



There's a scramble for running mate

LUAPULA MPS

TOO UNITED

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says it is true that members of parliament from Luapula Province are very united than any other group of MPs in the party, but says she does not believe that they are scheming to oust President Edgar Lungu. And Mumbi says she is aware that some MPs and minister are jostling to replace Vice-President Inonge Wina as 2021 running mate, a move she says is a waste of time. *To page 6*

...but not threat to Lungu - Mumbi

UPND unmoved by arrest threats on HH

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka says the opposition party is not moved by threats of arrest targeted at its leader Hakainde Hichilema whom government is blaming for the meal allowance protests that led to the death of a fourth year student

at the University of Zambia Great East Road Campus.

Unconfirmed reports from within government suggest that the State is likely to make some arrest surrounding the UNZA fracas, putting Hichilema at the centre of the probe.

When asked if Police were moving to arrest Hichilema in connection with the UNZA riots, spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo could neither deny nor confirm. *To page 5*

Govt postpones Zambia Airways launch to 2019

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Vespers' funeral Church sermon was disturbing, Prof Luo tells Parliament

Story page 7



President Edgar Lungu and FAZ president Andrew Kamanga (r) celebrate after Zambia scored against Guinea Bissau in an Africa Cup of National qualifier game in Lusaka on Wednesday

Fitch downgrades Zambia's rating to B-

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By Mirriam Chabala

UPND deputy secretary general Gertrude Imenda says she is not surprised that Lands Minister Jean Kapata portrayed thuggish behaviour in Parliament that is against the decorum of the House, because she belongs to a party that thrives on violence.

On Tuesday, UPND members of parliament walked out of the House after Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo charged that the opposition party caused the riots at UNZA which subsequently led to the death of fourth year student Vespers Shimuzhila.

Then some PF members of parliament, led by Lands Minister Jean Kapata, hurled insults on their colleagues who took a protest walk out, branding them Satanists and suggesting a physical fight between the two camps.

“Bye bye polio... elo beshile nabafwala nefya black (they even here came dressed in black), get out! Nabafwala nefya black kwati balewamya (they are even dressed in black like they are doing the right thing) [How can you be] politicking when someone has lost a child? Ata bane [more insults], one day

UPND condemns Kapata's thuggery behaviour in parley

members tukaiponone one by one, tukamone uwakosa ninani (one day we should engage in a physical fight as members of parliament so that we see who is stronger). Ala imwe baice! Fi satanist (you little kids, [you are just] satanists),” said Kapata as her colleagues on the right agreed with her whilst others added their own unprintables to the fracas.

Commenting on Kapata's remarks, Imenda told News Diggers! that the Mandevu MP did not befit the status of an honourable member of parliament.

“I want to condemn such kind of behaviour and utterances; it does not befit her (Jean Kapata's) stature as a member of parliament. But also, it is not good for the politics of this

country. We shouldn't be physical in our dealings with each other. Let us put forward intelligent, analytical issues and let us just debate and discuss issues without resorting to violence. When you resort to violence, it means you have got nothing to put to the debate. You don't have the capacity and the intelligence to deal with an issue. So, because you don't have, you resort to physical violence. If somebody doesn't have something to put forward in terms of intelligent debate, they will resort to physical violence because that's what they know best,” Imenda said.

“You tell me, those PF cadres controlling markets and all these places who resort to physical violence, can you discuss anything

intelligent with them? No! Because they don't even understand what an intelligent discussion is. So, even her [Jean Kapata], if she is saying that then it means she has nothing intelligent to put forward for discussion. She didn't have something to debate and defend and so on. So, she just wants to say, 'let's just fight', but how does that help Zambians if our MPs start fighting? It doesn't help Zambians at all. Let us just discuss issues.”

Imenda regretted that Kapata, who is also Chairperson for Women Affairs in the Patriotic Front, was disrespecting the name of 'Honourable Member of Parliament' with her type of behaviour.

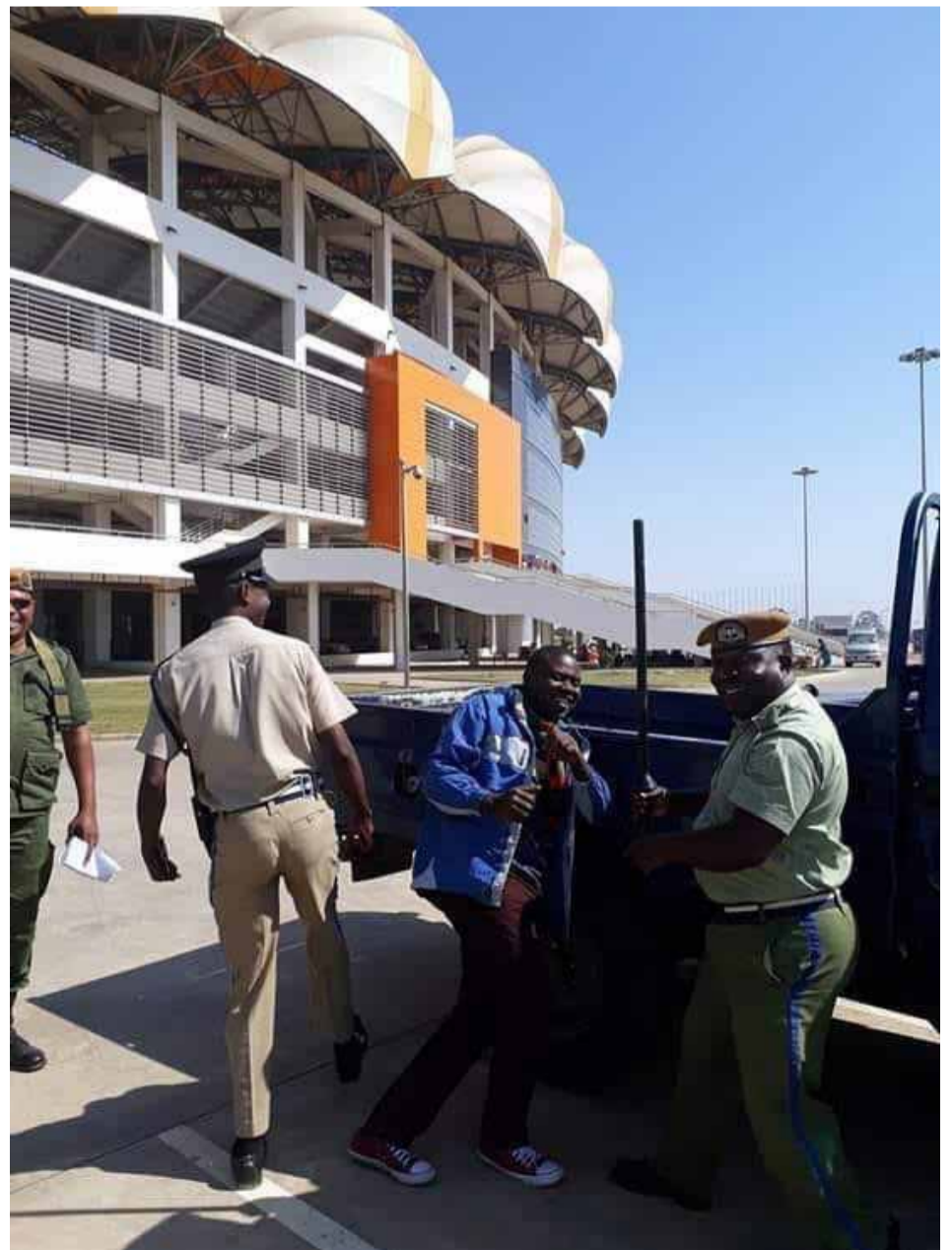
“MPs are supposed to exhibit a certain type of

behaviour and attitude, that's why they are called 'Honourable'. They are supposed to show a decorum fitting where they are in that House. So, for someone to make comments like 'satanist' and all that, whether a man or a woman, it is not befitting the stature an honourable member of parliament. And the issue of the physical fighting, surely, that does not befit the stature of an MP. It's a pity, really, but what I can say is that PF as a party we know from the beginning that they believe in violence and that such kind of a challenge to a fight is just their nature. PF believe in violence, so violence even from the utterances and then culminating into physical violence, for me, I am not surprised. But really, being a female

MP, it's not just fitting. Us, we are not physical, but it all depends on where you come from. If you come from a party that believes in physical violence, then that's what you will exhibit. But still, it doesn't surprise me because that's what they stand for themselves and she is just one of them,” Imenda, a former Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson, explained.

She added that the UPND would sit and discuss what action they would like to see taken against Kapata in Parliament.

“Since those are issues in the House, I think that has to be sorted out by the PF in Parliament. So, I will have a discussion with our whip and the leader of government business and the legal person, so that we see the way forward. Then we will also discuss with our members of parliament and see what next action we can take. But we are advising our members to follow the procedure in the House if they want disciplinary action to be taken against Honourable Jean Kapata,” said Imenda, who once served as Luena MP under the Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) party.



