



Cheap Saudi Oil amounted to nothing, reveals minister

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PAIPA PANO...

As Lungu suspends General Education PS over theft of donor aid

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu has suspended Ministry of General Education Permanent Secretary Henry Tukombe to allow for smooth investigations into theft of donor aid at the ministry, as reported by the Auditor

General.
And Dora Silya has disclosed that cabinet has instructed the Attorney General to consider taking legal action against the Africa Confidential publication for "peddling smear campaigns against Zambians". **To page 6**



State House Press Aid Amos Chanda with Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya at a press briefing yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Leaders must listen to criticism - Musa Mwenye

To page 6

Expect commodity prices to go up, warns Maggy

By Abraham Kalito
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has warned that numerous commodity prices are expected to be adjusted upwards following the recent adjustment in the price of fuel. And Mwanakatwe says it is difficult to predict an

exchange rate that you are not in control of. Speaking to journalists in Lusaka, Wednesday, Mwanakatwe said numerous commodity prices are expected to be adjusted upwards following the adjustment in the price of fuel. **Story page 2**

VENUE: SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL
TIME: 17:30 HRS – 20:00 HRS
FRIDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2018

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	
18: 40 hrs - 19:00hrs	- 2018 vs 2019 Social Sector Spending	CBN Representative Artist- Kantu Siachingili
	- The Zambian Child	
19:00hrs- 19:20hrs	- Impact of debt on social protection and child spending.	CSPR- Executive Director Patrick Nshindano
19:20hrs- 19: 45hrs	Open Discussion	News Diggers
19:45hrs- 20hrs.	Closing Remarks	CTPD Executive Director- Isaac

Mutembo Tribunal judges under pressure as they face subpoena in Constitutional Court

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Kapeso is the new Deputy IG

Story page 7

By Abraham Kalito

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe has warned that numerous commodity prices are expected to be adjusted upwards following the recent adjustment in the price of fuel.

And Mwanakatwe says it is difficult to predict an exchange rate that you are in not control of.

Speaking to journalists in Lusaka, Wednesday, Mwanakatwe said numerous commodity prices are expected to be adjusted upwards following the adjustment in the price of fuel.

"I think it's always [good to] bear in mind that we are buying a commodity that is not kwacha priced. It is priced at dollar. So, we always have to find the kwacha to buy the commodity. In buying the

Expect commodity prices to go up - Mwanakatwe

commodity, we also bear in mind that the per barrel price of petrol and fuel in general has been going up. If we take ourselves back once upon a time, two years ago, I think it was about US \$49 per barrel, it got to US \$71 dollars per barrel recently it was US \$80. Today, I haven't checked. So, here is a commodity, which has been rising in price, government has been cushioning the public at large with that increase. But how much

more can you cushion? It's that difficult that's why we have to put the price up yesterday (Tuesday) to make sure that we are able to have the kwacha to pay for the fuel importation," Mwanakatwe said.

"The prices on commodities [are] only those that are being impacted by a foreign product. So, for example, if you are producing maize, will your price of maize go up today? No! It shouldn't because you are growing

maize in a field. So, maize shouldn't go up unless if you are now milling the maize and you are using the fuel that is higher in price than it was before. Then you may, but don't forget kwacha and dollar are both commodities going up and down. You have had a kwacha that has been stable from January until September, and in September because of various parameters, including the price of fuel and including, don't

forget the dollar has [been] strengthened. So, if you look in the region; you look at Botswana; you look at South Africa; you look at Zimbabwe; all the exchange rates have suffered because the dollar has strengthened." She, however, said inflation would not be negatively impacted by the depreciation of the kwacha.

"Look at what is in the inflationary basket. Look at what is in there; there is mealie meal, when you look

there, there is fish, there is kapenta. Look in that basket and then look at what is dollar-based, then you can see the proportion of the impact of dollar on your inflation basket. It's not just petroleum, it's an array of goods, even your rentals. So, that's what we need to be looking at. So, depending on how the dollar performs, depending on how the kwacha performs, as well vis-à-vis the dollar, that when we begin to see the inflation impact. We are trying as much as possible to make sure that we have the supply for the private sector that is needing to take out dollars for various things dividends, like produce for their manufacturing, like royalties and things like that. There is normally a bit of pressure towards the end of the year," she said.

And Mwanakatwe said it was difficult to predict an exchange rate she was not in control of.

"Dollar has strengthened. In the dollar strengthening, we need to ensure that our macros are strong, and we can have a private sector that is producing and a citizenry that is productive to make sure that we can cushion against some of these external factors. So, if the [dollar] comes down [kwacha appreciates], we expect those commodities that are being impacted by the price of the dollar should come down. When I looked yesterday at close of business, the Bank of Zambia rate had come down to below K12.00 [per dollar]. This morning [Wednesday's] opening, I haven't seen, but what we are doing as a government together with the central bank is actually helping to cushion the kwacha one of which is supply. It's law of supply and demand. If the demand is high and supply is low, there will be depreciation. If supply keeps coming, that's why we are saying let's be export-oriented and produce those export products that will earn us foreign exchange. Kwacha performance for the rest of the year, I'm not crystal-balling. I'm not crystal balling at all, maybe you can speak to the bankers about that, but I don't [know if] they will crystal ball as well. It's difficult to predict an exchange rate that you are in not control of because we don't produce the dollar," said Mwanakatwe.



EDEN UNIVERSITY

PRESS STATEMENT

Eden University held its 6th graduation ceremony on 30th September, 2018.

As part of the graduation celebrations, the University invited Prof. Patrick L. O. Lumumba to grace the occasion as guest of honor at the event. He was also to deliver a public lecture under the theme *"Africa in the Age of China Influence and Global Geo-Dynamics"*.

The public lecture was widely advertised in both the public and private media.

Prof. Patrick L. O. Lumumba is an internationally renowned and widely acclaimed academician and motivational speaker.

Eden University, like all other academic institutions, pursues the tenets of exchanges, interactions and academic freedom at both local and international levels.

The public lecture however, could not take place due to circumstances beyond the control of Eden University.

The Council, Faculty and Staff of the University, sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to all stakeholders.

The University nevertheless, will continue to engage various stakeholders in striving to achieve academic excellence.

EVARISTO CHANDA
CHAIRPERSON
EDEN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Saudi oil deal amounted to nothing - Minister

By Stuart Lisulo
Zambia's oil deal with Saudi Arabia could not have any impact on cushioning local fuel

pump prices because it represents just a "drop in the ocean", says Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa.

Reacting to the Energy Regulation Board's (ERB) hiked fuel pump prices, which shot up to K16.06 per litre for

petrol, among others, Nkhuwa argued that the Zambia government's much-hyped Saudi Oil deal was "nothing" in

terms of having any real impact on cushioning fuel pump prices. In the wake of public outrage, Nkhuwa

belaboured to explain that the Saudi feed stock equated to just five days' worth of supply, further describing the quantities as a "drop in the ocean."

