



# Employees expose ZRA fraud, implicate Commissioner General

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## Thieving civil servants are sponsored by the opposition - Chitembe

By Mirriam Chabala

Minister of National Development Planning Alexander Chiteme says Permanent Secretaries cannot manage to detect all the theft going on in government by themselves because the civil service is full of opposition-sponsored workers, colluding to steal from the Treasury.

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## Sebastian Zulu testifies against Justice Sakala in Mutembo Tribunal case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Former justice minister Sebastian Zulu says he was shocked to learn that justice Earnest Sakala accepted an appointment to sit on a tribunal to probe Mutembo Nchito, the former DPP who raised misconduct complaints against him when he was in charge of the National Prosecutions Authority.

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## Ministry of Commerce staff stole K450,000 when IFMIS crashed, charges Kandeta

By Mirriam Chabala

The Ministry of Finance says reports suggesting that over K450,000 went missing after the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) crashed are a misrepresentation, as that money was actually stolen by two former Ministry of Commerce accountants, who have since been fired.

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## Govt chacks out more thieving accountants

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Presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba rejects orders from Officer in Charge to leave Mwinilunga on Sunday

## Defiant Kalaba gets marching orders out of Mwinilunga

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# EDGAR AYA SANA

## Bring back impeachment motion - GBM

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

The seven court officials linked to the missing cocaine under the custody of the Lusaka Magistrates' Court have appeared in court with fresh charges.

Last week, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) entered a nolle prosequi in a case in which the court officials and two businessmen were facing three counts of drug trafficking in relation to the disappearance of 24 kilogrammes of cocaine, which drugs are subject of criminal proceedings

## 7 court officials linked to missing cocaine slapped with fresh charges

before another court.

However, upon their release, the accused persons were re-arrested and they are now charged with four counts of trafficking in narcotic drugs and two counts of theft by servant.

All the accused persons; businessmen Eric Chipango, Emmanuel

Chimba and court officials Emmanuel Chirwa, Bearvan Mengo, Mathews Mukanda, Victor Nzaila, Florence Mushoka, O'Brian Muyunda and Didie Kangwa, a senior clerk of court, have been charged with one count of trafficking in 80.11 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority

and another count of trafficking in 1 Kg of cocaine without lawful authority.

Chimba, a businessman and Chirwa, a court interpreter, are facing another count of trafficking in 1.5 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority.

Chirwa has also been slapped with one more

count of trafficking in 4.5 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority and another count of theft by servant where he's alleged to have stolen 4.5 grammes of cocaine, the property of the Government of Zambia.

All the seven court officials have been charged with one count of theft by

servant where they are alleged to have stolen 24 kilogrammes of cocaine between August 4, 2017, and August 9, 2018, the property of the Government of Zambia, which brings the total number of counts on the charge sheet to six.

And when the matter came up before Chief Resident Magistrate Kenneth Mulife, Monday, he allocated the matter to a Siavonga-based Magistrate Victoria Chitulangoma.

The accused are expected to take plea today, Tuesday.

# Employees expose fraud at ZRA, implicate Commissioner General

By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has allegedly been fraudulently misreporting its revenue collection targets and using the VAT Refund Account to prop-up its position, a whistleblower letter sent to the Ministry of Finance has revealed.

And the letter which is authored by ZRA employees says First Quantum Minerals (FQM) is apparently one of the most compliant mines in the country, despite ZRA's claim of having uncovered a tax evasion scam back against the mine in March this year.

Meanwhile, ZRA employees say companies are being unfairly squeezed out of liquidity as a result of the Authority's VAT refund manoeuvres.

The correspondence addressed to Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe, and copied

to the Secretary to the Treasury as well as Office of the Auditor General, among others, the Authority has allegedly been fraudulently propping up its position by misreporting its revenue collection targets using the VAT Refund Account.

The open letter, which was received at the Ministry of Finance on October 17, 2018, revealed that the Authority had been diverting money meant for VAT Refunds, and reporting the same as revenue collected for the purposes of meeting monthly targets.

"We wish to bring to your urgent attention the fraudulent misreporting of revenue collections by the ZRA, and that this has been the norm since April, 2017, and it will soon implode," the letter, obtained by News Diggers! reads.

"ZRA, due to consistency

in failing to meet its revenue collection targets, has been diverting money meant for VAT Refunds and reporting the same as revenue collected for purposes of meeting monthly targets. Persons in VAT refund positions have gone unpaid for several months now and in the meantime, ZRA has misled the Ministry of Finance that VAT was the best performing tax type."

The letter also revealed how the ZRA had allegedly been manipulating revenue collection records by diverting VAT refunds.

"On the other hand, Kingsley Chanda as Commissioner General in consortium with Bridget Muyenga as Commissioner Finance and Benjamin Simpungwe as Director Treasury have been manipulating the revenue collection records by simply diverting VAT refunds into the Bank of

Zambia Revenue Account (control 99) without express authority and knowledge of the Ministry of Finance," the letter disclosed.

And the employees claimed that FQM is one of the most compliant mines in the country, contrary to the ZRA's allegations of having uncovered a tax evasion scam.

On March 20, 2018, ZRA announced that it had uncovered a tax evasion scam in which Kalumbila Minerals Limited, an FQM subsidiary, allegedly evaded paying taxes worth K76.5 billion.

An update on the alleged tax evasion scam involving Kalumbila has, however, not been issued since then, despite several stakeholders querying the Authority.

"The failure to meet revenue target has also led to the Commissioner General (CG) with his senior

management to scheme up bogus assessments, such as the one lumped on FQM. Although the CG rushed to the media to announce the 'big catch,' in essence, the assessment on the mine was without proper ascertainment of the veracity of the figures and, neither did he wait for a response from the named mine before making the grandiose announcement," it stated.

"As a matter of fact, FQM is one of the most compliant mines in Zambia and does not owe ZRA a penny in taxes and to this end, has furnished us with evidence to that effect. Already, the mine has deposited documentation showing that money amounting to K4 billion of the bogus K7 billion was paid and they have further asked for some time to produce further evidence to show that they do not in fact owe the Treasury the hyped K7 billion."

The ZRA employees further complained that those who objected to the methods of operating were being victimised.

Meanwhile, the employees also revealed that companies are being unfairly squeezed out of liquidity as a result of the Authority's manoeuvres, among other effects.

"What has been happening since April, 2017, is that ZRA has been utilising the VAT Refund Account to prop-up our dismal collections and consequently portraying to the government and the public at large as though VAT was the best performing tax type. This is an incorrect position.

The correct position is that all the tax types with the exclusion of PAYE [Pay As You Earn], for obvious reasons have been underperforming," read the letter.

"The effect this has on the economy of the country is mainly two-folds and namely: 1. Companies are being unfairly squeezed out of liquidity and as a result, the companies are forced to shelve their expansionary investment and commercial activities, thereby, denying the nation the much-cried for jobs and consequently taxable incomes, which would inevitably accrue to such activities. 2. Government's austerity efforts been undermined in that the national Treasury is now spending these borrowed funds (VAT refunds) as though they were not borrowed funds. This also means that government budget is impaired by these unplanned borrowings..."

They further appealed to Mwanakatwe for her Ministry to intervene in the matter.

"There current VAT position should not be mistaken or mixed with that of Rule 18 on Export VAT refunds, which was a legitimate refund dispute based on the now revised Rule 18. There is a lot going on at which we may not express in this letter, but we will be willing to do so if given an opportunity. We appeal to our motherly Ministry to seriously do an audit into the goings at ZRA as the morale of the staff is at the lowest it has ever been," concluded the employees, signed, "yours in national service."




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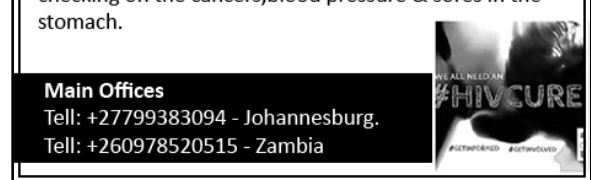


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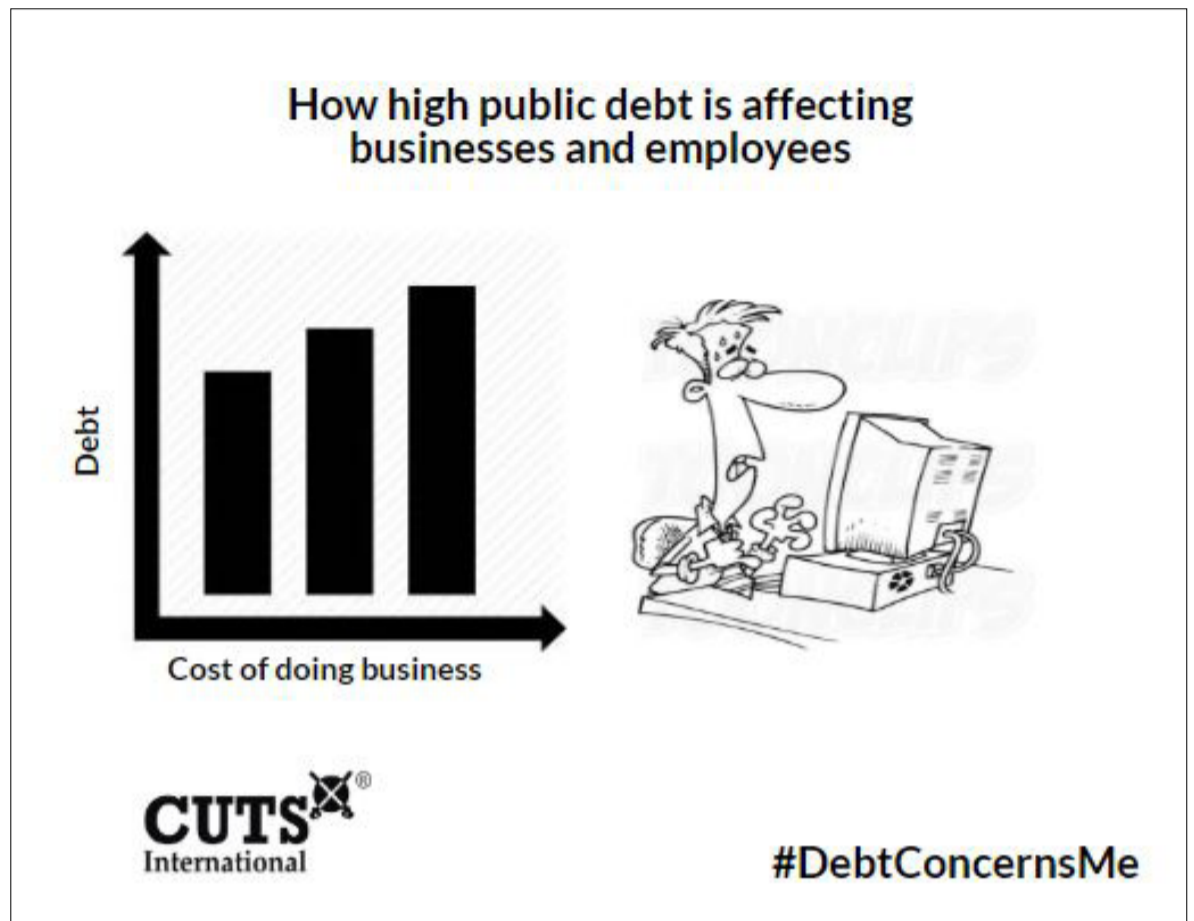


# A tough climate and weakened economy: how debt concerns businesses and employees

*With 90% of employment created by the private sector, how does debt impact businesses and employees like you?*

Businesses of all sizes are at the heart of the country's development as they create employment for many Zambians and are a major provider of tax revenues for the Government. It is therefore important for the Government to create an environment in which the private sector can thrive and contribute to the development of the country. However, Zambia's debt position is making it difficult for businesses to sustain themselves.

