



PF MP CLOBBERS MINISTER

By Mukosha Funga

There was a physical fight on Tuesday between Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga and PF Mkushi South member of parliament Davies Chisopa at the Vice-President's residence. Meanwhile, an internal fight has rocked Central Province where ruling party members of

parliament are accusing PF Deputy Chief Whip Remember Chanda Mutale of recruiting 2021 aspiring candidates to challenge the incumbents.

The incident happened during a provincial MPs meeting at Government House after the Minister confronted Mutale and Chisopa over their dealings, where they have allegedly been sponsoring an uprising against sitting members of parliament. *To page 7*

Three more accountants fired for theft

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Government, through the Civil Service Commission, has dismissed three accounting staff for fraud and theft of public funds at the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development. *To page 5*

Nevers bubbling with MMD confidence as Mutati goes down

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Party divisions lead to punch up at VEEP's house



Felix Mutati's MMD faction secretary general Raphael Nakacinda addresses supporters who went to show solidarity at the Lusaka High Court yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ZRA struggles to explain waiver of K3bn tax liability

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia Revenue Authority ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda yesterday struggled to explain why the Authority's tax online system did not waive off over K3 billion in tax principal liabilities that had been paid despite the Tax Amnesty being in force at the time. This came to light after Chanda and Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba appeared before the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to respond to audit queries for the financial year ended December 31, 2017. *To page 3*

Arrest me, but it won't end citizen's anger - HH

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he is not afraid of being arrested or being sent to prison, but adds that none of

that would end the anger that the people are feeling against the government. And Hichilema yesterday suffered social media ridicule after he refused to answer

a question posed to him by Hot Fm breakfast show presenter Hope Chishala, demanding that he provides proof that ZAFFICO had been sold. *To page 5*

I will resign if HH produces evidence that ZAFFICO has been sold - Siliya

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By Abraham Kalito

Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says she will resign from her positions as minister and MP if UPND president Hakainde Hichilema proves that government sold ZAFFICO.

Meanwhile Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says government has made significant progress in repealing the Mental disorders Act and that the bill will now be called the Mental Health Services Act. Speaking during a joint press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, Siliya challenged Hichilema to resign from his party if he did not have the said evidence.

"Government has observed with great concern a new trend by opposition political leaders and in particular the UPND leader Mr Hakainde Hichilema to package innuendos, to package untruths, simply lies to

I'll resign if HH produces evidence that ZAFFICO was sold - Dora Siliya

gain popularity. And also an agenda to incite citizens of this country against the duly elected government. That is very much against the penal code of Zambia where in article 57 and 60, it also extends to others such as the media that we are not to publish information that will bring the government, a fully elected government into contempt unless you believe that that information to be true. And the warning from government is that following the riots yesterday over ZAFFICO, government relevant wings are going to carry a thorough investigation on those who were inciting and even those

who had the opportunity to rebroadcast this inciting," Siliya said.

"I want to be clear, government is not against the opposition. In a democracy the majority will get their way. But the minority must also be heard but this comes with responsibility. To be heard means that you must exercise responsibility. And that responsibility also falls on the media and citizens. Those who were incited yesterday are arrested and are in cells. Those who incited them are at home with their children they are not suffering. So we all have to be wary of politicians who have failed to gunner

support for the citizens in general elections and they want quick popularity by simply telling lies. I am challenge Mr Hakainde that indeed he has any proof that he has been sold, or even ZNBC that it has been sold, I am prepared to resign. And in the same manner I am giving him a week on behalf of government that if he does not bring this evidence, he too should be prepared to resign as the opposition leader of the UPND."

Siliya advised UPND to find another leader because HH was destroying the country's image.

"I suggest that the UPND should be looking for

leadership elsewhere because leadership cannot be about telling lies. These are not personal issues. We are all there to provide leadership to the people of Zambia. And as people choose leaders, they expect whether that leadership is in government or opposition, it must be responsible," said Siliya.

Meanwhile, Dr Chilufya said government had made significant progress in repealing the Mental disorders Act and that the bill would now be called the Mental Health Services Act. "We would like to update you that government has made significant

progress in repealing the Mental disorders Act. The Mental Disorders Act was promulgated in the year 1949 and last repealed in 1951. And it had very derogatory terms in it, such as referring to mental patients as idiots, imbeciles and other derogatory terms. So, the Zambian government under His Excellency, in transforming the health sector and addressing all facets of health, has embarked on a process to re-do, to repeal Mental Disorders Act calling the Mental Health Services Act which will culminate now in us intrinsching best practices in mental health and also ensuring that the fundamental freedoms and rights of mental health patients are enshrined. And we will also ensure that other provisions in the broader health systems such as adequate infrastructure, adequate space for mental health services are provided for. But critically we will ensure that primary health care incorporates mental health services essentially. So, we will be presenting that bill to parliament soon," said Dr Chilufya.

Clearing agents bemoan challenges with ZRA's web-based system

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia Revenue Authority's maintenance of ASYCUDA World, a web-based system for the transition of goods into the country, has continued to negatively affect the local clearing industry, says a freight forwarding association.

Last month, ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda applauded 10 clearing agents identified during his visit to Northern and Muchinga provinces for helping to boost tax compliance in the country, while urging local agents to up their game.

But in an interview with News Diggers! Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Agents Association of Zambia (CCFFAAZ) president Bruce Kaemba observed that the monopoly by international companies in the clearing industry showed that the teething challenges still being faced from the ASYCUDA World was significantly affecting local clearing agents' performance.

"The disclosure by ZRA that currently only 10 clearing agents out of the 719 registered in Zambia, handle and control 90 per cent of the clearing business in the country is the correct picture, but a very disheartening one. Especially that these 10 clearing agents handling the bulk of the business are all multi-nationals. This monopoly is a clear indication that there is something very wrong in the clearing industry at the moment, and the sooner

this gloomy scenario is changed, the better for our country. It is clear that the current happenings in the clearing industry are not in the interest of ZRA, neither are they in the interest of the indigenous clearing agents. This is so because true and meaningful development in our country can only be brought about by Zambians," Kaemba said.

"We need to be pioneers of development and only then can such developments benefit us all. The need to have a home-grown development, which is largely spearheaded by indigenous Zambians is the reason why our forefathers fought for our Independence. It, therefore, would be an affront to this struggle if we fail to take ownership of our country and drive the economic development through various business opportunities available in our country. What is currently pertaining in various businesses in our country leaves much to be desired and unless we collectively and pro-actively start to regain control of the abundant natural resources, which the country has, posterity will judge us cruelly."

He added that a clear line should be drawn between what foreigners could be allowed to do in terms of business and what strictly should be left to Zambians to undertake.

"It is unfortunate that 54 years after Independence, we, as indigenous Zambians, are failing to harness the business opportunities

available to us, not only in the clearing sector, but other sectors as well. We are glad the government has agreed to actively engage us and they have pro-actively decided to respond to some of our suggestions on how to better the clearing industry. In the same vein, the government has acknowledged that it was not aware of some of the challenges being faced in the clearing sector because principle implementers at ZRA negated on the role of informing it on the failures of some systems, which are used to facilitate the smooth flow of trade," explained Kaemba.

"One of the challenges we are currently facing in the clearing industry is the ASYCUDA world. This is a system that ZRA introduced; it gives us a lot of problems because of the way Zambia Revenue Authority decided to introduce it in the industry. Chance was not given for it to prove itself in terms of how it was able to perform. Before that, we had what was called the 'ASYCUDA plus plus.' We requested that if it was possible that the two can be allowed to operate parallel so that the minute one is found faulty or something, then we could just go back to the other. But ZRA wanted to advance with the ASYCUDA World and since the time it was introduced up to-date, we are still having a lot of problems. The ASYCUDA World is very inefficient. We have tried on several occasions to hasten to see if they can remove it from the operating but they have

refused, that a lot of money was invested in it. And as the situation stands right now, they are working on it. Right now, the government has been given an impression through the Auditor general

that the clearing industry is owing a lot of money running into millions, but it's a wrong picture that the ASYCUDA World is giving where it's showing that a lot of agents are owing money."

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia Revenue Authority ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda yesterday struggled to explain why the Authority's tax online system did not waive off over K3 billion in tax principal liabilities that had been paid despite the Tax Amnesty being in force at the time.

This came to light after Chanda and Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba appeared before the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to respond to audit queries for the financial year ended December 31, 2017.

During the deliberations, an officer from the Office of the Auditor General revealed that the ZRA online system failed to configure tax amnesty on penalties as well as interests on tax online.

"Let me say something chair, the interaction between ZRA and the office of the Auditor General started in November last year and ended on 22nd August this year. And during that time, what you may see as being part of the Tax Amnesty is nothing. You can see in the system there is nothing showing, we follow up this outstanding money, there is nothing [from the time] when this programme was

ZRA struggles to explain non-waiver of K3 billion tax liability

established, that these are the specific things, which ZRA can show you that this is specifically for Tax Amnesty. But we have to follow-up whatever money owed that is why we are able to look at those files. But when you want to make that distinction between ordinary tax and all those taxes targeted under the Tax Amnesty, that is the record we are saying is not provided," the auditors said. And the auditors revealed that Chanda was never available whenever he was needed for queries at the time of the audits, hence some issues remained outstanding.

"And you see all queries issued are raised to the Commissioner General. I must say that during the period that we met either at the Head Office or other offices where we met trying to resolve these issues, the Commissioner General was busy. [He] was not able to meet the auditors and we assumed that the officers he

assigned were able to give us this information [and] that is why this information is reflected like this. But the information that is indicating that we looked at those files, yes, we look at all files to ensure that all those who owe are followed, but if you want to make that distinction between ordinary owing money and those targeted by that programme 'Tax Amnesty,' it is not there. That is why we have said failure to configure tax amnesty on penalty and...on the tax online system.' I think that's the position," they said. But in response, Chanda explained that he was not available because he was attending to other national duties.

