like Kenyan law professor Patrick Lumumba can be allowed to come and “insult citizens”. And Mwanza says he is happy the Patriotic Front government will soon start regulating social media because too many people are wasting time gossiping about who is sleeping with who. Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio’s Lusaka Star, Tuesday, Mwanza justified government’s decision to bar Prof Lumumba from entering the country saying such occurrences were a global phenomenon. He vowed that the PF would continue protecting Zambia. “This is not kantemba (kiosk) where anyone comes here and wants to do whatever they want. Even in a house, a child cannot enter the bedroom if the parents have not allowed them. There are rules, there are laws, there are regulations, we need to love and protect this country and stop this unpatriotism where you want to pull down your own country for the benefit of foreigners, for the benefit of outsiders, we must stop that and as Patriotic Front, as the ruling party, we will not allow this country to be turned into a kantemba where everyone wants to come and start playing sojo (kids games). He comes here, he wants to make money by insulting you and me that we are mad, ndise o funta sebo (are we mad)?” Mwanza asked.

Zambia not a kantemba where anyone is allowed – Antonio

“You must know that Tendai Miti told young people to rise up, he put them in harms way and him, he got into a latest V8 and ran away from his country, he told young people to go to the streets

and expose themselves to risk and danger when him he was running away trying to come here and enjoy the comfort of five star hotels at Pamodzi and you call that patriotism. You go

to embassies and see how many people are refused Visas and how many people have been denied entry, this is a global Phenomenon. In America today, Donald Trump, he is refusing a

one-year-old child to enter America, separating a one-year-old child from the mother, imprisoning them. America deports over three million migrants every year so talk about these issues

without understanding. This country must be protected and we as Patriotic Front will protect this country.” And Mwanza said he was happy the PF was in the process of putting laws in place to regulate social media. “The problem is that people in Zambia waste a lot of time commenting on useless things. if you see in the last three weeks, it has been ‘Zed Farmer’ (story on husband grabbing), everyone has been busy commenting on that, it has been ‘Pamela why’ (story on treacherous friends), we have failed to use social media as a tool for development, investment or as a tool for national building. That’s why I am happy that the Patriotic Front has taken recognition that social media is being abused and that there are cyber laws which are being put in place to protect innocent people,” he said. He said whilst Zambians were wasting time gossiping on social media, the Chinese were working and making money, therefore it was useless to complain that foreigners were taking over everything. “When you are talking about Pamela why, the Rwandese are busy organizing themselves to sell in shops. While you are talking about Zed farmer, the Rwandese and the Chinese are busy working. So if you want to spend your life gossiping about sex, gossiping about who is sleeping with who, gossiping about Pamela, you will continue to complain. That’s why the President was saying that we should run away from this culture of complaining about everything. There is no country which has been built on complaints. Countries have been built hard work, on solidarity, on patriotism, on commitment and if you want to use social media as a platform to complain, you can continue but there are enough Zambians, the majority of us who are working everyday to improve the lives of the people. So don’t complain about Rwandese, don’t complain about Chinese, in this country, we have a lot of Zambians who are in the diaspora doing the work that ordinary citizens are able to do,” said Mwanza. “Go to South Africa and see Zambians there working as taxi drivers, go to America and see how many Zambians are there working as bum wipers. Go to Europe and see how many Zambians are working as doctors, as nurses, so this is a global village.”



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema interacts with traders in the Lusaka Central Business District

I’m still UPND elections chairman because I’m in good books with the party – Nkombo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo says if the party had forced him to resign from his position as parliamentary whip because he was under investigation for murder, he would not be chairperson for elections. And Nkombo says Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe should have told the nation how the 2018 national budget performed before presenting next year’s financial plan. Speaking when he featured on a live programme on Millennium Radio, Monday, Nkombo said he was still chairperson for elections because he was in good books with the party. He was responding to a question on whether he retired as parliamentary whip because he was summoned by police. “I made the appeal to the (party) president [Hakainde Hichilema] three months ago and said to him: ‘sir, I

think that I’m overloaded, I need to concentrate on elections, I would like you to find somebody’ and in that same three months, a lot of consultation was being made and it was a collective decision that we settled on Dr [Situmbeko] Musokotwane. And so, the announcement just coincided with the [police] call-out and if that be the case that there is a bearing on the matter, I’m still the elections chairman. Why did they not then ask me to leave the portfolio of elections chairman? I’m still the elections chairman in as far as I’m concerned. The police call-out to me I’d like to look at it as a normal line of duty of police. Should it have any political undertones or inclinations, we will get to cross the bridge when we get there because don’t forget that a subject like this, if they find any evidence, it has to be presented before a (court of) law of competent jurisdiction. And so there is no

connection,” Nkombo said. And Nkombo lamented that Mwanakatwe failed to articulate the 2018 budget’s performance as she presented next year’s budget. “When Mwanakatwe came to read this budget, she should have told the nation that ‘last year’s budget was K71.6 billion, of this K71.6 billion, our estimated revenues were so much and the programmes that were drawn were so much, and this is what we delivered.’ There was nothing she said about how the performance of last year’s budget was,” Nkombo said. He further observed that there were no tangible deliveries in the announced budget. “You can read a flamboyant budget like the President [Edgar] Lungu I heard him say [that] ‘the budget was sparka’ whatever that sparka means. Sparka must translate

into real tangible deliverables. If I were to be more critical, I am inviting Zambians to say last year there was a budget, which was K71 point something billion. It had to get the component of revenue in expenditure. This is what I’m talking about that the execution of a budget is of prime importance to the person, the citizen who is sitting down there,” he said. He criticised the huge allocation to the Ministry of Defence when the country is not at war. “Government must make sure that the infrastructure that supports education should be put in place. In health, they have done poorly; in education... We have what we call the Maputo Declaration, which was done in 2008. This is a document, which was done by African Heads of States, to make sure

that agriculture budgeting must comprise at least 10 per cent of the national budget because agriculture is food, and food is life. I want you to know that when I looked at the component of what they have put in agriculture and Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and also strategic food reserves, which is not even agriculture because the market of grain can be done even without FRA, that we should know. You asked me about the Public Order Act; why put K6 billion [Actual: K5.1 billion]? Are we at war? Because the budget here that I am reading is saying that they have put K2 billion in Public Order Act and I think K5 billion in defence. Defending what? This money should come to health, it should come to education because there is no war here,” said Nkombo.