Brutality prank goes viral. Some police officers staged a prank at National Heroes Stadium on Wednesday, pretending to be kicking and beating their colleagues; and social media went awash

We'll recover stolen donor aid from culprits benefits - Minister tells Parley

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Acting General Education Minister Vincent Mwale says the ongoing clean up of financial irregularities that led to the suspension of Permanent Secretary Henry Tukombe at the ministry has also seen 80 other staff being suspended, while donors have still withheld funding to the sector. And Mwale warned that if there will be any need for government to recover the embezzled funds, it will be recovered through benefits and other outstanding dues. Responding to a written question from Chinsali PF member of parliament Kalalwe Mukosa in Parliament, Wednesday, Mwale said all the suspended staff were from the Ministry headquarters in Lusaka. "The suspended officers were cited for financial irregularities in the forensic audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General on the verification of responses by the Ministry of General Education on the draft audit report paragraph 52 of the Auditor General's report for the year ended 2016. The suspension will remain in force until disciplinary procedures are conducted," Mwale said. Asked why the Ministry had to wait for donor insinuations that there was something amiss in the Ministry for action to be taken, Mwale replied: "Mr Speaker, action against erring officers did not have to wait for donors. Perhaps the member may have learnt about this after some donors begin to talk about it, but internally within government cycles, there were procedural issues that were still ongoing to ensure that we deal with those who were involved in this." Asked if among the 80 suspended officers also included some internal auditors who could not take up the matter on time, Mwale admitted in the affirmative: "Mr Speaker, I can confirm that, yes, some internal auditors were involved in that they did not do their work to prevent this from happening. They are also on suspension. Mr Speaker, definitely, funds that were meant to advance education in this case were tampered with and that has had an impact to some extent.

It may seem to be a small percentage, but however small, it is true that there is some impact on education and government is taking corrective measures." Mwale also revealed how much money was embezzled in the controversial case. "Mr Speaker, the forensic audit that was done by the Auditor General up to 26th September, 2018, established that a total of K19.5 million was embezzled by the members of staff at the Ministry. Mr Speaker, from what I

am seeing here, it's mostly members of staff at the headquarters. It's those at the headquarters and one of them got transferred to Ndola to work at the DC's office, but was at the headquarters when these things happened [so] yes, headquarters, Mr Speaker," Mwale explained. And when asked if the embezzlement had affected donor support to pull out like it was the case with the Ministry of Community Development, Mwale, again, concurred. "Mr Speaker, yes,

I can confirm that Dfid [Department for International Development] actually withheld funding to the Ministry to just make sure that we did our work to clean up these things and make sure that those that were involved in embezzlement and misappropriation and so on were dealt with accordingly, and that after all that was done, we could talk about how they could resume to give financial assistance to the Ministry. Measures have already

been undertaken to make sure that nothing suffers as a result of having 70 people suspended and I think operations are moving on smoothly at the Ministry headquarters; everything is moving on well, there are some staff that have been seconded from other line ministries to make sure that nothing suffers," Mwale disclosed. And Mwale, who is substantively Local Government Minister, pledged that government would recover the embezzled funds if need be.

"Mr Speaker, in accordance with the laid down procedures, where we have to recover, we have to recover, and in where people have to be punished by going to jail and so on, where there is no requirements for us to recover, everything is laid down in the procedures and in the Public Finance Act. Definitely, if we need to recover, we will have to recover from the benefits and anything that may be outstanding within the Ministry that's due to them," vowed Mwale.

Stop depending on govt for inputs, SAFADA advises farmers

By Abraham Kalito

Small-Scale Farmers' Development Agency (SAFADA) says government's hesitation to commence distribution farming inputs to farmers implies that the agricultural sector is neglected and not considered as important. Despite Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo having told Parliament in July that the distribution of farming inputs would commence on September 1, 2018, government has yet again delayed the distribution with the imminent onset of the rainy season. In an interview, SAFADA executive director Boyd Moobwe expressed concern that government had not started distributing the inputs, but advised farmers to desist from repeatedly relying on government for inputs. "We are very worried, as SAFADA, that government has not yet started distributing farming inputs across the country. Because we expected to have the inputs on time, but according to what the Minister was saying, they said September 1; now this is October, and they have not distributed anything! We don't know what is happening, otherwise, as SAFADA, we are trying to organise for a few arrangements to ensure that our farmers have fertiliser. And, actually, a piece of advice to farmers, you know, they should not always wait for government to supply inputs. I think by

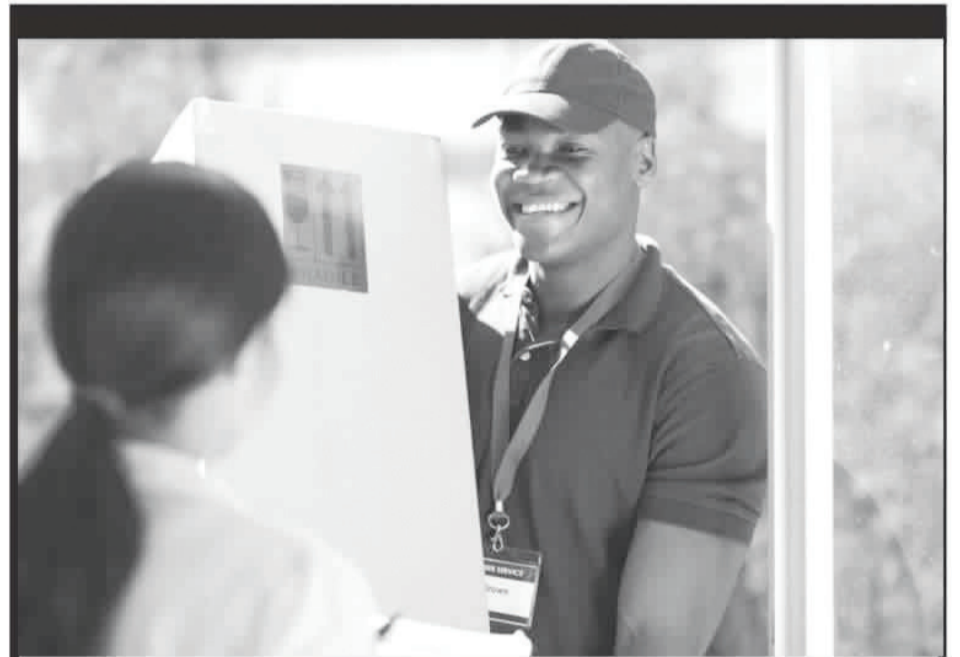
this time they know what happens when it's this time of the year. Year in, year out, this is this kind of delays," Moobwe said. "And so, I think the maize production for 2018/2019 maize season will even dwindle further. It will be affected if things are not put in place. We have farmers that are not able to stand on their own. The government says FISP should now be four years after that, farmers should graduate, but I know that they cannot graduate because they are reliant on government. That's why they are dependent on government. So, farmers should learn and be quick to react on their own. So, it's a question of planning and implementation. I think there are a lot of issues that needs government considerations, including the army worms that come every year now. As a farmer, you need to be prepared to face all these challenges and not be dependent on government to offer help. It is just difficult to be a farmer in Zambia because government is not consistent with policies, it doesn't not want to help small-scale farmers as they should be." Moobwe observed that the 2018/2019 farming season would remain as affected as the previous one in view of the continued delay in input distribution. "And the farmers, themselves, are not

educated enough to deal with some challenges that do not require government's attention. Government should be serious to try to harmonise agriculture like in other countries where they have put agriculture as number

one because it's the biggest employer of people. Our government has not done likewise, and this is why we have numerous challenges in the agricultural sector today. Farmers should be number one in every aspect. When it comes to

planning, the agriculture sector should be number one. So, I'm really worried that government has no started yet distributing farming inputs because that means we are not prioritised, and as such, we cannot develop further," said Moobwe.

