



To allay public speculation that President Lungu was recently evacuated to South Africa for medication, State House released these photos yesterday (courtesy of Salim Henry), showing the Head of State working out, 2 days after his return from 'vacation'

HH, CK TEAM UP

"We've agreed to mobilise opposition"

By Mukosha Funga
Hakaide Hichilema yesterday visited Chishimba Kambwili and resolved to mobilise other opposition political parties to demonstrate against "illegal" salary increments for ministers, among other activities.
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We'll pay beneficiaries of stolen Social Cash Transfer Funds - PS

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Community Development and Social Services PS Dr Liya Mutale says the Ministry will pay the misappropriated Social Cash Transfer funds to the intended beneficiaries. Dr Mutale said this when she and her predecessor Dr Howard Sikwela appeared before PAC yesterday.
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Hakaide Hichilema visited Chishimba Kambwili at his house yesterday where the two leaders agreed to work together in mobilising the opposition against PF - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ZNFU warns against GMOs

Story page 2

Mumbi Phiri turns heat on Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala
PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says if those being demonised by Chishimba Kambwili wanted to politic, they could accuse him of being rich because his children make money by posting pornographic pictures on the internet.
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ZICTA lacks legal backing to clamp down on Social Media abuse - Dora

Story page 2

ZNFU sounds alarm over GMO foods

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia National Farmers' Union president Jervis Zimba has condemned ongoing manoeuvres by some quasi-government institutions to re-introduce Genetically-Modified foods (GMOs) into the country. In a statement, Zimba revealed that the Union was aware of the manoeuvres being propagated by some quasi-government institutions, but warned against re-introducing the GMOs as it will have devastating consequences on the local market. "ZNFU is aware of manoeuvres by certain quasi-government authorities that are trying to propagate the importation of Genetically Engineered Foods into the country. These authorities are trying to scheme ways of legitimising Genetically Modified Foods in the country at the expense of what we have safeguarded for years," Zimba disclosed in a press release issued, Wednesday. "We are aware that some authorities are trying to reintroduce the topic of GMOs. But why now? These mushrooming authorities are causing headache to the farming community." He advised government to be wary against re-introducing GMOs back into the country as it would have adverse effects on local producers and thwart Zambia's growth agenda. "Government should be wary of the intentions of some of these quasi-

government authorities. Most of them do not mean well to the country's growth agenda. We are aware of some of the people propagating this. ZNFU will fight and thwart all efforts bent on legitimising GMOs. This country has made huge sacrifices to reach this far and the Union will not sit idly by while wrong things are being done," cautioned Zimba. "It is important to note that this country is a

non-GMO country, and any manoeuvres towards legitimising GMOs will have far-reaching implications than we can comprehend. As ZNFU, we shall not subscribe to GMOs and shall reject processes that seek to sneak into the country or dump GM foods on our market. The sector that will be hurt most if GMOs are allowed is the agriculture sector. Farmers will be the worst affected."



ZICTA has no legal backing yet to clamp down social media – Dora

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says ZICTA does not yet have the legal backing to clamp down on social media abuse that has seen many citizens defrauded. And Siliya says government is concerned that some young girls are using Facebook as a platform to market themselves to the opposite sex through posting of their nude pictures. Meanwhile Central, Luapula and Northern Province ministers have shared their achievements from the recently held tourism and investment expos in their respective provinces. Siliya said this at a joint press briefing at her ministry in Lusaka yesterday. "What we have has been an absence of the right

legal framework to address this matter. ZICTA is there as the authority in terms of technology provision in the country. but as government, we are providing for cyber laws to also address issues of financial transactions. How many Zambians have been defrauded electronically? Including on Facebook where people have been acting as ministers or other people in society and say 'pay money to this account and you will get a job? How many people have I had here at my office with bank deposit slips and say 'minister, you asked me to deposit K14, 000 and I did this morning [and] here is the bank slip?' I have no idea what they are talking about because of the many fake Facebooks in my name," Siliya said. Asked why ZICTA was failing to detect all mobile

financial fraud cases in the country, Siliya insisted that the authority did not have the legal backing yet.

"I believe ZICTA did not have the right legal backing because clearly, prosecution is a matter for the police but even the police did not have the legal framework to prosecute such cases. It is why now the Ministry of Transport and Communication and even the Ministry of Home Affairs and Justice, we are saying we need new legislations to provide for these new crimes that were not thought of before there were cell-phones, crimes that were not thought of before there was Facebook, WhatsApp calls and so on," Siliya explained.

And Siliya says government was concerned that some young girls were using Facebook as a platform to market themselves to the opposite sex through posting of their nude pictures.

"This is an issue [of social media abuse] worldwide, we are all challenged on how do we protect children, how do we protect women? We have seen here in Zambia on slot of insults against women especially in leadership. Most of my colleagues tell me the number of girls who believe that Facebook should be used for posting naked pictures of themselves or advertising themselves to the male gender, [and] families should be concerned, not

just government," said Siliya.

Meanwhile, Luapula Province Minister Nickson Chilagwa said the results of the provincial expo had already started showing.

"As a result of the expo, we have over 70 companies that are at various stages of investing in Luapula Province. We have over ten who are already present on the ground and they are doing wonderful things and others are in various stages, some in the acquisition of land, some in the sorting out of the paper work which takes a bit of time but are set as Luapula Province. We believe that in three to four years time, Luapula will not be the same and it shouldn't be the same," said Chilagwa. And Central province Minister Sydney Mushanga highlighted some of the projects which had emerged from the expo.

"A lot has happened in Central Province and first a ground breaking ceremony for the China Jianxi Multi-Economic Facility Zone was done by His Excellency and this took place just two weeks ago. And the actual investment we are talking about is US \$300 million

where we are going to have more than 36 companies and these 36 companies will assist in employment creation. During the construction stage, 2, 000 employment opportunities will be provided for the local people then after the construction we are talking

about more than 5,000 jobs and the Economic Facility Zone will be sitting on the 500 hectares piece of land," said Musanga.

"Then apart from that after the expo, we have had investors wanting to put their resources in the energy sector. We will be upgrading the Lusiwasi Hydro Power station that is to increase the capacity of electricity supply for the various investment opportunities that we have in Central Province under the energy sector, tourism sector just to mention a few. Then after the investment expo we are talking about construction of a 120 Mega Watts solar power plant in Mumbwa. This is also underway. Actually the investors came on board after the successful hosting of the Investment expo. And also there is an intention by the Indian investor to construct a 750 bed capacity hospital in the province. We are thinking of having this hospital constructed between Chibombo and Chisamba because Kabwe General Hospital has since been turned into a Central hospital."

Meanwhile, Northern Province Minister Brian Mundubile said the whole world had acknowledged that World War one ended in Zambia and that this was after the just ended tourism expo which was held simultaneously alongside WW1 centenary celebrations.



Quality household furniture for sale: Leather lounge seats, dining suite, LG upright fridge/freezer, entertainment center, display cabinet, coffee table and many more. For viewing: Chamba Valley Left turn on Zambezi road at Lusaka Apex medical university, after third hump Grey gate on the left hand side. Phone 0977790479

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Community Development and Social Services Permanent Secretary Dr Liya Mutale says the Ministry will pay back the misappropriated Social Cash Transfer funds, which did not reach the intended beneficiaries.

We will pay back stolen Social Cash Transfer funds, PS tells PAC

Speaking when she and her predecessor Dr Howard Sikwela appeared before the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Tuesday, Dr Mutale admitted that some funds vanished without trace.

This came to light when the controlling officer appeared before the Committee to respond to audit queries, which were cited in the Auditor General's Report for the financial year ended December 31, 2018.

The proceedings, which were supposed to start at 09:30 in the morning only started around 11:00 hours as the Committee demanded that the sitting PS be queried together with her predecessor.

During the deliberations, a missing cheque worth K99,600 was identified, which the Ministry issued to Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) for a training programme involving 15 staff members.

Dr Mutale in response first said the Ministry had written to the bank requesting the bank to help trace the cheque, adding that she also suspected that ministry staff could have connived with the bank because the said cheque was deposited in a new individual account, where the monies was withdrawn soon after it cleared.

"We have been communicating with the

bank. I think since the first letter was written in December, 2017, over the same issue, we have been communicating with Atlas Mara [and], also if you check in the report, a police report was availed and verified by the auditors, but we have not yet recovered this money. We have communicated with the bank, but the bank is also investigating. The suspicion is that someone could have connived with a member of staff in the bank because this ESAMI is an international organisation and how possible was it that someone opened an account and could deposit and withdraw without the bank verifying who ESAMI was? So, we wrote to the bank because

the suspicion was that there could be someone in the Ministry or under the bank working together to do this. So, we are expecting that the police will bring us a report to this effect," Dr Mutale narrated.

But when asked where the proof was that she had communicated with the bank, Dr Mutale said she was not in possession of the correspondence.