"Well, the Saudi deal; we still got the fuel coming in, and that was US\$20 million. Like I said before; US \$20 million worth of fuel is nothing! It's just feed stock for five days, and you can't adjust your price [based] on that. So, all that was taken into account on our increase," Nkhuwa told Hot FM, Wednesday. "Even if the fuel was slightly cheaper, it couldn't have any impact at all because the quantities are not that they could've had an impact. You may wish to know that we have got a billion to about US \$1.2 billion bill for fuel every year so when you look at US\$20 million, it's just a drop in the ocean!" But when asked why Zambia should sustain the Saudi oil deal when it had no impact, Nkhuwa replied: "Well, look, if we continue with that deal and get more fuel from there [Saudi Arabia], then the citizens of Zambia will benefit. But at the moment, it was only US \$20 million; we are trying to re-negotiate to try and see if we can get more. If we can start getting US\$200-300 million worth of fuel from Saudi Arabia, definitely, it will show an impact." Earlier, he told listeners that among the usual driving factors, which included the depreciating kwacha and rising oil prices on the international market, had forced the ERB to hike the prices of the commodity. The Zambian government, through the Ministry of Energy, signed a five-year government-to-government renewable oil procurement and supply deal with Saudi Arabia which was scheduled to be effected back in 2015. However, the deal didn't yield any actual oil being delivered to Zambia until this year, which the ERB finally took into account before hiking fuel prices on Tuesday afternoon. The deal, according to then-Energy Minister Christopher Yaluma, was meant to see the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supply Zambia with 40 million litres of fuel, equating to 15 million litres of petrol and 25 million litres diesel.



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Govt to undertake national housing census in 2019

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says his Ministry will in 2019 conduct a national housing census to establish the current accommodation needs as well as housing deficits in the country.

And Chitotela says Lusaka's Misisi, Kuku, Chibolya, Bauleni and Kanyama settlements have been proposed for upgrades so that residential areas are well-planned with all social amenities put in place. In a statement issued by his public relations officer Jeff Banda, Chitotela stated that the census would be undertaken in collaboration with the Central Statistics Office (CSO), who would

also help the Ministry to monitor housing developments in Zambia. "We want to know the exact number and type of houses in the country so that we know our latest deficit and requirement. Once we have this data, we shall be able to plan adequately knowing

where need is and where we just need to improve." Banda quoted Chitotela as saying. He said the census would enable both the public and private sector to adequately participate in provision of housing in the country. And Chitotela explained that his Ministry had

further embarked on slum upgrades in Lusaka in an effort to address the housing deficit currently prevailing in the country.

"The slum upgrading in the capital city is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and other

stake holders, such as Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company and the power utility company, Zesco," explained Chitotela.

He revealed that a committee had been instituted to look into the matter of slum upgrading and was being supervised by

permanent secretaries from the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development and Local Government.

Chitotela also said a Romanian company, Rio-Aid, had been engaged to conduct pre and actual feasibility studies for the slum upgrade at no cost.

Leaders must listen to criticism - Mwenye

By Mukosha Funga

Former Attorney General Musa Mwenye says it is important for leaders to listen to criticism no matter what format it is dispensed.

In a statement shared on his Facebook page, Wednesday, Mwenye observed that a good leader was expected to act in national interest even if doing

so would bruise their ego.

Mwenye recalled how he publicly criticized late president Michael Sata for appointing someone who had been convicted of corruption as permanent secretary and how the former Head of State handled the public rebuke.

"Since the reintroduction of multiparty politics, we

Zambians have at times been outspoken about issues that concern us. With the advent of social media, our conversations on national issues have become even louder. This, in my view is healthy for our democracy and must not only be embraced by all of us, but must also be encouraged. We

must of course graduate our national conversation from the insults that we sometimes see online, to a decent, but sometimes brutally frank discussion. Leaders should never be afraid of criticism. They should embrace it and use it to improve delivery to the people they lead. Although I have had several instances

in which I have criticized leaders, one incidence stands out," Mwenye stated.

"On the the 15th of October, 2011, President Sata, MHSRIP, appointed me Solicitor General. I was at the time Law Association of Zambia President. After consultations with some leading members of LAZ, I accepted the appointment but I still had reservations on whether to actually take up the appointment. Soon after I received my letter, but before I was sworn into office, it was rumored that President Sata had appointed someone who had previously been convicted of corruption, as a Permanent Secretary. Clearly, if the reports were true, the appointment was misguided in principle, because a person who has breached public trust must not be appointed to be controlling officer of public money. As LAZ president I issued a scathing statement that attacked this decision and questioned the Presidents judgment in this regard. This very public rebuke of the man who had just given me my letter of appointment, was front page news. President Sata, reversed his decision quietly, never answered my very public criticism and went on to swear me in as his Solicitor General on the 29th of December, 2011. In all the time I worked with him, he never referred to my very public criticism of him. He gained my respect and I took up my appointment because of this act of leadership on his part."

Mwenye advised leaders to always listen to advice because that was a strength.

"Proverbs 11:14 says, 'where there is no guidance, a people falls but in the abundance of counselors, there is safety'. As leaders at all levels, whether ruling party, opposition party, traditional, community or corporate leaders, it is important to listen to criticism no matter how that criticism is dispensed. It may come in a respectful private manner and sometimes it may be offered in an undiplomatic public form. Whichever way, listening to advice is a great virtue for leadership, especially of a nation; and where circumstances require action, a good leader must act in national interest even if doing so may bruise their self esteem. To listen to advice and criticism is a strength and not a weakness," stated Mwenye.



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Government issues SIs to outline which businesses foreigners can venture into

By Abraham Kalito

Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Christopher Yaluma has announced that two Statutory Instruments (SIs) aimed at protecting small business from being invaded by foreigners have just been introduced. Speaking during the Impact Capital business meeting in Lusaka, Tuesday, Yaluma said the Commerce Ministry had issued the two SI aimed at protecting small business from being invaded by foreigners. He said government had observed that foreigners had invaded small businesses and that the SI would regulate which businesses they could venture into. "I think I support the move to ensure that we stop foreigners from taking over small businesses that the local people can do. We need to protect the small-scale businesses here in the country. And mind you, whilst we do that, we are not trying to say we will ring fence the growth; we are trying to put them through training and accessing deals. When I talk about small manufacturing companies, which are around, this will open up for them to become more producers of quality goods, which is going to centre around the continental Free Trade Area we are talking about. We need to protect that. We need to see Zambians grow. If we don't give them the avenue in which to prosper like avoid these people who are coming in and mingle into the small markets, I don't think that's welcome. We must grow them, we must give them the avenue to develop their businesses," Yaluma said. "Now, if somebody comes in to do block-making as a foreigner, that's not good because those are small things that Zambians can go in. If somebody comes in and starts making nshima, which is reserved for the women at the

markets, you know our women at Soweto. Somebody comes and starts selling chicken. So, I totally agree, and as government, we have released Statutory Instruments, which are aimed at trying to protect the Zambian businesses and we are just trying to implement through various responsible Ministries like the Local Government, the city councils to go in and implement that so that Zambian small-scale [businesses] can benefit, can prosper in their own fields. With this coming, we are not restricting them to remain small; eventually this is the starting to see that their businesses are growing." He insisted that it was wrong for a foreigner to come and invest in small business such as block-making or chicken rearing. "This is very impressive and it's in my heart. My biggest support has been 'how do we

support these Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs)?' And the first question is how do we access funding? And now here we see impact; capital coming in to see how they can and

arrange deals with SMEs to further their operations and I think this is very cardinal for Zambia. As a country, we need to support these SMEs; that's where all the growth of

the economy [comes from]. So, this is very encouraging, and I will pay attention to this and I will dialogue with SMEs to ensure that they take this seriously. Knowledge transfer

is important. Without that, the SMEs will not reap the good that is provided here. I think this will change the profiling of SMEs for the future," said Yaluma.



Vice President Inonge Wina with His Majesty King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato, and Prime Minister Dr Tom Thabane, tour the exhibition stands at the Thaba Bosiu, Lesotho

Govt must apologize for lying to Zambians on fuel – Kabimba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Rainbow party leader Wynter Kabimba has demanded an apology from the PF government following blatant lies that fuel pump prices were not going to be increased in view of the depreciating kwacha. Reacting to the huge upward adjustment in fuel pump prices effected by the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), Kabimba expressed shock at how government, through the ERB, misled the nation by failure to keep its word that the depreciation of the kwacha would not affect the cost of fuel.