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Superior Milling to increase mealie meal prices

By Abraham Kalito

Superior Milling Company managing director Peter Cottan says mealie meal prices will definitely be increased following a rise in fuel prices, but added that the adjustment will be insignificant. In an interview with News Diggers! Cottan said transporters and millers would have to pass-on the increase in the cost of production, which included transportation of the commodity to consumers in a bid to maintain profits. "In a basket, commodities that make up the CPI [Consumer Price Index], the food basket for inflation, there is very little dollar-denominated products in that basket, and even with mealie meal, the only contribution for

mealie meal prices

inflation would be the transport cost. Yes, no doubt about it; we are calculating at the moment what the transporters will hike their price at. And that component, a small percentage [of] the cost of making mealie meal, will put up the price of mealie meal. But it isn't a 100 per cent. You must not think that mealie meal will go up by the same percentage of fuel, no! It's the percentage of transport in the cost of production, which will definitely be passed on to the consumer. But it's a very small amount. When it comes to other

factors like maize, if you buy from commercial farmers, you would argue that they have got dollar-based fertiliser, seed and I heard the other day they are asking [for] US \$300 a tonne," Cotton explained. "But we don't buy from commercial farmers. We buy from the small-scale farmers who produce 90 per cent of the maize in this country. The price is set by FRA, which is K70 per 50kg bag. Now because of less supply of maize this year, market forces, which dictate supply and demand that we are all fighting each other for the maize, and we

have pushed the prices of maize up to K100 a bag and that's what we are currently paying today. Great news for the farmers, but that is going to impact on mealie meal prices because that's the main driver; I mean 15 per cent is brand, 85 per cent is your maize product. So, obviously, maize is the driver to inflation. Now, we have already engaged Food Reserve Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, as millers going forward. We have submitted our stock to the Stock Monitoring Committee so that we can see if there is enough maize to take us through

to the end of the season." Cottan added that millers were satisfied with the current levels of maize on the local market and encouraged traders to release their commodity as opposed to holding it back in a bid to offload at higher prices. "There is over 800,000 tonnes of maize in Stock Monitoring Committee books, and there is some maize that is not even registered from the informal sector. You know, there is a lot of small-scale traders and they can even hold the maize back as they have been doing recently

waiting for a better price because they know the market is in an upward swing and then they sell it to us. We are finding now that, since it got to K2 [per] Kg, they are now offloading more maize. The risk is if they hold maize, please if you are a trader listen to me carefully, if you hold your maize and wait for a higher price, if FRA come onto the market and to intervene into the market as they usually do to stabilise prices, then you stand on losing money, you see. And that's happened in the past with traders. But there is enough maize out there for us not to need government's intervention, we think. So, let's mop up the maize; it will increase the mealie meal prices slightly, but it won't be too much," said Cottan.

Retail prices of mealie meal in Lusaka currently remain stable hovering between K75 and K84 in some outlets per 25Kg breakfast bag. But the national average prices of the staple commodity has steadily increased to a one-year high, with a 25Kg breakfast bag now costing an average K80.45, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data. Superior's Milling's popular 'Superfine Breakfast' currently sits at K74.99 per 25Kg breakfast bag in some outlets.

Zambian Fertilizers sues ZNFU for K2m in unpaid supplies

By Zondiwe Mbewe

on 12 Oct 2018
Zambian Fertilizers Limited has dragged Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) to court for failing to pay the company over K2 million being the value of assorted agricultural fertilizers supplied to them for sale as its agent. And a money lender has dragged a local businessman to court for failing to pay K136,665 owed to him. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, October 3, the plaintiff, Zambian Fertilizers, stated that in about 2015-2016 farming season, the company agreed to supply ZNFU with assorted agricultural fertilizers for sale as its agent by the term of an oral agreement. They stated that it was an express term of the said agreement that all outstanding amounts would attract interest at the rate of two per cent per month until date of final settlement. The plaintiff stated that pursuant to the terms of the agreement, during the 2015-2016 farming season, they supplied ZNFU with assorted agricultural fertilizers for sale. They stated that ZNFU was owing the company K2,482,608.29 as at January 31, 2018, plus interest of K1,142,198.42 at the aforesaid agreed rate of two per cent per month for a period of 28 months. The plaintiff alleged that ZNFU breached the express terms of their agreement when they failed to pay for the goods supplied to them.

"Particulars of the alleged breach of agreement: the defendant had neglected or failed to pay for the goods supplied and delivered to it, failing to pay the agreed interest and ZNFU sold the plaintiff's inputs under the cosmic relief scheme for cash but has omitted or neglect to remit or deposit the proceeds into the plaintiff's designated bank accounts contrary to the terms of the agreement," read the statement of claim. The plaintiff further stated that on September 18, 2018, they instructed their advocates to write a formal demand letter for the payment of the outstanding sum and interest, but ZNFU had to-date, not paid the said sum, adding that they had suffered loss and damage as a result. They are now seeking for an order for the payment of K2,482,608.29 being the value of the assorted agricultural fertilizers supplied to ZNFU at its own instance and request for the "Comic Relief" scheme for the 2015-2016 farming season. They are further seeking for damages for breach of a supply and sale agreement incepted in October, 2015, as well as, K1,142,198.42 being interest in the said sum, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit. Meanwhile, a money lender has dragged a businessman to court for failing to pay

K136,665 owed to him. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Christopher Ng'andwe stated that by a written statement on July 21, 2017, he agreed to lend Kennedy Matashi K80,000, which he agreed

to pay within three months. He stated that it was an express agreement that Matashi would pay interest on the sum and the total sum to be repaid would be K136,665. Ng'andwe stated that despite several reminders,

Matashi had refused to pay the money, and as such, he had suffered loss. He now claims an order that Matashi be compelled to pay the sum of K136,665 being the monies owed, interest, costs and any other reliefs.

Tenant sues landlord for defamation of character

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Lusaka man of Jack Extension has sued his landlord, a retired police officer, in the Lusaka High Court claiming damages for malicious accusations and defamation of character. Godfrey Mulenga said his landlord, David Masangu Mushoke, has continued subjecting his family to annoyance with intentions of forcing them to vacate the premises without proper cause and further using falsehood over payments of February, March and April rentals, which were already paid. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, October 2, Mulenga stated that in July, 2016, he went into a lease agreement with Mushoke where it was agreed that he would rent Mushoke's house no.12234 Jack Extension, at K1,800 per month while Mushoke pays for electricity and water bills. He stated that in about April 25 and May 25, 2018, he delayed to pay the rental fees. Mulenga stated that he notified Mushoke about the problem and promised to pay the money, which he did around June 18, 2018, where he paid K2,000. He stated that on June 23, 2018, Mushoke issued him with a notice to vacate the house for not paying the K1,600 and verbally directed that he used the balance to pay rentals elsewhere. Mulenga further stated on July 7, 2018, Mushoke demanded that Mulenga paid him the rentals, but to his shock, Mushoke demanded payment of K7,000, which he said covered July 25, 2018, instead of September 25, 2018. "In July, 2018, and August, the plaintiff paid K5,000 towards the rentals, but to his shock on August 20, 2018, the defendant sent a message on his phone asking him to vacate the house

claiming that he wants his family to occupy it having been cleared of his terminal benefits. On about September 10, 2018, the plaintiff paid K1,500 and remained with K500 balance reaching to September 25, 2018," read the statement of claim. "The defendant entered and inspected the house without the consent of the plaintiff, and directed plaintiff's family to vacate the house against the provisions of the Rental Act, which require tenants to be given six months' notice or compensation for inconvenience if the landlord wants to possess the house for the family." Mulenga stated that his landlord had continued subjecting his family to annoyance with intentions of inducing the family to vacate the premises without proper cause and he used falsehood over payments of February, March, April rentals, which were paid. He stated that his family had suffered injury, embarrassment, loss of human dignity, inconvenience, harassment, intimidation, stress and threats of violence due to Mushoke's actions and deliberate failure to abide to the provisions of the law. He is seeking for an order of injunction to restrain Mushoke, his servants or agents from evicting him and his family from possession of the leasehold premises or the plaintiff shifting to the new house, pending the determination of the action. Mulenga is further seeking damages for disturbing him and his family's enjoyment of peaceful tenancy, inconvenience, harassment, intimidation and threats of violence. He is also seeking for an order or declaration that the notice of eviction given to him is null and void as it is not supported by the provision of the Act, thus illegal.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka says the opposition party is not moved by threats of arrest targeted at its leader Hakainde Hichilema whom government is blaming for the meal allowance protests that led to the death of a fourth year student at the University of Zambia Great East Road Campus.

Unconfirmed reports from within government suggest that the State is likely to make some arrest surrounding the UNZA fracas, putting Hichilema at the centre of the probe.

When asked if Police were moving to arrest Hichilema in connection with the UNZA riots, spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo could not deny nor confirm, but challenged this reporter to verify the information from those who were spreading it. "Maybe find out from the

UPND unmoved by arrest threats on HH

people who are saying that. I cannot confirm facts that I do not have, so go and ask them to confirm. Get more information from them. I wouldn't comment on something that I don't know," said Katongo.

But Mucheleka said his party was aware of such moves and it was not moved.

"We are hearing all these psychological games they are playing [but] we are not moved at all and you know these are psychological games they are playing. We will not fall into that trap. With PF

you can hear anything and they are capable of anything but we are not moved. Let them take responsibility for once. The only thing they know is how to steal, how to engage in corruption, even those quarrelling amongst themselves, you have been hearing how they are quarrelling. There is Luapula united and then there is this other faction. I even feel sorry for people that still believe in Lungu and his PF," Mucheleka said.

"It is actually stupid to say the least. So let them take

responsibility for once. And then how do they investigate themselves? If we want to investigate what happened at the University of Zambia... you think you can start going to blame the people and start playing psychological games, it doesn't work. It's shallow thinking. Let them go to NIPA or Chalimbana just to learn a little bit of managerial skills. You can't just get a bunch of people from the streets and make them ministers.

Mucheleka said he could only blame President Lungu,

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo and his Higher Education counterpart Prof Nkandu Luo.