"Chair, if you look at the audit queries themselves, they will tell a story. When our tax payers came forward for tax amnesty, and they could not pay taxes immediately, we signed time-to-pay agreements. The auditors

have raised an issue here that we were failing to enforce those time-to-pay agreements. All those time-to-pay agreements were signed on the basis of the Tax Amnesty. So, if the auditors didn't want to distinguish between the Tax Amnesty, time-to-pay agreements just because they were not on the system at the time, then I have a problem with that. There are a lot of living examples of people that they could have followed who actually came forward during the amnesty and paid their taxes, and our revenue performance showed that. However, in terms of the availability, I had a national assignment on the day that we had the final exit meeting and the acting commissioner general that time attended," Chanda explained.

Meanwhile, committee member Victor Lumayi queried why the Authority recorded negative results on vehicle, fuel, and

airtime levies, while it recorded positive on tourism.

Chanda in response said the government policy of paying tax in some instances using vouchers was affecting the collection of tax.

"If you look at the quantum's involved, the targets for the fuel levy, the targets for the motor vehicle compared to tourism, the difference is so huge. Fuel levy, for example, was affected by government policy to import petroleum products, and as you are aware, government can pay tax sometimes using government vouchers, but that is not money that you [will] see in the Bank of Zambia and depending on the situation, the government is addressing, for example, if government decides to avert a fuel shortage in the country, they normally issue a Statutory Instrument to waive all the taxes on fuel so that it's imported quickly and lands cheaply. So, you have all those things that affects collection of taxes on fuel levy," Chanda said.

"Then for motor vehicles, motor vehicle is the function of the volumes. If in a given year you do not have as many importations of the motor vehicles into the country, all the taxes relating to motor vehicles will be affected. So, you find that when you follow the actual statistics of numbers that were imported during the period under review, you will find that there was a downward trend both in terms of the volumes and in terms of the value. So, once you have that, the tax yield on that particular product, in this case motor vehicles, will obviously be lower than

anticipated."

And Chanda said to Authority wants to eliminate the refunds component on the Value Added Tax (VAT), but maintain the principal of tax consumption.

"VAT is a consumption tax. We believe, as a commission, that the best way to tax our population is through consumption. And progressively, all other factors remaining equal, you can actually create room to even start looking at reducing the person income taxes. If you are able to tax people's consumption, then you increase their disposable income, it gives the population the freedom to use their income in whichever way they want. If they decide to drink alcohol, you have excise duty on alcohol, which is as high as 60 per cent [and] that is their choice. If they decide to just eat nshima, it's tax free, there is no VAT that is fined. So, we want to eliminate the refund component on VAT, but the principal of tax consumption will still remain under the new tax. But the idea of the Treasury having the budget of not less than K800 million every month to refund the business, we think it is not appropriate for our economy and we think we cannot afford it. So, we want a tax where once government collects through ZRA, it is government money and government can spend it without having to create another line to refund the tax," said Chanda.

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is chaired by Muchinga constituency MMD member of parliament Howard Kunda.

I feel Mutati's pain, I was also fired as Vice President - Nevers

By Zondiwe Mbewe

MMD leader Nevers Mumba says he feels terrible about Felix Mutati's dismissal because he was also fired as vice-president.

And Mumba has urged Mutati, who is a rival MMD faction leader, to thank President Edgar Lungu for having given him an opportunity to serve as a minister.

He was speaking after attending the a court hearing in a matter in which his MMD's faction acting National Secretary Winnie Zaloumis sued Mutati, Mwanasa Mbulakulima, Raphael Nakacinda and George Kangwa in the Lusaka High Court, challenging the legality of the convention that was held in Kabwe that elected Mutati and others into office. He said none of his members were celebrating Mutati's firing because it was unchristian and inhumane to do so.

"Concerning the firing of Mr Mutati, none of my team members is celebrating his loss of a job. It will be unchristian, inhumane for us to celebrate that. Maybe you young people that have never been fired from those high profile jobs can joke about it. I was vice-president, I was fired, I know how difficult it is. We sympathize with him, we sympathize with his family and we wish them well as they get guided to move on further," Mumba said.

Mumba said all Mutati needed to do now was to thank President Lungu for the opportunity he was given to serve as a minister.

"We feel terrible about his being fired but these jobs are not permanent features in our lives. They appoint and the President dishonors you with a disappointment and we should all be grateful if we were given an opportunity out of the 15 million Zambians to serve as a minister. All he needs to do is to thank the President for the opportunity he gave him," he said.

Meanwhile, Mumba said he was delighted that trial involving MMD leadership wrangles had started.

"We are very delighted as a party that the days for trial on this very long journey are here now. We are yet to get out of these storming waters and begin to mobilise our party immediately the court case is behind us. It's been a long journey because there's been a lot of adjournments, applications from our colleagues who did not want trial to start," he said.

"The court is asking our colleagues two questions, where did they get the authority to hold a convention without the National Executive Committee of the party giving it a go ahead? An irregularity that really is equated to a coup d'etat. If they had done

this to PF government, these defendants would be in Mukobeko on a charge of treason. But it's only because we are an opposition party that they are still around because to remove a legitimately elected president and National Executive Committee, is an offence in our constitution. So we are very hopeful, we have started the trial."

He clarified that MMD did not get into an alliance with PF.

"Let me clarify something, MMD did not get into that alliance. Whatever Mr Mutati did had no blessings of the National Executive Committee. Whatever they did as a faction was a creation of leadership in their own minds. So it's not MMD," said Mumba.



National secretary of Felix Mutati-led MMD Raphael Nakacinda addresses some party members at High Court round about as he update them on the new development concern their Court case yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Abraham Kalito

Save the Children Zambia country director Duncan Harvey says the country's poor ranking in the 2018 African Report on Child Wellbeing shows that the government is not investing enough in children's development.

According to the African Report on Child Wellbeing, Zambia has been ranked 48 out of 54 African countries and is among the bottom nine 'least child-friendly' countries.

In a statement, Tuesday, Harvey said the poor ranking illustrated the Zambian government's lack of sufficient investment in addressing children's challenges.

He noted that the 2019 national budget had higher allocations towards debt servicing over health, education and social protection combined.

"The African Report on Child Wellbeing shows that the Zambian government is not doing enough. Save the Children, therefore, calls upon the government to respond effectively to children's needs and priorities by doing the following: Increase investment in Children, especially in areas of health and nutrition,

Government not investing enough in children - Harvey

protection and education. We believe that the 2019 national budget is a missed opportunity to increase investment in children, which will ultimately help improve Zambia's child friendliness status on the continent. The debt servicing allocation in the 2019 budget is more than the combined allocation to health, education and social protection. Further, we ask the government to budget and expend adequate financial resources to enable children enjoy their rights in line with the international and African Child Rights frameworks the government of Zambia has committed itself to," Harvey stated.

"The fact that the legal and policy frameworks have been cited as being weak in the least child friendly countries leads us to remind the Zambian government to expedite the enactment of the Child Code Bill. It is our considered view that

Zambia's poor ranking in the mentioned report is a compelling reason for the prompt presentation and enactment of the Children's Code Bill without delay. The delayed enactment of the Children's Code Bill has denied many Zambian children who would have benefited from the progressive provisions of the Children's Code Bill in the last 12 years since the comprehensive review of all child-related legislation begun. It is our sincere hope the government will take time to review this Report and develop clear commitments to create an enabling environment for children to participate in the government's developmental agenda for Zambia. Domestication of child friendliness requires a meaningful dialogue by stakeholders, including children, appropriate legal and institutional arrangements for

government local revenue management, resourcing of child-related sectors and their service delivery and a system of incentives to enforce programmes and policies that promote and protect children."

He said the Report also indicated that Zambia has invested the least in education, health and wellbeing, despite the prevalence of multiple deprivations amongst their children.

"Page xxiii of the Report indicates that 'the least child-friendly governments at the bottom of the 2018 table comprise South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Zambia, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Eritrea. The legal and policy framework and the enforcement mechanisms in most of these countries remain inadequate and weak. They also invest the least in education, health

and wellbeing, despite the prevalence of multiple deprivations amongst their children.' As the world leading independent organisation for children, Save the Children supports government and other stakeholders to prioritise the rights of children, especially their right to basic services and their right to participate in civic space. The African Report on Child Wellbeing highlights the situation faced by children in Zambia and the many challenges they continue to face. Why is Zambia's performance score and ranking very low? With regards to legal protection of children, Zambia has yet to adopt several child-related laws, such as the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and pornography," stated Harvey.

"The Optional Protocol to CRC on insolvent of children in armed conflict;

and the Optional Protocol to CRC on communications procedure. The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 8 years, which is below the recommended 12 years. Minimum age of marriage both for boys and girls is set at 16, below the endorsed age 18. Zambia has the 2nd lowest level of birth registration in Africa – only 11.3 per cent of the children under the age of 5 registered with the civil authorities. Education spending is only 1.1 percent of GDP – the lowest in Africa. The average number of students per teacher in Zambia is 48:1, which is above the recommended level 40:1. The proportion of population living below US \$1.90 a day is about 58 per cent – among the ten highest in Africa. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) is among the ten highest in Africa – two in every five children aged below five are stunted."



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High Court orders FBZ's K6m claim against Maureen Mwanawasa to mediation

By Mukosha Funga

The Lusaka High Court has ordered that the matter in which Finance Bank Zambia Limited has dragged former first lady, Maureen Mwanawasa to court, demanding payment of more than K6 million under a credit facility agreement, be settled through mediation.

The Court has ordered that the parties should go for mediation but if they fail to reconcile, they can still return to court.

In October this year, Finance Bank sued Maureen, demanding payment of more than K6.7 million under a facility agreement dated March 14, 2013.