And regarding the controversial misapplied K30,947,320 Social Cash Transfer funds, which were paid to Zampost to administer payment of Social Cash Transfer to deserving districts, Dr Mutale tried to dodge the matter by saying that she did

not want to jeopardise the ongoing investigations on the matter.

The Finance Director from the Ministry then chipped in and said that at the time of the audits, there were three teams that were auditing the Ministry simultaneously, and that the teams were asking for similar information hence some receipts went missing in the process. Asked if the Finance Director, who handled the matter was still working for the Ministry, both permanent secretaries expressed ignorance about his whereabouts.

"I will be honest I don't know whether that director is still in office because I think the director here is also new. So, I wouldn't know what happened to the other director. Maybe my colleague could respond to that," Dr Mutale responded.

But Dr Sikwela responded by simply saying: "Chair, equally I am not privy to the whereabouts of this director." However, Committee Chairperson Howard Kunda then followed-up with a question regarding why the Ministry instructed NATSAVE to transfer K500,000 out of a total of K1,257,480 social welfare funds for Kasempa and Zambezi districts into the Zampost account to facilitate payments to beneficiaries for the July/August, 2017.

"PS, maybe this issue does not bother you so much, but to us, it is an issue that we are looking at the poor people out there, the people who have no means of getting monies and that money is given to the bank to hold for you and you instruct them to transfer and they do not do what you have instructed them to do. And you just complain and you are just assured [that it will not happened again] and it ends there. Is that the way you do things?" Kunda asked.

But Dr Mutale, again, asked her predecessor to answer, arguing that she was not sure of the prior contract agreements with NATSAVE. "Chair, it should be borne in mind that some of these issues are due to institutional kind of inheritance. As I moved to Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, I found that there were certain banks or institutions that were engaged to hold money on behalf of the Ministry. How these contracts were entered [into], I am not privy to that, but suffice to say that, from the report here, everything

that NATSAVE was keeping for the Ministry was finally set," Dr Sikwela responded.

But Kunda argued with his response and demanded to know why the Ministry allowed NATSAVE to be deciding when the monies would be available for disbursement.

Dr. Sikwela then counter-argued that it was his first time he was seeing the query. "Chair, this query I am seeing it for the first time where NATSAVE is said to have been transferring monies in bits. It's regrettable that such was there. Surely, according to arrangements, whenever a depositor needed his or her money, that money should be given back to the depositor. It's sad that there is such a situation being reported here," Dr Sikwela said.

Deputy Committee Chairperson Brenda Tambatamba also asked as to whether or not those funds would reach the intended beneficiaries.

And Milenge PF member of parliament Mwansa Mbulakulima also demanded to know if there was some invisible hands that were making the PS not to act against the irregularities.

But in her response, Dr Mutale pledged that the missing monies will be paid back.

"We have promised the people of Zambia that we are going to pay those that have not been paid, from our resources, but for now, we are investigating to find out exactly where those monies are, so that if they can be retrieved then we will, if not, the Treasury has promised that: 'we will pay the beneficiaries what they were not paid,'" Dr Mutale said.

And Kunda expressed disappointment over the Ministry's report.

"We would like you to take the audit process very seriously, extremely seriously, because it will lead you into not appearing before this Committee. And I remember very well here, we gave you a pat on the back the last time you appeared here, but what we have seen here is unacceptable and we would want to see a change to these issues. I want to put it very clear that we are very disappointed with this report and going forward, we would want to see that you do not even step a foot here so that we can give you a pat on the back," guided Kunda.

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By Mukosha Funga
 UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema yesterday visited NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili and resolved to mobilise other opposition political parties to demonstrate against "illegal" salary increments for ministers, among other things. And Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu only qualifies to contest the 2021 elections in Jupiter. Hichilema, who visited Kambwili at his Kabulonga house with his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba and Sylvia Masebo, said it was time for the opposition to unite, for the sake of the people. "We have agreed that this illegal increment for the

HH, CK resolve to mobilise opposition against PF

ministers, we will not leave it lying. We will take it forward, together with other aspects that have been left unattended for too long. Amongst these, is the issue where post 2016 dissolution of Parliament, some individuals continued serving in Cabinet and earned salaries and allowances and all other costs illegally. We took the matter to court as


UPND, LAZ then joined us and we won the matter on behalf of the people of Zambia. To date, the PF has abused the judicial system and this is the third time they are going to the Constitutional Court over the same matter. The ConCourt must examine themselves, are they serving the people? Or they are not? So we are saying we, who believe are genuine opposition, and


agree that we must work together, that we are each others' keeper, we will start on these two matters. Our joint teams will notify the police that we want to express our freedom of expression by having a peaceful demonstration," Hichilema said. "We will do that jointly on behalf of the people of Zambia and I believe police will respond positively. That money

should be available for medicines in hospitals. Not a minister who is already well paid, not money to travel luxuriously, that money is needed for people in school. How brutal can a regime be to spend US\$68 million on a gulf stream jet? What's going on? That money, in our basic calculations can educated 38,000 students from a college or university but this jet will be benefiting mainly one person. I think citizens must begin to say 'we cannot live like this'. We will reach out to other opposition political parties, in the next few days, we will mobilise our colleagues and we will be ready to demonstrate peacefully because the constitution provides for that. Otherwise, going forward, we need to continue working together."

Hichilema encouraged Kambwili to continue being strong in the face of police brutality. "Thank you my brother for being strong, it's good to know that you have not been broken and please continue being strong. On the issue of unity, the people of Zambia must understand that we have always succeeded when we have worked together. This is another time that we need to work together. Absolutely necessary that all well meaning Zambians work together and not say 'this is honourable Kambwili's matter, I am not affected', no. What happens to CK, what happens to someone else today, it is a matter of time, it will happen to you, so we must be each others' keeper. And we must not buy this story that the north cannot work with the south, that's so untrue. That the east cannot work with the south, that's so untrue. We, north, east, west, south have always worked together," said Hichilema. And Kambwili said it was evil for ministers to grant themselves 100 per cent increments when civil


servants were poorly paid. "One of the issues that we have discussed is the issue of the K32,000 that the ministers have given themselves, way above the nine per cent that was given to all civil servants. You remember that a month or two ago, there was an uproar on government and the President increasing their salaries. They increased by nine per cent which was given to all civil servants, but again, they have given themselves another K32,000 plus another K9,000 in allowances for domestic servants, electricity and all that. So in total, they have added to their salaries K41,000 and I want to make this very clear that this K41,000 they have given themselves is outside the Presidential and Parliamentary Emoluments Act because this act, once they increase the salaries, they have to come to Parliament for approval and they have to be budgeted for. But this money they have given themselves is outside the budget, outside the law, it is illegal and they must pay back," Kambwili said. Meanwhile, Kambwili said as far as the opposition was concerned, President Lungu does not qualify to contest the 2021 elections. "We have had opinions from lawyers who matter in this country and you know that judges are appointed from among the lawyers. They have said he is not illegible, so how is he going to be eligible? Unless it is out of this world, unless it is on Jupiter or Mars. But if it is in Zambia, the truth of the matter is that the man does not qualify. And I was just surprised, you know I am becoming suspicious [because] yesterday Amos had a change of heart that 'the President is ready, whatever outcome', we are not ready ourselves. Us we are only ready for the fact that the man does not qualify, that's our position," said Kambwili.






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Why we deserve your vote



We are all part of the solution!

The National Democratic Congress NDC joins the rest of the world in commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence GBV which began on November 25 and ends on December 10.

A number of events have been lined across the country to commemorate this very important day.

As a party, we laud the various efforts that Government and other stakeholders are undertaking in fighting GBV. No wonder, we have encouraged all our party functionaries across the country to fully participate in this important occasion.

The 16 days of activism should cut across political lines because it is a growing social issue that needs to be fought by everyone.

Gender-Based Violence is defined as any physical, mental, social or economic abuse against a person because of that person's gender and it includes:

(a) Violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a person, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life;

(b) Actual or threatened physical, mental, social or economic abuse that occurs in a domestic relationship. Based on international reviews, it has been estimated that approximately one out of every three women globally is beaten, raped or otherwise abused during her lifetime (Heise, Ellsberg et al. 1999).

(c) Sexual violence e.g. Rape, defilement, incest and sexual harassment.

(d) Physical violence refers to physical harm or use of physical force against another person e.g. beating, kicking, slapping, and pouring hot liquid on a person, violence using weapons.

(e) Emotional/Violence refers to a pattern of humiliating conduct towards a person and includes insults, name calling including threats that cause emotional distress; being obsessively jealous, which constitute a serious invasion of the person's privacy, liberty, integrity, or security;

(f) Economic violence refers to unreasonably denying a victim, family member or dependent of financial resources they are entitled to by law and includes property grabbing;

(g) Harmful traditional practices such as child marriage, sexual cleansing, widow inheritance etc.

Statistics on GBV in the country are amazingly alarming. Sadly, figures on GBV keep on swelling. This is despite the many messages on the vice mounted on different platforms.

Gender-based violence affects us all. It destroys families, weakens the fabric of our society, and takes a heavy toll on our communities and our economy.