HH warns Sunday; you'll run from this country when PF is kicked out

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema yesterday got pissed off when he featured on Radio Phoenix's 'Let the people talk' programme after one of the callers repeatedly accused him of selling the Mines. And Hichilema has warned PF media director Sunday Chanda that he will run away from his own country once PF gets voted out of government because he has taken up "the job of insulting HH everyday". Meanwhile, Hichilema says some businesses will shut down due to PF's attempt to entertain administrative changes on the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT) systems. The opposition leader got emotional when a caller called Elvis accused him of privatising the mines. "Elvis keeps on playing this broken record that HH sold the Mines. Hey my friend Elvis, I was only 30 years old when the

MMD government privatised the Mines and I never worked for government. I have said this several times, over and over. And people like you have no capacity to hear things that are said over and over. It's just a level of hatred. You can see the venom that he comes out [with and] probably he doesn't even like to hear that there is a human being, a Zambian citizen called HH. He says I have shares in Anglo America, if I wasn't busy, I would take this guy to court because this is recorded, to prove that I have shares in Anglo America. I have no shares in Anglo America. So but to spare him with the anguish, he is already suffering, Elvis is already suffering and to spare him the anguish, I will not take him to court because the poor fellow will just be in court and get convicted for nothing. You must see what you say about human beings. I never sold any Mine, not even

a single one," Hichilema said. And responding to a question from Sunday Chanda who asked why his reaction on the budget was contradicting with that of his party spokesperson, Hichilema described Chanda as a coward. "Chanda, PF said they will grow by seven per cent and they are growing by three per cent. PF said that they will borrow less, PF said that they will maintain four months import cover [and] today the import cover is two months. Chanda, your friends have failed and you even know it but you don't want to accept it. We have suffered enough. You are enjoying, others are suffering. I am impressed that Sunday Chanda has courage to ask me questions. I am very impressed with his Dutch courage. In English Dutch courage means you give yourself courage which you don't even have. You are in essence a coward. If you see

how he insults me every single week, Sunday Chanda's job is to insult HH. That is what I call cowardice," said Hichilema. "Sunday Chanda you are a coward. Confront me, meet me, talk to me, tell me facts, let's debate. You know that you cannot even stand one minute debating facts with me, you even know it. You were in MMD and today he is saying PF has constructed more infrastructure than UNIP and MMD put together, what a lie. You are working on Kaunda's infrastructure. Sunday Chanda is really a young man who is messing himself up in a manner that when PF is out of office, he will probably run away from this country, running away from his own shadows because of the way he is carrying himself." He says some businesses would shut down due to PF's attempt to entertain administrative changes on the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT) systems.

"The PF will try and entertain what is called administrative changes on a selective basis. In agriculture they will put measures maybe to support one or two companies, in industries they will do that to support one or two companies. Mostly you can speculate which companies will receive those favours, it will be foreign companies from a particular country. So in doing that, you create distortions, you create inequity in the eyes of the tax payer and therefore you create that opportunity of administrative intervention. Even ZRA has systems that will capture VAT easily at the ZRA and at a trading place at the point of sale," Hichilema said. "The cost of collecting this revenue will be high because you already have a VAT system both at the revenue collector (ZRA) and at the traders point. And now you have to completely start all over to do away with that system and

bring a new system which means buying a new software, installing a new software [and] everybody will pay a lot of money. Not just government [but] even companies. When you increase the cost like that, you are now creating difficulties for businesses to survive. Some businesses will shut down. They were saying that HH is just bitter [but] today, no one can say that HH is bitter because the country is in a debt crisis. Today let me tell the people of Zambia that businesses will shut down and if businesses shuts down, you know that jobs are lost." And Hichilema said it is ignorant to think that government will save a lot of money through VAT refunds. "This is the most ignorant comment I have ever heard in this argument of VAT refunds. It doesn't matter who said it [but] it is the most ignorant statement I have ever heard, that government will save a billion kwacha in VAT refunds. Who owns that VAT, it is the money that is owned by businesses including Zambian individuals. And then ignorantly someone argues that government will save money, save whose money? That money never belonged to government. It belonged to businesses. It is better in the hands of businesses because they will re-invest and create more jobs for the unemployed youth and women. And if someone went to school and argues like that, then my next question will be which school did you go to? You went to Russia [or] you went where? Which school did you go to where you start claiming what does not belong to you? And when you fail to pay back the money you start saying 'no I am going to save a lot of money. It was never your money' said Hichilema

Lungu urges Zambians to venture into fish farming

By Mirriam Chabala

President Edgar Lungu has advised farmers to start investing in fish farming, saying Zambia could stop importing fish from other countries if citizens diversified their farming practices. And Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka says the agricultural sector would become the country's biggest employer if only citizens using government's good policies could diversify their agricultural practices. Speaking when a delegation of government officials from various institutions toured fish ponds at State House, Tuesday, President Lungu said farmers cultivating maize and soya beans would no longer complain about non-availability of market for their produce because more people had started engaging in fish farming. "The production of fish has been intensified because of the number of people who are in fish farming now, and I think there is need for more soya beans, more maize. So, then, people should not say, 'there is not market for maize or there is no market for soya beans.' We need more soya beans so that we can feed into this fish farming industry, which is coming up. We are hoping that in years to come, we will not be importing fish. I think the figures are there to tell at

the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock that in the past few years we have done very well. So, we will have to scale it up by demanding that Mr [Amos] Chanda is not alone [in this business]. We want all you to engage in fish farming, produce some chickens in the backyard and that way you will save a bit of money. 'More money in your pockets' means that you are saving some [resources]; you are not spending everything," said President Lungu.