The bank was further claiming for payment of K892,831.99 from Maureen and Mipachima Farms Limited, to which she is a director.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, October 12, 2018, the bank stated that Maureen was the holder of a joint current account maintained with Finance Bank and also a director in Mipachima Farms.

They stated that by a facility agreement dated March 14, 2013, made between them, the bank awarded a seasonal overdraft facility of K250,000 and a loan of US \$387,000 to Mipachima at its request and instance.

The bank further stated that it was an express term of the agreement that the sum of K250,000 was to be settled in full by September 30, 2013, from the proceeds of the seasonal farming account.

They added that the sum of US \$387,000 was repayable in five equal instalments, with interest repayable monthly by debit to the seasonal overdraft account.

And the bank stated that it was further agreed that the US \$387,000 would be paid at 3.5 per cent below Bank of Zambia's US dollars base rate, effective rate 9.5 per cent annum compounded monthly by debit to the seasonal

overdraft account.

They stated that the banking facilities were secured by a personal guarantee created by Maureen under which she guaranteed payment on demand of principal sums of interest thereon.

The bank further stated that by the said personal guarantee, Maureen bound herself jointly and severally to pay within two days after, the demand of all funds due from the farm activities, inclusive charges and costs.

They had lamented that they had suffered loss and damages and wanted Maureen to pay back all the funds due to them.



University Teaching Hospital Doctor Chisambo Mwaba explains how the Hemodialysis machine operates to Ministry of Health permanent secretary Doctor Kennedy Malama (r) as Doctor John Musuka listens shortly after commissioning the renal ward at Children's Hospital on Tuesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Arrest me, but it will not end people's anger - HH

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he is not afraid of being arrested or being sent to prison, but adds that non of that would end the anger that the people are feeling against the government.

And Hichilema yesterday suffered social media ridicule after he refused to answer a question posed to him by Hot Fm breakfast show presenter Hope Chishala, demanding that he provides proof that ZAFFICO had been sold.

Chishala wanted to know why Hichilema said ZAFFICO had been sold to Chinese nationals when he featured on a Sun Fm radio show, further demanding to know if the opposition leader had incited the riot that rocked Kitwe earlier in the week.

But Hichilema kept insisting that he did not incite anybody to riot as PF officials were claiming.

"I did not incite anybody to riot, let's state that very clear. My position is that I incited nobody to riot. What is true is that citizens are aware of what is going on in the country. They are aware of the ZNBC situation," Hichilema told Hot FM.

Chishala kept pressing Hichilema for evidence that ZAFFICO had been sold, in an audio that was later circulated by the PF, portraying the opposition leader as having failed to explain his allegations.

He later called News Diggers saying he knew the strategy that the PF government was

using against him and he did not want to fall in their trap by answering questions from a sponsored journalist.

"I am way ahead of them. I know exactly what they are doing. I did not fail to answer the question around the sale of ZAFFICO. You I can tell you because you are truly an independent media. I know that they are using the listing of ZAFFICO on the stock exchange in order to facilitate the systematic take over by the Chinese. If you ask them today, which Zambians are going to buy the shares of ZAFFICO once it's listed? People don't have food to eat, they have no money to buy shares in ZAFFICO, so it's them and their Chinese friends who will buy the shares and eventually

remove it from the stock exchange, is that not a sale?" asked Hichilema.

Asked if he was scared of being arrested, Hichilema said he was not afraid because he was speaking for the people.

"No, we are not scared. When you speak for the people, when you represent the down trodden, you don't front fear. If you front fear, you cannot do the work that we do, you cannot seek public office the way we do...but does that solve the problem if they arrest me? It will not end people's anger. They should ask themselves, how many times will we arrest HH and other innocent people? They threw in [Obvious] Mwaliteta and his colleagues for one year, when they knew that he had not committed any crime. But they put them in filthy prisons. When a government begins to use force instead of listening to alternative voices, including the media, then you know that you are heading in the wrong direction. I think the PF are heading in the wrong direction," Hichilema said.

"The PF have decided to take a frame that whenever something goes wrong and they fail to satisfy citizens, they blame HH. You are aware of those UNZA issue, they went there and basically killed Vespers Shimunzila by tear gassing her room and then they blame HH as though HH is responsible for directing the police, as though HH is responsible for the things that are under their control," he said.

"There are many other things they have blamed me for, the kwacha depreciation against the dollar, it's HH to blame, I don't know what else they will not blame me for. When they fail to deliver, it is HH. You cannot shift responsibility to someone who has no instruments, who has no apparatus of the state. I think at some point, we must call this bluff, it must come to an end and they must take responsibility. And we can help or advise, we have been advising. It is up to them to take that advise and save the country from where it is going. The country is hurting; we all know that. Does any citizen need HH to remind them that there are no jobs? Who said that there would be jobs? Who said that there would be lower taxes? It is them but look at the tax burden now."

Asked if he felt like he was running the country given that he was blamed for everything that went wrong, Hichilema said; "What would you feel if you were in my shoes? Right now the rains are late, I will not be surprised if they say that the rains are delayed because of HH."

Govt fires 3 more thieving accountants

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Government, through the Civil Service Commission, has dismissed three accounting staff for fraud and theft of public funds at the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development.

According to a statement issued from Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta, the three dismissed accountants are Enoce Kashweka, a principal accountant; Eugene Kausu, an accounts assistant and Hutson Hachuma, another accounts assistant.

The stolen funds will be recovered from the terminal and pension benefits of the dismissed officials, according to Kandeta.

"Further, the due process of the law will be pursued by Law Enforcement Agencies because of the criminal nature of the offences committed," read a statement issued in Lusaka, Wednesday.

"Meanwhile, Secretary to the Treasury

Fredson Yamba has reiterated that to curb fraud and theft of public funds, controlling officers need to be on high alert in monitoring the happenings in their institutions. Yamba added that controlling officers need to stand firm in guiding their institutions on public financial management matters as they are instrumental in actualizing President Edgar Lungu's vision of ensuring that prudent management of public resources is entrenched across the breadth and width of the public sector."

Yamba reiterated that government will not hesitate to evoke the Public Finance Management Act, 2018, to punish offending public officers.

"Yamba has also reiterated that the Ministry of Finance WILL NOT HESITATE to evoke the sanction provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2018, against erring public officials when regulations

governing the handling and utilization of public resources are contravened," read the statement.

As part of the process of quantifying the value of public assets so that adequate public property safeguard systems are put in place, the Ministry of Finance has now embarked on a country-wide asset registration exercise for all public assets and stores. The exercise is expected to strengthen accountability, oversight, management, and control of public assets in accordance with the Act. Last week, the Ministry of Finance organised a Controlling Officers Seminar to help the delegates to appreciate the overview of the Public Finance Management Act, No. 1, 2018, and review the financial and stores regulations to bring them in conformity with the new Act and further strengthen internal control systems in the management of public resources."



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A brief overview of NDC manufacturing and creation policy

By Mwenya Musenge

In this brief overview, we would like to discuss the NDC's alternative policy to manufacturing and job creation in Zambia. Over the years, beginning in the mid 1990's there has been a gradual erosion of the Zambian manufacturing base that has led Zambia to become a net importer of goods and services. Severe economic and social consequences have followed suit, such as a weak kwacha, high unemployment, rising poverty levels, high cost of living and significantly higher tax rates on the few remaining formally employed as the tax collection base shrinks and government struggles to raise revenues for government operations.

To give a historical context, things have not always been bad in this country. Zambia was once a strong manufacturing hub with strong manufacturing industries that gave breath to the economy and provided meaningful employment and a good standard of living. The UNIP government had its shortcomings, particularly on its non-observance of democratic principles and human rights. However, the UNIP government's biggest strength was its massive investment in local manufacturing industries. Consider these examples; we had a battery manufacturing plant in Mansa, Mwinilunga pineapple processing and canning plant, Luangwa bicycle assembly, Kapiri Glass plant, Mununshi banana scheme, Kawambwa Tea factory, Dunlop tyre plant in Ndola, Colgate Palmolive, Maamba Coal, Mumbwa cotton ginneries. These industries provided mass employment for the people of Zambia and with it came a higher standard of living, lower taxes through a broadened tax collection base, less imports and a stronger kwacha. We feel that it is important to give this historical perspective to demonstrate that this kind of development can be done and achieved with the right policies in place. To make it very clear, we are not advocating for UNIP type policies, though a few of them could be adopted to encourage local manufacturing. Our manufacturing policy is different and is driven largely by private investment, be it local or foreign direct investment. However, we would be open to joint ventures and partnerships with private investors. The agriculture Industry is an exception. The NDC would inject government capital because we believe that agriculture is one of the less costly yet more profitable areas of commerce that we could invest in and have very good social and economic returns within a short period of time. The NDC would seek to establish at least one huge agricultural ranch the size of the one in Mpongwe in every district of Zambia. This would immediately stimulate economic growth, provide mass employment, reduce food prices, increase agricultural exports and increase Zambia's foreign exchange earnings to help stabilise the kwacha.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ZAMBIA'S INDUSTRIES?

1: Liberalisation of the economy was a very good thing, it opened up great opportunities for the people of Zambia, they now had choice when it came to picking products, with choice came great competition. The parastatals that were operational at that time were not prepared to compete in a free market economy. They failed to compete with the flood of foreign goods and groceries that started coming in from South Africa. The inevitable result was that these plants had to shut down, perhaps more could have been done to save them, such

as imposing select tariffs on some South African goods.

2: Other than South Africa, Zambia entered the COMESA Free Trade Agreement, which meant that goods and services could cross borders of member nations with significantly less trade barriers, tariffs and import quotas. The MMD government at the time did not do well to prepare the Zambian economy and local industry for this sudden shock and change, this caused further competition as cheaper and better goods started flowing in from countries like Kenya and Tanzania. These countries have been the big winners in the COMESA arrangement because their governments made sure that benefits were reaped from it.