The former justice minister equally expressed frustration and dismay at the seeming incompetence and lack of co-ordination in the entire government bureaucracy. "We were assured by the Energy Regulation Board just a week ago when the kwacha started nose diving, that the kwacha would not affect the price of fuel. The Times of Zambia, which is a government tabloid, ran a headline saying that, 'we, the citizens, of this country should not believe in the rumours that there was an impending increase in the price of fuel. It is, therefore,

shocking to the citizens that hardly a week later, there is this upward price increase in fuel. So, the question that begs the answer is, do the people in this government know what they are doing? Is there co-ordination in the PF government? Do they have consultations amongst themselves? Are these parastatals, like ERB, being properly supervised by the superintending ministries?" Kabimba wondered. He said the latest increment in fuel prices was a true reflection of incompetence in the PF government. "What you have seen here

in the fuel thing is what has caused us problems. There is clearly no co-ordination amongst government ministries and government agencies in terms of running the affairs of this country and hence the problems in which we are today. So, this has everything to do with whether or not we have competent people in government. And we in the Rainbow party think that this is a reflection of the incompetence in the PF government because this did not come from the opposition, it was not prompted by anybody,

[but] it was them that gave us the assurance through ERB that we should not worry, we should go to sleep, and that the depreciation of the kwacha will not impact on the price of fuel," recalled Kabimba. "So, we want an apology from them. The Zambian people deserve an apology in view of this increment that the government lied to us through ERB; that is what I would demand from government! And just to reinforce the argument that this is not the first time it happened over the Black Mountain again. The guys must get serious with running a country. This is a country of lives of human beings [and] so we must be serious with these matters. What else can they do? Because they can't reduce the price and what do you do when you have told lies? Surely, you apologize. That is the best you can do. The best that a human being of integrity and honesty can do; when they have wronged you; when they have told you a lie; when they have misled you; is to apologize and say 'sorry we misled the nation.'"

There's economic sabotage within PF - Munir

By Mirriam Chabala

Patriotic Front cadre Munir Zulu says there is an economic sabotage from within and the ruling party must start preparing for exit if they don't see it. And Zulu has resurrected calls for the PF to have a national indaba to iron out all issues within the party. Meanwhile, Zulu has lamented that those who reason are sidelined. Commenting on the upward adjustment of fuel pump prices by over K16 in a statement, Zulu wondered how a Kingdom as big as Saudi Arabia could bring fuel to Zambia that only lasted for six days, as announced by Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya. "Dora Siliya just informed the nation that the fuel

from Saudi Arabia lasted 6 days. How does such a huge government delegation bring us such less fuels? When we ask then we are a problem! Ba PF an economic sabotage is taking place internally and if we don't see it then let's start preparing our exit, just a few days ago the media reported that cheap fuel has docked in Dar es Salaam! A week later we are told it was meant to last for six days. Objectivity must not be understood to mean problematic! Sometimes it just hurts that we have a government spokesperson who knows how to lose power and bounce back," Zulu stated on his Facebook page, Wednesday. "Zambians are always understanding when faced with different challenges but that does not mean that you take them for a ride. Poverty knows no names and political

affiliations. Learn to be objective at times, prof Lumumba denied entry, next is pump price, tomorrow it's mealie meal, next is all basic needs going up! We have an economic problem that must be addressed, this is not a political challenge we are experiencing. We need to organize a national indaba to address the challenge at hand." Meanwhile, Zulu, in a separate posting, lamented that those who reasoned were often sidelined but insisted that it was necessary for objective minds to resurrect if the PF was to succeed. "The challenge I have in my country is that those who reason are sidelined and those that don't are respected," stated Zulu. "Objective minds must resurrect if we are to succeed."

Reliance on mines makes Zambian economy vulnerable, says Expert

By Daniel Chansa

PricewaterhouseCoopers Tax expert Jyoti Mistry says concentrating revenue generation measures on the mining industry renders the Zambian economy highly vulnerable to movements in commodity prices and global economic conditions. And Mistry says a volatile tax regime is not conducive to long-term investment.

In her presentation on Zambia's 2019 national budget analysis and Outlook at Protea Hotel in Ndola, Monday, Mistry said Mistry observed that the Zambian economy was still highly dependent on the mining sector. "Given the country's difficult situation, government may have taken a calculated risk by concentrating the revenue

generation measures on the mining industry. However, this us a precarious measure as it renders the Zambian economy highly vulnerable to movements in commodity prices and global economic conditions," Mistry said. "Despite this, the sector faces an increasing number of obstacles that could hinder its development. Most notably, government

domestic borrowing continues to crowd out the private sector. Government says it will address this by dismantling arrears, although it has yet to give details as to how it will fund this. The private sector also faces increased costs in light of the new 30% restriction on interest seduction on loans, as discussed earlier, plus the recent increase in minimum

wages. Furthermore, continued kwacha weakness in light of Zambia's Fiscal position and higher fuel prices could also weigh heavily on an already over burdened private sector if these trends continue." And Mistry said a volatile tax regime is not conducive to long-term investment. "Additionally, mineral royalty tax will no longer

be deductible as a cost for purposes of determining the taxable income. Whilst the majority of the mining sector will face an additional burden, companies that use the copper cathodes to add value will see a reduction in corporate income tax rate from 35% to 15%. It should be appreciated that a volatile tax regime is not conducive to long term investment," said Mistry.

We won't run away after losing power because Zambia does not belong to HH - Mumbi Phiri

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says Hakainde Hichilema's threats that Sunday Chanda will run away from Zambia after PF loses power are empty because the country doesn't belong to him.

And Phiri says HH should restrict his insults to women, charging that in Southern Province some men don't respect women, which is why they marry so many of them and use them like tractors.

The PF official was responding to remarks made by the opposition UPND leader who expressed anger on Tuesday after he was repeatedly accused of privatising the mines. HH threatened to sue a caller called Elvis while warning the PF deputy media director that he would run from Zambia when PF is kicked out of office, because he was fond of insulting.

"Which insults has Sunday Chanda thrown on HH? Even Elvis the caller never insulted HH, he was merely challenging him to explain the privatisation of mines which he was part of as a consultant. I was listening to the programme. If someone accuses you, you don't have to be angry and start threatening people, you just have to explain. Yes we know that PF will one day come out of power. Me I have always emphasised that no situation is permanent. The only permanent thing is the Kingdom of God," Phiri said.

"Tell HH that no one will run away from this country. In fact ask him to say nanga ni Zambia ya nyoko? This country doesn't belong to him. Tell HH that because of that heart, God will never allow him to be President of this country. When PF comes out of power, God will prepare someone else whom nobody, even HH doesn't know. And that Sunday Chanda he is threatening is a young person. When HH came on the political scene, he came on the premises of being [young like] Obama because he was less than 45 years old. Since he is now old and he has failed to become President, he should have been expected to leave the stage to young people. He should let young people like Sunday

Chanda or Cornelius Mweetwa to take over from him." She Charged that in Southern Province some men use women like tractors, which is why they marry a lot of them.

"What I want to tell HH is that Sunday Chanda is a man like him. Let his threats end with [Edith] Nawakwi whom he says belongs to the kitchen, let his threats end with Mumbi Phiri because we are women. So let his insults end with us women because by our tradition and culture, those whose heads have not fully developed, they don't understand equal rights

between men and women. Men like HH continue disparaging us women because he has not developed in his head to understand that we are equal. To him we don't matter, we are just useless," she charged.

"We know that where he comes from, there is no courtesy. They don't respect women. That's why they marry four-five of us, because we are used like tractors where they come from. I am not saying all of them, but others. HH has one wife, but we have seen others have six to seven wives. So to threaten a young person like Sunday Chanda is

very unfortunate. Hakainde is an old man who should show respect to Sunday Chanda if he wants to be respected."