We are already seeing the impact of high debt levels on business which could lead them to effect redundancies or even close down. The 2019 national budget speech confirmed non-performing loans (loans where scheduled payments have not been made) are at 11.7% higher than the standard 10% threshold. This is a sign that businesses are struggling with finance and could be linked to the high level of payment arrears in the economy. With more and more money being channelled to paying off its debt, the Government is short of cash, making it difficult to pay companies and contractors. This results in a build-up of payment arrears to the private sector which stood at K13.9 billion in March 2019. Payment arrears have negative implications throughout the economy as contractors cannot pay suppliers, hitting many businesses' cash flows, leaving them struggling to make more investments and even pay their workers. High levels of domestic borrowing by the Government have also made it harder for businesses to access finance to make investments or simply keep going in times of poor cash flow. This situation has occurred through what's called a 'crowding-out' effect whereby banks would rather give credit to the Government than businesses. This is because these investments with the Government are seen as safer which increases the cost of lending to the private sector, thereby reducing their borrowing. Government is increasingly looking for overseas investment to reduce this effect, but interest rates remain high and access to credit difficult for companies of all sizes. Finally, in order to raise revenues to pay back public debt the private sector becomes a target.



Small businesses in particular may find it harder to operate when taxes are increased as this affects their profits. In the proposed 2019 budget small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are expected to be paying more in taxes and fees next year. Turnover tax which is a tax charged on small business with an annual turnover of K800 000 or less is expected to increase next year to 4% from 3%. All fees and fines will be adjusted upwards in line with inflation and thereby the cost of operating businesses will further increase next year.

We spoke to the Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) Chief Executive Officer Chipego Zulu to find out what debt means for businesses. She pointed out that reinvesting in the sector was difficult for manufacturers because of heavy Government borrowing on the domestic market. "The current high debt levels are increasing the cost of production for local manufacturers making our products less competitive than products outside Zambia. Small scale industries need to scale up operations but heavy domestic borrowing has resulted in lack of affordable finance as interest rates have remained stubbornly high above 20% despite interventions from the Bank of Zambia to reduce the cost of borrowing." This shows that key economic sectors such as manufacturing are struggling to grow because of the country's debt position.

Not only have high debt levels created a difficult environment for businesses to prosper, they are weakening the wider economy. As we know from our previous articles, debt levels have contributed to depreciation of the Kwacha which has direct and indirect effects on businesses. Firstly, businesses will directly suffer from higher costs of inputs such as fuel and other imported good, increasing running

costs. Secondly, inflation threatens to reduce demand for goods and services in the economy as Zambians' incomes are squeezed by higher prices. A weakened economy can lead to reduced profits and job losses.

Furthermore, the outlook for the economy is worrying because high debt levels leave it vulnerable to shocks such as a fall in the copper price, failing rains or currency depreciation. High debt servicing costs also limit the Government's ability to inject cash into the economy to stimulate growth and have (among other factors) reduced foreign currency reserves, which the Government uses to protect the kwacha against depreciation. The Government would therefore be unable to cushion the impact of an economic shock, threatening economic collapse, which would see businesses close down and unemployment increase.

The private sector is very important for the growth of the economy as it creates jobs and provides income for Zambians. Increased debt accumulation is negatively affecting the operations of businesses, slowing down growth and ultimately leaving the economy vulnerable to collapse. Businesses are already underperforming, holding back growth, and will suffer if the Government does not address the debt problem, resulting in increased unemployment, coupled with higher cost of living and increasing poverty in the country. Continue to follow the series next week and follow the conversation on social media #DebtConcernsMe.

Facebook - Consumer Unity Trust Society - CUTS Lusaka

Twitter - @CUTS\_Lusaka



Vegetable traders at Lusaka's Soweto market making some orders as early as 05:30 hours – Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

## Woman narrates how pastor swindled her out of K260,000

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 47-year-old woman of Lusaka's SOS area has narrated to the Lusaka Magistrates' Court how a pastor of Interdenominational Jesus Ministries swindled her out of over K260,000 in the name of helping her to start a business and buying a house for her.

This is in the matter in which John Simfukwe, a pastor of Interdenominational Jesus Ministries in Chipata Overspill is charged with theft by agent.

Simfukwe is alleged to have swindled his congregant Chikato between August 16, 2016 and August 17, 2018, out of her K260,000 cash which was entrusted to him to buy a house and for doing business.

When the matter came up before magistrate Felix Kaoma, Monday, Mildred Mutanga Chikato told the court that she gave Simfukwe K170,000 to help her purchase a house and another K90,000 to assist her with business.

She said the money was part of her late husband's benefits who was working for Zambia Army.

Chikato narrated that in 2016, she had gone to visit her sister-in-law in Chipata Overspill when she joined her for prayers at Simfukwe's church.

She said when they reached

church, Pastor Simfukwe, who was the preaching, prophesied to her that he could see a spirit of death.

"On August 16, 2016, I withdrew K170,000 to buy a house. The money was part of the benefits that I got from my husband. My late husband was working under Zambia army and he died on December 24, 2018. I received K339,000 as his benefits in July 2016. How I knew him (Simfukwe), I went to visit my sister in law on a Sunday, she was my husband's cousin. She was going to church and I said I would go with her. When we reached church, pastor John Simfukwe was the one preaching. He prophesied to me saying he was seeing a spirit of death. He then stopped and told me that I should go for counseling," she narrated.

Chikato said when she went for counseling, the man of God continued with his prophesy saying he was seeing her dying and joining her husband. She said during counselling, Simfukwe asked her where her late husband was working before he died, his rank and whether she had already collected his benefits.

"The following day when I entered the counseling room, pastor Simfukwe continued with his prophesy. He said 'I'm seeing you

dying, you are joining your husband'. Well, I asked for prayers. Then as I was still being counselled, he asked me where my late husband was working and his rank. He further asked if I had already gotten the benefits for my late husband. I told him that I have not gotten them. Then he said you should continue coming so that he continues praying for me in order for things to unfold. That's when I became a member of the church," she said.

Chikato said after five months of congregating at the church, she got the benefits and took K5,000 tithe to the same church but Simfukwe asked her how much she was paid in full. She testified that the pastor then told her that the K5,000 she had taken was not 10 percent of her earnings, as guided by the Bible.

Chikato said the following day, she added another K28,900 to make the tithe K33,900.

"I got the benefits five months later. After the money was out, I remember taking tithe to the same church of K5,000 on August 5, 2016. When I went with that K5,000 pastor Simfukwe asked me that how much did you get? Being a Christian, I didn't want to hide and told him that I got K339,000. He told me that the money I had



Pastor John Simfukwe of Interdenominational Jesus Ministries in Chipata Overspill

taken to him was not 10 percent because the Bible said you need to give 10 percent tithe. The following day, I topped K28,900 on the initial money I had taken. The total became K33,900 tithe," she said.

Chikato narrated that the pastor then asked her what she wanted to do with the money and after she explained to him, he offered to help her buy a house.

"At that time I had gone with my sister-in-law. He asked me that 'what do you want to do with the money that I wanted to buy a house then the rest of the money I wanted to save it in a fixed account since I had children in school, the other money was for me to start up a business. He said he can help me buy a house," she said.

Chikato said on August 10, 2016, the pastor called her and informed her that he had found a house for her near Petroda in Matero North.

She said when asked how much the house was, the pastor informed her that it was going at K170,000 after negotiations.

Chikato said there was no document to show that she had given Simfukwe the money because he refused to sign any documents on grounds that he was a man of God.

"We asked for the price of the house and he said it was going at K170,000. He said that was after he had negotiated. He then used his phone to call the owner of the house, after talking to the house owner, he told us that the house was going at K200,000. Then we decided to use the pastor since he had already negotiated so that we could save the rest. I then gave him a K170,000 on August 16, 2016. I didn't have any document, he refused to sign a written agreement saying he was a man of God," she said.

Chikato said she was supposed to shift to the

same house on September 30, 2016 but the pastor asked her to wait saying there were some documents which were still being finalised.

Chikato said to date, she had not shifted into the house because the pastor kept giving her excuses.

She said after contacting the owner of the house, she discovered that the house was not paid for in full, as only K65,000 was paid out of K170,000.

Chikato said she had also given the pastor K90,000 to help her start business, bringing the total amount to K260,000, which to date had not been paid.

Earlier, the owner of the house Sheria Miselo said although she had agreed to sell the house at K165,000, Simfukwe only paid her K65,000 and promised to pay the balance of K100,000 on September 30, 2016 which to date had not been paid.

Trial continues on November 5, 2018.



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By Mirriam Chabala

UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba has urged the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to bring back the impeachment motion to the House, saying President Edgar Lungu has gone too far and Parliament should not be used to protect criminals.

And GBM says Zambians need a fresh start and the only suitable political party, which is ready to begin the new transformation is the UPND.

In a statement, GBM, who envied the South African Constitution, which has a provision for a political party to call back a non-performing or corrupt Head of State, charged that President Lungu had reached a point of 'call back'.

He, however, observed that no one in the PF could push for a vote of no confidence, adding that could be the reason why Dr Matibini was still sitting on the impeachment motion.

"We have observed that Edgar Lungu and his Patriotic Front government have taken Zambians for granted because they have been allowed to steal the

# Bring back impeachment motion, demands GBM

country's resources and silence those with opposing views at the expense of Zambians' suffering. I appreciate the Constitution of South Africa, which has a provision for a political party to call back a non-performing or corrupt President. Edgar Lungu has reached a point of call back; the iron is there, but, unfortunately, no one in PF can push for a vote of no confidence and that could be the reason why the Speaker of the National Assembly is sitting on the impeachment motion," Mwamba stated. He urged Dr Matibini to learn from the South African Parliament that impeachment was part of the democratic process, and also insisted that Parliament should not be used to protect criminals.

"Speaker Patrick Matibini should learn from the South African Parliament that,

impeachments are a part of democratic process and the House should not be used to protect criminals. Jacob Zuma survived three impeachment motions brought before Parliament without the Speaker showing any bias. The UPND demands that Matibini brings the impeachment motion so that it is debated as its continued judicial review process lacks merit. If Lungu is popular, he will stay, but we know he will go because he has failed the people of Zambia and the writing is on the wall," he added.

GBM, the former Kasama Central lawmaker, observed that Zambia was not short of quality men and women who could provide leadership. He added that even in PF, they were those who could take over from President Lungu and actually do a better job than him.

"Zambia is not short of quality men and women who can provide leadership; even in PF itself, they are those who can take over from him and actually do a better job than Edgar," he argued.