WHAT POLICIES WILL NDC IMPLEMENT TO ENHANCE MANUFACTURING AND JOB CREATION?

1: TARIFFS ON SELECT SOUTH AFRICAN & CHINESE PRODUCTS

South Africa is not a member of COMESA; this is very important to stress. The government of South African has imposed strict trade barriers, tariffs and quotas on Zambian products. They prevent Zambian exports from entering their country and therefore protect their local manufacturing industry from competing foreign products. Zambia should therefore do the same and impose tariffs and quotas on select South African products. For example, when you go to Shoprite, Pick N Pay or Food Lovers today, you will find basic things being imported from South Africa that Zambia can produce locally.

The primary reason why Zambia's unemployment levels have become so high is due to the fact that in Zambia we don't produce, we just consume. And every time we consume South African products the Zambia loses income while more jobs are created in South Africa. A very good example given by Dr. Chishimba Kambwili is that of the tyre market, Zambia used to have a DUNLOP plant here that produced motor vehicle tyres, when Zambia loosened its import rules in the 1990's, DUNLOP stripped its plant of all the equipment and started exporting tyres from South Africa to Zambia, the result is jobs were lost in Zambia and new jobs were created in South Africa.

Zambia is now a country with well over a million vehicles on its streets, we are in a strong position to compel DUNLOP to come and establish a plant here in Zambia to produce and sell tyres. We can give DUNLOP a 3-year timeframe to do so, if they don't we can impose a significant tariff on DUNLOP tyres, this will be an incentive enough for them to come and establish a plant and employ Zambians.

It's important to note that such tariffs would only apply to foreign goods that are competing with locally produced products. Imported goods that are not produced or cannot be produced locally will not incur tariffs.

COMESA member nations will be exempt from these additional tariffs, as we believe in the observance of Zambia's multilateral agreements. These are not radical policies, even countries like the U. K, U.S.A and others use these measures to protect local industry especially where others take unfair advantage. The U.S government recently imposed a tariff on imported steel from China.

2: VALUE ADDITION TO RAW MATERIALS

The NDC will implement measures that will give incentives to the producers of raw materials to also

establish additional plants and factories for value addition. For example, the harvested Mukula Tree logs would be processed by ZAFFICO right here in Zambia into semi-finished or finished furniture goods before being exported to other countries; this will create local employment and enhance our export income.

Zambian copper will be processed into geysers and other finished goods for export. There's a huge market for geysers locally and abroad which we can tap into. Agricultural products such as maize can be processed into cornflakes; wheat to biscuits, pineapples can be canned and exported.

We will therefore give incentives in the form of temporal tax reductions and additional capital allowances to companies that invest in plant and equipment that will enhance value addition to raw materials produced in Zambia.

Companies that come to Zambia for retail purposes only will not be eligible for tax breaks, only those who invest in fixed property, plant and equipment would be eligible for tax concessions.

3: RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGNERS COMING TO WORK IN ZAMBIA

Zambia currently has very loose and porous labour laws. The Ministry of labour is very weak and does not enforce labour laws. We have thousands of labourers from China, South Africa, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe working as labourers in the Zambian construction industry. Some of these are illegal immigrants working in the construction industry illegally.

Under an NDC government, foreign labourers will not be permitted to come and work in Zambia. The NDC will not permit the influx of foreign nationals taking over Zambian jobs that we are currently witnessing under the PF government.

4: REVAMP TRADE SCHOOLS

In Zambia we have a lot of Trade Schools that have been neglected for a long time, these trade schools teach and train the youth in various crafts such as carpentry, boiler making, artisanship, construction, electrical, farming and many other fields which directly contribute to manufacturing. The NDC recognises the value and importance of the trade schools and would invest heavily in these fields.

5: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS TO ZAMBIAN CITIZENS AND ZAMBIAN COMPANIES AS FIRST PRIORITY.

The NDC in government will give first priority for government contracts to Zambians. We will ensure that Zambian companies upgrade their standards so that they deliver to international standards. We will close off corruption loopholes to ensure contract costs are not being inflated, contract delivery will cost less due to this and more can be done with less money.

To conclude, these are just some of the measures that the NDC would implement once it forms government.

We believe that these measures will increase employment levels, increase the standard of living, increase exports, reduce on imports, deliver a strong kwacha and ultimately lower tax rates. We say lower tax rates because the increased tax collection base of more formally employed people means that the government will have the opportunity to reduce Pay As You Earn rates and still collect significant income tax revenues.

Mwenya Musenge is NDC Secretary General

By Mirriam Chabala

The Felix Mutati-led MMD faction in Eastern province has welcomed President Edgar Lungu's decision to fire their leader from his position, saying it was an hindrance to the party's mobilisation programme.

And the provincial leadership says the party's relationship with the ruling PF will soon crumble, adding that the perceived alliance had not been working well, especially in the lower party organs.

On Tuesday, President Lungu relieved Mutati of his duties as Minister of Works and Supply and replaced him with

East MMD celebrate Mutati's dismissal

Lunte PF member of parliament Mutotwe Kafyawa, further revoking his nomination to parliament.

But MMD provincial chairperson for Eastern Province Jacob Mwanza said President Lungu had done his party a big favour to drop Mutati, because the move would help the party carry out all its activities without

any hindrances.

"We are very happy with the action that the Head of State has taken to relieve Mr Felix Mutati, the President for the Movement for Multi-party Democracy of his duties in government. We are happy because now we will not have any fear of having to look left and right each time we want to do something.

Why I say that is because the perceived alliance was not even working very well for our members, especially in the lower ranks. So generally, that alliance just has to crumble because now we have to do our own things also," Mwanza told News Diggers! in an interview. "But the PF right now, I think they are creating

more enemies around themselves. PF has just become like a tortoise, which is about to die. As for our members in the province, they are very happy because this time around, Mr Mutati will apply all his energies to our party and to mobilise it the way it is supposed to be mobilised."

And Mwanza said the current crop of Cabinet

Ministers in President Lungu's government was not inspiring.

"The President has in his own words said before that, he is the coach and as such, he can put players he feels can do a better job. But it's not always that when the coach puts in the right players that they do the right job. Because changing team players does not always guarantee the change that is needed. This Cabinet that we have now, for me, it does not even give any hope that things are going to become better one day in this country. It does not inspire me at all," said Mwanza.

PF MP clobbers Minister Mushanga at VEEP's house

By Mukosha Funga

There was a physical fight on Tuesday between Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga and PF Mkushi South member of parliament Davies Chisopa at the Vice-President's residence.

Meanwhile, an internal fight has rocked Central Province where ruling party members of parliament are accusing PF Deputy Chief Whip Remember Chanda Mutale of recruiting 2021 aspiring candidates to challenge the incumbents.

A member of parliament who witnessed the fight narrated to News Diggers! that the incident

happened during a provincial MPs meeting at Government House after the Minister confronted Mutale and Chisopa over their dealings, where they have allegedly been sponsoring an uprising against sitting members of parliament.

"What happened yesterday was as a result of members of parliament complaining about the provincial chairman for Central Province Remember Chanda Mutale who is also Chitambo member of parliament. He has been going round our constituencies, telling people that he had been sent by the vice-president to identify who is going to

stand in 2021. They had a meeting on Monday in Kabwe central, but when Honourable Tutwa Ngulube who is an area MP went to attend it, they chased him," narrated the MP who sought anonymity.

"So this is the thing that has been going on in all these constituencies in Central Province, so there is a complaint that the provincial chairman has his shadow MPs whom he has preference for. He claims that he has a team of members of parliament who belong to him. So when the complaints increased, the Vice-President called for a meeting at her residence for Central Province PF

members of parliament, where we were also supposed to discuss, among other things, why members of parliament have stopped debating in parliament, why they are not defending ministers or the budget. Some MPs have been complaining that the salaries of ministers are too high; there were a lot of issues like that."

The witness narrated that after he was confronted by Mushanga, Chisopa went for the minister's neck.

"So, we were at the Vice-President's house waiting for her to come from the office when those issues came up. The Minister for Central Province

Honourable Sydney Mushanga confronted Mkushi South MP Davies Chisopa and Mutale, because it is believed that Davies Chisopa and Chanda Mutale released a K20, 000 and gave to a constituency chairman in Bwacha Constituency to write an exculpatory [demand] letter against Minister Mushanga. So when the minister confronted them, Chisopa grabbed Mushanga's jacket now and started dragging him in a fight saying 'I'm going to beat you up'. He cut off buttons from his jacket in the scuffle, cut out his rosary... That is when Honourable Tutwa Ngulube now, who was the nearest, rushed to separate the two from fighting. So eventually, the fracas ended just before the Vice-President could even address the meeting. That is what happened," the source explained.

"There was no security that came to stop the fight, they were just watching. Those security people from the Vice President work under instructions, they could not just go and act in a fight that involves high profile people like the Deputy Chief Whip and the minister. So after she came the VEEP was briefed and she was very disappointed with the conduct of the two senior members. She said both of them were appointees of the President and it

was very embarrassing, I think she directed that they should be charged." And the source went further to explain the bickering among MPs in central province.

"This problem in Central Province will not end until this issue is addressed. Honourable Mutale is abusing his powers and has been identifying his own MPs, in Ngabwe he is marketing the Council Chairperson, a woman called Mrs Mizinga, that is his preferred candidate for 2021. In Mkushi North, he is marketing Lucy Changwe the former MP, against Doreen. In Bwacha he has four people, in Kapiri he has seven aspiring MPs for 2021. So it's the whole province and he is getting money from people saying the Vice-President and the President sent him," said the source.

"A lot of people who are aspiring as MPs have been giving him money in the hope that they will be adopted. This is where the problem is. While he was in Kabwe central organizing people to rise against other MPs, his people from his constituency were complaining that their MP has been missing since 2016. He is always in Bwacha and Mkushi but never in his constituency." Efforts to get a comment from Mutale and Chisopa proved futile as their phones went unanswered.