Phiri said there was no need for HH to be upset when asked to explain the role he played in the privatisation of mines.

"Has he ever been to Elvis's house for him to say 'you are suffering?' He doesn't even know him, so how does he know that the man is suffering? Does he want everybody to be posting pictures of where they live like they do to show off that they are rich? HH doesn't feed Elvis, so let us respect each

other," said Phiri.

"HH was part of that team that advised government on the privatisation of mines. That is why me I always say that educated people have disadvantaged this country, because when you know that you are educated, you should know the repercussion. Those people who were privatising should have advised government to say these will be the consequences in future, but what did we see? The same people who should have advised government started buying shares in the companies. Is that Ethical?"

"The impact on jobs, investor confidence and investment arising from the last spate of reactive changes to the mining tax regime between 2013 and 2015 should not be forgotten. It is also a great concern that the current pipeline of exploration projects has diminished significantly. Any disinvestment or curtailment of operations by these companies would have a significant impact on the rest of the economy."

Earlier Ministry of Finance permanent secretary Emmanuel Pamu attributed the depreciation of the Kwacha to more importation than exportation of goods.

Dr Pamu encouraged exportation of goods by Zambians so that Kwacha could regain its value.

President Lungu suspends General Education PS over theft of donor aid

By Mirriam Chabala

President Edgar Lungu has suspended Ministry of General Education Permanent Secretary Henry Tukombe to allow for smooth investigations into theft of donor aid at the ministry, as reported by the Auditor General.

And Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Silya has disclosed that cabinet has instructed the Attorney General to interrogate the possibility of taking legal action against the Africa Confidential publication for peddling smear campaigns against Zambians; the publication that revealed the theft of donor aid last month.

Meanwhile, government through the Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC) is working out ways of restructuring the Times of Zambia Printpak and the Zambia Daily Mail to address the financial challenges at the two institutions.

Speaking during a press briefing Wednesday, State House Spokesperson Amos Chanda revealed that President Lungu had upheld the Auditor General's recommendation to send Tukombe on leave in order to allow for investigations to take place.

"I can confirm that His Excellency the President has approved the recommendation by the Auditor General that Ministry of General Education Permanent Secretary proceeds on administrative leave to allow for administrative investigations to take place. I can confirm to you that the Auditor General did author that report last week and made those

recommendations. So when the President is labouring to say he's going to stick by the rules and abide by the presumption of innocence of any individual, no one is going to push him to say this one has been suspended, tomorrow he's going to jail. But even now am not saying that Mr Tukombe has been found guilty of anything, the President has just approved that he goes. In fact, I can say the President has asked him to proceed on leave to allow for this internal audit which was instituted by the Ministry of Finance whose function it is to put internal audits in any government department," Chanda said.

Speaking at the same event, Siliya who is also Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services disclosed that government was considering taking legal action against the Africa Confidential.

"Cabinet has instructed the Attorney General to interrogate very seriously the possibility of the people of Zambia and the Zambian government taking legal action against the Africa Confidential. Because the smear campaign it has perpetrated hurts the people of Zambia. Not President Lungu, it hurts the people of Zambia. Economy is about perception and when people continue to have a smear campaign against our country, it affects the economy of our country and who suffers? It is the people of Zambia. That's why we have acted swiftly to say 'let's give the donors back their money,' Siliya said.

And in a discussion, Siliya and Chanda exchanged views about how displeased government was having with British High Commissioner Fergus Cochrane-Dyet over the tweet in which he confirmed his government's suspension of aid to Zambia.

"You people covered a diplomat who said money has been abused through fraud and corruption. The Secretary to the Cabinet says 'your Excellency there is actually no money stolen with regard to the DFID, that's why we knew exactly where it was. And when I was in New York I was made aware of the [Daily] Nation newspaper making some revelation... you decided to believe the Africa confidential but I think the Daily Nation on it's own went as far as producing a bank statement," Chanda said

And Siliya added that: "I think it's been quite of concern to the people of Zambia and government to see the change in tone by the British diplomat saying one thing and then it's toned down. We've also monitored but I think that these issues are dealt with within the diplomatic realm and we have a Minister of Foreign Affairs who is active on this matter at the moment and hopefully sooner or later he will share with us these issues as far as they relate to the British High Commissioner. There are rules that relate to how diplomats behave."

Meanwhile, Siliya disclosed that government was working on modalities to restructure the Times of Zambia Printpak and the Zambia Daily Mail

in order to keep the newspapers in business.

"Clearly, online media has brought up a new dimension in terms of access to information. So the traditional media and particularly newspapers are suffering. And government has to admit to that fact, Daily Mail, Times of Zambia have to admit to that fact because unlike before where people used to get the news when you get out of your home and bought a newspaper, today you don't have to. You sit in your house and read news on your phone before you read it in the newspaper," said Siliya.

"So we do have to address the challenges at Daily Mail and Times of Zambia. Particularly Times of Zambia, its debt is beyond its assets, almost saying that it is insolvent. It's a choice of should we continue to get money from hospitals, from schools to support the employees at Daily Mail and Times of Zambia or is there another way that they can be placed elsewhere so that the other sectors of the economy don't lose out? I think these are the issues that the IDC is grappling with. There has to be total restructuring, first the business model, is it working or is it not? I know IDC is working closely with management at the two newspapers to say 'unless we change the business model, we are going to sink' who moved my cheese? If somebody moves your cheese, you have to look elsewhere or make your own cheese and this is the reality of the business environment where there is now technology."

By Mirriam Chabala
Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says President Edgar Lungu is still confident that kwacha will soon stabilise because market forces are still intact.

And Chanda says government will proceed to disburse its component of the Social Cash Transfer scheme as it awaits the outcome of the inquiry into alleged misapplication of donor aid towards the fund.

Addressing journalists shortly after President Lungu inspected fish ponds at State House with staff from the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ), Tuesday, Chanda said the Head of State was optimistic that market dynamics would soon normalise when he was asked about the continued kwacha depreciation.

“The President is satisfied that the market forces are intact and that the volatility in the foreign exchange market is market-based and he’s satisfied, for now, that the market dynamics will normalise the situation. So, he’s meeting with the [Bank of Zambia] governor [Dr Denny Kalyalya] to exchange views on the same. Among other things, the movement in the

Kwacha will soon stabilise – Amos

dollar – kwacha relationship is one of the subject matters the President is discussing with the governor of the Reserve Bank. He has confidence in the monetary team at the Reserve Bank that they deploy the necessary instruments to make sure that there is stability in the market,” Chanda responded.

And Chanda said Minister of Foreign Affairs Joe Malanji had assured the donor community that investigations in the misapplication of donor aid was going well, and that the outcome would be shared soon.

“The President continues to express confidence in the administrative inquiry, and also what he doesn’t want to do is to ask the investigative

agencies, such as ACC and DEC to be telling him every day, he wants a free and open inquiry. But so far, as I said, some of the findings are what I have announced already that upon that, he had taken administrative action, but when the noise is out, substantive issues will be separated from peripheral issues and a proper discussion will be made. But the process, according to the President, the briefings he’s getting he is very satisfied and hopeful that this will come to a conclusion very soon,” Chanda said.

“The Minister of Foreign Affairs has informed him that he has met with members of donor community and assured them that [the] process of investigations is going on very

well and that very soon, in a matter of days and not weeks, this matter will be closed and come to a conclusion so that the administration of the Social Cash Transfer continues. Government continues to do its part and I think that they will proceed to disperse their component. Because as you know, there is 25 per cent by donors then there is the 75 per cent. So, they are behind in terms of disbursement. The instruction is that the government side of the disbursement will proceed as we await the outcome of an inquiry on the donor funded component of it. But stability has retained in that donors are being briefed about what is happening and all stakeholders are of the view

that the process is moving in the right direction.”