And GBM stated that Zambians needed a fresh start and that the only suitable political party, which was ready to begin the new transformation, was the UPND.

"It's no doubt that my president Hakainde Hichilema and I have travelled the country and understand it better than Edgar. It is time to go and leave Zambia to a leadership that will put the people of Zambia first. 'DZIKO NI BANTU' is what we believe in as UPND. Look at the Zambian people today; majority are wallowing in abject poverty can't afford three meals in a day," he stated.

"The intellectual capacity of our students in higher institutions of learning, such as UNZA and CBU, has been affected due to poor funding of their meals, accommodation and project allowances, worsened by poor management of their lecturers who have to fight for better conditions of service. Traders, too, have been affected by the burning of markets, which the Patriotic Front has up-to-date not told the nation the cause. Civil servants are struggling to live decent lives as their salaries have lost value, while Edgar Lungu is besides the wealth he has suspiciously amassed, has also increased his salary."

Meanwhile, GBM stated that the UPND would not allow austerity measures that were implemented using the "animal farm" formula. "We have had enough! PF has gone too far. In Bemba

we say, 'Edgar waya sana.' Every sector has been affected by Edgar's poor performance, but he is showing no remorse other than fighting to remain in power as means of enriching himself, while Zambians get poorer and die prematurely. We've had enough. Imagine closing the Post Newspapers to the extent of reducing its workers like they were cadres in the opposition, yet they have an important role in society, which was also benefitting the PF as a ruling party," stated GBM.

"Today, Zambians can't express themselves on issues affecting their lives and surroundings, while journalists remain risking to provide information to the community; enough! Edgar should go, go, go! Edgar has also abrogated the [Republican] Constitution he swore during his inauguration, as well as broken some Biblical commandments, which late president Michael Sata swore to use in governing this nation. 'Awee, mwachilambo ba Edgar,' Zambians today are among the hungriest population in the world; it's too much, enough is enough."

# Police force Kalaba out of Mwinilunga

By Thomas Mulenga

Armed police officers in Mwinilunga district of North Western Province on Sunday forced Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba to cut short his visit and leave the area saying they only had enough manpower to protect Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya who was also in the same area. And Mwinilunga police officer-in-charge, only identified as Mwewa, told Kalaba that talking to people at a funeral without notifying the law enforcement agency was against the Public Order Act.

The fracas began when Mwewa followed the former foreign affairs minister to St Anthony Catholic Church where he was attending mass.

Mwewa and his armed officers parked their vehicle registration number ZP 2535 B, outside the Church premises, waiting for Kalaba. After mass, police followed Kalaba as he proceeded to Kabanda area where he went to lay a wreath on the grave of late freedom fighter and academician Dr Peter Matoka.

After laying a wreath, Kalaba went to meet Dr Matoka's brother who lives a few meters away from the burial site, police following him still.

Upon arrival at the house, Mwewa called Democratic Party spokesperson Judith

Kabemba on the side and started interrogating her why Kalaba decided to visit the district without informing him as officer-in-charge.

However, before the conversation between Kabemba and Mwewa could go further, Kalaba concluded his short discussion Dr Matoka's brother and took on the officer.

Below was the exchange: Kalaba: Good afternoon officer, you have followed me here, what is the matter?

Mwewa: Yes, we have followed you because you did not notify me of your visit and your programs in the district. You can go to church and visit the grave yard, but I have also been informed that you are meeting other people in different places that include schools.

Kalaba: You are following us right?

Mwewa: Yes Kalaba: Let's go you see the program

Mwewa: Ahh...you know you have to inform us when you are conducting your activities in the district. We were supposed to offer our services to the Minister of Health Dr Chilufya who is in also in the district.

Kalaba: I am not even aware...I am not aware that the minister is here.

Mwewa: That's why I am telling you that for me to cover you, you need to

inform me of your presence and your activities in the district. I don't have enough man power here.

Kalaba: So you have got enough man power to follow me here and you have left your minister unattended to?

Mwewa: Honourable...I am here to know your program in the district.

Kalaba: If I have a program, I will come and tell you...that I am meeting people there and there, but if I don't have a program, I only went to church and came here to pay my respects and put a wreath on late Dr Peter Matoka's grave...I see no need to inform you.

Mwewa: There is no problem with that, but meeting people in the district without telling me as commanding officer is against the Public Order Act. I have told you that the Minister of Health is also here.

Kalaba: There is no law officer, first of all let me tell you this, there is no law that says when a minister is in a district, citizens cannot interact, there is no law.

Mwewa: You are meeting people, you are talking to people, I expected you to just put a wreath and go, but if you start meeting people, you are creating a problem.

Kalaba: But that's what I did, I put a wreath, and went to greet the old man and I am going.

Mwewa: Okay, if you say



that, then we have no problem. We can...we can... Kalaba: Why do you create drama where there is no drama?

Mwewa: No, there is no drama honourable Kalaba: Don't intimidate citizens ba Mwewa.

Mwewa: We are not intimidating you, this is the law that is at work

Kalaba: Which law are you quoting? There is no law that has been broken.

Mwewa: We want to advise you that from here honourable, we see you off!

Kalaba: No! You can't! In fact, if you say that, I can even go and book a lodge! Which powers do you have to chase us from Mwinilunga?

Mwewa: I am saying...I am saying... if you are here and you want to be meeting people, you need to notify me as officer in charge of this

place.

Kalaba: Why didn't you wait where you sat there to see whether Kalaba was going to meet people or not? I have just come to put a wreath of flowers on Dr Matoka's grave and met the brother, and I am on my way out now.

Mwewa: We advise you... we advise you. You have now said nicely that you are going...now.

Someone in Kalaba's entourage: Officer withdraw what you have said that we should leave Mwinilunga, you can't chase us from Mwinilunga...we can't run away from Mwinilunga. For what ba Mwewa, for what?

Mwewa: Okay now listen... listen...you agree or not agree?

Someone in Kalaba's entourage: Officer don't work under instructions, follow the law. We don't agree to

chase us from Mwinilunga ba Mwewa...that can't work. Late Dr Matoka's niece: Come and pick me if you want, these people came to visit Dr Matoka...they came to mourn, come pick me if you want.

Mwewa: You have not agreed...okay...okay. I have warned you...I have warned as Officer in charge.

At this point, Mwewa and his officers boarded their vehicles and drove away.

A few minutes later, Kalaba's entourage also departed from Dr Matoka's burial site. Once Kalaba's entourage reached the town centre, the police officers, who had been waiting for them, followed him until they entered the gravel Mwinilunga-Zambezi Road.

Kalaba could not proceed to meet members of the Democratic Party.

By Mirriam Chabala

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) has advised government to continue pursuing the IMF economic bailout programme for the country, saying the package is important for balance of payment support. And PMRC has called for the enactment of critical policies under the Medium Term Debt Strategy (MTDS) to provide for enhanced oversight over government's borrowing activities, which would also compel government to seek the National Assembly's approval, before loans are contracted. In a statement, PMRC executive director Bernadette Deka stated that the fact that Zambia needed a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), widely expected to be around US \$1.3 billion, could not be overemphasized.

"The importance of the IMF package to Zambia cannot be overemphasized. Zambia needs an IMF package. We have been submitting to government to pursue the IMF bailout programme for balance of payment support for as long as the bailout terms and

# Govt shouldn't give up on IMF bailout package yet - PMRC

conditions are favourable to all Zambians by consolidating growth. As a matter of fact, the IMF presents affordable finance and is significantly more affordable than commercial borrowing from domestic and international markets and, thus, PMRC encourages the government to continue pursuing an IMF package that complements our home-grown Economic Stabilization and Growth Programme (ESGP)," Deka stated.

"The IMF package would further complement the government through technical assistance on fiscal management, as well as offer external accountability of fiscal and growth policies for the country. In view of the foregoing, we also commend the Ministry of Finance for instructing all Ministries to concentrate [on] arrears dismantling to areas that will significantly reduce Non-

Performing Loans (NPLs) and release liquidity to the private sector. In the meantime, PMRC remains hopeful that the upcoming engagements with the IMF will result in a positive."

And Deka expressed confidence that the World Bank's support to the country's Office of the Auditor General would supplement government's efforts towards the fight against corruption.

"The World Bank has offered additional support for capacity-building to institutions responsible to fighting corruption, e.g. Office of the Auditor General and others, to enhance accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in order to restore confidence by donors. PMRC is confident that this support to the AG's Office and other offices will enhance ongoing efforts towards the fight against corruption.

PMRC continues to advocate for increased capacity-building in organisations, such as the office of the AG in its annual analyses of the AG's reports," she stated.

"Another strategic realignment that we have observed is the elevation of the office of the Chief Internal Auditor to the level of Permanent Secretary, giving the office more power to execute various tasks, advancing accountability and transparency. PMRC is of the view that this decision is necessary in order to promote accountability of government resources and to strengthen the levels of internal controls. PMRC continues to play its role by conducting seminars and workshops for key enforcement bodies and the media, respectively, to enhance capacity in execution of their respective mandates."

Meanwhile, Deka stated that the PMRC was hoping that

those plundering resources meant for the vulnerable would be dealt with, according to the stiffer provisions of the revised Act in line with the provisions in the revised Public Finance Management Act 2018.

"The 2019 national budget commits that government will maintain the target of 700,000 beneficiaries on the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scheme next year, and will scale-up the number in subsequent years. We have been closely monitoring the impact of the SCT and several positive impacts have been demonstrated to date, including reduced poverty in beneficiary areas; increased food security; improved child wellbeing; improved living conditions and asset ownership, among others. In view of the current administration lapses, abuse and mismanagement under the SCT, we expect that in

accordance with the provisions in the revised Public Finance Management Act 2018, would-be offenders will be dealt with, according to the stiffer provisions of the revised Act," Deka added.

"In view of the challenges faced during the implementation of SCT in Zambia, PMRC recommended that government invests in increased capacity-building for integrated management systems.

"Improved electronic management systems would provide for reduced duplication and effective targeting of beneficiaries, thus, prompting efficiency in the administration of the programme, increase incentives to community members. This will motivate individuals to volunteer and play an active role in the implementation and monitoring of the SCT programme. Additionally, adequate resource allocation towards the sector will provide for increased capacity, incentives to community members and increased target areas of beneficiaries."

PMRC further called for the enactment of critical policies under the Medium Term Debt Strategy (MTDS) to provide for enhanced oversight over government's borrowing activities, which would also compel government to seek the National Assembly's approval before loans are contracted.

"PMRC calls for the enactment of critical policies under the Medium Term Debt Strategy, such as, the Loans and Guarantees Act cap 366 of the laws of Zambia, which would be the mandate, used for the administration of the strategy. The Bill would further provide for enhanced oversight over the borrowing activities of the government by having the National Assembly approve loans before they are contracted. Other critical legislation that needs to be enacted is: the Public Procurement Bill, as well as the National Planning and Budgeting Act," stated Deka.

## 476 died in third quarter accidents - Police

By Abraham Kalito

Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says police have recorded a slight increase in road traffic accidents in the third quarter of 2018, compared to the same period in 2017.