"PF are actually a bunch of frightened men and women. UNZA fracas, the person to blame first and foremost is PF itself. It is President [Edgar] Lungu, Nkandu Luo, and Kampyongo. Nkandu Luo doesn't understand because she has never been to the University of Zambia neither has Kampyongo been to the University of Zambia. They have no idea whatsoever on

how that institution runs. She can't dialogue, she has no idea and that is why even late President [Michael] Sata had moved her from Local Government because of what she was doing. He put her in the Ministry of Traditional and Chiefs Affairs. That is the problem with PF, they have no idea of what they are doing, they always look for someone to blame," said Mucheleka.

"They are just a bunch of people who can't take responsibility on anything. Those of us who have been to the University of Zambia know very well that the students have always had UNZASU which she has banned. UNZASU is an institution that stands in-between management and the students and whenever there is a grievance, those are the students that discuss dialogue but these people don't believe in dialogue."

You'll defend yourself if your lawyers don't show up, Magistrate warns CK

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka Magistrate Nsungwe Chanda yesterday stopped Chishimba Kambwili's defence lawyer Gilbert Phiri in the contempt of court case from cross examining a State witness on the basis that they were not present when the witness, EPP leader Chilufya Tayali gave his evidence-in-chief.

And magistrate Nsungwe says Kambwili will have to defend himself at the next sitting on October 16 if his lawyers don't show up.

This was after all his lawyers excused themselves saying at the next hearing, they would have other matters in the High Court and would not be available.

The defence lawyers said when the adjournment to October 16 was set by the other defence lawyer Christopher Mundia they were not present, hence they had not consented to it. Meanwhile, Tayali says the fact that Kambwili chaired the meeting to change the directors of Mwamoma, confirms that he caused the alteration of the documents at PACRA even though he did not physically log them in.

This is the matter in which Tayali, 44, alleged that Kambwili tampered with evidence in a case in which the latter is facing three counts of forgery, uttering false documents and giving false information to a public officer. Particulars of the offence are that Kambwili on March 6, 2018 in Lusaka, did cause an obstruction or disturbance in the course of judicial proceedings by lodging documents at PACRA to alter the details and records of Mwamona Engineering and Technical Services which were subject of active judicial proceedings.

It is alleged that the changes made were particulars of the two directors namely; Mwamba Chishimba and Carol Chansa,

of which Mwamba Chishimba was changed to Mwamba Kambwili and Carol Chansa to Carol Chansa Chipande.

And when the matter came up for continuation cross examination before Magistrate Nsungwe Chanda, Thursday, the court ordered that only defence lawyer Keith Mweemba should cross examine Tayali because the other counsel, Gilbert Phiri was not present when the witness gave his evidence in chief.

She added it would be a bad tendency if a lawyer who was not present in court at the last sitting, only came on another day for cross examination.

And in cross examination, Tayali admitted that at no point did Kambwili present uttered documents before honourable David Simusamba's court.

And in re-examination by the State, Tayali said when he had earlier told the court that it was Kambwili who uttered documents at PACRA, he was referring to the board resolutions signed by Kambwili as chairman of the meeting that sat to utter records at PACRA.

He added that the fact that Kambwili had chaired that meeting confirmed that he caused the alteration of the documents even though he did not physically file them at PACRA.

"By the fact that he chaired the meeting that resolved. I confirmed that he chaired because the board resolutions were filed with other documents at PACRA which counsel brought out when I was being cross examined," he said.

And when the court said the matter would come up on October 16 for continuation of trial as earlier set, the defence lawyers said they would not be available on that date because they had another case in the High Court on the same day. However, magistrate Chanda

reminded them that the date did not set itself because they had their representative, Christopher Mundia who had suggested the date.

She added that Kambwili would defend himself on that day if his lawyers failed to come.

"You will defend yourself

if your lawyers don't come because the law is very straight forward. This date did not set itself," she said.

Kambwili then complained that he would not be comfortable to proceed without his lead lawyers.

"Where does that live me your worship because these are my

lead counsels and I will not be comfortable to proceed when they are not there," he said.

Magistrate Chanda however maintained that the matter would still come up on that same date because she had a lot of cases.

"It's about the dates this is not the only matter, there are

a lot of matters. So we are going to make progress with Mr Mundia the one who set the date. So even if the lead prosecutor won't be there that's not my problem if she won't be there who ever is going to be there has to prosecute. So the matter will come up on the 16th," said magistrate Chanda.

Govt postpones launch of Zambia Airways to 2019

By Mirriam Chabala

Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba says that the date for the launch of the much-hyped national airline had been extended to early next year, to allow for the certification and registration processes to be completed.

Mushimba disclosed this when he rendered a Ministerial statement to Parliament, Thursday, where he explained that the certification and registration process of the national airline was ongoing.

"Mr Speaker, as you may be aware, government is establishing the national airline with the Ethiopian Airways as a strategic partner. When established, the national airline will operate purely on commercial principles without government or political interference in its operations. Mr Speaker, government through IDC, is in the process of appointing a board of directors for the national airline, which is currently being vetted by various government wings to determine their suitability to serve on the board. Soon after the board is formally appointed, it will immediately appoint the chief executive officer and other top management staff," Mushimba said.

"Mr Speaker, the airline top management shall recruit support staff and commence to build systems for operationalization the airline, including certification and registration of the national airline equipment. The certification and registration process will take a minimum of 116 days from the day the CEO for the national airline lodges the application papers for the air operator certificate to the Civil Aviation Authority. Mr Speaker, concurrently, certification is ongoing and the national airline management team will recruit and train the air crew, ground handling staff, marketing and aircraft maintenance staff. Given the time it will take to complete the national airline certification and registration process, we can safely say that the launch of our national airline will take place in the first quarter of 2019. We will inform this House and the nation at large on the exact date once the board is constituted and management put in place."

He also disclosed that the national airline will create 500 direct jobs once launched. And Mushimba said government had also signed bilateral air service agreements with other countries in order to create a mutually-beneficial framework that would allow easy movement of airlines

into Zambia from various destinations across the globe.

"Government has signed bilateral air service agreements with other countries in order to create a mutually-beneficial framework that will allow easy movement of airlines into Zambia from various destinations across the globe. The bilateral air service agreement will also allow seamless passage of Zambia Airways into various countries that we've signed the bursas with. In the recent past, government has also signed bursas with the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and the Republic of Turkey. Following the signing of the bilateral agreement with the government of Turkey, the Turkish Airline will commence commercial flights into Lusaka from Istanbul within the last quarter of this year," narrated Mushimba. "In terms of our readiness for Turkish Airlines to commence flight operations, the Ministry of Transport and Communications has since submitted to the Turkish Airlines the necessary requirements for the certification to commence operations into Lusaka. Turkish Airlines has indicated commencing two flights into Lusaka per week from Istanbul."

By Abraham Kalito

Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) president Charles Milupi says Zambians should not expect to be rescued from the looming economic crisis because the PF government's interest is in making corrupt deals for personal gain.

And Milupi says the PF deliberately increased the prices of petroleum products so that they can accrue revenues from the increment. Reacting to the continued high public expenditure amidst the ongoing austerity measures, Milupi charged that government would continue spending resources recklessly irrespective of the looming economic crisis because it was in their DNA to be corrupt. Among the key expenditures has been government's fuel procurement, which included a controversial US \$20 million Saudi oil deal, that Energy Minister Mathew Nkhuwa dismissed earlier this month as just a "drop in the ocean" in effecting downward fuel pump prices for Zambian consumers.

"This government does not keep their eye on the economy. They have gone on

Zambians are on their own, govt does not care - Milupi

their usual way on managing the economy in a careless manner that they are doing. Remember, they started these very expensive projects. Whether it is fire tenders, ambulances. And you know, if they were reasonable, they would have been forced to be careful in the way they are spending. But you know these people. And if you look at fuel expenditure, the government had said we were going to take austerity measures to ensure we reduce on unnecessary expenditure. But the President said no! 'We shall continue undertaking trips,' so he has been all over the world whether it's New York, Kampala, and so he continues to travel around the world," Milupi told News Diggers! in an interview in Lusaka.

"They are unable to stick to measures that can help to improve this economy. So, Zambians are own their own; don't expect government to take the austerity measures seriously. Their DNA is to continue spending because it's from spending that you will have an opportunity to have money, to make money under the table by way of corruption. If you don't spend, nobody will corrupt you. Those that want your money go to those that have the ability to spend. Those that have authority to authorise spending are the ones who are corrupt. You, as a reporter, because you cannot authorise anything, no one can come and bribe you. But if you are a Minister in government, if you are a President in government, they

will come. And the problem with this government is that, they have a huge appetite for corruption! And that is why they cannot stop spending because it's in spending that they make these corrupt activities and make money under the table."