Meanwhile, Chanda disclosed that President Lungu was meeting with a special envoy from the Great Lakes region to discuss security concerns in the Democratic Republic of Congo ahead of the December presidential election in that country.

“The President has met with a special envoy from the Great Lakes region and they discussed regional security, the role Zambia is playing in terms of security, and also really, its efforts as Chair of

the SADC organ on defence and security. The discussion was centred on the electoral process in the Congo, and how all parties, Zambia inclusive, can do their very best to ensure that the process is as inclusive as possible and as open as possible and, therefore, must deliver an outcome that will foster escalation of influx of refugees into other areas and the two leaders, the President and the special envoy and the UNDP country representative, have expressed concern that in fact, in the recent days, the number of refugees coming into Zambia in Luapula Province has been on the increase. It is their collective hope that the process will be as open as possible and include as many players as possible; whoever has expressed interest so that everyone can have confidence in the outcome of the December, 23rd elections. Therefore, chances that there could be an influx of refugees could reduce. But all this will be discussed at the summit in Kampala in the Great Lakes region,” said Chanda.

Mutembo Tribunal judges under pressure, face subpoena to ConCourt

By Mukosha Funga
Former Director of Public Prosecutions Mutembo Nchito has applied to the Constitutional Court for a subpoena against former chief justices Ernest Sakala and Mathew Ngulube, demanding that the duo appears before the Constitutional Court as witnesses over the manner in which the tribunal that presided over his removal from office conducted its business.

Mutembo has also applied to subpoena tribunal secretary Mathew Zulu who he wants to produce documents that were used in the Justice Annel Silungwe-led Tribunal that recommended his removal from office to President Lungu. In an affidavit in support of his application, Mutembo stated that Justice Zulu would be required to give evidence in relation to the documents produced and the Petition that was before the ConCourt.

Mutembo also explained why he wanted Justice Sakala and Justice Ngulube to be subpoenaed.

“That in relation to Mr Justice E.L Sakala, that

he be Summoned and/or Subpoenaed to give evidence on his appointment to the Mutembo Nchito SC Investigative Tribunal set up under the repealed Article 58 of the Constitution, his prior dealings with the Petitioner which were directly connected to the terms of reference of the Mutembo Nchito SC Tribunal, the Petition in general and specifically claims under paragraph 31 iv, v and vi of the Petition,” read Mutembo’s affidavit.

“That in relation to Mr. Justice M. Ngulube, that he be Summoned and/or Subpoenaed to give evidence on his appointment to the Mutembo Nchito SC Investigative Tribunal set up under the repealed Article 58 of the Constitution, his prior dealings with the Petitioner directly connected with the Petitioner’s complaint before the Court, the Petition in general and specifically claims under paragraph 31 iv, v and vi of the Petition. That in any event, these witnesses be required to testify to what they know about the matter before Court.”

Lungu appoints Kapeso as Deputy IG

By Diggers Reporter
President Edgar Lungu has with immediate effect appointed Southern Province Police Commissioner Bonny Kapeso as Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of operations. Kapeso is taking over from Malcom Mulenga whose contract has not been renewed. Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda announced this at a media briefing, Wednesday, saying Kapeso would soon be sworn in. Kapeso will be succeeded by his deputy, Diamond Likashi who was until his promotion in charge of TAZARA Unit in Mpika, which is yet to get a replacement.

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May 16, 2016: State House announces President Edgar Lungu's safe arrival in Saudi Arabia to negotiate the cheapest oil deal ever, which would see the cost of fuel in Zambia go down to as low as K5.5 per litre.

MAY 18, 2016: GOVT ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF A FIVE-YEAR ZAMBIA-SAUDI OIL DEAL AGREEMENT.

ZNBC: "Zambia and Saudi Arabia have signed documents to operationalise the importation of cheaper fuel to Zambia.

Energy Minister Dora Siliya says the deal will soon materialise as technocrats from both Saudi Arabia and Zambia are now working on final touches before the FIRST shipment of fuel leaves for Zambia. The minister says the offer by the Saudi Fund for Development to supply cheaper oil for five years is beneficial because it is a government-to-government deal, which makes it cost effective and reliable. Ms. Siliya has told

Zambian journalists in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah that the offer by Saudi Arabia will help reduce fuel shortages, which the country experienced a few months ago.

AUGUST 25, 2017: AMOS CHANDA REACTS TO PUBLIC CONCERNS ABOUT EXPENSIVE GIFTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

News Diggers!: "Look, if you see Amos Chanda with a Rolex watch, the assumption is that he has stolen so much money. [But] do you know that I was a special envoy to a foreign Head of State? It is rude, it's unacceptable [and] it is undiplomatic to refuse a gift that is given [to you]! But you people will take a picture and say, 'now he has got a Rolex!' What do you do in that

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26 0965815078/0977708285
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Timeline proof that cheap Saudi oil deal was a fraud

circumstance? Even I went [to Saudi Arabia] with a certain copper gift and when you present, you actually don't know what is in that [parcel]. [But] this is it (shows his wrist watch)!"

OCTOBER 17, 2017: ERB INCREASES FUEL PUMP PRICES. CHEAP SAUDI OIL IS NOWHERE.

Times of Zambia: "The Energy Regulation Board has announced an increment in fuel prices effective midnight tonight. Petrol has gone up from K11.67 to K12.97, while diesel is up from K9.87 to K11.09 and kerosene will now cost K7.82 from K6.50. The increment has been necessitated by changes in the international oil prices and the depreciation of the kwacha."

JANUARY 10, 2018: ZAMBIA GETS US \$102 MILLION LOAN FROM SAUDI ARABIA. CHEAP

SAUDI OIL DEAL MUTED.

News Diggers!: "This relationship was reinvigorated when His Excellency President Lungu went to Saudi Arabia and met the King. Today, we have endorsed that engagement that they had last May. We have just signed a financing facility of US \$102 million to construct an 800 bed-space hospital here in Lusaka."

JANUARY 12, 2018: LUNGU ORDERS PROBE INTO DELAYED SAUDI OIL AGREEMENT

Zambia Daily Mail: "President Edgar Lungu is concerned that some collaborative programmes between Zambia and Saudi Arabia have not been implemented. Mr Lungu said he will send Minister of Development Planning Alexander Chiteme, Minister of Finance Felix Mutati and Minister of Energy David Mabumba to

Saudi Arabia to investigate what has been hindering effective implementation of programmes.

FEBRUARY 12, 2018: ERB INCREASES FUEL PRICES, AGAINST PUBLIC DEMAND FOR CHEAP SAUDI OIL.

ZNBC: "Specifically, from the last price adjustment on 17th October, 2017, Murban crude oil prices per barrel increased by 9.04 per cent from US \$58.10/bbl to US\$63.35/bbl in November, 2017, reaching US \$64.85/bbl by December, 2017."

MAY 29, 2018: GOVT PROMISES TO NEGOTIATE EXTENTION OF THE UNSEEN SAUDI OIL DEAL BEYOND 5 YEARS.

Daily Nation: "In terms of the oil deal with Saudi Arabia, everything has been paid and we should be rolling it out next month. What is worth noting is that US \$20

million is not a lot of money, but we will see at what price we will accommodate the consumers to ensure that Zambians benefit from the deal. I will embark on a trip to Saudi Arabia to get the deal sealed and discuss how they can make the deal ongoing beyond the offered five years."

JULY 30, 2018: GOVT FINALLY ANNOUNCES ARRIVAL OF LONG-AWAITED CHEAP SAUDI OIL.