In a statement, Monday, Katongo revealed that 476 people died in 394 different road traffic accidents during the third quarter of this year. "During the third quarter of 2018, a total number of 7,915 road traffic accidents were recorded compared to 7,832 road traffic accidents recorded in the third quarter of 2017. Out of the recorded accidents, 394 were fatal in which 476 persons were killed, 790 were serious injury road traffic accidents in which 1,443 persons were seriously injured, 1,517 were slight injury road traffic accidents in which 2,170 persons were slightly injured while 5,214 were damages only road traffic accidents.

In 2017 during the same period, 372 fatal road traffic accidents were recorded in which 497 persons died hence showing an increase in number of fatal road traffic accidents by 22 when compared to the third quarter of 2018. Despite recording an increase in the number of fatal road traffic accidents, there was a decrease in the number of persons killed by 21. There was also a decrease in the number of serious road traffic accidents by eight (08) while on the other hand statistics show an increase in the number of persons seriously injured by 418," Katongo stated.

"There was also a decrease by 49 in the number of slight injury road traffic accidents compared to 2017 with an increase in the number of persons slightly injured by 71. The total number of casualties recorded in the third quarter of 2018 was 4,089 compared to 4,047 casualties recorded in 2017." She stated that Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of road traffic accidents. "Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of road traffic accidents with 4,220 road traffic accidents representing 53% of the total number of recorded accidents, followed by Copperbelt Province with 1,120 road traffic accidents

translating to 14 % of the total number of accidents. Northern Province and Airports Division were the least with 131 and 34 road traffic accidents representing 16% and 0.4 % respectively. Out of 4,089 casualties in the third quarter of 2018, 394 were children under the age of 16 years out of which 221 were males while 173 were females compared to 2017 where 434 children were involved in road traffic accidents out of which 236 were males while 198 were females. In the third quarter of 2018, 51 children were killed, 141 were seriously injured and 202 were slightly injured compared to 65 killed, 145 seriously injured and 224 slightly injured

during the same period of 2017 showing an increase in the number of casualties by 42," she stated. Katongo stated that most accidents were as a result of human error. "A total number of 10,166 motor vehicles were involved in road traffic accidents in the third quarter of 2018 compared to 10,849 during the same period of 2017 showing a decrease by 683. Most of the accidents were as a result of human error where 16.5% of the recorded accidents which is 1,305 were as a result of over speeding, 1,054 accidents representing 13.3% were as a result of drivers failing to keep to their lane, 964 accidents representing 12.1% were as a

result of drivers misjudging clearance distance while 774 representing 9.7% was as a result of cutting in. When compared to the same period in 2017, accidents caused as a result of excessive speed have increased by 1.1% while nothing much has changed in the other cited causes.

A total number of 35,451 road traffic offences were recorded in which K11,183,763.00 was raised from Admission of Guilt fines in the third quarter of 2018 compared to K10,600,731.00 raised during the same period in 2017 from 39,334. This shows that road traffic offences have reduced by 3,883 while Admission of Guilt fine collection has increased by K583,032.00," stated Katongo.

Government, through the Civil Service Commission, has dismissed 12 accounting and one operations staff who were involved in various offences involving public funds, including theft. In a statement issued by Ministry of Finance head of public relations Chileshe Kandeta, the dismissed officials, are mostly accountants from the Ministry of General Education, Commerce Trade and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Provincial Administration in Lusaka.

# Government sacks more thieving accountants

By Stuart Lisulo

"Under the Ministry of Education, Mr. Chizaso Thole, a senior accountant; Mr. Eliya Mwale, accountant; Mr. Lazarous Chanda, assistant accountant and Ms. Ivy Sibajene, accounts assistant, have been dismissed in accordance with section 21 (a)(v) of the disciplinary code and procedures for handling offences in the public service," read the statement issued in Lusaka, Monday.

"Mr. Moses Thole, accounts assistant, under Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, has been dismissed, while Mr. Rodgers Mwanza, a

senior accountant, and Mr. Lukanda Matambo, an accounts assistant, were both dismissed from the civil service in December, 2017, for similar offences under the same Ministry. Two officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been dismissed. These are: Mr. Noel Mulopa, an assistant director - Operations and Mr. Lawrence Phiri, an accountant. Under the Provincial Administration - Lusaka Province, four officials have been dismissed. These are: Ms. Grace Zimba, a principal accountant; Mr. Psela Banda, an accountant; Ms. Nzewa Chumbu,

an accounts assistant and Mr. Gideon Zulu, an accounts assistant." According to Kandeta, the stolen funds will be recovered from the dismissed officials' terminal and pension benefits.

"In addition, the due process of the law will also be followed to the letter in reaching conclusive positions in accordance with the Public Financial Management Act, 2018. The Public Financial Management Act, 2018, is now the principal act on public financial management matters," read the statement.



**Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama**

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

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Ear to the ground

# Business Anticipation

Many entrepreneurs have very high hopes of the future. They gesture their expectations by the way they walk, talk and carry themselves. Unfortunately, many of us are victims of the future rather than its inventors. We generally fail to professionally communicate our anticipation so that all those we have to deal with such as suppliers; clients and other stakeholders predict our next move.

Businesses that succeed have very creative, thoughtful and creative people at the top. Many times, we get very familiar with our business. As a result, we simply go through a normal routine in managing it. Businesses that have been very successful for a long time run the danger of going through what we call the 'comfort stage'. At this point, growth margins of the business begin to dwindle (from about 50 percent margins to less than 10 percent or zero!). When you are going through the Comfort Stage you begin to pay yourself a huge salary, take unnecessary trips abroad and increase your membership to clubs. The Standard Bank Business Solver asks the following question, 'What if something happens to you?'

In short, how have you positioned yourself in case of a major sickness or something drastic happens to the business environment? The moment you stop thinking about the future and having a long-term perspective of your business, your business is surely doomed. To survive in the highly competitive Zambian environment, think in anticipation of changing circumstances around you. In other words, always entertain ideas that challenge you so that you do not doze off the wheel. Here is how to do it: INVEST AND ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE:

Entrepreneurs are generally very patient people. They

believe in investing resources. By definition, investment is postponing your current enjoyment into the future. A business colleague once told me that business anticipation is like a fisherman who sits patiently by the river bank waiting for the floater to submerge. If there was no hope of fish under the water, the fisherman would not waste time and energy. But there is always an expectation of catching fish.

Entrepreneurs are long-term minded. At times, they invest for the third generation. It is better to take your time managing your invested resources with foresight than gobbling everything today and spell doom to your children. The future will always come and with unanticipated changes and impact.

We are always chasing after those who are ahead of us; always challenging us to move with inventions and new technology. Anticipating the future means pioneering change. I told a young lady who is a victim of fashion to turn herself into a mover and not a taker. Pioneers dominate markets and enjoy the luxury of manipulating their followers. A good entrepreneur will always pioneer change and by the time others move into the same business, the market would have been manipulated. SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE: Genuine entrepreneurs have one common attribute – they always seek to share knowledge. Firstly, they know a lot about their own businesses and how they do it. Secondly, they love to duplicate themselves.

I recently shared a platform (for second time this year) with the CEO and Chairman of Mulundu Investments David Kombe. I congratulated him for being available all

*"A business colleague once told me that business anticipation is like a fisherman who sits patiently by the river bank waiting for the floater to submerge"*

the time to share knowledge. Now that I am full time in the consultancy business, it is extremely hard to find time for other upcoming entrepreneurs. Every time counts in business. Kombe is one typical example of an entrepreneur who commits substantial time sharing his business experiences with others. He is not in a hurry; he fears nothing. If you are a business pioneer like Strive Masiyiwa, Charles Branson and Aliko Dangote, you will never be afraid of being overtaken by anyone if you shared your experiences openly.

Zambia seeks for many such people like you who will contribute to society by exposing others to business knowledge. By doing so, you are building an army of entrepreneurs who will be part of your large network of support and success. Once you have invested in goodwill, you will find all stakeholders are ready to engage you about your products and services! This is business anticipation.

By **Miriam Chabala**

The Ministry of Finance says reports suggesting that over K450,000 went missing after the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) crashed are a misrepresentation, as that money was actually stolen by two former Ministry of Commerce accountants, who have since been fired.

And the Ministry says government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public resources is bearing fruit, following the enactment of the Public Financial Management Act of 2018.

In a statement, Finance Ministry head of public relations Chileshe Kandeta clarified that the purported missing funds did not in fact go missing, but were actually stolen by a senior accountant and an assistant from the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, instead of being given to the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), who were the intended beneficiaries.

"We take this opportunity to clarify that media reports indicating that over K450,000

## Commerce ministry accountants stole K450,000 when IFMIS crashed - Kandeta

went missing at the Ministry of Finance as a result of the crash of the Integrated Financial Management Information System is a misrepresentation. To put the record straight, the IFMIS developed operational challenges in January, 2018. The funds in question relate to the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, which were fraudulently paid to an individual for the year ending 31st December, 2017. The IFMIS, an information technology platform, which developed operational dysfunction in January, 2018, was restored in some sites in March, 2018. When the matter was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, under which ZABS and CCPC fall, the leadership of that Ministry acted swiftly and dismissed two individuals who were

involved in the fraudulent transaction. Mr Rodgers Mwanza, a senior accountant, and Mr Lukanda Matambo, an accounts assistant, were both working under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry at the time they committed the infringement of law on public finance, and were dismissed from the public service in December, 2017," Kandeta explained.

"The case is now under investigation of law enforcement agencies and the due process of the law will be followed to the letter in reaching a conclusive end on the matter. The Ministry also wishes to confirm that the Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Republic for the year ended 31st December, 2017, has been received. The Minister of Finance, Margaret Mwanakatwe, has since instructed the Secretary to the Treasury, Fredson Yamba, to ensure that the Report is studied thoroughly

and an action-taken report prepared before the next Joint Financial Governance Forum for Ministers and Controlling Officers, scheduled for December, 2018. During this week, additional statements will be issued on Treasury and public financial management matters. We will also provide another update on the action that has been taken against public officers who have infringed the law in management of public resources."

And Kandeta disclosed that the State's commitment to transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public resources was bearing fruit, following the enactment of the Public Financial Management Act of 2018.

"The Public Financial Management Act, 2018, is now the principal act on public financial management matters. Since its coming into force, the Act has helped to facilitate easy enforcement of regulations;

offered clear guidance on management of financial reforms; and, stipulated offences and penalties related to public resources in both local and central government. The Public Financial Management Act, 2018, is also embedded with provisions that have now operationalized the IFMIS and the Treasury Single Account in law. Upon the instruction of President Edgar Lungu, and on the guidance of the Minister of Finance, an Internal Audit Oversight Committee has been constituted whose mandate is to make decisions on internal audit reports from Ministries, Provinces and other controlling bodies, and to analyse and give guidance on management reports assigned to respective government institutions by the Auditor General in order to forestall adverse reports in future audits," stated Kandeta.