And Milupi added that the PF deliberately increased the prices of petroleum products so that they can accrue revenues from the increment. "Despite the fact that we have a fiscal deficit of about 35 per cent, they will continue to spend recklessly! The President will continue to travel. So, don't expect this government to take measures to cushion the economy from becoming a crisis, they won't do that. And now you see that 35 per cent deficit was

supposed to be funded by external loans, we will not get external loans because IMF have clamped their foot down; we're supposed to be assisted by donor funds, now donor funds will not come because of their carelessness where they have abused the money, especially in the Ministry of Education. So, because that gap will not be filled from loans, from donor funds, they will not send donor funds any time soon. And the government has now increased fuel deliberately so that they can collect revenues from there," charged Milupi. "Otherwise, why is it that we are the most expensive in petroleum products in Zambia compared to other sub-Saharan countries? It's deliberate and it's because

they want more money. It has nothing to do with the increase of petroleum [prices] on the international market. They have realised that they need to raise money and one of the ways they can raise money is by increasing fuel. Why do other countries, the majority of them have cheaper fuel than ourselves? What have they done to grow the GDP? GDP growth has gone down during their tenure than during any other tenure. The current GDP growth is even below the inflation rate and population growth. So, this government has plans. They have the short-term plan, which is corruption and the long-term plan is spending. This increase of fuel and commodities is their fault."

Some MPs are jostling to be running mate, but they are wasting time – Mumbi Phiri

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says it is true that members of parliament from Luapula Province are very organised and coordinated than any other group of MPs in the ruling party, but says she does not believe that they are scheming to oust President Edgar Lungu under the umbrella of "Luapula United"

And Mumbi says she is aware that some MPs and minister are jostling to replace Vice-President Inonge Wina as 2021 running mate, a move she says is a waste of time because it is not a position that requires a campaign. "I saw the article yesterday

(Monday) in which Munir talked about me and Luapula United. I wish he said exactly as I told him. My father is from Kasama [in] chief Chitimukulu, village Macheмба. My mother if from Chinsali, Shibalange village. So I am not from Luapula myself to be linked to that. But what is going on is that because the MPs from Luapula work together, people have given them that name. Yes, they can have their own problems but they work together and they support each other. And if you go further, you are going to find out that they usually have meetings. Even when one of them is sick, they

makes sure [that] they look after that person," Phiri explained.

"When you go to the MPs from Eastern Province, they are being called 'ndine' (I am me) why? because it's one for himself and God for us all. The Muchinga clique, they are being called 'tuffilile munsenga' because they believe they stab each other to break each other. All these groups have been given names according to how people are looking at them."

She explained that Luapula united was not targeting to remove President Lungu.

"It has nothing to do with the leadership of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

And let me tell you [that] those people who have now started linking me and Given Lubinda to the Luapula united are just confused and they think they will divide this party. It's far from it. We stand united and we are all behind President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. and I would urge all the MPs...do you know that from Muchinga, we have the deputy speaker Ms Catherine Namugala. She comes from Muchinga. The second deputy speaker comes from Muchinga and if you count how many ministers we have from Muchinga, you are going to discover that we have more ministers than

Luapula. But because we don't support each other, nituffilile munsenga efyo fine baletwita. That's why we are looking confused as we are looking," Phiri said. "So I can tell you with confidence that that is a miss. There is no clique called Luapula United that is after President Lungu. People are just creating it in their heads. I come from Muchinga and I can tell you that the problem with us from Muchinga is that we even segregate ourselves by the regions where we are coming from. [It's] the same with Eastern province. Catherine Namugala is from Buyombe, [it's] the same with those from

Northern province. We don't regard them as our relatives but look at those from Luapula. You will never hear them referring to their friends to those groupings. That is why they are looking united. And let me tell you [that] even [in] Eastern Province where I am married to, there are fights between Chewas and Ngonis because they don't see each other as one from one province. So let us not be jealous of our friends who recognise that whether you are from Chembe, you are from Kawambwa, you are from Nchelenge you still come from Luapula. Let's just emulate them and learn to be united so that we move as one."

She said it was true that some MPs and Ministers were positioning themselves to be appointed running mate after Wina.

"No, it is not even rumour. You remember mama Inonge Wina gave an interview when she was in the United Kingdom [and] that interview was aired live on BBC and she said she is going to leave the mantle to the young ones. But nobody can negotiate for running mate because that's the prerogative of the president. You don't even have to lobby, it is up to the president to pick who he wants to be the running mate. So it will be very foolish for anybody to start sizing themselves for running mate position because that is the prerogative of the president," said Phiri.

Fitch Ratings downgrades Zambia's credit rating to B-

By Stuart Lisulo

Fitch Ratings has downgraded Zambia's credit rating to 'B-' from 'B', and maintained the country's economic outlook to negative, mainly triggered by government's substantial upward revision in the budget deficit targets.

And Fitch has revised its forecast on Zambia's general government debt to hit 69 per cent of GDP by the end of this year, up from 60 per cent last year, adding that the debt stock will again rise in 2019.

In a press release issued via Fitch's Hong Kong bureau, Thursday, Fitch Ratings downgraded Zambia's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) to 'B-' from 'B', and maintained a negative economic outlook.

Fitch Ratings director, sovereign ratings, Jermaine Leonard stated that Zambia's credit rating had been downgraded to 'B-', and that the country's economic outlook remains at negative owing to several key drivers,

which are mainly government's substantial upward revision in the budget deficit targets.

"The downgrade and negative outlook on Zambia's Long-Term IDRs reflects the substantial upward revision in the government budget deficit targets. Upward revisions to fiscal deficits and government debt have weakened the credibility of the government's fiscal targets. The government revised the 2018 fiscal deficit target to 7.4 per cent of GDP from the 6.1 per cent contained in the 2018 budget," Leonard stated.

"The deficit revisions have been the result of the reconciliation of previous disbursements to externally financed projects and of higher debt-servicing costs, both of which reflect broad deficiencies in public financial management and a rapid accumulation of new external debt. The government's budget targets a reduction in the 2019 fiscal deficit to 6.5 per cent of GDP, from 7.4 per cent in 2018. Fitch believes that the budget targets are optimistic,

and forecasts a deficit of 7.5 per cent of GDP in 2018 and 6.9 per cent in 2019.

The agency also believes that the risks are tilted to the downside."

Leonard explained that the key factors that lead to negative rating actions included a rapid deterioration in Zambia's international reserves, which have plummeted below US \$1.8 billion, among others.

"The main factors that could, individually, or collectively, lead to negative rating action include: an inability to access external or domestic sources of financing or evidence of heightened risks in meeting debt-service payments; a failure to narrow the budget deficit and stabilise the government debt/GDP ratio; and deterioration in the external reserves position," he narrated.

And Leonard explained that Fitch has revised its forecast on Zambia's general government debt to hit 69 per cent of GDP by the end of this year, up from 60 per cent last year.

He cautioned that the debt stock will again rise next year.

"Fitch now forecasts Zambia's general government debt to reach 69 per cent of GDP by end-2018, up from 60 per cent at end-2017, and to rise again in 2019. This represents an increase from our previous forecast of a rise to 64 per cent of GDP in 2018 and for government debt to begin falling in 2019. The further expected increase in foreign-currency debt will make Zambia's debt stock more vulnerable to FX [foreign exchange] volatility and to a rising global interest-rate environment," explained Leonard.

"Increased external borrowing will also weaken the external position. Reserves were US \$1.7 billion in August, 2018, which is down from the US \$2.1 billion (or 2.4 months of current external payments (CXP)) at end-2017, as the Bank of Zambia has sought to contain currency depreciation. Fitch forecasts reserves to remain below three months of CXP through 2018 and 2019."

No tear gas, no bullets: The Zambia we miss, 54 years on

The masses today can only imagine that just a few years ago one could stand in front of a crowd and denounce the government in a sense of freedom of speech without being harassed by police.

Those were days when UNZA students could demonstrate for the shooting of a university student that happened in another country peacefully without police harassment. No tear gas, No bullets. Yes, students would spend the whole day on Addis Abba road, playing all sorts of conventional and traditional games in protest over some grievance, taunting the police who would be standing vigil all the time. Yes, No tear gas, no bullets.

Actually, it was almost taboo for the cops to enter the UNZA premises. The only time this would happen would be when the Campus was getting closed.

The fact that the late Vespers Shimunzila was in her room, throwing a teargas canister in her space is a prima facie case of criminal liability. Yet, the Police have been told to investigate itself.

I recall when as students we walked to the gates of State House to demand to see the President over

our book allowance. After denying us entry, the authorities provided transport for us to get back to Campus. No tear gas, No bullets.

We would host, at the Medical School Hall, a number of political figures of divergent views without police brutality. No tear gas, No bullets. Even when the late President Fredrick Chiluba's bid for a third term in office was resisted by many Zambians in all fashions, the masses freely demonstrated their freedom of expression in many ways.

I recall the Friday 17:00 hour-hooting by motorists and various regalia we would adorn denouncing the bid. We would wear T-shirts with a cancelled three (3) without the danger of being lynched by carders or harassed by police. No tear gas, No bullets.

Even when we called the late President Mwanawasa a cabbage, no arrests or beatings were heard of.

It was purely freedom of expression, freedom of speech in an independent state of Zambia. This is the country we miss, a nation we have lost.

At 54 years of age, Zambia has so much regressed in its freedoms. One should not be heard complaining

about over inflated prices for the fire tenders. I am not supposed to mention that the Ministry of Health procured the ambulances at an exorbitant price when there were alternative and cheaper sources.