Zambia Daily Mail: Minister of Energy Matthew Nkhuwa says US \$20 million worth of crude oil from Saudi Arabia is finally expected to dock at the port of Dar es Salaam on Wednesday to supply Zambia the long-awaited cheap-priced commodity. Mr Nkhuwa said in an interview yesterday that the ship will begin offloading the oil in the second week

of August. He said initially, the ship docked in June, but it had wrong specifications for offloading and was, therefore, not compatible to the port.

October 2, 2018: ERB INCREASES FUEL PRICES. GOVT SAYS SAUDI OIL DEAL LASTED ONLY 6 DAYS.

ERB: "There will 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 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."

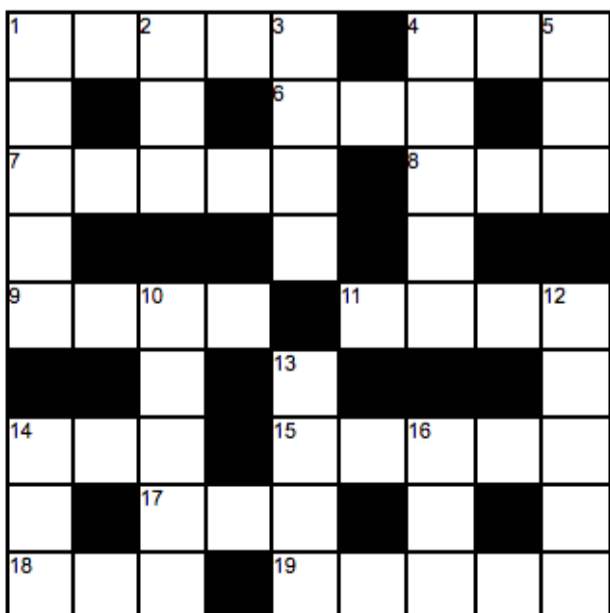
Dora Siliya: "For the record, the Saudi oil was only enough for 6 days. It was only 10 million litres petrol and 10 million litres diesel. Consumption is about 2 million litres for each per day."

Our opinion? Zambians have been fooled. ERB and the line ministries new that there was nothing to talk about in this Saudi Arabia oil, but they kept fooling Zambians with propaganda; raising people's false hopes.

Even last week when we saw the Kwacha skyrocketing against the Dollar, we knew that soon, reality would dawn and the Zambian people will be asked to pay more for fuel instead of less as promised.

Our conclusion is that this deal was a smoke screen for much bigger personal deals, which the delegation made with individual businessmen in that country. Evidently, so far, the top beneficiaries of the Zambia-Saudi oil deal are those who travelled with the President and returned with expensive gifts and Rolex watches.

Crossword puzzle 201



"You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it." - Malcolm X

- | Across | Down |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Display item | 1. Criminal group |
| 4. Prefix meaning 3 | 2. Father |
| 6. Belonging to us | 3. Miner's find |
| 7. Diminished | 4. ___ and true |
| 8. Writing liquid | 5. Make angry |
| 9. Awestruck | 10. Days of yore |
| 11. Garden paradise | 12. Dweebish |
| 14. Rotten | 13. Neighborhood |
| 15. Navigation aid | 14. ___ Bang Theory |
| 17. Make do | 16. Commotion |
| 18. Weapon | |
| 19. Perturb | |

Solutions to puzzle 200



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.

ERB's fuel price hike

Dear Editor,

"We saw it coming. They rubbished the rumours thinking they are smart. Need I say more?? I still feel the hike is just a rumour because I have brought evidence as per requirement in most cases!!" - Nico'I Kaleshi

"ERB had denied that the fuel price would be increased. Why? It was obvious to everyone that since the variables, which determine the increase or decreasing of fuel has been affected; the fuel was going to go up. This could have bn avoided had it not bn for our thieving leaders & some civil servants in all ministries." - Haggai Gondwe

"This increment is too much. How can they increase fuel with such an amount?" - Paul W Banda

"These goons always cite the same issues as the driving force behind the increment for each and every increment they do. It puzzles me. Just a couple of days ago, some minister responsible for that sector was trying to cover it up that they shall be no fuel hikes." - Mainde D Keembe

"I am just waiting for those who voted him in to vote him out! The writing was clear on the wall from the beginning. Let us awake from slumber; there is no economy for PF or opposition, but Zambian economy and here we are suffering together. We have to send a strong signal to this good-for-nothing government of corruption." - Tobani Mwananyambe Mubita

"Stupidity in Zambia at its best when the price on world market goes down they don't reduce - Who will join me in removing these thugs kanshi imwe mwebantu?" - Chanda Marcus



Zambia's external debt servicing costs will get messy

Editor,

"And all this before we even start servicing the two Eurobonds? Things will get messy because a huge chunk of our budgets will be going towards debt servicing and away from health, education and other social services." - Mwappe Nkonge

"It's going to get worse before it gets better... a lot worse. Agony is they have no clue how fix it." - Brian J. Mwanza

"Where will nearly US \$1 billion dollars come from? I am feeling like leaving this country." - Trywell Katibu Jnr.

"Debt servicing; we are in trouble as a country under PF government..." - Katachi Katachi

"That's where our money is going, not VAT refunds." - Muna Chikale

"PF is a disaster..." - Kool Int

Mutati's leadership claims are false

Editor,

MMD-faction leader Felix Mutati claims leadership is ordained by God (News Diggers, Oct. 1). We have heard this lie before, but repeating it doesn't make it true.

No matter how much Mutati (or any other believer) may shout, leadership is something that we have to fight for. It's never handed out on a plate by any invisible supernatural being. Sometimes the fight for leadership is done through a democratic process called elections with the winner assuming leadership. Sometimes (as in dictatorships) leadership is assumed through violent means, such as military coups. Zambia may be a Christian country, but it is the people that choose leaders.

God, if such a being exists, has no role in our choice of leaders. In fact, it's an insult to our intelligence to assume that we are not in control of our lives and decisions as human beings, and that an improbable invisible supernatural being is.

Dictators love to play religious gymnastics by claiming that they are chosen by God. The claim is a con-game to make us gullible and deflate our critical faculties to question them. As history confirms, such gimmicks don't work, fortunately. People's wishes are superior and eventually triumph whether dictators like it or not, and despite their claim that God is on their side. The current Zambian despot is not an exception.

Gladwell Gunduza, Lusaka

Bill Cosby: After first week in prison, he's in 'good spirits,' takes daily calls from wife Camille

Convicted sex assailant Bill Cosby has spent one week in a Pennsylvania prison as of Tuesday, and so far, according to his spokesman and a prison spokeswoman: He is in "good spirits" and feels safe with prison trustees to guide him around. He's not been attacked or in a fight; he talks daily by phone to his wife Camille; and he's pleased the prison staff has treated him "respectfully."

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking on Cosby's vow to appeal his three-to-10 years sentence and his April conviction on three counts of aggravated indecent sexual assault.

His defense lawyer, Joseph Green, declined to comment to USA TODAY on when he plans to file pleadings or what arguments he might make. "We'll let our pleading speak for itself," he said.

But Andrew Wyatt, Cosby's fiery publicist who accused prosecutors, accusers and their lawyers of conducting "the most racist and sexist trial in the history of the United States," says Cosby, 81, and legally blind, is coping well in SCI Phoenix,

a new state prison outside Philadelphia.

There have been no "dramatic

moments," despite tabloid reports to the contrary, Wyatt said. The National Enquirer's

online website ("We pay for juicy info!") even reported Tuesday that Cosby has hired a team of

"experts" to research ways to "bust him out" of prison. "Don't believe the tabloids,"

Wyatt scoffed to USA TODAY. "They said someone threw a banana at him, that he was in a gang fight. The tabloid reports are false, asinine and ridiculous." Amy Worden, a spokeswoman Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, said the staff at the prison report Cosby has been in "good spirits."