"The Government of Zambia Internal Audit Oversight Committee is chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet and

also comprises the Secretary to the Treasury; Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet in charge of Administration; Controller of Internal Audit – Ministry of Finance; Accountant General – Ministry of Finance; Permanent Secretary (PSMD – Cabinet Office); and, Chairpersons of Civil/Public/Teaching/Local Government/Police & Prisons Service Commissions. Following the upgrading of the Office Controller of Internal Audit to Permanent Secretary Status by the President, the Ministry of Finance is in the process of strengthening the cohesion and functionality of Audit Committees in Ministries, Provinces and Other Controlling Bodies. The Ministry is also in the process of developing a Risk Management Framework to ensure that, going forward, we achieve a significant reduction and ultimately, elimination of infringements related to the handling; storage; care; and, utilisation of public resources."

There seems to be a fierce battle for the position of Inspector General of Police as well as that of Deputy Inspector General among Provincial Commissioners that is forcing them to make very silly decisions in order to get noticed by President Edgar Lungu.

We have a reason to believe that these Provincial Commissioners are seeing some vacancies at the top of the police command. It seems there is something that they have heard, which the public has no idea about; and it is that expectation that has escalated the desperations among contenders to outdo each other in brutal policing.

We are not speaking from without. Just last week, Deputy Police spokesperson Rae Hamoonga issued a statement to dispel rumours that the Inspector General had been fired.

"The Zambia Police Service would like to dispel the contents of an article trending on social media suggesting that the Inspector General of police Mr. Kakoma Kanganja has been dropped. The Inspector General of Police is currently out of the country on national duties and is still at the helm of the Zambia Police Service. We wish to urge the general public to dismiss this false article with the contempt it deserves. The police high command will not be swayed by such falsehood to perform its function," read the statement.

We were shocked to hear about this rumour from the police because we had not heard of any such speculation anywhere else apart from them.

# News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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## Police commissioners are desperate to replace IG Kanganja!

The police statement was claiming that social media originated the gossip, but we, the social media dealers, had not picked anything of that sort.

There are plenty of senseless rumours that pop up on social media every day, but they never quite get the amount of attention that the police gave to this speculation about Mr Kakoma Kanganja being fired. So, this move by the police gives us reason to believe that within the police command hierarchy there is a battle for recognition and promotions; especially that this comes only a few weeks after Southern Province Police Commissioner Bonnie Kapeso was promoted to Deputy Inspector General.

What happened last week in Ndola where police stormed into a church

building and arrested pastors and officials from the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) doesn't make sense, until one understands the above narrative about the jostling for promotions among Provincial Commissioners.

The Ndola meeting was about the 2019 national budget, a public document that has been laid on the table of Parliament and to the Zambian people through the media for scrutiny. Zambians are now expected to make their submission, and this was the agenda for the CTPD-convened meeting. The civil society organization wanted to hear people's reflections on the proposed budget and to get involved in the process of implementation.

But there came a Police Commissioner in the name of Charity Katanga with a

battalion of armed officers to fish out the clergy and their civil society partners from Ndola Central Baptist Church to arrest them for unlawful assembly.

"We had information that there is a political group that had a meeting without police notification. Initially, 53 people had gathered. But only eight were picked, including one Pastor George Palo who was the lead convener of the meeting," Katanga said.

This is nonsense. Unlawful assembly in a Church? So, police want people to seek their permission to pray and talk about things that affect their livelihoods? What will be the next offence, illegal defecation in a toilet? Please, ba police, stop embarrassing us to the outside world! And for a Commissioner who is as highly educated as Katanga, this is an insult to

her own intelligence.

We say this because even a grade 12 pupil knows that CTPD is not a political group and has nothing to do with any political party. After getting a report that there was a 'political group' coming to hold a rally in church, and if her officers have no capacity to investigate anything, a simple Google search would have saved Katanga the embarrassment; she would have learnt that CTPD is a non-profit, membership-based trade policy think tank, which promotes equitable pro-poor trade policies and practices in Zambia.

We would like to urge these promotion-thirsty Provincial Commissioners to take a chill pill and relax because these are human beings they are dealing with. If they don't want to listen,

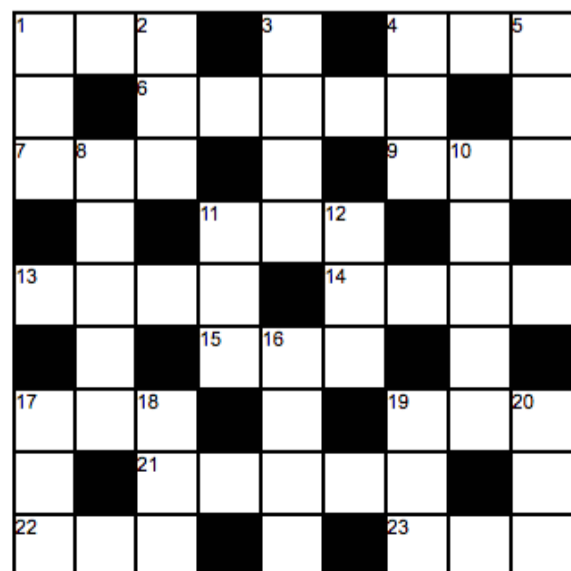
soon, they will ignite a fire in this country that no one will succeed to put out. Even a dog, when you chase it to a dead end, it remains with no option, but to face its aggressor and bite back in order to survive. At that point, the dog doesn't care if it will eventually be killed for attacking back, but it will prefer to die trying because that becomes the only option left.

People in Zambia have been pushed to the dead end. They are fast running out of survival options other than to fight back. Unlike a vulnerable stray dog, which can't apply logic to its retaliation, the citizens will not lose. Once these citizens wake up and make a unanimous choice that they must stand united to take down the oppressors, there is no rank in the police command that will contain them.

Just look at how police officers were chasing Harry Kalaba from Mwinilunga last Sunday, like an illegal immigrant. The officers followed Kalaba to the church where he was worshiping with the people. That is an act by another desperate Provincial Commissioner seeking the President's attention!

What these police officers must remember, however, is that their deeds are costing their appointing authority some votes. The more they show aggression to the people, the more their chances of staying in employment reduce because the next regime will toss them out and make sure they dance to the music.

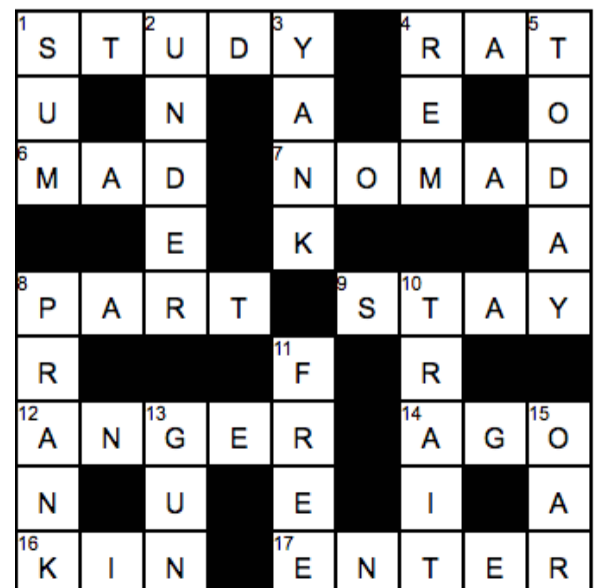
### Crossword puzzle 214



*"When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it." - Frédéric Bastiat*

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>               | <b>Down</b>                 |
| 1. Mouth feature            | 1. Run a ___ of the track   |
| 4. Elderly                  | 2. Bit of wordplay          |
| 6. Rural's opposite         | 3. Encourage                |
| 7. Golfer's target          | 4. Single number            |
| 9. Wind direction           | 5. Deer mom                 |
| 11. Had a snack             | 8. Magazine edition         |
| 13. Immediately             | 10. Not ever                |
| 14. Rant                    | 11. Appropriate             |
| 15. A hot drink             | 12. Significant time period |
| 17. Chicken Little, for one | 16. 2, 4, 6, 8, ...         |
| 19. Kennel sound            | 17. Head covering           |
| 21. Operative               | 18. Capture                 |
| 22. Bathroom fixture        | 19. Ingested                |
| 23. Unit of corn            | 20. Kitty's coat            |

### Solutions to puzzle 213





# Reader's feedback

## Auditor General's Report on how Social Cash Transfer funds were squandered

Dear Editor,

"People are heartless, so more than 144,000 vulnerable people and the aged, majority of whom I am sure are now dead because they starved were deprived of a life. I think the culprits should not only be charged with theft, but multiple murder." - George Mwale

"Thieves have ganged up to loot this country and after stealing, they call for prayers and fasting. Donor money is monitored; what about tax payers' money, who monitors it? Auditor General's reports and FIC reports are not acted upon because they show glaring theft by the top most officials, the people that the electorate entrusted to be custodians of national resources." - Chombe Mike

"There you have it, and there is nothing more to say. Theft is theft whatever name you want to use." - Muzumbwe Hakwaambwa

"Why can't the opposition talk about this for sure? We have MuviTV, Diamond and other many private TV stations. Can't they feature these thieves to explain to the beneficiaries how the money has been swallowed? It's irritating!" - Adams Kambila

"Wait a minute, I don't know who to believe; the government who said: 'the money was sitting in a

Zanaco account' or the Auditor General who's saying, 'the money was stolen.' One is lying. And I know who." - John Simonga

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



## Ndola police's arrest of pastors, CTPD officials, at discussion forum

Editor,

"So, how do citizens help out if they can't even sit and analyse the budget? Next day in Parliament, our respected old lady will then twist this and say social media is causing the economy to go down. But she will not talk about the actual wrongs. At this rate, police will start arresting families doing prayers before sleeping." - Solomon H. Phiri

"Then they accuse others of causing investors or disinvestment into the economy. Even the Chinese are trying to perfect their security on loans by holding and acquiring some of the parastatals. Government will achieve nothing from actions of the police, but a bad autocratic name." - Chad Mupila

"Just a day after national prayer, dictatorship traits resurfac!!! Who should repent if I may ask!!!?" - Robby LM

"When you are not doing things rightly, you become scared, even with your own shadow. That is PF for you." - Josef Banda

"Where is Human Rights Commission of Zambia to condemn this barbaric act? A toothless institution wasting tax payers' money, yet it was so quick to give Tayali Banda attention; does it mean that other sectors of our society cannot be seen?" - Chris Banda

## Malozo on allowing Lungu to borrow more for economy

Editor,

"Low thinking, Malozo." - Bondfasho Chabula

"This is what we call failing to see beyond the nose. Look around you, Mr Sichone, Zambia is so rich you can't see it. You should be asking yourselves, 'how to make this inherent wealth work for the Zambian people.' You just want to borrow, but at what cost to the ordinary Zambian who pays your salaries to think?" - John Mufichani

"There was no reckless

borrowing before and no suicide case was recorded. Imprudent heads will crush Zambia!" - Maningi Dibili

"These snowflakes want to be allowed to continue borrowing so that they continue to invest in their own pockets. Egregious dimwits." - Donald Oscar Phiri

"These chaps, they all speak for their belly and when time for paying comes, they raise taxes high making us pay for it." - Chris Banda

# Kitwe businessman drops F bombs on hotel staff after humiliating ordeal with failed swipe

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
Renowned Kitwe Businessman Wallace Banda showered insults on Garden Hotel staff who challenged him to pay cash after his ATM card failed to swipe. Banda who is a close ally of President Edgar Lungu and National Development Planning Minister Alexander Chiteme, checked into the hotel for some drinks and accumulated a bill which he could not immediately settle as the swipe failed; prompting staff to raise a demand against him. But the move annoyed Banda who took the challenge as

an act to humiliate him for failing to clear a hotel Bill. In this audio, Banda is heard insulting the managers at Garden Court Hotel, bragging about his riches and how close he is to President Lungu, to the extent that he could shut down the hotel if he wanted. "Google my company you mother f\*\*kers. Mulimbwa sana imwe aini? (you are such dogs) Kuti namilemba ichinto iwe Chi\*\*la cha wiso [na] manager (I can even employ all of you together with your manager). Naumona abo njishile nabena (Do you see

the people I interact with)? High profile people there, they were coming for me here. Atase! Ubufontini ubwabupuba (You are foolish and ignorant). Mulifipuba aini?(you fools) Do you know how much money is in my accounts? Atase! Bill ya K2000, tailafika na K20,000 (You think I can fail to clear a K2000 bill) mwebana ba Mbwa imwe, mwilambelesha (Don't play with me you children of dogs). Banyinenwe ifi\*\*yo bonse na manager obe, muleumfwa? Atase! (more insults). Do you know how much I am worth? F\*\*k you!