And Dr Haabazoka called on more Zambians to diversify their agricultural practices by embracing fish farming, away from maize and soya beans. "I think we have always, as an association, advocated for economic diversification. And when you look at our agriculture sector, it's the major employer. But unfortunately, the sector itself was not diversified. But it's very good that for the past three years, government has continued to announce

measures in the national budget that are aimed at putting more land under irrigation to ensure that we grow existing farmers [from] subsistent to commercial farmers, and also measures have been put in place to ensure that more people come on board and do fish farming," said Dr Haabazoka. "We cannot have a situation where Zambia is importing fish from outside the country, given the rivers, waters that we have. And it's very good that

government has identified this area as a source of not only income, but also to help reduce stunted growth, poverty... because fish is food with a high source of protein. I think that if every village had fish ponds at its farms then we are going to see that we are going to drastically [reduce] our poverty and we are going to also export to our neighbouring countries that, unfortunately, are lagging behind as compared to Zambia."

Govt confers with SA to restart honey exports

By Abraham Kalito

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary Kayula Siame says government is currently in talks with South African authorities to restart exporting honey to that country following an export ban on the commodity. South Africa had imposed a ban on the export of organic honey from Zambia after a consignment of the commodity was allegedly found with American foulbrood disease also known as Peanibacillus larvae. Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba protested the ban in the immediate aftermath, saying it was done outside procedure and was against trade regulations.

But in an interview, Kayula said that government had examined the commodity, sent samples to South Africa and was currently waiting for that country to respond. "We have examined the honey that was said to be contaminated. It was sent to laboratories and it was carefully examined. We have the results, which I cannot tell you right now. We have communicated with our exporters on the results," Siame told News Diggers! in an interview in Lusaka. "And right now, we are in constant touch with our South African counterparts to see what they will have to say about the findings that we sent to them. What I can tell you is that everything that we needed

to do to ensure that we restart the export of honey to that country, we have done it. We have done our research, we have done our homework. And we have sent the results to that country (South Africa), and we are waiting for them to say what they have to say about what we have found here in Zambia. That is the only thing stopping (Zambia) right now from exporting honey to South Africa. Hopefully, they will look at the results quickly and say whatever they have to say about it. We are keeping our fingers crossed and we hope that we will soon start exporting honey to that country again. That's all I have to say."



BUILDING WITH KASONDE

Kasonde Mwenda C is a Registered Consultant Architect (B.Arch, MZIA), Buildings Inspector and Author.

...Only in **Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

Kissing floors

With his feet in the air still tucked in his latest high-heeled Italian designer shoes, elder Chris could not believe his eyes. He was the kind of a person who could not knell for no one yet there he was, laying on the cold floor with hundreds of people watching in shock. For decades he had been the last man standing in all Churches he ever attended and every time his pastor threw a holly kiss that set the whole congregation to the carpet, elder Chris just stood firm and balanced his body like a rock. But on that fateful day, without anyone doing anything, his legs wobbled, slid and threw him in the air and as he landed on the carpet, two balls or weed (marijuana) and a half burnt cigarette rolled out of his left pocket. He was a respected brother and he was not going to let his legacy end just like that in front of the whole Church so in haste he tried to quickly stand to his feet but it was not to be. The giant of the man slid back again and his second fall brought the attention of the whole congregation to his fallen self. But as they say, if you cannot walk crawl; elder Chris's baby instincts finally kicked in and he crawled out of the church door and as soon as he reached the doorway he jumped to his feet and never looked back.

A week passed and elder Chris could not reconcile himself to the fact that he had slid and fallen in Church. He was a strong man and there was no way he could embarrass himself like that but as he was thinking to himself he heard a knock at the door of his house. It was a Sunday and since then he had not gone back to his church so he guessed that it was the people from church who had come.

It was not just people from his Church, it was his pastor with the whole church executive. Courteous though stunned, comrade Chris opened the door and let them in into his classy living room and offered them some cool lemon juice. As they refreshed, Chris excused himself and went to his bedroom.

'What do these people want? What should I tell them

about the contraband that fell out of my pocket?' Chris thought to himself. Finding no answers to convince them that he was not a devil they could have been thinking he was, he mustered his guts and kept quiet. Before he could open his mouth to explain much, his pastor interjected and explained that he had decided to come to his house and apologize on behalf of the church executive over his falling accident the previous week. The Pastor went on to explain that the Church has since engaged a contractor to remove the new tiles they had put in the church and replace them with a rougher type because they were too slippery and that on that same day he fell an elderly woman fell and broke her hip during praise and worship.

But just when they had finished the talk and walked out, the Church Secretary called him by the side and whispered to him that he had forgotten his phone on the chair. As the two walked back, the Secretary told Chris that after he left church the previous Sunday, the church prayed for him and that the boy he had confiscated the Cigarettes from earlier that day confessed in front of the church that he was the owner of the cigarettes and had repented after elder Chris counselled him earlier that morning.

Well, not all stories may not be happily ever after stories like that of elder Chris. Sometimes the demons of ignorance leave great damage before the angels fight them off. That reminds me of a certain young lady who had a beautiful house and decided to put an exquisite carpet floor the whole house including the kitchen. At first her long serving maid ran away because she couldn't stand the work involved in removing kitchen stains off a carpet in the Kitchen. However, one fateful morning she woke up to a rude shock when she found herself outside her house because her house was now a pile of ashes and rubble. The fire which is suspected to have started from the Kitchen when the floor carpet in the kitchen caught fire after a bulb fell on it. Had it not been for the neighbours who pulled her out of the

house unconscious, she would have perished.