One risks being arrested just for questioning why doing up a road from Lusaka to Ndola should cost three times the normal cost.

Not even the Law Association of Zambia brings out a simple question, why didn't the President hand over power to the Speaker of the National Assembly when the opposition legally petitioned the 2016 elections.

We are in a country where a President can lie to the people of Kabwe that he would open Mulungushi Textiles once elected and provide jobs without any retribution. Two years down the line, no one dares call him a liar.

Zambia Shall Rise Again!!!

*Concerned civil servant/
former UNZA student*

By *Miriam Chabala*

Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo says she has deliberately decided not to comment on the recent riots at UNZA, which led to the death of one student, because she believes that the riots were sponsored by people who bought black funeral T-shirts for students.

And Prof Luo says the sermon that Pastor Evans Manjimela rendered at the UNZA SDA Church during the requiem mass for Vespers Shimunzila, the student who died of suffocation during the riots at the university, was

Vespers' funeral church service was disturbing, Luo tells Parley

very disturbing.

Speaking in Parliament, Tuesday evening, when she was asked by Mwembeshi independent member of parliament Majila Jamba to explain what exactly was wrong with the pastor's preaching during the requiem mass, Prof Luo said the whole situation surrounding Vespers' death was

questionable.

She insinuated that last week's fracas was sponsored.

"I have not made a statement on the death of Vespers Shimunzila because I want to investigate it thoroughly and bring everybody to book. But let me also say that, when an act like this one happens, people

should know that the only person who knows on whose hands the blood of Vespers is, is God; they (the killers) may look clever. We should be asking these questions; where did the T-shirts that people wore in black [come from] if this was just a normal accident? Why would they be insulting ministers when they go to

the funeral house? Why would certain individuals take over the funeral? You should have listened even to the [church] service and the sermon at the SDA Church on that day, it is unacceptable! So, those who think they are clever, they are going to pay and they will pay heavily. If not on this earth, they will pay in Heaven," Prof Luo charged.

She insisted that the riot, and especially Vespers' death, needed to be investigated because it was possible that everything that happened was not an accident.

"Unfortunately, I didn't bring my phone so that I can read it for you, but when I read it I was very disturbed. Maybe at break time you can look at this sermon...I didn't expect [what was spoken] to be in a sermon in a church and by a preacher. I have the sermon on my phone because someone sent it to me and I was very, very disturbed! This is why, for me, I think that this particular [death of Vespers and the riots at UNZA] should be investigated to the hilt. We need to understand what

was the motive behind this; who was behind this, because if we don't nip it in the bud, we will have a problem in future. And the reason why I want to emphasise, as Minister of Higher Education, I have refused to speak to the media, I have refused to even make a statement because I have certain footings, which tells you, definitely, that this was not a student's riot," Prof Luo alleged.

And when asked where government was going to get the money to divide the University of Zambia into respective schools by Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta, Prof Luo said the programme did not require a lot of money to be implemented.

"This is why in Zambia, we don't move on anything because we always think that you must have a bag of money to be able to do anything! I think what is critical in any situation is first of all to do some critical thinking and put a road map and you can start implementing an idea with very little money. So, this process is on course," said Prof Luo.



Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya addresses stakeholders in Kafue on Wednesday where he went to inspect progress on the training for rapid response teams on disease outbreaks preparedness

Commerce Minister Christopher Yaluma says government has issued two Statutory Instruments to regulate the businesses that foreign companies can venture into in Zambia. This is an effort to protect small and medium enterprises from collapsing, as foreigners seem to be taking over every other business, leaving Zambians with diminishing opportunities to make a living out of trade.

We must admit and note that the intentions are good, and resonate with the cries of many Zambians over a long time. But we are concerned that the move may be a little too late, and can best be described as a knee jerk reaction. It is very frustrating to see government churn out Statutory Instruments without any plausible mechanism for enforcement.

It's a mockery to people for the government to prescribe a law for regulating activities of foreigners in the market place, while on the other hand the same government is busy issuing permits to the same people.

Why are our institutions tasked with the responsibility of monitoring the operations of foreigners in this country so ineffective?

The Minister cites block-making business as one that should be left to Zambians. Indeed one can observe that most of the block-making businesses in Zambia for instance are in the hands of foreigners.. What government is ignoring is that most of

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Governing with useless Statutory Instruments

such companies are only financed by foreigners, but registered by Zambians. You can go to PACRA and search today, you will hardly find a single Chinese company that owns a chicken run, but there are plenty of them registered by citizens while funded by Chinese. Secondly, even those foreigners who registered their business in their names did not break any law, they followed procedure and PACRA issued them business certificates. So how will this Statutory Instrument help in this regard?

This government wants to govern with Statutory Instruments, but these laws are usually useless from the onset because they are not well thought out. In fact they have dangerous loopholes which will only open government to litigation.

It is our firm belief that laws do not cure everything. Honourable Yaluma's Statutory Instruments will remain an academic exercise for as

long as there are no proper mechanism of screening and monitoring the activities foreigners once they are on Zambian soil. It is much easier to restrict entry of foreigners who are not coming in as expatriates with documented proof from the company that is inviting them.

But the problem we have in this country is that even those in government, especially the Immigration Department, is that everything foreign is good. Anyone foreign is smarter than a Zambian. That is the inferiority complex that we suffer from. 'The solutions to economic growth and development are anchored on foreign investment.' This is the toxic narrative that the Zambian government is peddling. With that mentality, we don't expect Mr Yaluma's Statutory Instrument to protect small business for the local people.

Our development model is wrong. The sooner we realise that

the better for everyone. What is Zambia learning from the developments in Tanzania for example where the leadership there has switched to domestic solutions, focused on growing the capacity of domestic producers of goods and services while stamping out corruption involved in trade. Look, the results are already showing. Even Zambians who used to pick cheap items from Dar- Es Salaam using some loopholes to evade tax, do not do so anymore because the leadership there has acted decisively. It has become tough for them. So, our leadership may pretend to be doing something about foreign businesses, but in reality the political elite responsible for public policy and enforcement have gone to bed with foreigners, the Chinese in particular.

A Chinese man producing and selling chickens at Soweto market may not be the biggest threat to the Zambian entrepreneur.

Have we stopped for a second to reflect on the influx of South African owned shopping malls across the country and asked ourselves what the impact of those malls are having on local small businesses. The malls are taking over strategic land and turning Zambia into a dumping site for cheap foreign products.

And because these big foreign companies are able to negotiate for tax and non-tax incentives which small Zambian businesses are incapable of negotiating, they land on the market with business practices that take away opportunities for small Zambian businesses. We also have rich citizens in this country who can build shopping malls at every corner, but our government doesn't have deliberate policy to prioritise support for such local investment.

Any rich Zambian who shows such financial muscle is in fact regarded as corrupt while foreigners are treated as clean investors. This

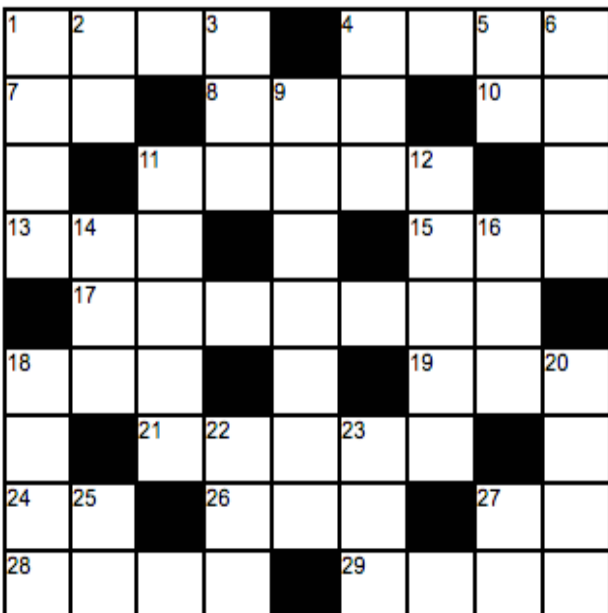
attitude where foreigners receive preferential treatment when dealing with government over Zambians is what is effectively killing the business growth prospects for indigenous Zambians.

There is also a general negative attitude towards Zambian products that must be addressed. To address this we need to be serious about enforcement of standards. It would not make sense for a citizen to bypass a Zambian takeaway and go to buy shawarma from a Lebanese restaurant if the local shop makes them even better. But you find that some Zambian entrepreneurs in this sector are struggling with everything starting with hygiene standards.

What the government needs to do in order to promote such private sector entrepreneurship is to support knowledge transfer and skills training programmes. Citizens need to appreciate that their government is willing to support their investments once they meet a certain level of standards.

So, a Statutory Instrument is one thing, but we would like Honourable Yaluma to address parliament on how this law will be implemented and six months later, he must go back to the House to announce how much achievement it will have recorded. He needs to give statistical data of how many Zambian business will have benefited from this Statutory Instrument and how many foreign businesses would have been closed.