"His attitude is great; Mr. Cosby is a very strong human being," Wyatt said. "He had prepared himself for this moment."

Worden said Cosby is not yet in the general prison population but integration remains a "long term goal" for Inmate No. NN7687.

"They're not putting him in (anytime) time soon, because he can't see who is coming towards him, he can't see objects or persons or even colors," Wyatt said.

In the meantime, other prisoners, known as "trustees," have been assigned to help guide him around some areas of the facility, such as the library or the yard, Wyatt and Worden said.

"There are several inmate staff assigned to assist Mr. Cosby for several hours a day," Worden said. "This is standard procedure for any elderly or infirm inmate who needs assistance getting around."

Wyatt said Cosby is pleased that he's been treated well by prison staff. "He said they're not being mean to him or anything, they've treated him with respect, everyone has been respectful," Wyatt said. "He feels safe."

He can't yet receive visitors - that could begin in a few weeks once potential visitors have been vetted, Wyatt said - but he takes daily calls from his wife of 54 years; he and Camille talk mostly about how he's doing and how she's doing, Wyatt said.

She and their three surviving daughters also are coping well, Wyatt said. Even before the sentencing, Cosby's wife attacked the judge and prosecutors, accusing Judge Steven O'Neill of being biased and unethical during the trial and asserting that District Attorney Kevin Steele played a doctored audio tape for the jury. **USATODAY**



A single cell near the infirmary at the State Correctional Institution at Phoenix in Collegeville, Pa. Bill Cosby has just completed a week at the prison following his three-to-10-year prison sentence for sexual assault.

World Court orders U.S. to ensure Iran sanctions don't hit humanitarian aid

The World Court ordered the United States on Wednesday to ensure that sanctions against Iran do not impact humanitarian aid or civil aviation safety.

Judges at the International Court Of Justice handed a victory to Tehran, which had argued that sanctions imposed since May by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump violate the terms of a 1955 Treaty of Amity between the two countries.

The ruling is likely to have at most limited practical impact on the implementation of sanctions, which Washington is reimposing and tightening after pulling out of a 2015 nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers.

The ICJ is the United Nations' highest court for resolving disputes between nations. Its rulings are binding, but it has no power to enforce them, and both the United States and Iran have effectively ignored its decisions in the past in cases they have brought against each other.

The court found that assurances offered by Washington in August that it would do its best to ensure sanctions would not affect humanitarian conditions were "not adequate to address fully the humanitarian and safety concerns raised" by Iran.

"The court considers that the United States must, in line with its obligations under the 1955 treaty, remove by means of its choosing any impediment arising from the measures announced on 8 May 2018," said Presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf, reading a summary of a ruling by the 15-member panel of justices.

The sanctions may not hurt "exportation to the territory of Iran of goods required for humanitarian needs such as medicines, medical devices and foodstuffs and agricultural commodities as well as goods and services required for the safety of civil aviation," he said.

Washington argued last month that Iran's request was an attempt to misuse the court and that the 1955 treaty specifically ruled out using courts to resolve disputes.

The treaty was signed long before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution which turned the two countries into arch foes. U.S. State Department Legal Adviser Jennifer Newstead had said Iran's real quarrel was Iran's frustration over U.S. plans to pull out of the 2015 nuclear pact, under which Iran agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions.

The unilateral U.S. move has

been opposed by the other countries that are party to the agreement, including Washington's close European allies Britain, France and Germany as well as Russia and China.

Despite international criticism, Washington is pushing ahead with the measures. A new series of sanctions is due to go into effect Nov. 4 aimed at sharply curtailing Iranian oil exports. **REUTERS**

South Africa's finance minister 'fired over Gupta projects'

South Africa's Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene has said he lost his job in former President Jacob Zuma's cabinet in 2015 because he did not back deals that would have benefited the Gupta family, the Reuters news agency reports.

Mr Nene made the comments to an inquiry that is looking into allegations that the Guptas - a family of wealthy business people - exercised undue political influence over the ex-president.

Mr Zuma and the Gupta family deny the allegations.

Mr Nene told the inquiry that he thought it was his refusal to back a plan to expand South Africa's production of nuclear power that led to his dismissal.

His sacking as finance minister in December 2015 and replacement by the relatively unknown Des van Rooyen caused uproar at the time. Mr van Rooyen was replaced within days of his appointment.

Mr Nene was reappointed finance minister in February shortly after President Cyril Ramaphosa came to power. **BBC**

Ugandan MPs halve mobile money tax

MPs in Uganda have once again backed a controversial tax on using mobile phone banking but have halved the levy to 0.5%.

In addition it is to only be levied on cash withdrawals rather than all transactions. But no change has been made on the 200 Uganda shilling (\$0.05, £0.04) daily tax on the use of social media.

The introduction of the taxes, to help curb a budget deficit, was met by a big outcry led by the musician-turned-MP Bobi Wine.

He has been tweeting about Tuesday

evening's decision:

"Today I attended Parliament after some time, for the sole purpose of making our voice heard on the mobile money tax. The government has deliberately avoided a discussion on the social media tax! Majority of the NRM Members of Parliament voted to maintain the mobile money tax"

Today I attended Parliament after some time, for the sole purpose of making our voice heard on the mobile money tax. The government has deliberately avoided a discussion on the social media tax!

Majority of the NRM Members of Parliament voted to maintain the mobile money tax.

"164 MPs voted in favor of the tax while 124 of us voted to have it scrapped. I know that we are all disappointed but not surprised.

Once again, a majority of our elected representatives ignored the cries and pleas of the common person."

But MPs who have backed the measure argued that it was important to find new ways to raise revenue and reduce the amount of government borrowing. **BBC**

By Alex Chilumbwe
Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck has named a 24 man squad for next Wednesday's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Guinea Bissau at National Heroes Stadium. Speaking during a press briefing in Lusaka yesterday, Vandenbroeck said Zambia needed a minimum of four points from the two back-to-back fixtures to keep hopes of qualifying to the Africa Cup of Nations alive. Notable changes had

Sven names 24 man squad for Guinea Bissau Clash

since been made to the squad that with Namibia on September 8 and defeated Gabon 1-0 in an international friendly. Vandenbroeck dropped Green Eagles' Spencer Sautu, Gampani

Lungu and Power Dynamos goal minder Lawrence Mulenga. He said Sautu had suffered from stiff competition while Lungu had not had any game time at his club since featuring