In a nut shell, it should be noted that floor finishers should be applied and used with in line with the kind of use that the room will serve. It is not just about how nice they look. In busy places like Kitchens, it is important to use a floor finish which is easy to clean as well as rough enough to avoid people sliding and causing accidents. Non-slip porcelain tiles are a good option as they are very durable and easy to clean. For places like living room, bedrooms, tv rooms; carpets and ceramic tiles are ideal. Ceramic tiles are easy to clean, carry more beautify decorations and their texture is warm although they are mostly less durable and expensive compared to most porcelain tiles.

In very high traffic places like, verandas, hallways, churches, passages, supermarkets; clay tiles or masonry (stone) slates are ideal as they are both highly durable, easy to clean, not slippery, relatively affordable and have high resistance to weather elements.

When all is said and done, it is important to take time and learn about things you are about to use when building. Most materials and finishes from genuine sources carry usage instructions. Like medicines, materials and finishes are specific and they should be used according to the function they were made to serve if they are to work well.

Building is great investment, do it right.

Quiz Question: From the list choose the most ideal floor finish you would put in the dining room: (Tiles, carpet or leather). Send your answer to: zambianbuildingguide@gmail.com

Congratulations to the winners to last week's quiz: PATRICIA KASONDE of Kitwe and MUKOLO SIKAZWE of Chilanga. You will receive your copy of the Book: UNDERSTANDING HOW TO BUILD, Zambian Building Guide by Kasonde Mwenda C Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says Kenyan law professor Patrick Lumumba is a disgrace to educated people because whilst claiming to be an intellectual, he plagiarised someone else's academic work last year. Prof Lumumba was denied entry into Zambia last Saturday on national security grounds, but the Kenyan described the barring as an act of stupidity, adding that he would write to President Edgar Lungu and the African Union to register his displeasure. But the PF has not taken kindly to the Professors remarks, forcing party functionaries to jump to the government's defence; digging out plagiarism claims reported in Kenyan media involving him. Reacting to Prof Lumumba's remarks, Phiri who is former Zambia's High Commissioner to Kenya charged that the anti-

Professor Lumumba a disgrace to educated people – Mumbi Phiri

corruption icon was a fraud even in his own country. "Who is this Professor Patrick Lumumba? In Kenya the way they know him, this is somebody who stole Wachira Maina's work and pretended that it was his work. Wachira Maina went to court last year. And I'm sure you've heard that he was told to write an apology within 14 days. Can you call such a person a credible person? From the time I heard that story, I was even thinking [to say] we have so many crooked people [and] if he can steal somebody's work and pretend that it's his work [and] only to acknowledge that it's true that it wasn't his work when

he was taken to court. Can you call such a person credible?" Phiri wondered. Phiri said there was nothing sinister about the barring of Prof Lumumba, remembering that even president Michael Sata was barred from entering Malawi before he formed government. "Is this the first time a deportation is happening? we had our own former president, the late Michael Sata (may his soul rest in peace), he was brought back from Malawi and I remember that story very well. He was blocked on the Muchinji boarder. He was bundled in a Land Rover. In fact Lumumba was told to sit in the plane but our own

late president Michael Sata was bundled in a Land Rover. Did you hear any noise from Zambians?" she asked. "I would like to urge Zambians [that] it's us who are contributing to the downfall of the Kwacha because of the negatives we are saying about or own country. Let us be positive. Yes we don't agree with criticism but let it be constructive. I heard my brother Mr [Brebner] Changala apologising to Lumumba on behalf of Zambians, apologising for what? Apologising for a discredited professor in his own country? I was surprised because in Zambia we have credible professors. Somebody who can steal

somebody's work and is in court and you call him credible, shame to you the educated because me I am a marketer and I don't go and steal tomatoes at somebody's farm to make me look like I am farming. I do it practically myself. It's very shameful [and] we are demeaning ourselves as a country." And Phiri said if the Kenyan government was unhappy with the decision that Zambia had taken against its national, it was that country's High Commission in Zambia that is supposed to complain through established channels. "With all these people who are being deported like the Zimbabwean, this same Kenyan, one thing which is

surprising is that their own countries are not protesting, because under normal diplomatic etiquette... and I am speaking as a former High Commissioner for that matter, if as a Zambian I get deported, it's my country which is supposed to write to the High Commissioner who is representing that country. The way Patrick Lumumba was deported from Zambia, the people who were supposed to complain is the Kenyan High Commission in Zambia, but have we seen anything from their embassy here? Nothing. So what is the problem? It's us Zambians who are degrading our own country which is very unfortunate," said Phiri.

Former justice minister Wynter Kabimba may no longer possess the political esteem that he once enjoyed at the time when he won the 2011 general elections for the Patriotic Front as Secretary General. Actually, the comrade's political alignment seems blurry lately, but we still regard him as one of the most astute thinkers Zambia has ever been blessed with. Something caught our attention over what comrade Kabimba said regarding the escalating cases of theft of exhibits in our courts of law. He observed that the missing of court files and exhibits are only symptoms of a much deeper problem in the Judiciary, which will not stop unless the root cause of corruption is established and dealt with. "The need to motivate workers in the Judiciary, in the Police, in the Prisons Service is paramount. This is critically important in all these institutions in order to address corruption. Once you have exhibits missing from the Judiciary, it tells stories about the state where we are. How do you fix that problem? You don't fix it only by making arrests, you fix the problem by looking at the causes, not the symptoms of that problem.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Tying govt programmes to office holder is wrong

And the consequence of that, people will lose confidence in the Judiciary, they will lose confidence in the police, they will lose confidence in the National Prosecutions Authority and we will become an empty society," Kabimba warned. Well said, but that is not what caught our attention. His concern about Zambia's failure to institute judicial reforms is what got us thinking. Particularly, we were able to relate to his displeasure of the trend in Zambia where government programmes are abandoned every time there is a change of public office bearers. "There was a judicial and legal reforms commission, which was set up during the time I was Minister of Justice by the President,