University Teaching Hospital Doctors pose for a photo with Ministry of Health permanent secretary Doctor Kennedy Malama (1), shortly after commissioning the renal ward at Children's Hospital on Tuesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

"A Permanent Secretary in any Ministry is at the apex of the governance system. Before Permanent Secretaries are appointed, they are scrutinised by the various security wings of government and their qualifications are ascertained at that time. So, the Honourable member for Chiengi, if she can bring information to the Secretary to the Cabinet regarding Permanent Secretaries who do not have qualifications, I think this will be very welcome. But for now, I know that all Permanent Secretaries in the line ministries are trained and have the requisite qualifications for the job they are holding," Vice-President Inonge Wina told Parliament last week.

We are afraid that the Honourable Vice-President was feeding the National Assembly with half-truths. Either she is genuinely ignorant about the state of affairs on this matter in her government, or she deliberately chose to misinform the House, knowing that no one was going to take her to task because MPs are usually asleep when she is talking anyway.

But we survived through her question time session and we were taken aback with the confidence she had in vouching for all Permanent Secretaries in government. The least she could have said, if she wanted to be dishonest, was that 'government has a continuous qualification assessment process, which will flush out ill-qualified Permanent Secretaries.'

The question by Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta to Honourable Wina, demanding an answer on why government had not extended the verification of civil servants' qualifications to Permanent Secretaries was very valid and deserved a more serious response.

The answer that Madam Wina gave was more

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Madam Wina, is Bishop Chomba also qualified?

worrying because she claims that before being employed, Permanent Secretaries undergo a vigorous vetting process conducted by the government investigative wings. Ordinarily, we would have questioned the capacity of these investigative wings that the Vice-President was talking about. But that is not necessary because even when these investigative agencies inform the appointing authorities that an individual who is seeking employment has fake qualifications, they still go ahead and give them top government positions.

Dear readers, allow us to stop beating about the bush and point to one such Permanent Secretary whom we know for a fact has dubious qualifications. We are talking about Bishop Edward Chomba, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection.

In April this year, a renowned university abroad reached out to us, complaining that a senior Zambian government official was denting the institution's image by claiming that he was a graduate from there when in

fact not. This was regarding Dr Bishop Chomba who, apparently, is not actually a doctor as he claims to be on the CV that he submitted to government before being appointed.

His official biography says, "Dr. Bishop Ed Chomba is a double PhD Holder from Oxford University (Trinity College) in England and Princeton University (Woodrow Wilson) USA, who practices law in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and British Isles, except Scotland, and also in the East Coast and Mid-West of USA."

So, we took the trouble of investigating the matter. We contacted all the universities and colleges mentioned above and they all disowned him. They actually asked us to report Dr Bishop Chomba to the police in Zambia for forging their doctorate, which was never conferred on this Permanent Secretary.

One of the responses from the universities read: "We have been asked about Mr Chomba's credentials on previous occasions. We have no record of his ever having been registered as a student at Trinity College, Oxford. I am copying this reply to my

colleagues at the University's Research Degrees Office, who will be able to confirm that he has not been awarded any doctoral degree from the University. The College does not hold this information. The digitised College records that have been checked go back to the 1930s."

After gathering enough proof and upon being satisfied that the learned doctor was not as learned, we approached him with facts and challenged him to explain why his universities were disowning him. His answer was simply that the universities he went to could not give out information about his qualifications to a third party, especially the media. He added that his enemies were using us to destroy him.

This investigation exposed Bishop Chomba as having fake qualifications and there were only two things that were supposed to happen next. Either he was going to take us to court for libel and defamation, or the President was going to relieve him of his duties. None of the above happened. The man is still drinking 'warta' with the Head of State and enjoying his salary earned by false pretence.

Bishop Chomba told a few of his friends to complain to us that we were being unfair on him, but he had no guts to go to court to protect his integrity, why? Because he knows the truth.

This was not a complicated investigation and the universities are still out there for anyone who wants to enquire further. And since the universities told us that they had been asked several times about Bishop Chomba's credentials, we assumed that probably the Office of the President also contacted them before us, and they submitted a report to State House recommending that the Bishop did not have the qualifications he claimed to have. But the Head of State went ahead to appoint the man as Permanent Secretary in a cardinal Ministry that receives massive donor funding, and subsequently making him the controlling officer of government funds as well.

Why did President Lungu appoint this man knowing that he was not whom he claimed to be? This is because the job offer did not look at his qualifications, but the work he did in helping PF

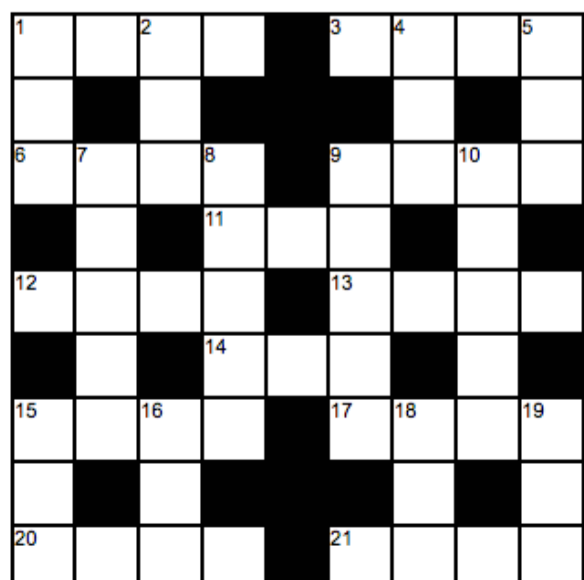
form government. This is the case with so many other Permanent Secretaries in this regime. Some of them are clear conmen from the streets and they know nothing about government administration.

We are not alleging that Bishop Chomba is stealing money from the Ministry; neither are we suggesting that he is a lazy man. Maybe Bishop Chomba is actually very good at his work in government; maybe he is one of the best performing Permanent Secretaries. So there is still time for the 'learned doctor' to clear his name and regain the respect that he perhaps deserves. But until then, the fact remains that he can't explain where he got his qualifications. If the man has no defence for the allegations that he forged his qualifications, it is in order to say that government is harbouring a suspected criminal.

Government is not like a personal farm where you can decide who must be in charge of selling onions or who must manage the irrigation of tomatoes. Public office bearers are ultimately employed by the Zambian taxpayers, and these taxpayers demand that the people who must be in charge of their affairs should possess impeccable credentials, deserving of the government position they hold.

So, listening to Vice-President Wina lie to Parliament that all Permanent Secretaries are very well qualified made us wonder whom she was trying to fool. Even if she doesn't admit, it is a fact that the PF government is full of fraudsters and cadres who just want to get rich from cutting corrupt deals. No wonder there is confusion everywhere you look in the civil service because those who must ensure there is professionalism are the ones protecting the questionable qualifications of cadres.

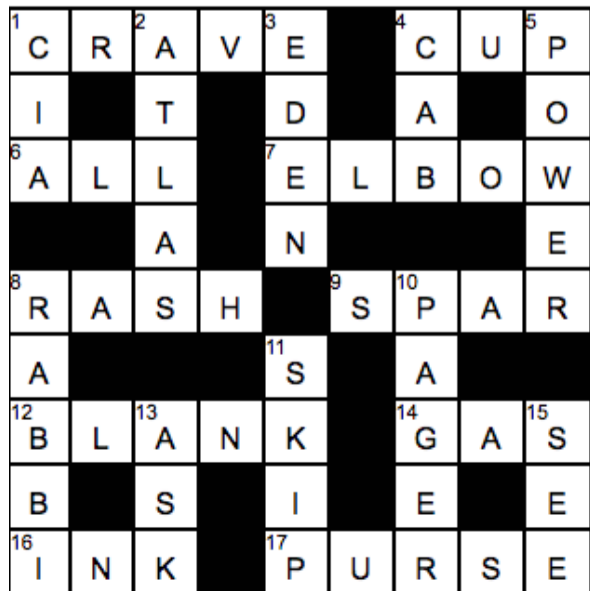
Crossword puzzle 226



"A wolf will always seem charming & polite to those that he wishes to eat."
- Anthony T. Hincks

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tootpaste container 3. Bouncy toy 6. Skewer 9. Innermost part 11. Kanga's kid 12. Capable 13. Repulsive to look at 14. Earth's atmosphere 15. Extend credit 17. Second hand sound 20. Stitched up 21. Scot's family | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Between las and dos 2. Constrictor snake 4. In the past 5. Tell a fib 7. Dining room furniture 8. Sandwich covering 9. Legal setting 10. Museum piece 15. Part of UCLA 16. Not used before 18. Ailing 19. Mattel doll |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 225



Reader's feedback

ND OPINION: Mayor's madness will make restaurants sit up

Dear Editor,

"Well articulated. I wonder why the traffic guys demand fitness certificate on vehicles when nearly all roads we are using are not fit. And why pay road tax for poor roads? In almost all cases, we don't get services we pay for." - Bright Mweetwa Kapuma

"Hahaha ba News Diggers! nice editorial. Ati: 'how can Miles be normal in a party were everyone is mad'." - Kasuba Musonda

"News Diggers! you are the best, I am ever enjoying your news reports; our leaders are showing us their highest level of ignorance when they have completely failed to sort out these issues within their ministries." - Ivor Daniel Chalwe

"Constructive writing. This is some level of maturity that we don't see every day! Well written, ba Diggers!" - Matanda Mwewa

"On point." - Lewis Namuswa

"This was an act for the sake of other poorly-served Zambians in restaurants. See, there is nothing good or bad under the sun. Well done, your Worship Mayor

of the greater City of Lusaka!" - Sylvester Chisanga

"Customer service in this country is simply terrible!" - Hilary Ngosa Ngoma

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.