It is regrettable that hundreds of GBV victims have either lost their life's or have been left with permanent scars and injuries, thus incapacitating them from making earns meet. For instance, in the first quart of 2018, Zambia recorded 5,940 cases of GBV. These are figures promulgated by the Zambia Police service.

Over six thousand cases of GBV were recorded by police in the third quarter of 2018.

On average, Zambia records 13,092 cases of GBV every Nine months and 47 percent of women in Zambia have also experienced GBV.

We believe the number of GBV cases in Zambia is relatively high as compared to what the Zambia police service has promulgated. Most GBV cases are not captured either because citizens fail to report such cases to police off course due to a number of factors both traditional and other wise. We urge women, girls and men alike not to shun away but report perpetrators to law enforcement agencies.

We further encourage GBV victims not to withdraw violence cases from the police.

We further urge Government to increase funding to the Ministry of Gender so that it becomes more proactive. Lack of funding and transport is hindering staff in this Ministry from executing their work.

Government should also consider spreading the activities of the Ministry of Gender to all districts across the country.

We have noticed with dismay, that the Ministry of Gender is not present in all district administrative offices across Zambia.

The Ministry of General Education through the various civic education clubs in schools are also key players in fighting GBV.

Society should not look down on victims of GB victims need everyone's support.

As NDC, we have noticed though with regret that social media is being used as a platform to promote GBV. Social media should not be abused.

The ZICTA should work in tandem the police

service in fighting GBV.

Persons who splash pornographic images of women, children and boys being sexually molested should not be spared.

Equally, the media should vehemently highlight GBV issues. Mainstream media organizations should have specialized editorial staff writing on GBV issues. This to us, is one of the surest way of fighting and raising awareness on this subject.

We need development partners to equally plough in more funding towards the Ministry of Gender.

We would further like to commend the Zambia police Service Victims Support Unit VSU for its role in fighting GBV cases.

VSU is now a full-fledged department in the police service and officers under this wing have continued executing their duties with excellence and diligence.

We as NDC want to recommend that gender studies be included in the curriculum training of police officers in Zambia.

All stakeholders including the Defense and security wings should take a central role in fighting GBV. In fact, we propose that all line Ministries should have a Gender Focal Point person.

As NDC, we fully support maneuvers to stiffen and harmonizes the laws on GBV. There's need for the courts of law to impose stiffer punishments on GBV perpetrators so as to send a strong signal to would be perpetrators.

On Sunday November 2nd 2018, Gender Minister Victoria Phiri made striking revelations as part of efforts to fight GBV. She recommended that they should be no bail for perpetrators until court cases are fully exhausted.

We however disagree with what the Minister has recommended. The Minister and Technocrats at her department should engage in wider discussion on this sensitive subject.

However, we are calling for a change in mindset amongst Zambians in tackling GBV. The fight against GBV should not be left to the police alone. All players, political, Civil Society, traditional rulers, political players and the church should unite and fight GBV.

As a party, we are overwhelmed that more women have been appointed to top decision making positions.

Going forward, the NDC will also adopt more women in its party structures including adopting more women as parliamentarians and civic leaders.

By Abraham Kalito

Central African Cement Company Limited (CAC) has signed a financing agreement with CBMI Sinoma worth US\$480 million to finance the construction of a two million tonnes per annum cement grinding plant in Lusaka, the biggest ever in Zambia.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, ZCCM-IH chief executive officer Dr Pius Kasolo said the project exposes ZCCM-IH to the cyclical nature of the commodities market and diversifies their investment portfolio from the mining industry to reduce risk exposure.

In August, ZCCM-IH announced that it has signed

Central African Cement to become Zambia's biggest ever producer

a shareholders' agreement with China Machinery Construction Group Ltd, also known as SinoConst, for the development of a cement plant. The joint-venture project, called Central African Cement Ltd (CAC), initially saw ZCCM-IH holding 35 per cent of the shares in CAC, while SinoConst was to hold the remaining 65 per cent.

This followed President Edgar Lungu's launching of a US \$548 million cement plant project to be built in Ndola by the government and China's SinoConst last year.

"It is gratifying to witness the signing of the financing agreement contract between CBMI Sinoma and Central African Cement Company Limited (CAC). As you

know, this year, we signed the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract in July with CBMI SINOMA. So, today's event is a milestone in advancing the development of our cement plant project whose ground-breaking was done in July last year by President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu. The project

construction is now expected to commence in April next year, subsequent to the underlying financier completing the fund mobilization process. This process is anticipated to take about 90 days. As ZCCM-IH, we are eager to get the project underway, and the execution of the financing agreement is a clear signal of the imminence of the project. We are very

pleased to have made such progress on this cement plant, which will be the biggest in Zambia. As you may know, our portfolio is largely made up of copper mining and this exposes ZCCM-IH to the cyclical nature of the commodities market," Dr Kasolo said.

Dr Kasolo announced that ZCCM-IH has also increased its shareholding in CAC from the current 35 per cent to 49 per cent in a bid to increase its dividends.

"As such, for us, this project is an addition in diversifying our investment portfolio to reduce this risk exposure. We believe that not only will it add value to our company, but it will contribute to industrialising Zambia. ZCCM-IH currently holds 35 per cent shareholding in CAC, and will increase this to 49 per cent, with the remainder to be held by SINOCONST. Allow me to express gratitude for the support we have received from the government, without which, this project would not have gone ahead."

And CAC chairperson Willie Sweta said the project will also see the developing of the 5,000 tonnes per day (TPD) clinker lime, with 7.5 megawatts waste heat recovery.

"Chairman and your team, you are sincerely welcome! Your presence is indeed a demonstration of the importance and seriousness that CBMI has attached to this CAC project at hand, that involves the developing of the 5,000 tonnes per day (TPD) clinker lime, with 7.5 megawatts waste heat recovery (WHR); two million tonnes per annum (TPA) cement grinding plant; and 2X25MW captive thermal power plant project. The total cost of the project before adding interest and other financing cost is United States dollars 480 million (US \$480m). May I also thank Dr Kasolo, the CEO of the ZCCM-IH and his management team, for their presence and tireless effort that they have employed to assist CAC to reach this stage of the project. Kindly accept my sincere appreciation," said Sweta.

"The financing agreement we are executing this morning follows the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract that was signed on July 30, 2018, between CAC and CBMI, and it is for a total sum of US \$480 million to be procured by CBMI following the successful proposal that CBMI submitted to CAC pertaining to the provision of financing up to 85 per cent of the contract price of the EPC contract due on sellers credit basis (EPC+F) with the condition of the deferral of payment agreements by the CAC in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in the set financing agreement."



*P.O Box 50882
Plot No. 123
Kabulonga, Kudu Road
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Website: www.ctpd.org.zm*

Investing in children must be prioritized

The Zambian government is a states party to various international and regional treaties that pattern to the rights of children and this alone demonstrates its commitment towards addressing the wellbeing of children. These agreements include the African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child among others. Hence, as parliament debates the proposed 2019 national budget, key considerations must be made towards the sectors that affect directly or indirectly the rights and wellbeing of children as they are a vital part of our society and essentially our greatest asset who need to be invested in.

The proposed 2019 national budget allocations to the key sectors that affect children are not sufficient to meet the requirements of child wellbeing. In 2000, the African Union countries met in Abuja to discuss health matters and pledged to allocate at least 15% of the total annual budget allocations to health under what is called the Abuja declaration. On the other hand, the Dakar Framework on Education for All sets a target of not less than 20% of the total budget allocation towards education. It is, however, noted that although the annual budget in Zambia has more than tripled over the past eight years from K27.7 billion in 2012 to K86.8 billion proposed for the year 2019, adherence to both the Abuja declaration and the Dakar Framework has not been observed.

Over ten years down the line since a pledge was made under the Abuja declaration, still allocation to health as a percentage of the total budget in Zambia has averaged 8 percent while allocation to education has only averaged 16 percent. It is sad that in the National budgeting process, there have been some gaps in terms of adhering to or meeting the internationally and regionally agreed minimum budget allocations towards these critical social sectors that directly affect children. The 2019 budget is not only rigid to achieve the required expenditure on both health and

education but also it is a step back. For instance, in 2018, the government had allocated 16.1 percent of the total national budget to education, and Parliament eventually approved 17.3 percent, and allocated 9.5 percent of the budget to health. But in the 2019 national budget, government has reduced allocations as a share of the total national budget to both the sectors. Education has been reduced to only 15.3 percent while health has reduced to 9.3 percent of the entire 2019 budget.

Furthermore, social cash transfer in the 2019 national budget was reduced by 3 percent in allocation of the total budget. This must not be the case because as the total budget size increases, allocations to the social cash transfer should also increase. These are funds that directly affect the poor especially those in the rural areas where poverty levels are as high as 70 percent and thus will largely contribute to worsening their lives and that of their children.