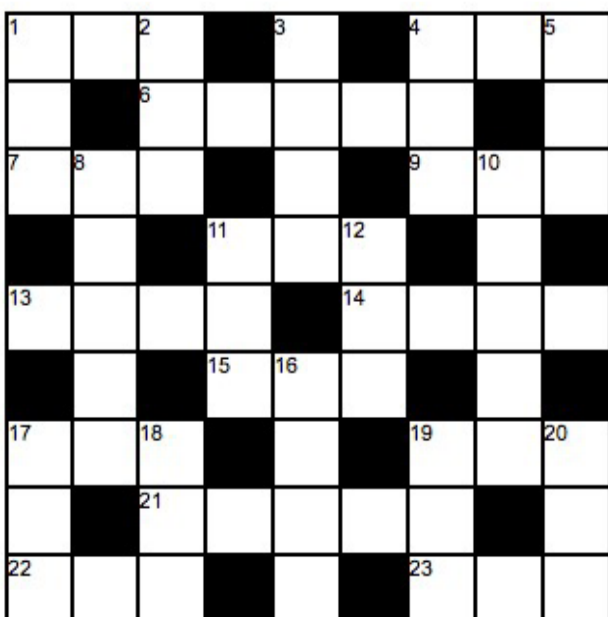
headed by former Supreme Court judge Honorable Mr Justice Fredrick Chomba. The idea of that commission of inquiry was to recommend reforms in the Judiciary, the prisons service and the police because these three institutions work in tandem. We saw all these problems and we set up a commission of inquiry where people could come and reveal that, 'this is what is going on,'" Kabimba remembered. "I am saddened to note that since I was dismissed from government, since the demise of Michael Sata on the 28th of October 2014, I have hardly heard about that commission of inquiry. The problem in our country is that government programmes are attached to an individual that initiated

them without looking at the underlying principle or benefit that such a programme would bring about." Comrade Kabimba was spot on! Even us who are outside government can vividly see that there is a trend of abandoned programmes when an individual who initiated them is moved, or worse, fired. For example, a change of Minister of Finance went with the IMF bailout programme. We won't hear much of it now because that was Felix Mutati's pregnancy; his successor has aborted it and turned to China to conceive her own. Another example is when there was a change of minister at Agriculture. We saw government abandoning the traditional implementation of the Fertilizer Input Support Programmes. But

already, Dora Siliya's methods have gone with her transfer, leaving her successor giving the e-Voucher a red card. This is the trend in all the ministries where there is a change of office bearers. It is this mess that Comrade Kabimba was talking about. The reason these programmes are abandoned is not that they are bad, but because the pioneer is either not in good standing with the system or mere jealousy by the successor. Governance is not supposed to be like that. What is good is good, and must be implemented and cherished for the sake of the country, regardless of who initiated it. The former justice minister is right. Zambia desperately needed judicial reforms, and had that Justice Chomba-led Commission of

Inquiry been allowed to operate, we were not going to be seeing such an escalation of thefts and corruption within the arm of government that is charged with the responsibility of dispensing justice. How did we get to a point where the State's position on high profile cases changes depending on the person holding the office of Director of Public Prosecutions. Only in Zambia can we have a DPP U-turning on a conviction achieved by the previous office bearer. How can a DPP win a case in the High Court, and a new DPP goes to the Supreme Court to say, "I don't support that conviction?" Where on earth? Fellow Zambians, our Judiciary has been reduced to a casino today, where nothing else matters more than money. The more you have, the more you win. It is money that caused the cocaine exhibit to grow legs and disappear. But again, we must not be surprised that this trend doesn't seem to worry the people who are supposed to revive the Justice Chomba Commission of Inquiry, because the Executive itself is another big casino being run by individuals with impeccable gambling skills.

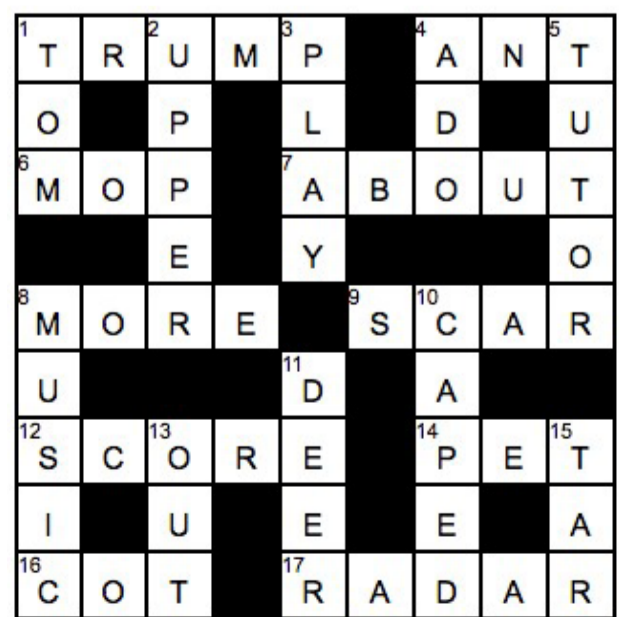
Crossword puzzle 200



"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
- Aristotle, *Metaphysics*

- | Across | Down |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Young man | 1. Abbott, Lou's partner |
| 4. Not the beginning | 2. Small dog sound |
| 6. FBI officer | 3. Hold on to |
| 7. Quick swim | 4. Airport acronym |
| 9. Stun | 5. color your hair |
| 11. Secret agent | 8. Sir ___ Newton |
| 13. One sheet of paper | 10. H ₂ O |
| 14. Consumes food | 11. Neptune's realm |
| 15. TV spots | 12. Affirmative |
| 17. Halloween mo. | 16. Cold cuts place |
| 19. Part of a circle | 17. "-la-la" |
| 21. Impromptu | 18. Highland headgear |
| 22. Meat from pig | 19. Beginning of alphabet |
| 23. Car for hire | 20. Chicago player |

Solution puzzle 199



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 dthis page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