FIC now operating in 160 countries

Editor,

"You have successfully followed the money laundering criminals even before your admission to the Egmont group, but what is there for you to show for it? Nothing, except for voluminous FIC Trends Reports, which are gathering dust at DEC, ACC, ZP and so on and so forth." - Mike Phiri

"But you are failing to fight the enemies of progress within." - Elias Tandizani Chilembo

"Problem is you're not prosecuting them. We have not seen not even a single person going to jail. So, this is the reason some people won't take you seriously." - Agrey Siyunda

"On earth, there are bedrooms and pantries, which can be used as storage for illicit cash. Some even bury the cash! I hope the eye of Egmont will be so watchful." - Sikaanka Kabbudula

"They are already hiding; the report that was handed over to the Republican President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, a few months ago hasn't been adequately addressed. FIC, what is your position?" - Evaristo C Mwenya Snr

"No muscles, lip service as usual, just rhetoric, who can prosecute a PF cadre?" - David Mandona

Dora's defence of ZAFFICO 'sale'

Editor,

"Liars of the day! You will feel the weight of citizens when your time of lies expires in 2021. Enough is enough, let's unite and prove to them that we own more power as citizens than the cash-hungry govt." - Abson Musesa

"But this issue of selling is now too much. Every day, you are looking for what to sell, have these guys become traders of national assets? The sad part is that they have not bought anything, always selling!" - Bright Mweetwa Kapuma

"Dora has given us so many lies to be trusted.

These propagandists have been trying very hard to convince citizens that HH got his wealth by selling the mines. I hope they are not thinking that they, too, can have it the same way by selling everything around as long as the Chinese are willing to buy. HH could not have sold government property without the entire government watching. You just have to see this hate for this man. Well, thanks, Dora for saying it, but personally I am not convinced." - Solomon H. Phiri

"These liars always think citizens are toddlers." - Samuel Kertis Sikalongo

Brazil's Bolsonaro hesitates over proposed Jerusalem embassy move

Brazil's president-elect Jair Bolsonaro suggested Tuesday he was prepared to make a swift U-turn over controversial plans to move the country's Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Last week, Bolsonaro reiterated a campaign pledge to follow the lead of US President Donald Trump by switching the embassy from Israel's economic and technological hub to its capital.

But on Tuesday, he reeled in his plans claiming "it hasn't yet been decided."

The far-right politician was responding to a question from reporters about Egypt postponing a scheduled visit from Brazil's Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes.

"From what I know, it's due to a calendar problem," Bolsonaro said during his first visit to the capital Brasilia since winning the October 28 election runoff against leftist opponent Fernando Haddad. He is due to take office on January 1.

"It would be premature for a country to take retaliatory measures against something that hasn't yet been decided." Bolsonaro's announcement of the embassy move on Thursday provoked ire in the Arab world, with a senior Palestinian official branding the move "provocative and illegal," while a spokesman for Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, called it "hostile."

Bolsonaro tried to downplay the importance of his own plans, claiming "it's not a

question of honor" but that "those who decide where the capital of Israel is, are the people, the state of Israel."

Such a move could prove risky for Brazil, though, as it is a major exporter of hallal

meat to the Arab world.

Jerusalem's status is hotly disputed. Israel occupied the eastern portion of the city, then under Jordanian control, at the end of the Six-Day War in 1967, which

pitted it against Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

It later annexed that part of the city in the reunification of Jerusalem, a move that has not been internationally recognized.

An official United Nations resolution from 1947 still proposes the creation of an international regime to run the city, while later ideas have suggested it should be a shared capital for both

Israelis and Palestinians.

After Trump's embassy move announcement in December, Guatemala and Paraguay followed suit, although the latter then changed its mind. **AFP**

Highway to hell: Afghan travellers run gauntlet of Taliban violence

On a good day, it takes Mohammad less than three hours to drive from Ghazni to Kabul. But preparations for the hair-raising journey through Taliban-infested

areas can take weeks.

Road trips are a dangerous, and often deadly, activity in Afghanistan.

Travellers run the gauntlet of Taliban checkpoints,

fighting, robberies, kidnappings, and pressure-plate bombs targeting government officials and security forces.

The stretch of Highway 1

between the Afghan capital and the southeastern city of Ghazni -- which the Taliban stormed in August and still threaten -- is one of the most treacherous.

Spontaneous trips are out of the question, said Mohammad, who is in his 20s and a regular visitor to Kabul.

Mohammad, not his real name, asked AFP to use a pseudonym to avoid being identified by the Taliban.

He begins preparing for the journey at least two weeks before his planned departure, starting with growing out his beard, which he normally keeps short, to create a scruffier appearance. He then starts working his contacts, calling trusted relatives and neighbours who ply the busy route for information about Taliban activity along the main artery connecting Kabul to the insurgent strongholds in the south.

"You have to be careful who you call because you could be sold out to the Taliban" by someone working for the militant group, he told AFP. On the day of his departure, Mohammad swaps his clean, well-ironed clothes for a dirty pyjama-like shalwar kameez to make himself look more like a villager and clears the call history on his mobile in case a phone number raises suspicion.

"You can't just jump into a car and come (to Kabul), not if you want to be on the safe side," he said.

Mohammad's most recent trip to Kabul was delayed for three days after he received warnings of Taliban disguised as Afghan soldiers manning checkpoints along the road.

The first thing Taliban militants check is a person's tazkira, or national identification document.

"If the tazkira is from Ghazni then you may be fine. If not, they might think that you are a member of the security forces from another province coming to Ghazni to fight," Mohammad said.

AFP



Russia seeks to dump dollar as new US sanctions loom

Moscow is intensifying efforts to wean its economy off the dollar as Washington considers tough new sanctions that could deny Russia access to foreign debt markets and cut its banks from the greenback.

President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly slammed the US unit's dominance on the world's stage but the country's previous efforts to de-dollarise its economy have so far had little success.

But with Russian business circles fearing a new round of US measures over Moscow's alleged international aggression and Washington's trade policies becoming ever more unpredictable, authorities have now made concrete steps towards their long-standing goal.

Russia's finance ministry and the central bank are soon expected to present measures to increase the use of other currencies in international trade to Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

"We will certainly be moving in this direction," Putin said last month.

"Not because we want to undermine the dollar but because we want to ensure our security, because they are constantly slapping sanctions against us and are simply denying us an opportunity to use the dollar."

Observers warned that the task Russia faces is hugely ambitious but that an unpredictable US policy, new US sanctions against Iran and Washington's trade war with China could in fact help Moscow.

"Large-scale de-dollarisation will take time -- estimates range between 1.5 and five years," Euler Hermes, a France-based credit insurance company, said in a recent report. Russia's de-dollarisation efforts "may be easier now in a world of rising US protectionism", it added.

Euler Hermes said Russia's transactions with the EU and China -- which make up nearly 60 percent of Russia's foreign trade -- could be shifted into euros and the yuan, while transactions with former Soviet nations could be done in rubles.

Putin and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have repeatedly said they want to increase the use of the ruble and yuan for cross-border trade. **AFP**

A year ago, rebel leader Berhanu Nega was coordinating attacks against Ethiopian soldiers from his base across the border in Eritrea and faced a death penalty at home.

In September, he returned to Ethiopia to address tens of thousands of cheering supporters in a stadium in the capital, Addis Ababa. The journey of the mild-mannered former economics professor from exile to rock-star welcome says a lot about

After years in exile, Ethiopian politician returns home with hope and fear

how much Ethiopia has changed in recent months. He is the most high profile of dozens of political dissidents, former rebels, and secessionist leaders who have come home since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office

in April. Their return has Ethiopians hopeful that the country of 105 million – Africa’s second most populous – can finally embrace democracy. The last two elections were decried by the opposition as shams following a

messy poll in 2005, after which the government jailed popular opposition politicians like Berhanu. The clampdown fueled unrest and demands for greater political and social freedom. In recent years, the ruling EPRDF

coalition cracked down even more harshly; security forces killed more than 1,000 protesters and jailed tens of thousands of people between 2015 and 2018, according to Human Rights Watch. It also shut off the internet, sometimes

for months at a time. “Seven, eight months ago the question was whether the country is going to survive or not, whether it’s going to explode into a civil war,” Berhanu, 59, told Reuters in a borrowed office in central Addis Ababa.

But in April, the ruling coalition installed Abiy as the new prime minister. The 42-year-old has promised to chart a new course and embrace multi-party democracy. Such a transition would buck the trend towards authoritarianism in nearby countries such as Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, where leaders are jailing opponents and rolling back restrictions on term limits to extend their rule.

Within weeks of Abiy taking charge, Berhanu ordered the armed group he led, Ginbot 7, to stop attacking Ethiopian troops and end its armed struggle.

Abiy’s arrival “was real change,” Berhanu said. “It did not take us a minute... We have no particular interests in violence. We just said: ‘Are you serious, is this something you are committed to? Yes, good, we are done.’”

Ethiopia’s new leader, Berhanu said, “really has this mission of changing society toward what he believes the public deserves: to live in freedom and democracy.”

Abiy’s chief of staff Fitsum Arega did not respond to requests for comment for this story. **REUTERS**

Turkey threatens Syria's Kurds: A headache for the US?

Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has renewed his threats to crush Syria’s Kurds, this time in northeastern areas of the war-torn country where US forces are present. Turkish shelling has hit

positions of the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), as Ankara warns of a new offensive to clear

the militia from its border. The United States has scrambled to contain the tensions, as it seeks

to retain the YPG as a key partner in its battle against a resilient Islamic State group.

Since 2016, Turkey has carried out two operations against Kurdish forces in Syria, the last of which saw Ankara-backed Syrian rebels seize the northwestern enclave of Afrin in March.

Erdogan has since repeatedly threatened to march east into more Kurdish-held territory, but analysts say the timing adds weight to the latest warnings.