It is very important that government spending is structured in ways that contribute to the survival and development of children as this is a critical factor in preparing for a developed and sustainable future for the country. It is also important that issues patterning to the welfare of children are considered a priority because children are not second-class citizens. Investment in infrastructure must address the needs of children through expenditure such as building more primary schools and clinics and health posts in areas that do not have adequate infrastructure.

There is need for government to focus more on investment in children particularly in the education and health sector. Doing so shall make for reaching major milestones that are necessary for the achievement of the Seventh National Development Plan whose goal is not to leave anyone behind. It is also ideal that enough funds are allocated towards the welfare of children. This is because it is important for the development of children who are at a very formative stage in their lives.

If we did not have some cold drinking water to calm her down, former chiefs and traditional affairs minister Berina Susan Kawandami would have turned our newsroom upside down, because she was super angry with us as she stormed our offices with guns blazing!

Although it was shockingly misdirected at us, we understood her anger and we accepted to provide a listening ear for her to vent out. A day earlier, we had published a story to the effect that Ms Kawandami, together with her fellow former ministers, owed government amounts totalling K253,993.79 for furniture, which the State sold to them on offer in 2016 and 2017.

It turned out that Ms. Kawandami, former Gender deputy minister Dorothy Kazunga and several other ex-ministers and ministers named in the story had actually paid for the furniture in question, and they have proof of payment. In simple, modern terms, this was fake news!

Now, this news story was not a product of a News Diggers! investigation. The list of ministers and ex-ministers, who were accused of owing government, was provided by Works and Supply Permanent Secretary Agnes Musunga to the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) last Friday, when the Ministry controlling officer was summoned to explain accountability

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26 0965815078/0977708285
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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Kawandami a victim of govt's fake news, sacrificed by crooks

queries cited in the Auditor General's Report.

What this means is that when the auditors went to audit Works and Supply, they found that the money in question was not recorded on the ministry books, and the controlling officers gave an excuse that these former ministers had not paid the furniture money.

"I wish to acknowledge the audit findings regarding the above matter, the balance of the 13 transactions amounting to K253,994 is still not collected. You may wish to take cognizant that the affected officers are either serving or are former leaders. Enquiries were made to National Assembly and the Ministry of Finance to check if amounts in question

were recovered from gratuities. The findings were that this was never done. With authorization from Secretary to the Cabinet, the Ministry wrote to the affected officers demanding payment," Musunga told the Parliamentary Committee.

There was no way we would have known that the Permanent Secretary was feeding Parliament with lies. These are high-level government deliberations and procedures where one would expect that all correspondence handed to the lawmakers is checked and double-checked by technocrats as well as supervisors. But Madam Musunga went ahead and produced false information before the Committee. Why?

As if that was not

enough, we are told now that the ministers, who were accused of owing, actually provided proof to this very Permanent Secretary showing that they settled the debt, and the Permanent Secretary wrote back, acknowledging receipt. But somehow, this controlling officer had no other explanation for the missing balance of the money and she went to pretend like she doesn't know anything.

"I hereby acknowledge receipt of payment on Receipt number 6995240 of 26th September, 2016, amounting to K7,858.25 being proof of payment for the furniture that was offered to you in 2016. We have amended the records to indicate that you do not owe government any money for the above

sell," acknowledged Musunga in her letter to Kawandami.

Surely, Kawandami had the right to be very annoyed because it is not everybody who serves in government who is a crook. Some people desire to serve their country and leave the system without any scandals, especially such queries that are related to theft or corruption.

Kawandami feels this failure of accountability goes to show the low calibre of the officers who are responsible for finance management in these ministries, but we think more than that. It actually gives the impression that this money is not in the government coffers because it was chewed by those who received it.

This is how innocent

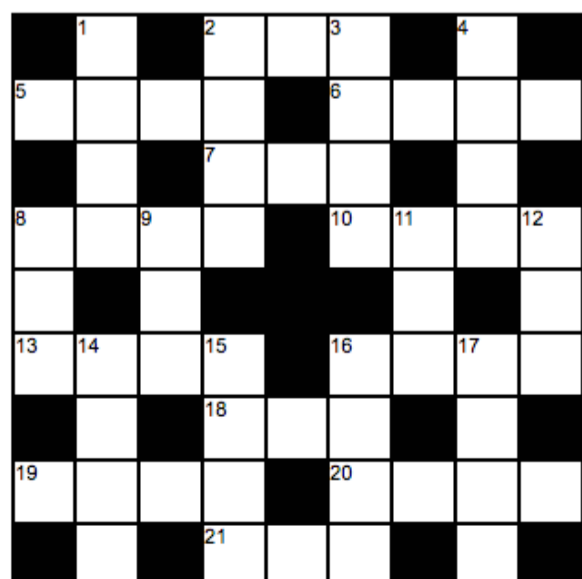
people go to jail while fraudsters who control government resources remain in the corridors of power. Kawandami is lucky because she found the receipt, and she had the means to drive to News Diggers! and get her name cleared. She is also a top official in the ruling Patriotic Front, so she could easily walk into the minister's office at Works and Supply to express her displeasure, as the matter dies down.

But imagine if this was an ordinary ex-civil servant who was retired 'in national interest', is no longer in good terms with the government of the day, and lost the receipt, which was the only proof that he or she paid the money. This woman would have been condemned in the eyes of the public and the courts, while the culprits who chewed her money look like heroes.

This is beyond unfairness, it is incompetence of the highest order, which must be condemned with the ridicule it deserves. As supervisors, Madam Musunga and her minister must be ashamed for, first of all, lying to Parliament, and for defaming the character of innocent people.

We now demand, and it is only fair, that the ministry checks its records properly so that they can give the media factual news of who truly owes the government. We know some are still in Cabinet and those are the crooks we must name and shame!

Crossword puzzle 246



"Human nature is like water. It takes the shape of its container."
- Wallace Stevens

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Respectful title 5. Put your hands together 6. Desertlike 7. Writing fluid 8. Expanse 10. Snakelike fish 13. Walk in water 16. Nursery furniture 18. Tire filler 19. Speak unclearly 20. Tiny particle 21. "___ de plume" | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gymnastic feat 2. Whirl 3. Gather up grass clippings 4. A rotary device 8. Had seen 9. Help 11. Unit of corn 12. Cry uncontrollably 14. Friend in war 15. Make money from work 16. Jam 17. Object of worship |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 245



Reader's feedback

EU's target to create 10m African jobs with €40bn investment

ND OPINION: RTSA, ZRA incompetence as viewed by Mushimba

Editor,
"Another fundraising venture to milk even the bone marrow from citizens!" -

Julius Mayambo

"They always come up with sophisticated ideas to make it look like they mean well, but in actual sense, all they're after is to milk money from the already overtaxed Zambian." - Mooto B. Tembo

"In summary, Mushimba and friends are just thieving, lying nincompoops! This guy is a disgrace to education and youthfulness." - Victor Chansa

"The day these politicians become subject to the laws and instructions they pass, that will be the day sensible decisions will ever come out from them. See how they quickly become a voice for the voiceless once they get ejected from their supposed thrones of immunity? For now, we shall continue on this path with unrealistic speed cameras because those who ride on government vehicles can cruise all they want." - Mumba Mubanga

"RFID in number plates?? We don't even have that technology in Australia. What the police here in Australia have are camera scanners, which can read the numbers at a distance and letters of a number plate and check instantly if the car is registered, stolen, driver has outstanding warrants for arrest or if the plates do not match vehicles. The only way RFID can work is within 5-10 metre range. So, are the police saying they will go around checking everyone's properties just to scan for stolen cars by number plates?" - Scott Davis

Editor,
"This is welcome news in as far as job creation is concerned. Contrast this with the millions of dollars that China is pumping into Africa." - Mike Phiri

"Good news! European companies have standards; imagine KCM being run by European company..." - Moses Peyala

"Donors love grandstanding numbers. They must declare what percentage is going back to EU for 'technical' assistance." - Colin L Phiri

"Grants are what has been killing our thinking capacity. Why can't we create employment ourselves? They will start telling us how to do certain things after that." - Henry Chikundula Mwape



Police's arrest of Mwashingwele for pulling down Sampa's billboard

Dear Editor,
"Why did they put a billboard in a different jurisdiction? That is foolish!" - Moidah Hamunali

"Why put a stupid board in someone's house? Why didn't he put it in Matero or his new office?" - Shepherd Shadunka

"There was an outcry from the councils over the billboards across the country; now, the MP from the opposition to be arrested, it's very unfortunate and sad. Indeed, very retrogressive to our democracy." - Francis Mashowo

"Ba Mayor, what's wrong with you?" - Silvanho Senzeni Twaambo

"Who paid for the billboard? When the same LCC is ever late in releasing salaries for their workforce. Take it down, it's not productive!" - Benson Malenga