Crossword puzzle 207



Across

1. Software test before release
4. Sandwich rolled in tortilla
7. Sound of surprise
8. Mimic
10. Perform a task
11. Tier
13. Big mess
15. Not the beginning
17. Plan
18. Prefix with angle or cycle
19. Had eaten
21. Make cooler
24. A single one
26. Ruckus
27. __, myself, and I
28. Dormitory
29. Prepare

Down

1. Person in charge
2. Canadians say it
3. Driver's org.
4. Very small
5. Not BC
6. Small body of water
9. Egyptian tourist attraction
11. Word in music
12. Kingly
14. Sticky black substance
16. Catch butterflies in it
18. Pond dweller
20. 2, 4, 6, 8, ...
22. Meat from pig
23. Sever
25. Negative answer
27. Mother

Solutions to puzzle 206



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.

Luo's Parley address on UNZA students, Jean calling UPND satanists

Editor,

"Decisions based on emotions are very detrimental. The way she is coming out like she will be in that position forever." - Zak Zim

"I think these guys should not

be walking out of Parliament. They should pressure government into saying the truth and take responsibility for their shortcomings." - Emmanuel Sakala

"Throughout the Ministerial statement, there was no mention of the heavy handedness and excessive use of force by the police from the Minister. It is very clear that this government will not take responsibility for destruction of property, loss of life and injury caused on that day." - Mwape Nkonge

"The government officials we have at present are really a joke! While those inside the House are agitating for violence, coupled with very poor quality of debates, their colleagues outside the House are directing one another to explain themselves before a party cadre over administrative matters! Not even a circus would accommodate these stunts." - Lumbwa Lupeta

"Nkandu Luo and Jean Kapata are temperamental and their thinking is below par. If Luo knows that the causer of the riot at UNZA that resulted in a death of a female student is UPND, why is she/he demanding for comprehensive investigations? To me, it shows how dull she/he is notwithstanding her/his professorship. Jean Kapata is the dumbest person Zambians have ever known. She is uncultured and I can be able to trace her character from her childhood up to date. I wonder whether these women underwent the bana fimbuses' instructions." - Frederick Ntemena Kafumbe

"No country can develop without tolerance and civility. What is obtaining in our beautiful country in terms of communication leaves much to be desired." - Chikopa K Hazwela



Chimbwali's scolding off PS Kamanga for suspending his deputy

Editor,

"Something is wrong somewhere surely and needs to be corrected." - Akapondo Kansansa

"Those are our leaders, right? At first I thought it was two drunks talking about last night's drinking session. It's time to get worried." - Mwenda Sitali

"Why should a PS be answerable to Munir Zulu? This is lawlessness! Even Kaizar has no authority to interfere

in the operations of PSMD." - Musonda Banda

"And when some of us call this government a joke, we are blasted. Where in the world does a Permanent Secretary answer to a cadre who does not even have a party position?????" - Mwimanenwa Kamona

"Resignation is the best option for all those involved in this scandal...alas not for our politicians! What a shame!" - Bernard Kawimbe

Govt's defiance to apologize over fraudulent Saudi Arabia oil deal

Editor,

"Fuel purchased for 5 years' consumption was used in 5 days, the rest was used to refuel the ship used to ship the 5 years fuel? I just feel stupid to listen to the explanations of our so-called leaders; they really just lack respect." - Edward Banda

"That's asking for too much. Offering of apologies is not in African leadership. As far as the un-honourable Minister is concerned, they did not mislead the nation." - Japhet Kapanji

"I think PF in 2021 will be punished like the way they punished Zambian people. And leaders need be jailed by stealing and misleading us Zambians." - James Scotch Phiri

"They will come again and lie in 2021 unless they have a clear way of rigging elections, then this won't be necessary." - Tonny Mukutu

"They did not mislead the nation, they lied to the nation." - Donald Oscar Phiri

"Sometimes, I wonder why we keep on entertaining such idiocy..." - Keith Moono

Germany open to selling arms to Saudis despite Yemen war: report

Germany's government has left the door open to exporting arms to Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Yemen conflict, the news weekly Der Spiegel reported Wednesday, seemingly in spite of a deal within the country's ruling coalition. There would be no German arms embargo on countries taking part in the Yemen conflict, which has left 10,000 people dead since 2015, the news weekly said on its website. It cited a letter to that

effect sent by the economy ministry to Social Democratic Party (SPD) MP Thomas Hitschler. But part of a March coalition deal between Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative CSU party and the centre-left SPD appeared to rule out arms exports to countries "directly involved" in the conflict. The letter to Hitschler, however, said that export licences will be granted on a case by case basis, Der Spiegel reported.

The issue provoked a sharp dispute within the SPD's parliamentary group, the news weekly said, with several deputies accusing Foreign Minister Heiko Maas -- himself a SPD member -- of kowtowing to the Saudis. Merkel's coalition is already fragile, with its third member, the Bavarian conservative CSU, agitating for a migration crackdown as well as facing regional polls on Sunday. The Der Spiegel report also comes amid mounting

international scrutiny of the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, last seen by his fiancée entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last week.

Turkish police say they think he was killed by a 15-strong team sent to Istanbul, an accusation strongly denied by the Saudis.

The authorities in Turkey have released security camera footage showing a man thought to be Khashoggi entering the consulate. **AFP**

Prince George and Princess Charlotte will be pageboy and bridesmaid at Princess Eugenie's wedding

Prince George and Princess Charlotte have been handed starring roles at Princess Eugenie's wedding on Friday, after doing the same for Uncle Harry and Meghan Markle on their wedding day in May. Five year-old Prince George is one of the couple's two pageboys -- Louis de Givenchy, 6, (son of Zoe De Givenchy and Olivier De Givenchy) is the other.

Princess Charlotte, 3 is the youngest of six bridesmaids on the day, who also include Peter and Autumn Phillip's daughters Savannah, 7, and Isla, 6; Zara Phillips eldest child, Mia, 4; and Princess Eugenie's goddaughter Maud Windsor, 5.

The other notable inclusion is that of Robbie Williams' six-year-old daughter, Theodora.

Pop star Williams and his wife and fellow X-Factor judge Ayda Williams have been friends of Eugenie and her sister Beatrice for years.

They are protective over their young children, and choose not to show their children's faces when they post on social media.

Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, 14, and Viscount

Severn, 10, have also been given special roles on the day.

George and Charlotte have had plenty of practice in a bridal party, having stolen the limelight at their Auntie Pippa's wedding in May 2017 and most recently at Kate's friend Sophie Carter's nuptials in September.

More than 800 guests will gather in Windsor, five months after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex had their nuptials at the same venue.

Prince George and Princess Charlotte were pageboy and bridesmaid at Pippa Middleton's nuptials in 2017, then at the wedding of their uncle Harry to Meghan Markle in May, and carried out duties at the marriage of Kate's friend Sophie Carter last month.

George, who attends private school Thomas's Battersea, is thought to be missing school to attend the royal wedding.

But private schools are exempt from the £60 penalty which can be levied on parents who take pupils on term-time holidays from state schools without permission. **YAHOO**



People look at a damaged store after Hurricane Michael ripped through Panama City, Florida. **AFP**

A new report by a panel of experts from the UN Sanctions Committee seen by Al Jazeera reveals that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has continued to violate arms embargo imposed on Somalia.

The report, yet to be released, notes that the UAE has carried on with the construction of a military base in Berbera in Somalia's Somaliland region, including the transfer of military equipment despite international resolutions against these arms shipments.

The UAE began construction of the base last year, under an agreement with officials in Somaliland, a northern region of Somalia that self-declared independence from the latter in 1991 following a civil war.

The UAE is investing in developing a port, which is strategically located close to Yemen, where UAE troops have been fighting as part of an alliance with Saudi Arabia against Houthi rebels since 2015.

Somalia has previously urged the UN Security Council to take action against the construction of the UAE base in Somaliland.

The report also noted that the panel of UN experts did

UAE violating Somalia arms embargo: Report

not receive a response from authorities in Somaliland when they were asked to comply with the embargo in place.

When the panel asked the UAE to present them with more details of the construction of the base, the response was: "The UAE concluded all agreements with the Somali regions

based on constitutional powers granted to the heads of those regions to achieve security, stability and prosperity for the Republic of Somalia and its people."

In September 2017, maritime police in the Somali state of Puntland intercepted a ship heading from Yemen to Somalia and seized weapons found on board, the

international team of experts said.

In a review by the panel on some of the Chinese weapons found in the vessel, Beijing said no Chinese company had violated the sanctions, without providing further clarification.

Serbian authorities, when reviewing the number of machine guns seized onboard

the ship, said that they had sold 1,000 submachine guns to the UAE in 2016, with the UAE armed forces as the final user of those weapons. The panel said it had not received any response from the UAE when asked to clarify why weapons were on board the seized ship.

UAE Ambassador to the UN Lana Nusseibeh said she

could not comment because the report had not yet been published.

"That being said, the UAE is fully aware of all Security Council resolutions and is in full compliance with the sanctions imposed," Nusseibeh told Reuters news agency.

"We also reaffirm our continued cooperation with the Monitoring Group throughout its mandate."

The Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Somalia in 1992 to cut a flow of arms to feuding armed groups who overthrew President Mohamed Siad Barre and plunged the country into war. **AL JAZEERA**

Mohammed Dewji: Africa's 'youngest billionaire' abducted in Tanzania

East Africa's richest man, said to be Africa's youngest billionaire, Mohammed Dewji, 43, has been kidnapped in Dar es Salaam, police say.

Mr Dewji, who is a fitness enthusiast, was kidnapped by four masked men outside a swanky hotel gym in an affluent neighbourhood of Tanzania's commercial capital, where he was going for his routine morning workout.

According to Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda, two of the attackers are believed to be foreign nationals. He also said three people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Authorities are yet to establish the motive for the kidnapping and where they are keeping the businessman.

Environment Minister January Makamba, a

friend of Mr Dewji, tweeted that he had spoken to Mr Dewji's father and the family confirmed that he had been kidnapped.

Mr Dewji, locally known as Mo, is credited with turning his family business from a wholesale and retail enterprise into a multi-billion dollar pan-African conglomerate.

Forbes estimates that he is worth \$1.5bn (£980m). **BBC**

Monaco, languishing 18th in Ligue 1, said Thursday that they have sacked Leonardo Jardim, who led them to a French title in 2017.

Monaco wished Jardim, who also led the club to a Champions League semi-final in 2017, and his staff "the best for the future."

The club from the principality would not comment on a replacement, but their former player Thierry Henry has been linked to the job.

Henry was youth player with the club and scored seven goals in the 1997-8 Champions League as another talented

Monaco sack coach Jardim after poor Ligue 1 start

Monaco team, this one coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

He was then sold to the Turin club and went on to a successful spell with Arsenal in England and World Cup and Euro-2000 winners medals with France.

Henry is an assistant coach with Belgium, which finished third in the summer's World Cup.

He has recently been linked with jobs at Aston Villa and Bordeaux, but in both cases negotiations broke down after initial meetings.

Jardim was at Monaco since 2014 and was under contract until 2020.

The 44-year-old Portuguese coach had to cope with the sale of many of the stars of his title-winning squad over the last two seasons.

This summer Thomas Lemar,

Joao Moutinho and Fabinho followed earlier departures Kylian Mbappe, Benjamin Mendy, Bernardo Silva, Tiemoue Bakayoko and Valere Germain out of the club in lucrative transfers.

Monaco lost their last game 1-0 at home to humble Angers and

have not won in Ligue 1 since their opening match and have lost both their Champions League group games.

Against Angers, the only key members of the title-winning team to feature were skipper Radamel Falcao and the defensive trio of Jemerson, Kamil Glik and Djibril Sidibe.

Meanwhile, a summer spending spree headed by the signing of Russian World Cup star Aleksandr Golovin has not yet produced positive results for a club owned by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev. **AFP**

Cristiano Ronaldo's lawyer says allegation of rape is 'a complete fabrication'

The lawyer who has been hired to represent Cristiano Ronaldo says the allegation of rape made against the player is a "complete fabrication".

Ronaldo has "vehemently" denied the rape allegation, saying he had "consensual" relations with his accuser.

The Portuguese football star has previously denied raping American woman Kathryn Mayorga in June 2009 in a Las Vegas hotel room after she made the claim 10 days ago.

In a new statement from his lawyer in the US, he admitted for the first time to having relations with Ms Mayorga, but that it was "consensual in nature".

Peter Christiansen issued a statement in which he does not deny Ronaldo and Ms Mayorga reached a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) in 2010.

But it declares documents cited in media reports about the athlete's encounter in 2009 were altered before being "irresponsibly published".

A lawsuit filed on September 27 in Nevada state court seeks to void the NDA that Ms Mayorga's lawyers say she signed while accepting \$375,000 (£284,000) to keep quiet.

Full statement from Peter S. Christiansen on behalf of Cristiano Ronaldo:

'I have been hired to represent Cristiano Ronaldo with respect to the recent civil complaint arising from events alleged to have occurred in 2009, all of which were the subject of a mutual release between the parties in 2010.

'Given the breach of that agreement by the other side and the inflammatory accusations that have been lodged in the ensuing days as a result, Mr. Ronaldo feels compelled to no longer stand silent and in fact, is entitled under that agreement to respond proportionately in kind.

'To be clear, Mr. Ronaldo vehemently denies all of the allegations in the complaint

and has consistently maintained that denial for the last nine years.

'The documents which purportedly contain statements by Mr. Ronaldo and have been reported in the media are complete fabrications. It is my understanding that in 2015, dozens of entities [including law firms] across many different industries throughout Europe were hacked and their electronic data was stolen and captured by a cybercriminal.

'This hacker attempted to sell this data, and one media outlet has now irresponsibly published the stolen documents, significant portions of which were altered and/or completely fabricated. To absolve any doubt, Mr. Ronaldo has always maintained, as he does today, that what occurred in 2009 in Las Vegas was consensual in nature.

'While Mr. Ronaldo does not deny the existence of the mutual agreement and release, his motivations for agreeing to that resolution have been twisted to say the least. Far from any admission of guilt or

any ulterior motive, Mr. Ronaldo was advised to privately resolve the allegations against him in order to avoid the inevitable attempts that are now being made to destroy a reputation that has been built upon hard work,

athleticism and honour. Unfortunately, he now finds himself embroiled in the type of litigation that is all too commonplace in America.

'While Mr. Ronaldo is accustomed to being the subject of press attention

that goes along with being famous, it is absolutely deplorable that any media outlet would support or advance such an elaborate and deliberate defamation campaign based on stolen, easily manipulated digital documents.

'Mr. Ronaldo will leave future discussion of any and all legal matters to his attorneys here and in Europe. He is confident that the truth will survive this frenzy and the laws of Nevada will be upheld and enforced.' **SKYSPORTS**



Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale reacts after Zambia conceded a goal during a match against Guinea Bissau at Heroes Stadium which Chipolopolo won 2-1

Jail waiting for counterfeit FAZ product dealers, Kashala warns

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ has warned dealers that are selling counterfeit national team replicas to desist from the act or face a nine month sentence once caught. FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala said the consequences were non-negotiable and applicable to anyone caught regardless of his or her society stance. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kashala said well-meaning Zambians should support the national team brand adding that it was one of the few commercial ventures that facilitated the association's smooth operations.

"This is too simple and common a venture to ruin. No well-meaning Zambian should resort to selling counterfeit products of the association or anything to do with business. The consequences will not spare anyone and remember it goes through the court. We will swing into action through law enforcement agencies and apprehend anyone who will be found peddling counterfeit products," said Kashala. Earlier this week FAZ revealed it had confiscated an assortment counterfeit replicas with eleven suspects put in custody and would appear in court on a date to be

communicated later by the association. Among the confiscated counterfeit products were Kappa, Mafro, Nike and KoPa. Kashala said that as long as they bore the FAZ logo, law enforcement agencies would take interest in them. In February 2018 a Chinese national, Huang Bing of Makeni was handed a nine month sentence for selling 26 Chipolopolo replica jerseys worth K3, 600. Huang, 43, a businessman admitted before Magistrate Greenwell Malumani that on January 20 he sold jerseys which bore a false trademark.

Jail waiting for counterfeit FAZ product dealers, Kashala warns P11

Chintu envious of Chipolopolo's quality...

THE BOYS

ARE CLEVER

By Alex Chilumbwe Zambia national team physical trainer Chintu Kampamba has noted that the current national team squad is more tactical than the one he featured for.

The former national team defender said the Wednesday qualifier clash against Guinea Bissau was evidence his statement was true adding that the boys had clever ways

of creating scoring chances that kept the Bissau defence panting. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kampamba explained why he believed the current squad was more tactical. "This is definitely not the way we used to play when I was part of the squad. The boys were all kinds of clever and tactical when creating scoring chances. Sven mentioned in the early days of taking up the coaching duties that he was going to work on their mind and help them be more tactical. This is something we lacked during my time. It showed in the game against Guinea Bissau and it was beautiful to watch. Anyone who played with me in the

national team is bound to be envious of how the current squad is playing tactically," Kampamba said. Kampamba who was a member of the national team between 1999 and 2012 and is currently Kabwe Warriors' team player manager also noted that Zambia could have scored more goals against Bissau based on the chances created. "We had a lot of chances but we simply could not score more goals. This is one thing we should look at among other things during training before the return match on Sunday. How did we create a lot of chances but ended up with only two goals?" wondered Kampamba.



Guinea Bissau's Basar Balde(l) challenges Enoch Mwepu during Zambia's 2-1 victory of the AfCON qualifier played at Heroes Stadium on Wednesday

CORRECTION

In yesterday's edition we published a story titled "CHIPOLOPOLO WIN AT LAST" in which we wrongly stated that Cletus Chama plays for ZESCO United and Justine Shonga for Green Buffaloes. The two players have since moved from their local clubs; Chama plays for FC Simba of Tanzania while Shonga plays for Orlando Pirates in South Africa. We apologise for the inconvenience that this mix up caused to our readers