Turkey brokered a deal with Russia in September to stave off a regime attack on the northwestern rebel bastion of Idlib, thus freeing it up to set its sights on Kurdish-held territory further east.

On the world stage, Ankara is feeling emboldened and seeks to score diplomatic points as Saudi Arabia, a rival regional heavyweight, grapples with global outrage over the murder at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. **AFP**



Parents await for news of their children at a school where 79 pupils were kidnapped in Bamenda, Cameroon November 6, 2018. **REUTERS/Blaise Eyong**

South Korea warns Japan in row over wartime forced labor

Japan should avoid aggravating historical tensions in a diplomatic row over South Koreans forced to work for Japanese firms during World War Two, South Korea’s foreign ministry has warned.

South Korea’s top court ruled last month that Japan’s Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp (5401.T) must compensate four South Koreans for their forced labor during the war, which Japan has denounced as “unthinkable.”

The binding court verdict is straining relations between the neighbors and could affect bilateral efforts to rein in North Korea’s nuclear program, analysts say.

Japan and South Korea share a bitter history that includes Japan’s 1910-45 colonization of the Korean peninsula and the use of comfort women, Japan’s euphemism for girls and women, many of them Korean, forced to work in its

wartime brothels.

Japan’s Foreign Minister Taro Kono said in a Bloomberg interview on Sunday that “it would be difficult for any country to do anything with the South Korean government” if a court can reverse Seoul’s agreements made under international law. Kono’s remarks threatened to add fuel to the controversy, South Korea’s foreign ministry said late on Tuesday. “South Korea is very concerned that Japan’s

leaders in positions of responsibility are disregarding the root cause of the issue... and continue to make comments that rouse our public’s emotions,” the ministry said in a statement.

“The Japanese government must be clearly aware that excessive political emphasis on the present case will be of no help to the future-oriented relationship between South Korea and Japan,” the ministry added. **REUTERS**

Michael Douglas celebrated his 50th year in showbusiness on Tuesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame near that of his screen legend father, Kirk Douglas, now 101.

Douglas, 74, best known for his Oscar-winning turn as Gordon Gekko in "Wall Street," was accompanied by his father - star of 1960 gladiator movie "Spartacus" - his actress wife Catherine Zeta-Jones and "The China Syndrome" co-star Jane Fonda.

"When I first heard

Michael Douglas joins dad Kirk with star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Michael was getting a star I thought, 'What took so long?' Especially because he has always been ahead of his time," Fonda said at a ceremony marking the occasion.

Douglas has appeared in more than 60 films and television shows, including

1970s police series "The Streets of San Francisco," psychological thrillers "Fatal Attraction" and "Basic Instinct," and more recently the Marvel comic book movie "Ant-Man."

Fonda, daughter of Henry, said she and Douglas both faced the challenge of

being born into Hollywood royalty and trying to find their own way in the same world.

"Both of our fathers were movie legends," she said. "Can you imagine Michael heading out to go to an audition and Spartacus is sitting at the table?"

Douglas is also a film producer, winning an Oscar for the 1975 film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and producing dozens of independent movies.

"I have been lucky enough to be part of classic Hollywood and new Hollywood," he said.

He said he was honored to join the more than 2,600 men and women represented on the Walk of Fame: "They are people who passionately cared about what they did and about entertaining people around the world."

REUTERS

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie set to take custody battle over their six kids to a 'private' trial

The dragging-on divorce and custody battle between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie is set to go to a trial next month because they can't agree about the future of their six children despite two years of lawyering and leaking.

And if Pitt and Jolie have their way, it will all happen behind closed doors. If it happens at all.

The couple could still reach an agreement out of court and put the messy breakup of their family behind them but lately their ability to see eye-to-eye seems to have deserted them.

Still, a source familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly said both sides "are still working together to find an out-of-court settlement."

"Sometimes spouses do not realize that just because someone may be a bad spouse that does not automatically mean that person is a bad parent," says New York City-based divorce lawyer Jacqueline Newman, who's been watching the case as an example of how a breakup can go terribly wrong.

The two stars' legal teams have been in fierce negotiations since September 2016, when Jolie filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences and "the health of the family" after 12 years together, two of those years in what we later learned wasn't wedded bliss.

Their custody dispute comes down to this: She wants sole physical custody of their six kids, ranging in age from 10 to 17; he wants to share physical custody.

Now, according to a

document filed Monday in Los Angeles County's Family Court, Pitt and Jolie have asked for an extension to June 30, 2019, on the appointment

of retired Judge John Ouderkirk as a temporary "private" judge in their case.

He has handled all pre-trial issues and motions

and will preside over the custody trial, scheduled for Dec. 4, likely behind closed doors and not at a public courthouse. In fact, because the case is being

handled privately, Jolie and Pitt have to pay for the proceeding, including the judge and other officials.

In California's public Family Courts, most

proceedings are open to the public except certain issues involving children, when the courtroom can be closed. *USATODAY*

Oprah on running for president: 'thank you, but no thank you'

As the media mogul made her way onto the stage at Monday's Ambassadors for Humanity Gala, a woman in the audience shouted, "Oprah for president."

Winfrey laughed, before responding, "Thank you, but no thank you."

The CEO of OWN appeared at the gala benefiting the USC Shoah Foundation at

the Beverly Hilton to talk about Kate Capshaw and Steven Spielberg, the gala's co-chairs, as well as the night's honorees, Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson.

Winfrey read the names of the 11 victims of the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. She then honored the foundation's mission to provide testimonies from

survivors of the Holocaust and other atrocities, which she said shine a light on the current "darkness upon the face of our Earth."

"Racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, tribalism, they're all alive, but do nothing for our humankind," Winfrey said. She said the night's event honored those who embody "tolerance, understanding, a sense of mutual respect for each and every being on Earth."

Spielberg presented the ambassadors for humanity award to Hanks and Wilson.

"[Tom and Rita] are helping to solve some of today's greatest riddles, like 'Where is the commonality and conversation, where's that gone? How do we connect when we don't understand each other?'" Spielberg said. "[Tom] has elevated friendliness to a kind of superpower, with all his performances, he's built a dossier, a defense brief for the human spirit." *MSN*



Billboard named the 25-year-old award-winning singer its 2018 Woman of the Year. Grande will receive the award at Billboard's 13th annual Women in Music event on Dec. 6 in New York. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

After breaking her political silence in October urging fans to vote, the 28-year-old singer continued to make the most of her platform. Swift shared Jimmy Fallon's list of candidates "who voted to gut protections for people with pre-existing conditions" and made a plea directly to her young fans. "So, what is today? Tuesday. What was it that everyone is supposed to do today? What was it? Oh yeah, you gotta go vote today," Swift began on her Instagram Story. "I'm seeing a lot of underestimation of young voters and this new generation who now have the right to vote just in the last couple of years, but these are people who grew up post 9/11, they grew up with school shooting drills at their schools. These are people who want to vote," she said to the camera. "It's not enough to just want change. It's not enough to just want to vote. You have go and make change by voting and today is your opportunity to do that. I promise you it feels so wonderful to exercise that right that you have." As an extra incentive, Swift said she will be reposting photos of fans who tag her in

The Taylor Swift effect continues: Early voting surges in Tennessee

their #justvoted selfies. (She made good on her promise posting dozens of shots.) "Happy voting, you guys," she smiled. Swift is voting her home state of Tennessee, and she announced in October that she is throwing her support behind Phil Bredesen for the U.S. Senate and Jim Cooper for the U.S. House of Representatives, both Democrats. Numbers released from the Democratic data firm TargetSmart show a surge in early voting numbers in Tennessee, according to the Washington Post. The firm breaks down voters into four groups, depending on how often they usually vote. "Super voters" are a group of registered voters that have voted most frequently. The midrange of voting propensity is called "frequent voters," whereas people who have voted at least once are labeled

"infrequent," and those who have never voted at all make

up a category of their own. According to TargetSmart,

Tennessee's share of new and infrequent voters doubled in

early voting compared with four years ago. **YAHOO**



Demi Lovato is back on Instagram. In her first social media photo since leaving rehab, she urged people to vote in the midterm elections — and shared her own snapshot from the polls. (Photo: Demi Lovato Instagram)



WHICH PARTY DESERVES YOUR VOTE?

Building on its accolade as a trendsetter in promoting national discourse and objective news reporting, News Diggers now introduces a platform for political party players to debate topical issues affecting citizens.

We have picked the Patriotic Front and four other top political parties seeking to form government in 2021 and offered them a full page each in the print edition of News Diggers on which to publish their agenda.

Starting November 6, 2018, the top leadership of these political parties will go into detail explaining why they deserve your vote.

- Mondays:** Patriotic Front
- Tuesdays:** United Party for National Development
- Wednesdays:** National Restoration Party
- Thursdays:** National Democratic Congress
- Fridays:** People's Alliance for Change



These articles will further be published on all our social media pages. We now call on you the readers to evaluate and give them feedback by commenting as follows:

For a party you would vote for, comment starting with: "Yes Vote" and add a very short reason if necessary

For a party you wouldn't vote for, comment starting with: "No Vote" and add a very brief reason if necessary

Voting wisely means understanding what you are voting for, know them now.

Supporting democracy from the home of investigative journalism

England captain Harry Kane wants Wayne Rooney to be given a fitting farewell when the forward represents his country for the final time next week.

Rooney is set to feature in England's friendly with the United States at Wembley Stadium on November 15 - a match you can see live on Sky Sports - as the 33-year-old bows out of international football.

The match, which will see the DC United striker win his 120th cap, is to be called The Wayne Rooney Foundation International in support of the player's charitable interests.

Kane says he and his team-mates cannot wait to be reunited with Rooney for one last time.

"I do not know too much about how he is going to do it or how long he is going to play," Kane told Sky Sports after Tottenham Hotspur's 2-1 win over PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League.

"But it will be great to see him again, see a few of the boys and a great experience for a few of the younger players in the team.