"The case of when opposition has no real agenda of existence, hence resorting to provocation; a lawmaker turned into a law enforcer. Ba Sampa, naimwe, don't overstep your boundaries; Lusaka has so much work to be done for you to be

staggering into Central Province." - Phillip C. Nsiku

"Two wrongs do not solve anything. Sampa putting billboard in another district was very wrong and MP bringing down is also wrong. Therefore, MPs should have used Chibombo Council or

court to bring down. Let both be dealt with by the law." - Yolani Banda

"I think she would have used the right procedures because according to her explanation, she said the billboard is in Central Province instead of Lusaka where Miles is a mayor." - Pathias Munsaka

Amos on Lungu not being bothered about Friday's eligibility ruling

Editor,
"How can he be bothered when he already knows the outcome?" - Nchimunya Mazuba

"Is this the same Amos who knew in advance the ConCourt ruling on ministers staying on despite Parliament being dissolved? Ba Amos, who do you think has forgotten when your President threatened of 'chaos' if the judges became 'adventurous' by going the Kenya way?" - Martin Nyanjagha

"How would he be bothered whilst he already knows the outcome? He already

intimidated the judges; Amos, you expected the judges to treat this case fairly?" - Blessing's Kaswende Fungulwe

"He already knows the outcome; Zambian judges can't be trusted anymore." - Yule John

"He already knows the outcome. Our Judiciary works with money and government of the day." - Nancy Banda

"This issue is undebatable. The Constitution does not allow him, unless they doctor it." - Bernard Zuze

By Mirriam Chabala

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says if those being demonised by Chishimba Kambwili wanted to politics, they could accuse him of being rich because his children make money by posting pornographic pictures on the internet.

And Phiri has advised all those being accused of corruption by Kambwili to take the matters to court so that the NDC leader can prove his accusations against them.

Commenting on the recent incident where Kambwili recorded a conversation with Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampanyo, Phiri charged that the NDC leader's politics were about bitterness and destroying families.

"Honourable Kambwili has a habit of recording people, this is not the first time we have heard him recording somebody. But the people who are making him behave the way he's behaving, its those people who entertain

Mumbi Phiri turns heat on Kambwili

him when he calls them. Honourable Kambwili is on a route of destruction, he's not only trying to destroy individuals but he's also after destroying families. A very good example is myself, why should he go to a television station and start talking about Mumbi Phiri with no proof that I am a drug addict? I have been waiting for him to bring DEC. As if that is not enough, honourable Kambwili knows that the place which he's claiming that it's the Chinese who bought for me, he has been there before, he has been to my house," Phiri said.

"Honestly, how can a normal person go on television and start saying 'honourable Davies Mwila's children only reach grade nine? The child he was talking about has a disability, it's not a choice of honourable Davies Mwila or his wife, it's the wish of God that that child was born like that. A normal person knows that any person can suffer an accident at any time and become lame. So honourable Kambwili's politics is not just about fighting us his fellow politicians, he's bringing our families in."

Phiri said even the people Kambwili was attacking knew about the skeletons in

his closet but they were too civil to bring them into their political debates.

"But him has forgotten... the English say 'don't throw stones if you live in a glass house', he has forgotten that we also know, even if he claims that he has money and he pays £13,000 for his children every month. What type of children are they? The children who the whole Zambia has seen sending nude pictures on internet. How can he feel if we start talking about his children?" she asked.

"If we were as dull as he is, when he was boasting to say 'I can go to England for

breakfast and come back to Zambia and have supper', we can say, because his children are sending those porn pictures we saw on internet, he can afford because they are giving him that money. So what I have always said is abaletumpika Kambwili, it's those people who when he tells them 'you are a thief', they are watching. Me I have written to him through my lawyers, my lawyers wrote to him on Friday and he's been given five days ultimatum to apologise and retract what he said. Failure to which, I am taking him to the High Court. Others may ignore him but if a lie is repeated,

people slowly accept it as the truth."

Phiri, who has since sued the Roan PF member of parliament for defamation, said it was ridiculous for Kambwili to accuse her of corruption when she had worked so hard for everything she owned.

"He claims to have been buying toilet tissue for me, but me I was living in my personal house in Suningdale. He was coming to the farm where am staying, from the time we were together in Parliament. So how can he claim that my house was built by the Chinese when he knows very well that I was a member pf parliament from 2006 to 2011. At the end of that, I was paid gratuity, which I could use to do anything. He also knows very well that I went into diplomatic service. When I was Zambian High Commissioner [to Kenya], I had two salaries. I had a Zambian salary of over K7,000 and I was getting an allowance of over \$10,000 plus. When I came back from diplomatic service, I never came back with cars because I believe in building. So honourable Kambwili just wants to destroy families with his false accusations," she said.

"I don't want a situation where if I dropped dead today, my children and grandchildren will never be able to move freely. I am a public figure and people would always point to my grandchildren saying 'their grandmother was corrupt, the house she lived in aah. So for me, I have worked hard and I will not allow anybody to destroy my name, especially not by a person who claims to be rich and yet he came to Parliament with no house. He has built through Parliament, me I came to Parliament while living in my own house."

And Phiri encouraged others who had been accused of corruption by Kambwili to sue him.

"So I am encouraging all those he's accusing [of corruption], take him to court so that he can prove himself. Don't ignore him because his destruction is not just targeting us the politicians, he wants to destroy our families," said Phiri.

"Kambwili alayumfwa (he boasts), and yet we have his child's nakedness on internet. If it was another person's child who did that nga tatanwa na menshi (that person would not have been drinking water). All of us we have pictures of that child but we cannot go and start reposting them even though she posted them on her own. But him because he doesn't think, he can even attack his friends' children, destroying families. This is uncalled for."

Kampanyo vows to curtail social media abuse

By Mukosha Funga

We are not going to blink until ZICTA and police take charge and clamp down on social media abuse, says Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampanyo.

And Kampanyo has warned that all police officers involved in spreading falsehoods will be disciplined.

Meanwhile, newly-sworn in Zambia Correctional Facilities Commissioner General Dr Chisela Chileshe has promised to improve inmates' living conditions by upgrading their diets and infrastructure.

Speaking to journalists at State House yesterday, Kampanyo warned that government would soon clamp down on social media abuse because ZICTA and police had the required technology to do so.

"I also want to share with you, our colleagues from the media, the concern that we have with regards to misuse of social media platforms and the people that have taken to social media for peddling falsehoods and I think we are going to start taking drastic measures and actions that will ensure that the level of misuse of social media is brought down," Kampanyo said.

"People should not get away with these mischievous activities. It is time he started holding people accountable, we have systems in place that can identify someone who concocts a falsehood and posts it and the laws are there for such kind of perpetrators. So what we are saying is that it is time



to send a clear message by ensuring that these perpetrators are brought to book and others probably can learn from that."

And Kampanyo warned that all police officers involved in spreading falsehoods would be disciplined.

"What is worse, for the Ministry of Home Affairs, is to see people going as far as pronouncing changes in the police service. That has got potential to undermine a law enforcement institution such as ours and my appeal to the officers is to avoid taking some of the falsehoods that are being peddled on social media and for them participating in some of the falsehoods because we shall start disciplining officers as well. So my appeal is for the police to step up, working with ZICTA, to ensure that some of these activities are curtailed and we are not going to blink until we see

that these two institutions take charge of the situation," said Kampanyo.

Meanwhile, Dr Chileshe promised to improve inmates' living conditions by upgrading their diets and infrastructure.

"My predecessor Percy Chato laid a foundation for the works that we have started and also the President emphasized that inmates are human beings and in our mission statement, it clearly states that we must provide humane facilities and conditions for the inmates that come in our facilities. We can only do so if we improve on the infrastructure, which within the government system we are able to improve. The numbers are big, there are over 21,600 inmates but that is a number that can, with a hardworking team, make sure that they live in a good environment. And also invest in agriculture

and industry. As a starting point, the command has already strategise that we separate the farms and the industries so that the two will be competing entities. And we can provide desks and any kind of furniture to the whole country because we have cheap labour. All we need is to improve on the equipment. On the farms, we have land and I think government has given us a boost. As I am talking to you now, the World Bank has given us US\$4.6 million and we have four centres where we are developing irrigation. You know the rains are scarce now and so we need to improve on our agriculture and more so, we will not mainly depend on the production of maize but we want to go into cash crops as well as livestock so that we are able to grow fish and sell and give the inmates so that they are able to feed. I don't believe that an inmate

can fail to eat cabbage, let alone tomatoes or eggs, we are able to do what we can. At the end of it all, we want to see a service that can contribute to the Treasury," said Dr Chileshe.

"Diet has been a challenge and we know that we have so many inmates with adult malnutrition but like I said, we need to improve on the feeding and we can only do so when we work as a team because it is not an individual effort and we will strive to ensure that we are able to improve the conditions of those, not only HIV, but any kind of infection. They also need entertainment facilities and so on. But we have environments where an inmate cannot even stretch and so it is a mammoth task that I have been given but I have a team that is formidable and we are going to do the best within the limits that we have."

Zambia's electricity demand will triple by 2030 – PMRC

By Abraham Kalito

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) has revealed that Zambia's electricity demand will double by 2020 and triple in 2030 due to an increased population.