RB arguing that he is too old to be Republican President again

Editor,

"Even if he came out if retirement and stand for elections again, nyamasoya can't win; he and his fellow

tribesman from kumawa will go down in history as the worst presidents in Zambia!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Just quit politics. How do you expect to be respected if you involve yourself in intra-party confusions?" - Kaseba Golden

"After destroying MMD, shame on you." - Ceteris Paribus

"The more money in every one's pocket ended with you & mighty MMD. But don't ever think MMD can come back, never. Just help UPND & HH in 2021, please, so that he can come & fine-tune the free-falling economy." - Ernest Simwanza

"How come he is not supporting the legal MMD? Is he part of the causers of the instability in the legal MMD?" - Kay Mwenya

"Can MMD be serious for once and for all. Why do we still hear of 'factions' as the Felix Mutati faction is due for card renewal in Eastern Province meaning there is another faction led by Dr Mumba. Who is the one party president that Zambians should know between Dr Mumba and Felix Mutati?" - Godfrey Handondo

"Also remember that you shall always be held accountable for every mistake by the people you helped to win." - Shonga Abinala



Hamukale on PF's 'success' in putting more money in people's pockets

Editor,

"You are wrong, sir. We have no money in our pockets! If you have little corrupt coins in your pocket, you should not think that every Zambian has. People do not eat public infrastructure like tired roads. In fact, you are dreaming or trying to say the opposite in the other language. Under the PF regime, the cost of living has doubled itself high; this is because the government has not provided an enabling environment for citizens." - Abson Musesa

"Which pockets? Politicians are funny creatures who only say what their boss wants to hear when it suits them. You are not fooling anyone." - Mwandwe Kalumba

"Please, but we are spending more with the same income, we are not all ignorant. Don't forget taxes that leave us with little disposable income, meaning little or no savings and little or nothing for investment." - Evangel Yumba

"He will still regret the mockery he is pouring on poor people when they discard him with false accusations levelled against him. And it won't be too long." - Victor Chansa

"This man is an idiot. Does it mean that he has no eyes to see that the Kafue-Mazabuka road is in a very bad state?" - Lweendo Chelo

"I used to rate this man as a very intelligent man, but kanshi ni chitumbuwa." - Kaponda Lungu

ND's OPINION: Thanks for stealing, but leaving us good roads

Editor,

"Balanced writing. Bringing out the negatives and bringing out the positives. Best Zambian newspaper." - Muyunda Mulele

"Sweet finishing." - Sepo Chuзу

"So true, Diggers!" - Ben Chibwe

"Under the able leadership of his Excellency, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu. Zambia is now a construction site. Yes, there are stealing, but infrastructure yeve bayesako." - Hilary Ngosa Ngoma

"Nothing to thank them for until when they tell us where road tax goes and what they do with the money from toll gates." - Chitalu Katebe

"But it's not a favour they are doing; it's their responsibility as custodians of tax payers' money." - Nkonde Chola

"Unfortunately, they're not quality roads. Wait, very soon, all these roads will have potholes all over." - Chisha Kabale



Evidence of the sheer power of the disaster that was unleashed on northern Sulawesi, Indonesia is everywhere. AFP

Tobacco and reforms boost Zimbabwe economy

After years of sluggish growth, Zimbabwe's economy is showing signs of recovering and will grow faster than expected according to the central bank's latest statement. The highest ever tobacco sales and economic reforms are just some of the reasons the central bank says this economy could be one of the continent's best performers this year.

Initial projections of 4.5% have been revised upwards to just over 6%, but its not without challenges and risks.

Many had hoped the monetary policy statement would tackle the crippling foreign currency shortages and to an extent it did.

Among the measures are special accounts for foreign currency earners. Foreign truckers will now be forced to pay for fuel in hard currency.

The government will reduce its overdraft with the central bank, but authorities still face their biggest hurdle - raising public confidence that was lost under the previous government.

Most Zimbabweans are reluctant to keep their money in banks and this has contributed to cash shortages. **BBC**

Akere Muna: I would solve Anglophone crisis in first 100 days

Over Akere Muna's five-decade-long career, he has headed various missions of the African Union and worked as vice president of Transparency International, a civil society organisation against corruption.

Now, he has turned his eye to his homeland, Cameroon, where he hopes to be elected president on October 7. Eight people are challenging Paul Biya, the current president, so voters will be choosing between nine main parties. A number of small parties and political movements are backing each of the candidates.

Muna is running with the Popular Front for Development party. The bilingual Central African country faces an Anglophone separatist crisis and ongoing fighting. Octogenarian Biya, who has led the country since 1982, is seeking re-

election for a seventh term in office.

Muna's father, the late Solomon Tandeng Muna, was a former vice president of Cameroon and before that, first prime minister of Western Cameroons.

Akere Muna says he can

usher in a brand new Cameroon - "La Nouvelle Republic".

In an interview with Al Jazeera, he discusses unseating Biya at the October 7 polls and reuniting a nation at war with itself. **AL JAZEERA**



Melania Trump flew from Washington to Ghana to start an African tour. AFP

India police fire tear gas, water cannon to stop farmers' march

Clashes have broken out on the outskirts of India's capital New Delhi as police used water cannon and tear gas to stop thousands of protesting farmers entering the city.

The farmers, reeling from high fuel prices, were pressing for government help on Tuesday, including higher support prices for agricultural goods, payment for pending

sugarcane dues and waivers on farm loans ahead of elections due in 2019.

Marching from adjoining northern states, the farmers blocked one of the highways into Delhi and used tractors to try and break through a police barrier, television pictures showed.

Some reportedly threw stones at police.

The protestors reached the Delhi outer limits on foot, in buses and on tractor trailers under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Indian Farmers Union), a farmers group critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Dharmendra Malik, a member of the union told Al Jazeera that police fired "tear gas and plastic bullets at

unarmed farmers". He claimed 50 people were injured.

The police could not be reached for comment immediately.

But earlier Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Pankaj Singh defended the police decision to stop farmers from entering the national capital, saying it would create "law and order situation".