You thought I was f\*\*king drinking for nothing? You thought I didn't have money in this account? I have many accounts, how many accounts do I have? Imwe ba\*\*kala, mulimbwa sana. Mufwaya ukusebanya abantu aini? (You stupid dogs, you just want to embarrass me). What is Garden Court? Me I have been to Jo-burg, I have been to Dubai, I have been everywhere. I pay my bills, [and then] you come and embarrass me here? Atase! Taumfwile insoni so (Aren't you embarrassed now that I have paid)? Stanyoko. You

thought I was hallucinating? Aka kene ka Garden Court mwiswile (this little Garden Court that you have opened), you think it's worth Emirates Hotel? I have been to Emirates hotel in Dubai where I can take a photo for US\$200, I have been there. You mother f\*\*kers you want to embarrass me here? I have got a company to run, you mother f\*\*kers. I have got a company to run and I have to protect my reputation. So you want people to think that I have failed to pay the bill? Tell them that I have paid the bill. People know I have got a company to run

and a reputation to protect. So people should know that I have paid my bill. You won't defame my name that I failed to pay the bill, I have paid the bill and people should know. I have got money and you can faint if you saw my book balance. Card yandi naikwata indalama, fima machine fyenu efikwete problem (my card has got money, it's your machines which have got a problem). Ine Wallace Banda, walinjishiba (Do you know me)? Naba Edgar Lungu balinjishiba ine Even the President knows me. And when I die everyone will know. It will be in the news that Wallace Banda has died. The whole country will know that I have died and even the President will come for my funeral. I can even buy you a house if I just like you and I can take care of your kids for the rest of your life. So I won't even forgive you. Your sorry means nothing. And [If I want] kwisala ino (I can close down this) Garden Court. Nshifwaya ifyabupuba, kuti naisa kuno nga nshikwete impiya? Panshi pano? Ine kuti nasenda girlfriend ku Dubai namushitila na motoka (You think I can come here without money? Me I can take my girlfriend to Dubai and buy her cars, so what do you think is this place? Muleipusha balya bene mutina abena (ask those same people you are scared of like) Kaizer Zulu to say 'who is Wallace Banda? they will tell you. Ask even the President 'who is Wallace Banda? As even the Kitwe DC Binwell Mpundu, ask them 'who is Wallace Banda? Don't f\*\*k around. You think you can embarrass me like that? F\*\*k your shit! F\*\*k that shit you mother f\*\*kers! You have embarrassed me a lot."

## Thieving civil servants are sponsored by opposition, charges Chiteme

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
Minister of National Planning Alexander Chiteme says Permanent Secretaries cannot manage to detect all the theft going on in government by themselves because the civil service is full of opposition-sponsored workers, colluding to steal from Zambians. And Chiteme says it does not matter whether an investigation has been instituted into Vespers Shimuzhila's death because it is clear that the riots were sponsored by the opposition. Speaking when he featured on Pan African Radio, Monday, Chiteme said it was quite impossible for a Permanent Secretary, who is a controlling officer, to know everything going on in a Ministry because junior officers usually hide the fraud once it has been agreed upon by the internal auditors and the general management of directors in a given ministry. "We have thieving civil servants. And civil servants are not affiliated to the PF or to anyone, they are non-partisan, and most of them belong to the opposition! In the civil service, we have a Minister who is only at policy-level, we have a PS, who is a controlling officer, and is appointed by the President. Apart from that, we have people that have been employed in government as civil servants. And coming from a professional view, I think collusion and fraud that is being agreed by the internal auditors, the general management directors; it cannot even be detected by

a controlling officer who is a PS because they would have agreed. But you see the resilient nature of our President, when things like that come up, he never protects anyone. We've lost a colleague of mine, a very good minister [Emerine Kabanshi]. Not because she was implicated or anything. But because the President wanted transparency to be done in the Social Cash Transfer issues, which everybody else is going to come and talk about," Chiteme said. "The President has also instructed the suspension of the whole management team for Zampost, and also at the at the Ministry of General Education. So, you see how the President is making the right steps to make sure that there is accountability? Moreover, this is the only time that you see a government that is prosecuting people.

This is the only time that you see a government that is prosecuting people and being seen to get convicted. We can talk about these issues because now, we have seen the conviction of Kapoko in the Ministry of Health. He is a prosecuted case and there is a conviction. This is the first time you are hearing of something like this. This government is keen on ensuring that all cases cited in the Auditor General's Report are followed up and acted on because we treat the report just like we treat the Holy Bible. We have had governments before, but we are trying to make sure that this civil service begins to work with the principles and guidance of the government." And asked if it was true that government was using the police to cover up its insecurities as alleged by UPND leader Hakainde

Hichilema, who was commenting on the arrest of the Ndola Clergyman and CTPD officials for conducting a meeting to discuss the 2019 national budget, Chiteme declined to comment on the matter but instead went on to blame the opposition leader for Vespers' death. "Have you ever heard Hakainde Hichilema say anything positive about this country? Have you ever heard Hakainde Hichilema complementing government for anything good? If I were Hakainde Hichilema, I would concentrate on making myself and not encouraging my members of parliament to be tribal, to make divisions in this country. Hakainde is going to talk about a lot of things, including the unfortunate death of the student at the UNZA. Before that death, there was a press conference, which turned [into] a rally

at the UPND secretariat, where they said that Zambians should rise up and the following day there was a riot at UNZA and, unfortunately, there was the death for Vespers," Chiteme argued. "So, we see this political desperation where someone is even willing to sacrifice people to gain political mileage! The funeral of my sister Vespers was being politicised by certain politicians. We saw students wearing T-shirts, printed within three days! But if students were crying about not receiving money for meals [allowances], where did they get money to print T-shirts? Yes, there is going to be an investigation into the riots like the President has instructed, but as a person, I have my own personal opinion. And whether there is an investigation or not, we know that that riot was sponsored!

## Sebastian Zulu testifies against Justice Sakala in Mutembo Tribunal case

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**

Former justice minister Sebastian Zulu says he was shocked to learn that justice Earnest Sakala accepted an appointment to sit on a tribunal to probe Mutembo Nchito, the former DPP who had previously complained against him on a matter the Tribunal was investigating. This is the matter in which Nchito is challenging his removal from the office of DPP arguing that it was illegal and should therefore be declared null and void. Nchito had earlier indicated that he

wished to call witnesses to aid his case and the court ordered him to file witness statements. And in a witness statement filed in the Constitutional Court, on Monday, Zulu, an 81 year-old legal practitioner of Chongwe district, stated that he was summoned to give evidence by the Mutembo Nchito SC Investigative Tribunal and appeared before the said tribunal to testify in compliance with the summons. Zulu who was the first Justice Minister under the PF, stated that

when he was the Minister of Justice, he received a complaint against Justice Sakala and other Judges made by Mutembo and others. Zulu said he dealt with Justice Sakala on Mutembo's complaint. He stated that due to his dealings with Justice Sakala, he was shocked to learn that Sakala accepted an appointment to sit on a tribunal to probe Mutembo Nchito in 2015 on a matter Mutembo had complained against Sakala in 2012. "Due to my dealings with Mr. Justice Sakala in this matter, I was taken

aback that he (Justice Sakala) could accept to sit on a Tribunal in which the issues I depose to herein were central and in circumstances where there had been a complaint levelled against him by the Petitioner herein in relation to the case of Development Bank of Zambia Vs JCN Holdings Limited, The Post Newspapers Limited and Mutembo Nchito which matter was part of the Terms of Reference of the Mutembo Nchito SC Investigative Tribunal which Justice Sakala sat on," he stated.

# May to say Brexit '95 percent' settled as MP mutiny fears rise

Prime Minister Theresa May will tell Britain's parliament on Monday that Brexit negotiations are "95 percent" complete but that she cannot accept the European Union's Northern Ireland border proposals -- as she faces down an increasingly mutinous faction within her own party.

May has been on the receiving end of a furious backlash from Brexit hardliners in her own party after indicating at an EU summit last week that she could accept a longer post-divorce implementation phase than previously envisaged.

Her shift aimed to break an impasse in negotiations between London and Brussels over how to keep the Irish border open after Brexit, by giving the two sides more time to agree their future relationship.

But it infuriated Brexiteer colleagues who fear remaining tied to the EU for years after Britain's formal departure next March.

Several Sunday newspapers said rebellious MPs were preparing a fresh bid to topple her leadership this week, many carrying colourful off-record quotes from the plotters.

In a bid to calm passions, May will address MPs in the House of Commons on Monday where she will say the divorce deal with Brussels is nearly done.

"Ninety-five per cent of the Withdrawal Agreement and its protocols are now settled," she will tell parliamentarians, according to a partial transcript released by her office late Sunday.

Highlighting progress in the year-long talks, she will say agreements have now been reached across a broad range of issues including with Spain on the status of the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar, and with Cyprus on the UK's military bases there.

"We have broad agreement on the structure and scope of

the future relationship, with important progress made on issues like security, transport and services," she will say.

But on Ireland she will seek to reassure MPs in her own party that she will not bow to the EU's current proposals.

"As I set out last week, the original backstop proposal from the EU was one we could not accept, as it would mean creating a customs border down the Irish Sea and breaking up the integrity of the UK," she will say.

"I do not believe that any UK Prime Minister could ever accept this. And I certainly will not."

The so-called backstop is a proposal to keep either Northern Ireland or all of Britain in a customs union should future trade talks end in deadlock.

Talks have stalled over how to stop its land frontier with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member, becoming a hard border again.

London believes customs

and other checks can be avoided through a new trade agreement with Brussels, but accepts the need for a fallback plan until that deal is agreed.

However, the two sides have so far been unable

to settle the terms of this so-called backstop.

France's Europe minister Nathalie Loiseau told the BBC Sunday that the bloc needs "definitive answers, or at least no temporary measures

which disappear and we don't know what to do afterwards".

Despite voting in favour of a split from Europe, the British public remain deeply polarised on Brexit.