And PMRC has observed that government requires private-sector investment into the energy sector to meet rising demand in the country.

Speaking when he launched PMRC's research paper in Lusaka, Wednesday, PMRC lead researcher Akabondo Kabechani revealed that Zambia's electricity demand will double by 2020 and triple 10 years after that due to an increased population, among others.

"Economic transformation over the last 25 years that has seen national income more than triple and the country reclassified as middle-income status. Due to poor rains in 2015-16, the country experienced severe load shedding, which has been found to have caused economic losses of equivalent to 20 per cent of GDP. Underlying problems of dependency on hydropower and limited capacity remain and will continue to threaten economic growth. Rising demand with an average rate of more than 3 per cent between 2010 and 2017. Peak demand grew from 1,575MW (2010) to 2,300MW in 2017, largely driven by Zambia's mining sector. Research shows that consumption forecast projections rising to 16,000GWh by 2020 and 26,000GWh by 2030, while high growth projections are 24,000GWh and 47,000GWh respectively," Kabechani said.

"The government has successfully stabilised the country's energy position since 2016. However, Zambia cannot afford to be complacent. Demand for electricity will only grow, driven by domestic consumption as population, income and electrification levels rise and underpinned by economic growth: this paper forecasts that demand will likely double, and may even triple, by 2030."

And the research findings showed that government requires private-sector investment in the energy sector to meet rising demand Zambia.

"Zambia is faced with the challenge to meet rising demand for electricity as the economy, population and electrification continue to grow. Load shedding in 2015-16 demonstrated the enormity of Zambia's

economic losses, which amounted to 20 per cent of GDP. Therefore, government needs to look to increased investment in Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to develop energy capacity. This approach offers the opportunity to meet increased demand in a way that protects fiscal spending and, ultimately, promotes long-term economic growth. IPPs offer a sustainable route to increased energy capacity across sub-Saharan Africa, where public and utility financing has traditionally been the largest source of investment in power generation," Kabechani said. He, however, said government is struggling to attract investment in the energy sector because of its high debt position, below-cost tariffs and a cumbersome regulatory framework and procurement processes.

"Moreover, the country's debt position has limited the scope for the government to increase capacity through public and utility investment as it has done traditionally. It is instead imperative that the government look to private-sector investment to meet Zambia's energy generation needs. As noted in the 7NDP, there is widespread agreement that Zambia has plentiful resources for electricity generation, including hydropower, solar, biomass, geothermal and coal. The challenge is getting investment in power plants that can convert these resources into useful electricity," Kabechani added. "Zambia has faced significant challenges in attracting IPP investment for several reasons, including below-cost tariffs, its regulatory framework and procurement processes, all of which

need to be addressed if Zambia is to better exploit the opportunities that IPPs provide. Establish a central planning function, most obviously in the Ministry of Energy, to develop a strategic vision and delivery plan for increasing and diversifying power capacity in the country through investment in IPPs."

He recommended that government develop the governance of the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) to improve its independence and effectiveness in serving investor and consumer interests.

"Establish a central procurement function to sit alongside the planning function and secure investment in line with the government's strategic vision. The procurement process is lengthy and opaque, which has discouraged

investment across the board and created an environment in which deals are made through unsolicited direct negotiations. Improve the credit-worthiness of Zesco: as the sole off-taker, it is essential that investors have confidence that the organization can purchase the energy generated, which can be improved through increased financial transparency and providing more secure guarantees. Develop the governance of the ERB to improve its independence and, therefore, its effectiveness in serving investor and consumer interests. The government should consider having the board, rather than the Minister agree its terms of service and establishing an appeals tribunal, as well as updating legislation to secure its independence," advised Kabechani.

YALI urges stakeholders to respect impending Lungu's eligibility ruling

By Zondiwe Mbeve

YALI president Andrew Ntewewe has called on all parties to respect the Constitutional Court's ruling in President Edgar Lungu's eligibility case, failure to which the institution will institute contempt proceedings against anyone who will attack judges.

And Ntewewe says YALI finds the ceaseless attacks being showered at the ConCourt shameful and

unacceptable.

In a statement, Wednesday, Ntewewe stated that YALI was very concerned with the ceaseless attacks being showered at the Constitutional Court, a few days before the judgement regarding President Lungu's eligibility to contest the 2021 general election.

"We, at YALI, are very concerned with the incessant attacks

being showered at the Constitutional Court a few days preceding a crucial judgement regarding the 2021 eligibility case of His Excellency, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu on December 7, 2018. We have noted with great disappointment sentiments attributed to supposedly eminent people who have even reached the point of demanding the

abolishment of the Constitutional Court. YALI wishes to be very clear and put on record that we find such utterances very shameful and unacceptable!" Ntewewe stated.

He reminded citizens that they all had a responsibility to protect the integrity and sanctity of the Judiciary.

"We once again want to recapitulate, that as a democracy, we strongly believe in our institutions of governance. We would like once again to remind citizens that all of us have a responsibility to protect the integrity and sanctity of the Judiciary. Judicial independence is a very important pillar in a democratic society. This is because as a foundation for democracy, it is the source of perennial vitality and the beacon of hope for the nourishment and growth of democracy," he added. Ntewewe called on all

parties in President Lungu's eligibility case to respect the imminent ruling, warning that if the incessant attacks on the court continue, even after the judgement, YALI will institute contempt proceedings.

"We, therefore, call on all parties in this eligibility case, to exercise maximum restraint, maturity and sobriety. We want to remind all parties that they went to court because they believed in the first place in no uncertain terms that the court is a fountain of justice. So, whatever the outcome, it must be respected, knowing that only one party can be a victor. If the incessant attacks continue, even after the judgement, we will not hesitate to be the ones that complain to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with a view to institute contempt proceedings," warned Ntewewe.

Lafarge CEO resigns

By Stuart Lisulo

Lafarge Zambia Plc has announced the resignation of managing director Vincent Bouckaert with immediate effect.

In a statement issued via sponsoring broker, Stockbrokers Zambia Limited, Bouckaert resigned from his position effective December 5, 2018, with chief financial officer Raphael Chipoma replacing him in an acting capacity.

"In accordance with Section

3.59 of the Lusaka Securities Exchange Listings requirements, the board of directors of Lafarge Zambia Plc wishes to announce the departure of the managing director and CEO, Mr. Vincent Bouckaert from Lafarge Zambia Plc with effect from 5th December, 2018," read the statement released, Wednesday.

"In this regard, the board also wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. Raphael

Chipoma, the CFO, as acting managing director and CEO with effect from 5th December, 2018, until further notice. The board would like to thank Mr. Bouckaert for his service rendered to the company.

Bouckaert succeeded Frenchman, Emmanuel Rigaux, the former Lafarge managing director, who stepped down in August, 2016, after having served in that capacity since August, 2013.

A young woman who accused popular Nigerian Pastor Timothy Omotoso of rape - in a case that has captivated South Africa - has launched a foundation aimed at helping women and children who have been victims of sexual assault in "sacred spaces" like churches.

In October, Cheryl Zondi, 22, gave a graphic testimony of the alleged abuse, which she said started when she was 14 years old.

Her steady composure

Church sex abuse survivors group launched in S/Africa

and eloquence during her testimony and cross-examination by the defence lawyers won her the support of many women in the country. Ms Zondi is one of more

than 30 women who were allegedly raped by Mr Omotoso while they were members of his church in Port Elizabeth.

She told a press briefing in Johannesburg that

the foundation's motto was "turning pain into purpose".

It was going to run awareness campaigns on how families could best help abuse victims when

religion was involved, as such cases were even more complex, she said.

Ms Zondi was supported at the launch by the CRL Rights Commission, a constitutional

organisation that investigates bogus churches.

Mr Omotoso has pleaded not guilty to the charges of rape. The case will resume next year. **BBC**

Nigeria's secret service arrest 'fake first lady'

A woman who used various false identities to gain access to Nigeria's presidential complex to allegedly run business scams has been arrested.

The secret service said Amina Mohammed initially posed as Kogi state's first lady to gain entry to the presidential villa in the capital, Abuja. She then allegedly invited people to the villa making them believe it was at the invitation of the president's wife.

At a press briefing about the arrest, Ms Mohammed shouted: "It is a lie."

Peter Afunanya, a spokesman for Nigeria's domestic spy agency, known as the Department of State Security (DSS), told reporters the scandal took place while First Lady Aisha Buhari was out of the country in November 2017.

Wealthy businessman Alexander Chika Okafor, invited to the the presidential villa by Ms Mohammed, accused her of defrauding him of 150m naira (\$414,000, £323,000) over a property deal in the main city, Lagos, the secret service spokesman said.

"Investigation has shown that this unholy enterprise is not to the knowledge of the first lady," Mr Afunanya said.

Ms Mohammed "took advantage of the fact that personalities such as first ladies, ministers and certain categories of officials are not taken through rigorous protocols and security checks at the villa posts",

he added.