Wayne Rooney deserves a great England send-off, says Harry Kane

"Everyone should get right behind it and give him a great send-off." Rooney is not expected to captain England or wear the No 10 shirt against the US. Instead, the former Manchester United frontman is just expected to make a brief cameo as a substitute at the home of football.



Head-scratcher: Mohamed Salah (left) failed to fire as Liverpool suffered a shock 2-0 defeat to Red Star Belgrade. AFP

Manchester United frontman is just expected to make a brief cameo as a substitute at the home of football.

Either way, Kane is happy for Rooney to skipper the team if manager Gareth Southgate so decides.

"He deserves it and was a great captain for us," he said. "He was captain when I got into the squad and sure, if he plays, of course he will be the captain."

Rooney heads into the game having scored a record 53 goals for England, while Kane has 19 to his name.

However, the current England captain says he still has a long way to go to catch his predecessor.

"Still a long way to go, but hopefully I can stay fit and healthy, score a few more goals and then see in a few years how close I am," he said.

SKYSPORTS

Filippo Magnini: Italian swimmer gets four-year doping ban

Two-time world champion swimmer Filippo Magnini has been banned for four years by Italy's national anti-doping body.

Magnini, 100m freestyle world gold medallist in 2005 and 2007, also won Olympic 4x200m freestyle relay bronze at Athens in 2004.

The 36-year-old, who retired last year, had not tested positive and strongly denied he was guilty.

"There is no proof, it's a sentence that was already written," Italian news agency Ansa quoted him as saying.

He added: "We will certainly appeal. We're talking about picking on me, forcing the issue."

Anti-doping prosecutors had asked that an eight-year ban for actual or attempted doping be given to Magnini,

who is one of Italy's most successful swimmers and once raced against two dolphins. SKYSPORTS



AFP Forum ALESSIO MORGESSE / DPPI Media / DPPI

Malcom of FC Barcelona scores a goal during the UEFA Champions League Group B match between FC Internazionale and FC Barcelona on Tuesday at San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy

Inter Miami: Beckham MLS franchise wins vote on stadium plans

David Beckham's hopes of building a new stadium for his Inter Miami franchise in the MLS moved a step closer to being realised after a vote by residents.

About 60% of the city's voters opted to allow the club to negotiate to build on a 73-acre site that is currently a council-owned golf course.

The complex would house a stadium, shopping mall, hotel and public park.

Beckham's group now has to get the backing of four of the city's five commissioners.

"I need to say a big thanks

to the fans who have stuck by us," said former England captain Beckham.

"Today is an exciting day. We have had a dream of bringing a team to this great city. We want to create a legacy, something our children will aspire to.

"But we also want to win. I am not coming here just to have a pretty team. Winning championships [is] important to me."

Inter Miami are scheduled to make their MLS debut in 2020 after being awarded an expansion contact in January. SKYSPORTS

Eagles boosts Confederation squad with 7 signings

By Alex Chilumbwe

Green Eagles Football Club has acquired the services of seven players in a quest to beef up its squad ahead of the Caf Confederation Games this month. The players acquired on permanent basis include George Chaloba (Midfielder) from National Assembly Justin Nyikwa (Goalkeeper) from National Assembly Amid Shamende (Attacking Midfielder) from National Assembly Ray Mutale (Defender) from New Monze Swallows Michael Mwenya (Defender) from Kitwe United and Mukabanga Susu Siambombe (Defensive Midfielder) from Lusaka Dynamos. The only player on seasonal

loan is Edward Mwaamba (Striker) from Nkwazi FC. The 30-man squad of players registered for Caf Confederation games are as follows: (GOALKEEPERS) Robert Mwanza Kenneth Mwaanga Justin Nyikwa (DEFENDERS) Bornface Sunzu Collins Mulenga Samson Manyepa Mateo Ndashe Warren Kunda Gift Wamundila Ray Mutale Michael Mwenya Kabamba Chilibwe (MIDFIELDERS) Ceasor Hakaluba Kizito Cheelo Jonathan Manongo Spencer Sautu Langson Mbewe George Chaloba Mukabanga Siabombe

Amit Christopher Samson	Shamende Chola Chilupe	Lazarous Progress Joseph	Phiri Kalenga Mwindilila	(STRIKERS) Tapson Anos	Kaseba Tembo	Shadreck Isaac Edward Mwamba	Mulungwe Simbuwa
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Chipolopolo boys during training at the Futsal arena in Lusaka ahead of the Mambas clash in Mozambique

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambia Under-20 Men's Football National Team coach Charles Bwale has named his 30 member provisional squad for the 2018 Mopani Copper Mines U20 Championship. Bwale named England based Mwiya Malumo and Edward Chilufya who stars for Djurgardens IF of Sweden. Host Zambia is in Group A alongside Malawi, Mozambique and DR Congo. The tournament kicks off on December 2 and winds up on December 14 in Kitwe. The team is expected to go into camp next week on Sunday.

FULL PROVISIONAL SQUAD
(GOALKEEPERS) Prince Bwalya (Green Buffaloes), Patrick Chooma (Intersport Youth), Flobby Mashakalati (Circuit City) Bradley Mweene (University of Pretoria) (DEFENDERS) Kingsley Hakwiya (Dream Factory), Jonathan Kapelembe (Romeki FC), Christopher Katongo (Kasama United Youth Academy), Justin Mwanza (Young Nkana), Andrew Phiri (Kafue Celtics) Whiteson Chiluba (Supreme Grace) Oliver Lumbiya (Young Nkana) Benson Kolala (Nchanga Rangers) (MIDFIELDERS) Muma Mumba (Green Eagles), Kings Kangwa (Happy Hearts), Thomas Zulu (Kafue Celtics), Chanda Mukuka (Gomes), Prince Mumba (Kabwe Warriors), Patrick Gondwe (Young Nkana), Albert Kangwanda (

Kafue Celtics), Musonda Kalale (Chambishi) Lameck Banda (Zesco United) Salifyanji Mugala (Morning Stars), Godfrey Mashata (Happy Hearts) Edward Chilufya (Djurgardens IF) (STRIKERS) James Chilimina (Kafue Celtics), Francesco

Bwale names provisional 30 for Mopani Tourney

Mwepu (Kafue Celtics), Rangers), Mwiya Emmanuel Mwiinde Kingsley Fichite (Green Martin Njobvu (Nchanga Malumo (Unattached) (Young Green Buffaloes) Eagles)

FIFA mourns Zambian referee Namukonda

By Alex Chilumbwe

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has expressed sadness at the passing on of FIFA referee, Leah Namukonda. Infantino expressed his condolences in a press statement availed to the media through the Football Association of Zambia. "On behalf of FIFA and the world wide football community, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to you, to the Football Association of Zambia and most importantly, to her family, friends and loved ones. It was with great sadness that I learned of the tragic passing of the FIFA referee Leah Namukonda. We would hope that, in some way, our words of support may help bring a little peace and solace in this time of sadness," said Infantino. Meanwhile, FAZ President, Andrew Kamanga has

expressed sadness at the passing on of FAZ Class One referee, Carol Chitengi. "On behalf of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Executive and the entire football community, I wish to convey my message of goodwill to the Chitengi family on the passing on of Ms Carol Chiengi," said Kamanga.

FAZ warns division 1 teams against violence

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala has warned of stern action against teams that perpetrate violence in the Division one league games. Kashala said violence was reason enough to stop the promotion of a team to super division despite having qualified. He noted that there was need for all teams to comply with all the laid down rules that govern football in the country before promotion could occur. His statement comes in the wake of the violence that characterised the goalless game between Chambishi and Mighty Mufulira Wanderers in their week 28 league game. Chambishi

fans were caught on camera throwing stones on the pitch and in the process injured three Wanderers' fans severely. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kashala issued a warning to all the violent teams within the division. "We will not tolerate any kind of violence inside or outside the football pitches. Division one teams should know better because they know very well what happens when a team is found guilty of violent behaviour, be it its fans or players. Your promotion to super league is not only based on qualifying but on good conduct too," said Kashala. The confusion first started when Chambishi assistant coach Fred Mooto

was seen sprinkling 'holy water' on the pitch before the game started. In his defence of the act, Mooto said his act was a psychological one that was aimed at unsettling the visitors' rhythm. "There was nothing in that container apart from water. I knew Wanderers would psychologically be defeated if they saw me with the container and pouring water on the pitch because some of the things they did before warm-up were strange," said Mooto. Mooto's action incensed Wanderers players and supporters resulting in kick-off delaying for 30 minutes. Referee Vernon Nyambe gave Mooto matching orders before kick-off.



Sime Vrsaljko of Inter Milan and Ivan Rakitic of FC Barcelona during the UEFA Champions League Group B match between FC Internazionale and FC Barcelona on Tuesday. AFP

AFP Forum
ALESSIO MORGESE / DPPI Media / DPPI

Pogba has 'no regrets' about leaving Juve for United

Paul Pogba said Tuesday that he had "no regrets" about leaving Juventus for Manchester United three years ago.

"Do I look sad? Obviously I'm happy to wear this shirt. I'm really happy to have come back to Manchester United," Pogba told a press conference ahead of Wednesday's Champions League group game against Juventus in Turin.

"Choosing to come back to United, first of all, was my choice. Juve were playing Champions League and Manchester were playing Europa. I don't regret my choice. AFP

EAGLES SPEND BIG

Story page 15

...for CAF confederation cup



AFP Forum
Harry Trump / GETTY

James Shaw of Great Britain plays a shot during Day Two of the Bath Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament 2018 at the University of Bath yesterday in Bath, England. AFP



AFP Forum
Oscar Barroso / SpainDPPI / DPPI

Florentin Anne Laure of France v Pronk Suzelle of Namidia during the Karate World Championship celebrates in Wizink Center, Madrid, Spain, on November 6, 2018. AFP