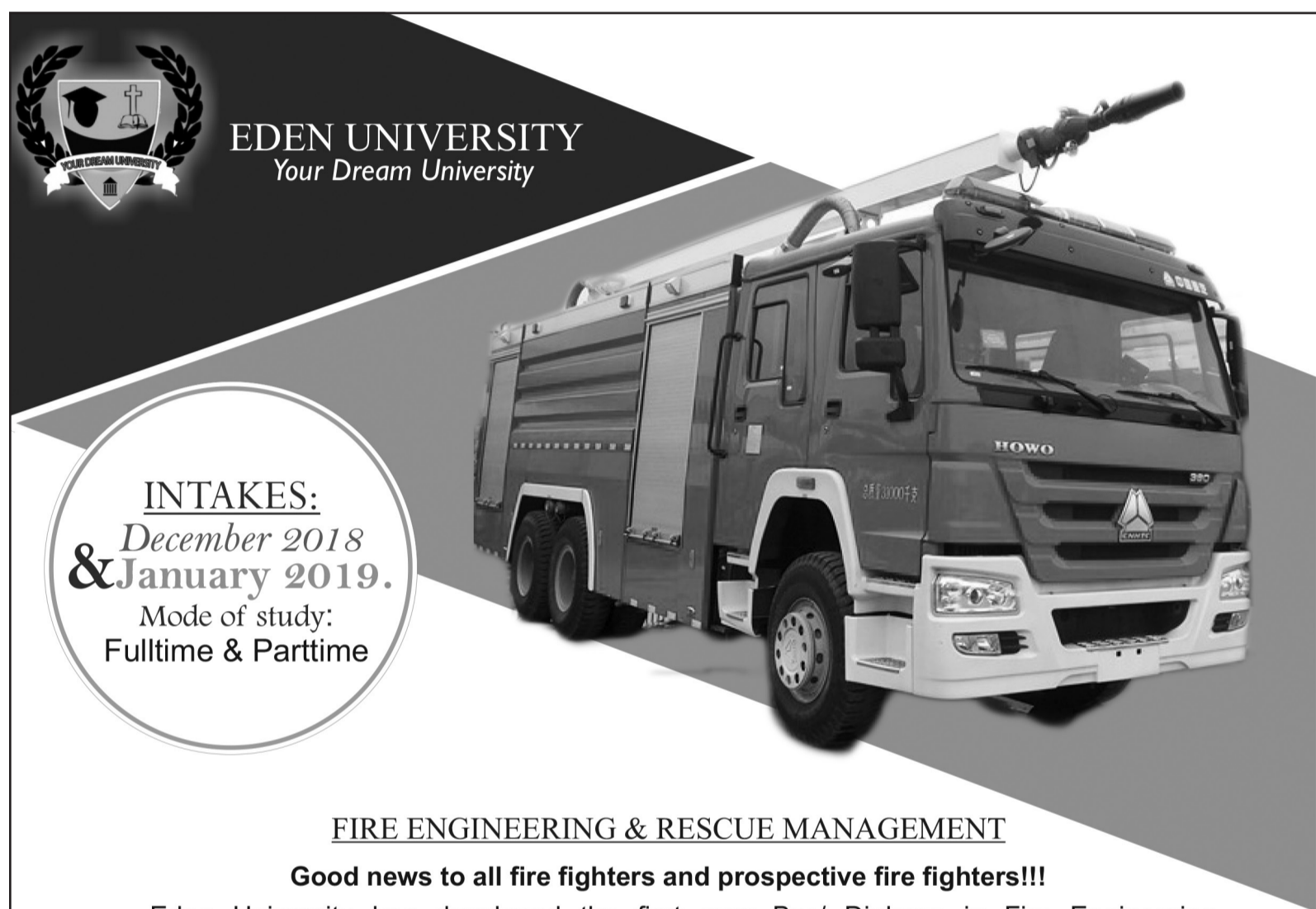
for Zambia in Gabon. "I left out Gampani Lungu (SuperSport United) because after the camping of Namibia and Gabon, he had zero minutes in his club and that is the reason

although both (Spencer and Lungu) gave me a good impression in the first camp. You cannot always go with 26," Vandenbroeck said. "I replaced one goalkeeper Lawrence

Mulenga by Charles Muntanga also because of lack of minutes in his club, so Charles deserves to be in the team." Vandenbroeck further said his boys knew the responsibility on their shoulders and would fight

to be at the next year's Africa Cup of Nations. He also said he had scanty information about Guinea Bissau and would focus on the strengths of his side. "I have no information about Guinea Bissau, the only thing I know is that almost all their players are playing in Portugal which is a good league, which is very tactical so I expect a tactically difficult game," said Vandenbroeck. Zambia has one point with Namibia while Guinea Bissau and Mozambique are in joint top position with four points with the West Africans ahead on courtesy of a 2-2 away result in Maputo.

FULL SQUAD (Goalkeepers)
Toaster Nsabata (Zanaco), Charles Muntanga (Nkwazi), Kennedy Mweene (Mamelodi Sundowns) (Defenders)
Solomon Sakala, Fackson Kapumbu (both Zesco United), Gideon Sichone (Green Buffaloes), Isaac Shamujompa, Lawrence Chungu (both Buildcon), Luka Banda (Napsa Stars), Stoppilla Sunzu (FC Metz), Kabaso Chongo (TP Mazembe-DRC) (Midfielders)
Nathan Sinkala (TP Mazembe-DRC), Salulani Phiri (Polokwane City-RSA), Enock Mwepu (RB Salzburg-Austria), Jackson Chirwa (Green Buffaloes), Lubambo Musonda (Gandazar-Armenia), Clatous Chama (Simba FC-Tanzania), Rainford Kalaba (TP Mazembe-DRC), Bruce Musakanya (Red Arrows) (Strikers)
Augustine Mulenga, Justin Shonga (both Orlando Pirates-RSA), Fashion Sakala (Oostende-Belgium), Patson Daka (RB Salzburg-Austria), Lazarous Kambole (Zesco United)



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I hope she trains as much as she talks...

CATHERINE PHIRI MOCKS SINDISO

Catherine Phiri says she has watched videos of her next opponent, South Africa's Sindiso, thinks she just talks too much. The two are set to exchange punches on Boxing Night which is organised by Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions and Kung Fu energy. The fight will take place on the 13th of October at government complex in Lusaka. "I have watched her videos and I can confirm she is a good boxer. She is talking a lot in South Africa and I hope she trains just as much. I'm very much ready for her so I'm going to give Zambians a very

good fight," Phiri said. And Phiri, who lost to Kenya's Fatuma Zarika but faces her for a rematch said her upcoming match with Sindiso is a warm-up fight for Zarika. "This fight will also

determine how prepared I am to face Fatuma. Emotionally, mentally and physically, am all prepared," said Phiri. And Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions manager Christopher

Malunga has declared his three boxers fit and ready for the event but expressed concern about the boxing infrastructures in the country. "We use outdated rings that threaten boxers'

safety. We need new and up to date infrastructure that would also please promoters. With these old rings that we have, boxers will not be safe while fighting. Good infrastructure is a plus on

their side," said Malunga. Alfred Muwowo and Dave Mwale are the two other Zambians taking part in the event that will feature over 10 boxers from 5 different countries.

Barbara eyes european adventure

By Alex Chilumbwe

I would be happy to play in Europe, says Shepolopolo striker Barbara Banda. With rumours over her possible future with an unknown European club growing, Banda is

keeping her cards close to her chest but revealed to Goal Diggers! that she is working hard to one day play in Europe. "Well I would very much be happy to play in Europe and it would be a dream come

true. Maybe sooner or later I will end up there. I just have to keep working hard every day until I reach a desired level that would take me to Europe," Banda said. Banda is well aware of the opportunities that

European football provides and how competitive it is to seal a move. "There are a lot of other players in Africa that can be picked so I would not turn it down at all," said Banda. Currently, the Green

Buffaloes hitlady is experiencing a green patch on the field, just last weekend she helped herself to a treble of goals as Buffaloes run riot against Bauleni Queens in a 14-0 rout.

Croatia court rejects Luka Modric perjury charges - report

A Zagreb court has rejected charges that Croatia captain and Real Madrid star Luka Modric gave false testimony in a corruption trial, a Croatian newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The decision, which can be appealed, came just a week after Modric was crowned FIFA's best player of the year, after starring for both his club and Croatia.

Croatian prosecutors charged Modric in March with committing perjury during evidence he gave in the multi-million-euro corruption trial of former Dinamo Zagreb boss Zdravko Mamic.

Modric, 33, testified in June last year over the details of his 2008 transfer from Dinamo to Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

He went on to join Real Madrid in 2012.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in jail. **AFP**



Dybala celebrates after scoring a hat-trick as Juventus shrugged off Cristiano Ronaldo's absence with a 3-0 Champions League win over Young Boys on Tuesday to go top of Group H ahead of Manchester United. AFP