On Saturday more than half a million anti-Brexit protesters hit the streets of London, the largest demonstration since 750,000 people showed up against the Iraq war in 2003. **AFP**



Peacekeepers from India, serving in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), patrol in the town of Kiwanja, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on Oct 19 2018. **MSN**

## Australia sexual abuse: National apology delivered to victims

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has given a national apology to victims of child sexual abuse.

Hundreds of people gathered in Canberra on Monday to hear Mr Morrison deliver the emotional address in parliament.

It follows a five-year inquiry which found tens of thousands of children had suffered abuse in the nation's institutions over decades.

"Today, we finally acknowledge and confront the lost screams of our children," he said.

"We must be so humble to fall before those who were forsaken and beg to them our apology."

The inquiry, which concluded last December, heard more than 8,000

testimonies from victims about abuse in organisations such as churches, schools and sports clubs.

With his voice trembling

at times, Mr Morrison acknowledged the suffering of victims and condemned institutional failures.

"Why were the cries of

children and parents ignored? Why was our system of justice blind to injustice? Why has it taken so long to act?" he said.

Survivors shed tears and

held hands as the apology was given, but some later expressed frustration at the government's wider response to the inquiry. **BBC**

## Ethiopia signs peace deal with rebels from gas-rich region

Ethiopia signed a peace deal on Sunday with Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) rebels from its Somali Region, whom it had previously outlawed as a "terrorist group," officials said.

The ONLF launched its bid for secession of the Somali Region, also known as Ogaden, in eastern Ethiopia in 1984. In 2007, Ethiopian forces launched a large-scale offensive against the group after the rebels killed 74 people in an attack on a Chinese-run oil facility.

Earlier this year, parliament removed the ONLF from a list of banned movements as part of a reform drive

being led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has extended an olive branch to opponents. The ONLF declared a ceasefire in August.

The agreement, seen by Reuters, stipulates that both sides would end hostilities and that the ONLF would "pursue its political obligations through peaceful means".

The two sides will now form a joint committee to discuss the root causes of the conflict, the agreement said. **MSN**

# Ariana Grande enjoys some retail therapy after Pete Davidson speaks out about breakup

On Sunday, Ariana Grande took a stroll with some of her friends in New York City and enjoyed a day of shopping, especially at Chanel. The "No Tears Left to Cry" singer looked extremely stylish as she walked down the street in a giant white parka, grey pants and white Christian Louboutin pointed-toe boots. She traded in her signature high ponytail for a top bun instead.

Grande displayed some of the bags on her Instagram story alongside two cute, small dogs.

Right in the middle of her Instagram story between pictures and Boomerangs of her shoes and dogs, the artist uploaded a note that preached self-love. "Protect your peace, get rid of toxicity, cleanse your space, cultivate love," it said.

Grande and her fiancé Pete Davidson broke up and called off their engagement last week after a few months together. Since then, Grande has skirted around addressing their relationship, whereas the Saturday Night Live cast member has spoken about it a bit.

On Tuesday, without mentioning him by name,

Grande said she was going to "say bye bye" from the Internet for a while. She wrote on her Instagram story that day, "time to say bye bye to the internet for just a lil bit. it's hard not to bump news n stuff that i'm not tryna to see rn. it's very sad and we're all tryin very hard to keep goin. love u. and thank u for bein here always."

Her absence from social media didn't last long, however her subtle message about Davidson resonated.

Since the split, a source told E! News that the Sweetener singer has been "in close contact with her family and they are keeping an eye on her and supporting her."

The insider added, "They want what's best for her and to do what she feels is best for herself."

Grande and Davidson both made their first public appearances early last week—Grande on Tuesday and Davidson on Wednesday.

She performed at the taping of NBC's A Very Wicked Halloween, which is a tribute to the Broadway play's 15th anniversary. While there, it became visible that she covered up one of her Pete Davidson-

inspired tattoos with a Band-Aid.

The comedian was spotted on Wednesday while spending some quality time with his family in New

York. Another source told E! News, "Pete's doing fine.

He has a strong support system of family and friends around him that are keeping him laughing."

On Saturday, Davidson co-hosted and performed at the comedy show Judd & Pete for America in Los Angeles, where he joked about his split and

needing a new place to live. "Well, as you could tell, I don't want to be here. There's a lot going on," he quipped to the audience. "Does anybody have any open rooms? Looking for a roommate?" He and Grande moved into a \$16 million New York apartment together after their engagement.

When Davidson and Grande were together, the two of them got a hefty number of tattoos dedicated to each other, especially Davidson. He covered up one of them right before their breakup was announced, but there are still many more to go.

"So, obviously you know I, we [Ariana and I] broke up or whatever but when me and her first got engaged we got tattoos," he said later on in the show. "And it was like in a magazine like, 'Was Pete Davidson stupid?' And 93% of it said yes," Davidson told the audience. "So my boy, he was like, 'Don't listen to that s--t man. They're literally f--king haters.' And I'm like, yeah, f--k that. I'm not stupid. And the other day we were in my kitchen and he was like, 'Yo bro. Turns out you were stupid.'" *EONLINE*



## David and Victoria Beckham 'hit by attempted break-in while down under'

An attempt has been made to break in to one of the homes belonging to David and Victoria Beckham, according to reports.

Three people were said to have been caught on CCTV camera targeting the property at Great Tew, in the Cotswolds.

The former footballer and fashion designer were on their way to Australia at the time, according to Mail Online.

The incident allegedly took place on Friday, while two of the couple's sons, Romeo and Cruz, and their daughter Harper were with them.

At least one of the three potential burglars was seen wearing a balaclava, the website said. Mr Beckham was on his way to Australia to join the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at the Invictus Games for injured service personnel.

A spokesman for the Beckhams did not comment. It comes after Mr Beckham said being married to his wife was "hard work". *SKYNEWS*

# Netflix is canceling Marvel's 'Luke Cage'

First it was "Iron Fist." Now it's "Luke Cage."

Marvel and Netflix confirmed to Deadline on Friday that the show "will not return for a third season." The streaming service dropped its other Marvel series "Iron Fist" last week.

The show, which debuted on the streaming service in 2016, followed the storyline of bulletproof superhero Luke Cage who tries to protect Harlem from villains making the neighborhood's streets unsafe.

The show's creator, Cheo Hodari Coker, tweeted his thanks to the cast and production crew as well as to Marvel and Netflix.

"A lot memories. A lot of individual thank-you calls to make," Coker tweeted. "Just want to say thank you to Marvel, Netflix, the best Writer's room, cast, crew, the Midnight Hour, all those who graced the stage at Harlem's Paradise and the most incredible fan base in the world. Forward always..."

The Netflix series aired its second season last June.

The cancellation surprised many of the show's fans, some who were expecting another season.

"So wait... First they cancel Iron Fist after a massive improvement. Now they've cancelled arguably their best Marvel series?! I swear to God, we'd better hear something about a Heroes for Hire series like, YESTERDAY.

"Luke Cage was one of the greatest Superhero shows we have ever had. It had a quality, tone and point of view unlike anything we had seen in genre storytelling. Nothing can replace it. Just a tragedy losing this great show."

"I'm not into @Marvel movies or the universe. I was into #LukeCage which played like a modern Syfy allegory. Of all content on Netflix they cut Luke Cage in its prime. I hope they solicit other networks & platforms to continue. @cheo\_coker is a great writer; Mike Colter is 'Luke.'"

Though the Marvel-Netflix show "Daredevil" just returned for its third season, some fans are worried about what this means for the rest of "The Defenders" characters -- Jessica Jones and Daredevil -- now that Iron First and Luke Cage are done. *CNN*



Freddie Flintoff and Paddy McGuinness will join Chris Harris for the new Top Gear. SKYNEWS



Daniel Radcliffe attends 'The Lifespan of A Fact' opening night after party at Brasserie 8 1/2 on October 18, 2018 in New York City. Dominik Bindl/Getty Images

# Rare James Bond movie posters could fetch up to £28,000 at auction

Rare James Bond posters are to be auctioned with the sought-after prints expected to sell for up to £28,000. Prop Store, a film and TV memorabilia company, is putting around 400 collectable original posters under the hammer that are worth more than £250,000, at a live auction on 20 November. The collection includes posters from 007 films Dr No (1962), From Russia With Love (1963), Goldfinger (1964) and Thunderball (1965). It is estimated the Dr No poster will sell for between £8,000 and £10,000 alone. The From Russia With Love poster is expected to go for £7,000 or £8,000. Prop Store says Thunderball and Goldfinger could sell for up to £6,000 and £4,000 respectively. The sale will also include

original artwork from the 1982 horror movie The Thing, estimated to sell for £7,000 to £8,000, and a US one-sheet poster of Breakfast At Tiffany's (1961), which is valued at between £4,000 and £5,000. Also going under the hammer are a Star Wars birthday poster from 1977 and a Get Carter quad poster from 1971, both estimated to sell for between £2,500 and £3,000. Prop Store chief executive Stephen Lane said: "After the success of our inaugural Cinema Poster Auction earlier this year when we sold £200,000 worth of posters and artwork, we are delighted to offer over 400 lots in our forthcoming poster auction in November 2018. "Prop Store lives and breathes entertainment memorabilia and the addition of poster auctions now allows us to



provide a fully rounded service to the movie collecting community." Prop Store's poster expert

Mike Bloomfield said: "Prop Store are delighted to offer one of the most comprehensive James Bond poster collections

ever to come onto the market." Prop Store's warehouse in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, will host the

auction which will be live streamed for fans to follow the bidding. SKYNEWS



Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan got casual to meet a local surfing community group, OneWave, at Bondi Beach Sydney. USATODAY

## Kanye West's pro-Trump stance helped me to get Alice Johnson out of jail - Kim Kardashian

Though Kim Kardashian West is less outspoken about partisan politics than her husband, she doesn't doubt Kanye West's outward support of President Donald Trump has helped advance her own activism work. Kardashian West made headlines in June when she met with the president to free Alice Johnson, a 63-year-old woman sentenced to life in prison for cocaine trafficking, despite it being her first offense. She was asked by Alec Baldwin in the first episode of "The Alec Baldwin Show" if she thought Johnson "would still be in prison if (her) husband wasn't a Trump supporter." "I do believe she would still be in prison," she said. "We've (spoken) about this a few times. Alice always says if it wasn't for Kanye speaking up in support of Trump, then she would still be in jail." USATODAY

# Lopetegui on the brink as Madrid seek morale-boosting win

Real Madrid's players may have offered a show of public support to Julen Lopetegui but fail to win at home against Viktoria Plzen on Tuesday and their words will mean very little.

"Julen has the backing of the entire team," Sergio Ramos said after Madrid's 2-1 loss to Levante on Saturday, their fourth defeat in five games and third in a row. "We are with him to the death," said Marcelo.

Three months into the season, there are few obvious alternatives if the club's president Florentino Perez decides to wield the axe.

Santiago Solari, coach of Castilla, Real Madrid's B team, could take charge in the short-term but the troubled search for a suitable coach in the summer would not appear much smoother now.

Mauricio Pochettino, Jurgen Klopp and Max Allegri would all be near-impossible to sign mid-season, while

Joachim Low is still attached to Germany.