The BBC's Ishaq Khalid in Abuja says the security breach is shocking as the presidential complex, known as Aso Rock, is well guarded by the DSS and police officers.

All staff working there have to have passes, that include biometric data, and all visitors need to be signed in, he says.

In September, the DSS arrested one of the first lady's aides for allegedly raising funds under false pretences. He denies the allegations. **BBC**



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, sits with Harry O'Grady (R), 5, as they make chocolate truffles at a Christmas party at Kensington Palace in London on December 4, 2018 for families and children of deployed personnel from RAF Coningsby and RAF Marham serving in Cyprus. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge hosted a Christmas party for the families of deployed personnel from RAF Coningsby and RAF Marham serving in Cyprus. Prince William is Honorary Air Commandant of RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, which is home to Typhoon Sqns, who currently deploy to Cyprus in support of Op SHADER. RAF Marham have 31 Squadron, who are also contributing to OP SHADER.

First baby born via uterus transplanted from dead donor

In a medical first, a mother who received a uterus transplant from a dead donor gave birth to a healthy baby, researchers reported Wednesday.

The breakthrough operation, performed in September 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, shows that such transplants are feasible and could help thousands of women unable to have children due to uterine problems, according to a study published in *The Lancet*.

The baby girl was born in December 2017, the medical journal added.

Until recently, the only options available to women with so-called uterine infertility were adoption or the services of a surrogate mother. The first successful childbirth following uterine transplant from a living donor took place in 2014 in Sweden, and there have been 10 others since then.

But there are far more women in need of transplants than there are potential live donors, so doctors wanted to find out if the procedure could work using the uterus of a woman who had died.

Ten attempts were made -- in the United States, the Czech Republic, and Turkey -- before the success reported Wednesday.

Infertility affects 10 to 15 percent of couples.

Of this group, one in 500 women have problems with their uterus -- due, for example, to a malformation, hysterectomy, or infection -- that prevent them from becoming pregnant and carrying a child to term.

"Our results provide a proof-of-concept for a new option for women with uterine infertility," said Dani Ejzenberg, a doctor at the teaching hospital of the University of Sao Paulo.

He described the procedure as a "medical milestone".

"The number of people willing and committed to donate organs upon their own death are far larger than those of live donors, offering a much wider potential donor population," he said in a statement.

The 32-year-old recipient was born without a uterus as a result of a rare syndrome.

Four months before the transplant, she had in-vitro fertilisation resulting in eight fertilised eggs, which were preserved through freezing.

The donor was a 45-year-old woman who died from a stroke.

Her uterus was removed and transplanted in surgery that lasted more than ten hours.

- Proof of concept -

The surgical team had to connect the donor's uterus with the veins,

arteries, ligaments, and vaginal canal of the recipient.

To prevent her body from rejecting the new organ, the woman was given five different drugs, along with antimicrobials, anti-blood clotting treatments, and aspirin.

After five months, the uterus showed no sign of rejection, ultrasound scans were normal, and the woman was menstruating regularly.

The fertilised eggs were implanted after seven months. Ten days later, doctors delivered the good news: she was pregnant.

Besides a minor kidney infection -- treated with antibiotics -- during the 32nd week, the pregnancy was normal. After nearly 36 weeks a baby girl weighing 2.5 kilograms (about six pounds) was delivered via caesarean section.

Mother and baby left the hospital three days later. **AFP**

Jackie Chan's new book, *Never Grow Up*, features a very personal section about a "serious mistake" he made in 1999.

That was the year that Chan had an affair with Elaine Ng, resulting in a daughter, although he was married to Joan Lin. Chan wed the Taiwanese actress in 1982.

"When the news broke about an affair I'd had that resulted in a love child, the media frenzy was like a bomb going off," Chan said. "I wanted to phone Joan, but didn't know what to say. I wouldn't be able to explain this. It wasn't a mistake I could fix by saying, 'I'm sorry.'"

Chan, now 64, acknowledged that he "screwed up royally" and thought he and Lin would have to get a divorce. But his wife surprised him with her response when he called her from a faraway location just

Jackie Chan explains in new book how wife reacted to him having an affair that produced a child

after the story broke. She was calm when he asked her if she'd seen the newspapers.

"You don't need to explain," she told him. "I don't want you to hurt her, and I don't want her to hurt us. If you need me or our son to show up and stand by your side, we'll do that. I know you must be feeling awful now. Don't worry about me, I'm fine. You go deal with this."

He began crying and, when the call was over, he had a chat with his reflection in the mirror.

"You're a real bastard," Chan told himself. "All these years, you were so careful to

close yourself off from her, and she's completely open with you."

He had a realization. "I'd behaved abominably, and I'd let her down badly. I had to turn this around."

Chan went home a couple of days later and called the family's first ever meeting, during which he apologized both to his wife and his son, Jaycee, who's now 36, for his "unforgivable mistake."

"That short meeting was the only time the three of us talked about the subject (although I was the only one doing any talking)," he wrote. "It was never



mentioned again." The next day, Chan wrote, he changed his will to leave everything to Lin. "When I started to empathize with her, I came to respect her more and more. She

is a strong woman, stronger than I am in so many ways." In April, *People* reported that the international star's estranged daughter, Etta Ng, now a teenager, is homeless

and living under a bridge with her wife. "He is not my dad," she told Britain's *The Express*. "I have no feelings for him. He is my biological father but he is not in my life." **Yahoo**



AFP Forum
WPA POOL / Getty Images / AFP

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Queen Elizabeth II arrives to open the Queen Elizabeth II centre at CORAM yesterday in London, England - AFP



Hart confirms he's hosting the 2019 Academy Awards

After reports emerged that he was under consideration, Kevin Hart confirmed that he's hosting the 2019 Oscars with a post on Instagram Tuesday evening. The show is set to air on ABC on Feb. 24. Jimmy Kimmel hosted the show for the past two years, but previously said he will not be returning for a third year. Hart had previously expressed his desire to emcee the major TV event, revealing as much in a *Variety* cover story last year. "It would be something I would definitely do just to say I did it in my career," Hart told *Variety*. "It would be great to say I had that moment."

Hart's taking on the gig despite a packed schedule. The multi-

hyphenate most recently starred in the film "Night School" alongside Tiffany Haddish, which opened at number one at the box office when it debuted and marked the biggest comedy opening weekend of 2018.

In addition to numerous television and film projects he and his company, HartBeat Productions, currently have in development, Hart also currently has a first-look film deal with Universal Studios. Other projects include "The Next Level" and "Hart of the City" on Comedy Central, and shows like "Cold as Balls" and "What the Fit" on the LOL Network, Hart's streaming comedy platform that features his own content and that of other comedians. **Yahoo**



Hegerberg gets Ballon d'Or, but Norway star still set to snub World Cup

Ada Hegerberg's star status on the world stage was confirmed as she won the inaugural women's Ballon d'Or on Monday, and yet back home in Norway she also stands out for her ongoing absence from the national team ahead of the World Cup.

The 23-year-old aptly wore a gold dress as she picked up the inaugural prize at the ceremony in Paris, joining men's winner Luka Modric and best young men's player Kylian Mbappe on stage with her trophy.

She was voted for by a panel of journalists from around the world on the strength of her prolific form for French giants Lyon, with whom she has won three consecutive Champions League titles.

Back in Norway, meanwhile, there have been renewed calls for her to end her exile from the national team.

Hegerberg slammed the door shut on her international career in the wake of Norway's desperate showing at last year's European Championship in the Netherlands, when they finished bottom of their group and failed to score a single goal.

Without her, though, Norway fared better in World Cup qualifying, topping their group ahead of the Dutch, and they will go to next year's finals in France. Officially, however, the door is open for Hegerberg to return.

"Hopefully, Ada maybe changes her mind and maybe she can be a part of the national team in the future," Norway coach Martin Sjogren told AFP.

"As a national team coach, you always want the best players but you cannot focus on the ones who don't want to be a part of it."

The Norwegian Football Association duly congratulated Hegerberg for her award on Twitter, but Sjogren says he has no intention of contacting her. **AFP**

'I think Man Utd signed Alexis's brother!' - Arsenal legend Petit mocks Sanchez

Emmanuel Petit has accused Alexis Sanchez of going into hiding after receiving his big pay-day at Manchester United, jokingly suggesting Jose Mourinho signed his brother instead.

After a disappointing 2-2 draw at Southampton that has seen the Red Devils slip further behind in the race to finish in the top four, United will look to bounce back when they take on Arsenal at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

With the pressure already on Mourinho, defeat to Unai Emery's side, who were so impressive in their 4-2 win against Tottenham, would add further uncertainty over the Portuguese's position. And Petit, who won a Premier League and FA

Cup double with Arsenal in 1998, believes Alexis should take a large slice of the blame for United's failings in 2018.

"The manager is on the bench, so you need to show pride in your own performance when you are on the field and the first one who has gone

into hiding at United is Alexis Sanchez," Paddy Power ambassador Petit told Goal.