Elections are due in India next year and as votes approach unions representing farmers and other groups have staged protests in an effort to secure sweeteners in exchange for support at the ballot box.

The farmers demonstrating on Tuesday were mostly from Uttar Pradesh (UP), India's most populous state with more than 200 million people and its most electorally important. Abhimanyu Kohar, a farmer, condemned the police's actions against protesters, and said farmers will continue their demonstration until their demands are met.

"There should be dialogue within a democracy. But this government is in a denial mode, they are unwilling to accept that there is a farm crisis. They will pay heavily in the upcoming elections for what they have done today," he told Al Jazeera.

Modi and his right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) routed all opposition parties in UP in the last elections.

AL JAZEERA

Namibia pledges land reforms to boost black ownership

Namibia's president has called for a change to the country's constitution to allow the government to expropriate land and re-distribute it to the majority black population.

"The willing-buyer willing-seller principle has not delivered results. Careful consideration should be given to expropriation," President Hage Geingob said on Monday at the opening of the Second National Land Conference in capital, Windhoek.

The willing-buyer willing-seller policy depends on

commercial farmers offering to sell their land to the government.

However, many farmers are reluctant to sell and those who were willing often inflated the prices, making it difficult for the government to acquire adequate land for resettlement purposes.

In a proposal that echoes the fierce political issue in neighbouring South Africa, Namibia now wants to transfer 43 percent, or 15 million hectares (58,000 square miles) of its arable agricultural land, to

previously disadvantaged blacks by 2020.

Namibia, which was ruled by colonial Germany and then apartheid South Africa until 1990, has large swathes of agricultural land, as well as major diamond and platinum mining industries.

Statistics issued by the Namibian Statistics Agency last month showed that white Namibians owned 70 percent of agricultural land and blacks 16 percent. Out of some 250 farms under foreign ownership, most were held by Germans, it showed. **AL JAZEERA**

Kamanga demands hardwork from Chipolopolo

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ president Andrew Kamanga has appealed to the Zambia National football team to intensify training and ensure they record a win in the AFCON qualifier game against Guinea Bissau scheduled for 10th October at the National Heroes stadium in Lusaka. Zambia sits at the bottom of group K which comprises of Guinea Bissau, Mozambique

and Namibia. Kamanga noted that only a win would put the Chipolopolo boys on better standing. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kamanga urged the boys to fight for a win and make the country proud. "As it stands now in our AFCON qualifier group, only a win can put us on the safe side and fatten our chances of qualifying. I would urge the national team to work

really hard and do this for themselves and the country at large," said Kamanga. And national team coach Sven Vandebroek has called for more support towards the squad.

"People should support whichever player will make it to the final squad against Guinea Bissau. They are a good team but with everyone's support, we can be a way better team

on the pitch. The support given to players goes a long way in boosting their confidence," said Sven. Guinea Bissau is on top of the group with four points while Mozambique is second

with the same points but low on aggregate. Namibia and Zambia are on the bottom each with only a point following their draw in Windhoek, and a loss for each.

Halep sidelined indefinitely with back injury



Women's world number one Simona Halep, who retired during her first-round match in Beijing over the weekend, said on Tuesday she has a herniated disc.

"I had an MRI on my back and found out that I have a herniated disc," the 27-year-old Romanian wrote on social media. "I will consult doctors in the coming days and will keep you informed."

"I hope to be back quickly," she said, without offering any timescale.

On Sunday, Halep said she was "worried now" when a persistent back problem forced her out of the China Open after just 31 miserable minutes.

The Romanian never looked comfortable against Tunisian qualifier Ons Jabeur, losing the opening set of their first-round match 6-1 before calling it quits.

She said at the time she thought it was a different back problem from the one that contributed to her early loss in Wuhan a week earlier.

"I knew that there is pain, but I thought if I warm up during the match, it's going to be better, but it wasn't," she said.

The Romanian has been struggling with injuries over the later stages of the season. She dropped out of the New Haven tournament at the end of August with an Achilles problem and then lost in the first round of the US Open a week later.

By Alex Chilumbwe
Green Eagles volleyball club has won the league title with four games to play in the Midlands Volleyball league. The Zambia National Service side has only lost once to Green Buffaloes among the 20 games it had so far played. Its remaining four fixtures could feature a young side NAPSA and City of Lusaka who both stand no chance of finishing second or third even if Eagles lost to all the remaining games. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Captain of the side Abraham Tembo applauded his team for a job well done and recognized the role the technical bench played in the recorded success. "I'm very happy we have won the league four games before its conclusion. We more than any other team play well together. When we are on the court, we become one and play for one common goal which is winning," Tembo said. Our management team has been exceptionally well in ensuring we stay motivated. They have been offering us both financial and moral support hence our determination on the court. They help us in different ways even off the court," praised Tembo.

Green Eagles win volleyball league

Meanwhile, second place finish for the league was still a mystery as Green Buffaloes and High Flying Nkwazi shared the same points although Nkwazi had more games in hand. Buffaloes galactical and skipper Richard Phiri and

his floating spiking genius Aaron Sinkala gave an assurance they would beat Nkwazi and safely keep the second place finish. "It was a terrible start for us this season but towards the end, we have found the winning

formula. We have reduced dependency on specific and more experienced players. Each one of us is hungry for the win and of course, closing the gap with Eagles," said Phiri. "I'm positive we will beat Nkwazi and finish second

but this does not mean we will relax. We are still going to train hard and make the most out of each served ball. Their starting six are all in police training so obviously, they have enough motivation than us. That is the

same motivation we will frustrate on the court and beat them," said Sinkala. UNZA volleyball club and City of Lusaka will be fighting for fourth or fifth finish while Buffaloes and Nkwazi will play to settle on second position.

Ronaldo denies 'fake news' rape claim as police reopen investigation

Police said Monday they had reopened an investigation into a rape accusation made by a former model who says soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo attacked her in his Las Vegas hotel penthouse suite in 2009.