Antonio Conte is out of

work but there is an issue with the Italian's style of play, not to mention any

legal wranglings around his compensation package with Chelsea. Arsene Wenger

would be fascinating but high-risk.

For Lopetegui to call off

the search, victory is surely essential at the Santiago Bernabeu against Plzen, the Czech team that have only won two Champions League matches in their history.

Then avoiding defeat to Barcelona, who will be without the injured Lionel Messi, could buy him a trio of theoretically kinder fixtures against Melilla in the Copa del Rey, Real Valladolid in the league and Plzen again in the Czech Republic. Win those, and the outlook might look more rosy.

Amid the sprawl of disapproving headlines on Sunday, Diario AS ran an online poll: who is more guilty, the club's coach or president?

Just over 80,000 replies were credited - almost 17,000 more than had attended the Santiago Bernabeu the day before - and 86 per cent of them answered Perez.

There were whistles after the loss to Levante and a scattering of swinging white handkerchiefs too.

But the atmosphere was marked more by deflation than disgust. At the end, as his players hunched on their knees, Lopetegui stood on the touchline, staring into space.

Lopetegui is on the brink - he may well not make the Clasico on Sunday - but there is a sense this "mega crisis", as termed by Barcelona's Mundo Deportivo, has been a long-time coming.

**SUPERSPORT**



Wayne Rooney celebrating after scoring his first goal in a match in which he scored a brace as DC United secured a place in the MLS play-offs with a 3-1 win over New York City FC. BBC

## Bolt 'offered cut-price deal' in Australia - media

Australia's Central Coast Mariners have offered sprint superstar Usain Bolt a contract, reports said Monday, but the club's coach said he knows nothing about it.

The eight-time Olympic champion has been on trial with the A-League side since arriving in August to fulfil his dream of becoming a professional footballer.

He scored two goals in a pre-season friendly last week and on Thursday turned down a two-year, trial-free deal from cashed-up Maltese champions Valletta.

"I can confirm Usain has been offered a contract by Central Coast Mariners," the Jamaican's agent Ricky Simms told the BBC.

The club had no immediate comment on Monday, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph said he had been offered only a fraction of the Aus\$3 million (US\$2.1 million) that his management had discussed months ago when the prospect of a trial was first mooted.

The newspaper said the potential deal put together in May -- on the premise of Bolt passing a trial first

-- was based on Football Federation Australia contributing Aus\$750,000 and other sponsors also topping it up.

Mariners owner Mike Charlesworth had initially pledged Aus\$1.5 million, but the deal now offered to the sprinter was much less than this, it added.

The 100m world-record holder, who retired from athletics last year, has previously tried out with clubs in Germany, South Africa and Norway.

The 32-year-old's form so far has been criticised by several pundits, but his two goals captured the imagination of the sporting public.

Club coach Mike Mulvey said he had heard nothing of an offer, and cast doubt on whether Bolt, who likes to play up front, would make the grade given the quality of players he already has at his disposal.

"You have a look at our front line today and you wonder whether he could get into any of those positions. Wouldn't you?" Mulvey said after the team drew their opening A-League game of the season 1-1 away to

Brisbane Roar on Sunday.

"I do appreciate how important this story is for the rest of the world. You're just talking about speculation. I don't know anything about what you're

talking about and that's God's honest truth."

The Mariners boast Aston Villa striker Ross McCormack on their payroll, after the Scottish international agreed a

season-long loan deal.

They also have Tommy Oar, who has played 28 times for the Socceroos, along with Connor Pain, who cleverly scored their goal on Sunday.

**AFP**

## Federer reveals long-standing hand injury

Roger Federer has revealed that he has been suffering with a hand injury since the summer, but said the problem is no longer a worry as he heads into his home Swiss Open starting on Monday.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner told Germany's Sonntag Zeitung of the problem which began when he trained for the grasscourt season.

"I hurt my hand training at the start of the grass season," Federer told the newspaper. "It's had more consequences than I thought. I dragged this pain for about three months.

"It's not an excuse and we're not going to make a fuss over it."

He added: "(Sometimes) I felt pain during the first ten minutes of a match warmup. But now I can let go of my forehand normally without thinking of it."

The 37-year-old Federer will start his bid for a ninth Basel title on Tuesday when he plays Serbia's Filip Krajinovic and could face a revenge match in the second

round if he and John Millman both advance.

The 33rd-ranked Australian shocked Federer in the US Open fourth round in September.

The Swiss, who will be playing only his second ATP tournament since the US Open, has a huge reputation to live up to at home, having won the trophy in three of the last four editions.

The defending champion, ranked third in the world, takes the top seeding with German Alexander Zverev seeded second after losing in the first round in his only previous appearance here four years ago.

Marin Cilic, the Basel winner in 2016, takes the third spot and starts against Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov while Zverev plays Robin Haase in the opening round.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, who on Sunday became the first Greek winner of an ATP tournament when he triumphed in Stockholm, makes his Basel main draw debut as fourth seed and faces off against Frenchman Jeremy Chardy.

**AFP**

# Support your local team, FAWUZ urges fans

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
Footballers and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (FAWUZ) says it is displeased with the double

standards that exhibited by soccer fans in the country. FAWUZ general secretary Linos Chalwe noted that soccer fans had little loyalty

and support towards footballers in the country, adding that their loyalty ended only in games won. In an interview with Goal

Diggers! Chalwe said there was need to build a solid support base for the national team and not badmouth them each

time they failed to deliver. "Sometimes it is just a day that will not favour the national team or any other football team. This does not

mean you forsake them yet you embraced them when they won say in a previous match. Real supporters have endless support and do not turn their backs because of

a few mistakes. We need to learn to celebrate our own and support them all the way because no one else will. The attitude of only embracing them when they win does not boost their morale because they will always fear or worry about fans' reaction to their loss or losses," said Chalwe. And former national team forward Harry Milanzi said he was confident Chipolopolo would beat Namibia and Mozambique in the remaining AFCON qualifier games and qualify for the prestigious tournament next year. "I have no doubt we will qualify for AFCON. Of course we would have been on a safer side already but you know football is tricky. We have a good squad that will beat Namibia at home and Mozambique in the away fixture. The coach knows exactly what he is doing and he makes the right changes when there is need. We are definitely going to qualify and actually do way better at the tournament next year. Let us just keep supporting the national team and give them more confidence," said Milanzi. Zambia will host Namibia on 10th November and on a later date face Mozambique in an away fixture. Chipolopolo will have to win both fixtures to qualify for AFCON.

# Shepolopolo draw champions

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
Zambia's Shepolopolo has been drawn in Group B of the Total 2018 Women's Africa Cup of Nations Championship where they will face defending champions Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya. During the draw in Accra on Sunday night, hosts Ghana were drawn with Cameroon, Algeria and Mali in Group A. Zambia's group will be based in the coastal city of Cape Coast with Bruce Mwape's side opening its account on November 18 against Kenya. The next game will be against the Super Falcons of Nigeria on November 21 before concluding group matches against South Africa on November 24. Preparations for the Zambian team are underway with a provisional squad already in camp. The team secured a training camp in Nigeria prior to the tournament to acclimatize to West African conditions. Nigeria have won the competition eight times and will be going into this year's edition as defending champions. Shepolopolo fullback

# Nigeria at WafCON

Rachel Nachula said the squad was too confident to be intimidated by the record Nigeria was holding in the tournament. "With or without a record, we will play to win every game.

We are also a very good side and we are hungry for greater levels in football so we will not fear big names," said Nachula. The top two sides in the groups will progress to the semi-finals. This year's

competition, to be held in the West African country for the first time will also serve as the African qualifiers to the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup. The top three teams will qualify for the World Cup to

be held in France in June next year.

- Group A**
- Ghana
- Cameroon
- Mali
- Algeria
- Group B**
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Kenya
- Zambia



Shepolopolo provisional squad during training at Edwin Imboela stadium in Lusaka.

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
Mufulira Rugby Club Chairperson Thomson Ngulube has expressed happiness at the level Rugby is growing in Zambia. Ngulube said the sport had taken a longer period to be embraced by most Zambians as compared to other sports disciplines that had elevated from minor sports status. In an interview with Goal Diggers! on the sidelines of the Algeria - Zambia Sevens game in Copperbelt province on Saturday, Ngulube appealed to Rugby players to facilitate the spread of the sport in the country. "You are into this sport because you love it and I'm sure you would be hurt if it failed to grow any bigger. This means you have to facilitate its growth and widespread. Zambia has a lot of appropriate training grounds for it so do what you can to grow it," said Ngulube. Meanwhile, Algerian Rugby coach Allan Boumedienne hailed Zambian players for their competitiveness despite losing to his side 31-0 on a rainy day at the

# Rugby growth elates Ngulube

Leopards Cage in Mufulira. Boumedienne also noted that the rain helped his team to hold out team Zambia after taking a comfortable lead at halftime. "Zambia is a team of valour,

we knew it was going to be difficult to play Zambia. My team played well in the first half when it was raining and it helped my team win," Boumedienne noted.

"We are happy to be in the Gold Cup, we are going to learn game after game because it will be hard to stay in the Gold Cup," added Boumedienne.

Despite the loss Zambia managed to sneak into the Gold Cup alongside Algeria and will now compete with the best teams on the continent according to the

Rugby Union of Zambia. The Gold Cup tournament sees the winner qualify for Rugby World Cup and Namibia is the latest winner in 2018.

# We are a football powerhouse in Southern Africa - Besa

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
Zambia National Women Football Team manager Chibwe Besa says she reckons Zambia as a football powerhouse in Southern Africa adding that the country has competed favourably at different levels of the sport on the continent. Besa said the Total African Women football championship to be hosted by Ghana would be one of the numerous competitions that the team would be competing in and yield good results from. She was speaking on sidelines of the tournament draws in Ghana on Sunday.

"We reckon ourselves as a football powerhouse coming from Southern Africa. There is so much at stake in this tournament and so much to put in. This means we plan to go as far as possible in this tournament and actually go home with results that would make everyone happy. Gone are the days we would be mere participants in such tournaments because women football has grown in the country," said Besa. Meanwhile, Chairperson of the Local Organising committee for the AWCON Freda Prempeh echoed on the talent Africa had in women football and assured visiting nations of tight security.

"This is the opportunity for Africa to sell the continent as far as talent is concerned. Women football has greatly improved the world deserves to know that the improvement has also been made in Africa. We will make sure there is tight security and excellent hospitality for each participating nation so that the tournament is enjoyable and memorable for everyone," said Prempeh. The tournament kicks off on November 17 and Shepolopolo is in the same group with Falcons of Nigeria that are considered African women football giants.

*By Alex Chilumbwe*

Zambia's Shepolopolo has been drawn in Group B of the Total 2018 Women's Africa Cup of Nations Championship where they will face defending champions Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya. During the draw in Accra on Sunday night, hosts Ghana were drawn with Cameroon, Algeria and Mali in Group A. Zambia's group will be based in the coastal city of Cape Coast with Bruce Mwape's side opening its account on November 18 against Kenya. *To page 15*



*Shepolopolo training*

# SHEPOLOPOLO DRAW NIGERIA AT WAFCON



*New Orleans Saints Drew Brees joined an elite group of quarterbacks by throwing for his 500th passing touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens. AFP*