"He wanted to leave Arsenal because he was chasing the salary United could offer. Now he receives so much money and in nine months what has he done? Nothing.

I have not seen him. I think they signed his brother.

"I understand that players believe they deserve certain financial rewards when they reach a certain level, but what we have seen from Sanchez at United has not been acceptable." **Goal.com**

Serena, Nadal and Murray all confirmed for Australian Open

Serena Williams will make her return to the Australian Open for the first time since winning in 2017 when eight-weeks pregnant, it was confirmed Wednesday,

with virtually all the world's top 100 players due at Melbourne Park. That includes injury-prone Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray.

Williams returned from

giving birth to her first child to reach the 2018 Wimbledon and US Open finals, but suffered upset losses in both to leave her stuck on 23 major wins.

Australian Open

organisers said she was among the entries for the opening Grand Slam of the year as she attempts to equal Margaret Court's record of 24.

Her appearance will mark her first major since her controversial rant at an umpire during the US Open final loss to Naomi Osaka, which overshadowed the Japanese star's biggest ever win.

In the aftermath, Roger Federer said Williams "went too far".

"Serena Williams, currently ranked 16, will make her highly anticipated return to Melbourne for the first time since winning in 2017 when eight-weeks pregnant with baby Alexis Olympia," said tournament organiser Craig Tiley.

The evergreen Federer will be back to defend his title, along with long-time adversary Novak Djokovic. Caroline

Wozniacki defends the women's crown.

Organisers said the world's top 102 women and top 101 men have all confirmed they will be playing.

The only top-100 absentee from the women's draw is 74th-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland who recently announced her retirement.

"It's always special to see our defending champions -- Caroline had her first Grand Slam win here last year so will be keen to start 2019 on a high," said Tiley.

"And of course Roger Federer has special memories of Melbourne, having won here six times, something only Novak (Djokovic) and Roy Emerson have done in the past.

"I've been in touch with Rafa and he's back to full fitness after cutting his season short after Paris and can't wait to arrive in Australia," he added. **AFP**



Germany's Christopher Ruhr (C) dribble past Netherland's players during the field hockey group stage match between Germany and Netherland at the 2018 Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar yesterday - AFP

Nkana beats UD Songo, moves to face Simba of Tanzania

By Alex Chilumbwe
Zambian super league teams in Continental Football recorded a flying start in their first legs in both Total CAF Champions league and CAF Confederations Cup encounters and the trend continued in the second leg yesterday after Zesco, Nkana, Green Buffaloes and Green Eagles stayed on top of their game.

Nkana FC Vs UD Songo

At home, Nkana kept it a red affair against the visitors as Beston Chambeshi's zealous players recorded a goal in the first half through Kelvin Mulenga Kampamba in the two additional minutes of the first half.

In the second half, Chambeshi withdrew Jacob Ngulube for their new signing Chisamba Lungu in the 71st minute. The Kalampa Boys held on to their one nil lead but things seemed quite tense in defence as they got into 5 minutes of additional time. Nkana won 1-0 in full time and 3-1 on aggregate. The Kitwe giants advance to the

next round of the league and will face Simba Sports Club of Tanzania.

Green Eagles Vs Young Buffaloes

Eagles were in action on Mavuso Stadium of Manzini in Eswatini and the Zambia National Service side had a very green first half. They scored their first goal in the 11th minute through Anos

Tembo who benefitted from midfielders' efforts in attacking from which he delivered a beautiful finish. With one striker on the scoresheet, Spencer Sautu doubled it in the 14th minute before the first goal dust could settle. It was seemingly a scoring competition between the two strikers as Sautu missed a good chance while Tembo

utilised his 28th minute opportunity, thereby recording a brace in the first half. At half time, Eagles eased at a 3-0 first half triumph.

As the second half got underway, the home team Young Buffaloes redeemed itself with a goal in the 50th minute. It was from a spot taken by Buffaloes' Dlamini Phiwa. In the 84th minute, Phiwa

proved problematic to the Eagles defence and scored a brace. In full time Eagles won 3-2.

Green Buffaloes Vs Al Merrikh

A tough one in Sudan's Juba stadium kicked off with hyped defending for both sides and little attacking. The two teams could not manage shots on target, let alone epic football action that would keep

goalkeepers on their toes. It was a goalless draw by half time.

The second half, played mostly on the centre of the field was characterised by perpetual fouls, numerous throws and wide shots. It was a goalless draw for the two sides in full time and the combatants maintained their 2 nil aggregate lead.

Players are not sabotaging my efforts - Mourinho



Jose Mourinho insists his Manchester United players are giving their maximum effort despite repeated criticism by him of their performances.

The 55-year-old United manager claimed any accusation his players were underperforming because they did not like him would be "dishonest".

Mourinho has been withering in his assessment of United's performances in their past two league matches, saying his players lacked "heart" after they were held 0-0 at home by Crystal Palace on November 24.

He then suggested there were not enough "mad dogs" in his team following last Saturday's 2-2 draw at Southampton.

None of United's players spoke to the media after the match at St Mary's Stadium.

Yet there have been reports of dressing room disharmony, with Mourinho reportedly comparing France midfielder Paul Pogba to a "virus" in an angry rant at Southampton.

Mourinho has declined to comment on the latest reports of a fall-out with Pogba, and would not even be drawn on whether he thought the midfielder had played poorly at Southampton. "Are you asking or saying? I am not going to analyse the performance individually," he said.

"The names I gave at Southampton were the names that I chose in a positive way who showed that desire, that fighting spirit, that anger, that pride." **AFP**

TP Mazembe will be tough to beat - Zesco

By Alex Chilumbwe
ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina says he cannot make promises ahead of a clash against Congolese side and African giants TP Mazembe in the next round of the CAF Champions league after beating Sonidep of Niger 5-1 on aggregate. The Zambian Super League 2018 defending champions coach noted that overly ambitious promises would be a huge disappointment if they are unmet when he faces TP Mazembe that has a notable number of Zambian players. In an interview with Goal

Diggers! Lwandamina admitted that TP Mazembe was by far a tougher and more experienced opponent compared to Sonidep adding that he will have to ensure that his boys give it their all. "I cannot make promises in regards to our next opponents TP Mazembe because they are tougher and more experienced than Sonidep. I would be too ambitious if I made any promises, my boys just need to work harder and be more focused. I cannot go there and do wonders, we are still doing pre-season so winning any game is only a bonus for the team," he said.

Lwandamina also said that his side should not be ruled out against Mazembe saying the odds would still go against the Congolese side based on the way they will play. "I still have confidence in the team and even though there are people considering us underdogs against Mazembe, odds can go against them if they fail to play well. We both have equal chances at the start of the game," Lwandamina said. The former Red Arrows coach revealed on the sidelines of the post match interview yesterday where he also explained his absence

from the Charity Shield. "I refused to take part in the Charity Shield Cup because we did not have pre-season training. Nothing was suspicious about it but just that," revealed Lwandamina. Meanwhile, Sonidep coach Hassan Barkire described ZESCO United as a great team and advised Lwandamina to fix his defence if he intends to keep soaring in the CAF Champions league. "It is a great side with a great midfield and striking force. Its weakness is the defence and it needs to be fixed if they are to go far in this league," said Barkire.



Neymar simulation difficult to defend, says Pele

Pele finds it difficult to defend Neymar from criticism over what is perceived as excessive simulation and has urged the Paris Saint-Germain striker to make the most of his ability.

Brazil superstar Neymar came under fire for his on-field theatrics at the World Cup, where the Selecao were beaten in the quarter-finals by Belgium.

Three-time World Cup winner Pele has spoken to his fellow Santos product about his actions, which he finds it tough to reconcile.

"It's difficult to defend Neymar for all the things he does besides playing football. I spoke with him and reminded him of his ability," he told Folha de Sao Paulo.

"He was unlucky because Brazil did not win the World Cup and he was singled out.

"I've been with him in Europe twice. We talked and I explained: 'The God of football gave you the gift. What you do complicates it.'"

Pele believes Neymar is a better player than his fellow PSG forward Kylian Mbappe, who won the Best Young Player award as France triumphed at Russia 2018.

Mbappe became the first teenager to score a World Cup double since Pele in 1958 and his strike in the final saw him match another feat achieved by the legendary Brazilian.

"People compare me with Mbappe and there are similarities, right? But he is already 19. He won the World Cup," said Pele, who was joined by Mbappe as the only teenagers to score in a World Cup final. *Goal.com*



AFP Forum
Jörg Schüller / Getty Images / AFP

Ilayda Acikgoez of Germany battles for the ball with Estee Cattoor of Belgium during the U15 Girl's international friendly match between Belgium and Germany at the National Football Centre yesterday in Tubize, Belgium.

NKANA BEATS UD SONGO 1-0

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambian super league teams in Continental Football recorded a flying start in their first legs in both Total CAF Champions league and CAF Confederations Cup

encounters and the trend continued in the second leg yesterday after Zesco, Nkana, Green Buffaloes and Green Eagles stayed on top of their game.

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