Ronaldo, who now plays for Juventus in Italy's Serie A, rejected the charges as "fake news" during a live chat on Instagram.

"What they said today, fake -- fake news," the 33-year-old star of the Portuguese national team said in a post that was later deleted.

Kathryn Mayorga, 34, of Las Vegas, accused Ronaldo, in a 32-page complaint filed last month with a district court in Nevada, of raping her on June 13, 2009.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department confirmed in a statement that didn't name the superstar it had responded to a call of a sexual assault on that date.

"At the time the report was taken, the victim did not provide detectives with the location of the incident or suspect description. A medical exam was conducted,"

it said.

"As of September 2018, the case has been reopened and our detectives are following up on information being provided by the victim."

Mayorga alleges in the lawsuit that she was pressured into signing a nondisclosure agreement to keep the alleged rape secret and is seeking no less than \$200,000 in penalties and damages.

The complaint was first reported by the German magazine Der Spiegel. Lawyers for Ronaldo have reportedly threatened to sue the magazine over the story.

In the suit, Mayorga said she met Ronaldo, who was then 24 years old, on the evening of June 12, 2009 at the Rain Nightclub in the Palms Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

It said she accepted an invitation to join Ronaldo and others in his penthouse suite to "enjoy the view of the Las Vegas strip."

She was invited to join guests in a hot tub but she declined because she did not have a bathing suit, the

complaint said.

Ronaldo offered her clothing and then followed her into a bathroom where she was going to change clothes, it said.

After she refused his demand to perform oral sex and said she wanted to leave, Ronaldo pulled her into a bedroom and anally raped her while she screamed "no, no, no," the complaint said.

"When Cristiano Ronaldo completed the sexual assault of the plaintiff, he allowed her to leave the bedroom stating he was sorry, he was usually a gentleman," it said.

The lawsuit said Mayorga reported the alleged assault to the Las Vegas police the same day and underwent an examination at a local hospital.

It said the assault had left her with "severe emotional and bodily injuries including but not limited to anal contusions, posttraumatic stress disorder and major depression."

She developed an alcohol problem and was suicidal, according to court documents. **AFP**

Ronaldo denies 'fake news' rape claim as police reopen investigation *Story page 12*



Conor McGregor has challenged Floyd Mayweather to another fight but has ruled out a modified rules bout, saying "it's either a straight MMA or straight boxing". Skysports



Neymar said on Tuesday that last season's injury made him 'very sad' and elimination in the World Cup was a 'great frustration'. AFP

FIFA ORDERS FAZ

...protect City Yamoto

By Alex Chilumbwe

FIFA has ordered FAZ to immediately sort the problems that have engulfed City of Lusaka FC. In a press statement availed to the media in Lusaka yesterday, the World Soccer body further directed FAZ to prepare a report addressing

complaints of interference by third parties in the affairs of City of Lusaka FC and submit to FIFA by October 8, 2018. According to letter dated September 28, 2018 addressed to FAZ Secretary General Adrian Kashala and copied to City of Lusaka FC, obtained by ZANIS, FIFA

Secretary General Fatma Samoura indicated any problem City of Lusaka faced had to be addressed by the country mother body, FAZ. "FIFA recognizes that the situation of City of Lusaka FC is an internal matter, it is incumbent upon the national mother body to assess the

problem and protect the welfare of its members using applicable FAZ regulations," Samoura wrote. Samoura reminded FAZ that according to article 14, paragraph 1 letter I and article 19, paragraph 1 of the FIFA statutes, member associations are obliged to manage their

affairs independently and without undue influence from third parties. "We bring to your attention that article 17, paragraph 1 of the FAZ statutes in our files of March 2017, also establishes that each member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties," said Samoura as she quoted the FAZ constitution. City of Lusaka FC Secretary General, Christopher

Chilongo had written to FIFA in a letter dated September 14, 2018, complaining about interference in the running of its affairs, claiming that FAZ had allegedly taken a passive role in ensuring that the interests of City of Lusaka FC were protected. FAZ Secretary General, Adrian Kashala could not comment on the matter as he was in Cairo Egypt, attending a Confederation of African Football (CAF) meeting.

Be optimistic, Pochettino urges depleted Spurs ahead of Barca clash

Tottenham Hotspur will be without five key players for at least two weeks due to injury, but manager Mauricio Pochettino was in upbeat mood ahead of the Champions League clash with Barcelona on Wednesday.

Dele Alli (hamstring), Serge Aurier (thigh), Mousa Dembele (thigh), Christian Eriksen (abdomen) and Jan Vertonghen (hamstring) will all be out until after this month's international break.

Spurs conceded two late goals to lose 2-1 to Inter Milan in their first Group B match, but Pochettino demanded a positive approach against the La Liga champions.

"It is a period when we are not in good luck with injuries... We are not victims, though. We must feel strong," Pochettino told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Every player must feel they can win and achieve what we want. It's about enjoying the game tomorrow and the best player in the world in (Lionel) Messi. Football is not a drama but always it's about being focussed, competitive and enjoying playing against the best player in the world."

REUTERS



VENUE: SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL
TIME: 17:30 HRS – 20:00 HRS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION FORUM

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
18:00 hrs - 18:10hrs	Registration of participants	CTPD/ ZCEA
18:10hrs - 18:20hrs	Opening Remarks	ZCEA Executive Director-Judith Mulenga
18:20 hrs – 18:40 hrs	Perspectives	CBN Representative
18: 40 hrs – 19:00hrs	- 2018 vs 2019 Social Sector Spending - The Zambian Child	Artist- KantuSiachingili
19:00hrs– 19:20hrs	- Impact of debt on social protection and child spending.	CSPR- Executive Director Patrickshindano
19:20hrs– 19: 45hrs	Open Discussion	News Diggers
19:45hrs– 20hrs	Closing Remarks	CTPD Executive Director- Isaac

