



German Embassy narrates how ministry forged bank statement to conceal stolen donor funds

THEFT BY GOV'T

Story page 2

ZNFU seeks to challenge import of GMOs

Story page 3

Court jails teacher for stealing batteries

By Sandra Mulenga

A desperate practising primary school teacher at Rusangu University has been sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labour by the Kitwe Magistrate Court for stealing Energizer batteries from Shoprite Checkers at

Mukuba Mall.

Alex Mwansa told Senior Resident Magistrate Mwansa Chibalo that he resorted to stealing three packs of batteries after he failed to raise K150 for his assignments.

Mwansa told the court that he was desperate to have his school assignments done on time and that he did not have money to use when working on them.

He explained that he stole the batteries with the aim of selling them to raise the money he needed.

To page 11



Kasempa UPND member of parliament Brenda Tambatamba confers with Women's Lobby executive director Juliet Chibuta - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chill Edgar, forcing yourself on people will invite revolution - Jonas Shakafuswa

Story page 11

Shelve your ambitions now that I'm standing in 2021, Lungu tells PF

Story page 3

Msiska justifies President's perks

By Mirriam Chabala

Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Roland Msiska has justified President Edgar Lungu's hiked salary and other allowances, saying the Head of State's conditions of service are "totally different".

He has, however, appealed to civil servants and Zambians at large to contribute

towards effecting government's austerity measures.

Meanwhile, Dr Msiska says government will save around US \$400 million (about K4.7 billion) every year following the decision to withdraw the motor vehicle replacement allowance for Cabinet ministers.

To page 5

Lungu's 1st term ends in 2021 - Makebi

Story page 4



By Zondiwe Mbewe

A letter has surfaced in which the German government is accusing the Zambian government, through the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, of forging a bank statement to illegally obtain about €3 million from the Development Co-operation account.

But when contacted, Local Government Permanent Secretary Amos Malupenga said he had not seen the letter in question, adding that it would be difficult for him to comment on a letter that was addressed to another ministry.

"It is difficult for me to comment if the letter is not addressed to us. I am not aware of that letter and if there were some issues, I am sure that they (Germany Embassy) would have written to us," said Malupenga when asked what he knew about the complaint from the donors.

According to the complaint letter dated September 25, 2017 and addressed to former Minister of Water Development and Sanitation Lloyd Kaziya, the Germans terminated the agreement and demanded a refund, which was paid.

German Ambassador to Zambia Achim Burkart stated in the said letter that the water and sanitation sector was one of the long-standing focal areas of the German-Zambian development co-operation.

He added that for financing investments in the sector, they had established two so-called 'basket mechanisms'

Germany exposes forgery in €3m fund for Zambia's water sector

which were managed by the Zambian government. Ambassador Burkart disclosed that in order to cover up an illegal withdrawal from the urban basket in 2016, Ministry of Local Government and Housing forged a bank statement, and as a consequence, the German Federal Government terminated the urban basket and about €3 million was returned to its budget.

"As Chairman of the water cooperation partners, I wish to refer to our open discussion of April 6, 2017 concerning also some critical topics the water sector is currently facing. Please allow me to bring to your attention unfortunate incidents relating to our co-operation, which highly concern my government as your cooperating partner. As you know, the water and sanitation sector is one of the long-standing focal areas of the German-Zambian development co-operation. For financing investments in the sector, we have established two so-called 'basket mechanisms' which are managed by the Zambian government," read the letter.

"In order to cover up an illegal withdrawal from the urban basket in 2016, a bank statement was forged by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing. As a

consequence, the German Federal Government had to terminate the urban basket and an amount of about three million Euros was returned to the German federal budget." Ambassador Burkart had further stated that during bilateral negotiations in December, 2016, the German side expressed its concerns and its wish for a transparent management of the remaining financing basket for rural areas.

He stated that the two parties had agreed that an auditor would be appointed by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to undertake an audit on

the use of all the funds made available, but as of September last year, no audit report had been made available to the German government.

"During the bilateral negotiations in December 2016, the German side also expressed its concerns and its wish for a transparent and trustful management of the remaining financing basket for rural areas. Therefore, both sides agreed in the minutes of negotiations that in the case of irregularities, the German side reserves the right to undertake appropriate steps (e.g

termination of the program). We have also agreed that an auditor will be appointed by your ministry to undertake an audit on the use of all the funds made available under this basket," read the letter further.

Ambassador Burkart expressed his government's deep concern about the happenings.

"Unfortunately, it came to my attention that apparently, non eligible costs were made available under the rural basket fund and that the KfW, due to the violations of the Financing Agreement,

suspended disbursement with immediate effect. This had already been communicated to your permanent secretary," stated the letter.

"Honourable Minister, please allow me to express my government's deep concern about these above mentioned facts. It will be highly appreciated if you would give me an opportunity for a personal meeting in order to discuss further steps. In this conversation, I would also like to discuss another issue that is characterised as a reputation risk for the German federal government."

E-voucher has failed us, say Sinda farmers

By Zindikilani Banda

Sinda District Agricultural Committee chairperson Masauso Zulu says farmers in Sinda are regretting using the E-voucher system because it has failed them.

But District Agriculture Coordinating Officer Henry Mkulumoya has claimed that his district is "doing fine" on the government's E-voucher system of distributing farming inputs.

In an interview, Zulu wondered why some shops were selling fertilizer cheaply compared to Agro dealers who had hiked the price of the commodity. "This is making a farmer

gets six bags of fertilizer without seed instead of seven bags and seed on top. The farmers are not happy because our expectations from this E-voucher system has not helped us. Imagine shops, just cheap businessman, are selling fertilizer at about K250 but an Agro dealer is at K350, making farmers walk away with only six bags of fertilizer without seed, meaning farmers have to plant their local maize and when we compare with our colleagues in Petauke who are using the old system, they are getting seven bags of fertilizer and seed on top but here mukwasu nimabvuto cakuti phindu

ya (my friend, we have problems such that the purpose of) E-voucher tuiona lini yai (is not seen at all)," Zulu complained.

He further wondered why government was "very quiet" about the abuse of farmers by Agro dealers.

"This is a government programme but we are surprised that government is totally quiet over this. It's them who can speak for farmers to these Agro dealers but their quietness in the matter is quite disappointing such that as farmers, we regret joining E-voucher," said Zulu. "...most farmers regret depositing money for E-voucher system...the

current situation is quiet bad."

However, Mkulumoya, in an interview, claimed that farmers in Sinda were not complaining about the system of distributing farming inputs, and branded those doing so as "not genuine farmers".

"Let people not confuse my farmers. My farmers are not complaining and those that are complaining are not genuine farmers and are those that want to move out of the district. The government is doing fine and if one complains, then they are being unfair to the government. Let them not compare with other districts like Katete, Chipata and Petauke as these district use old system while Sinda and Vubwi are using the E voucher system," Mkulumoya said. He said the district had targeted 15,800 farmers under the E-voucher system in the 2018/2019 farming season and that 14,700 had already deposited their money for the inputs.

"...There is no Agro dealer who has quoted their own prices; all the Agro dealers are on the uniform price countrywide," said Mkulumoya.

Nchito World Limited Nchito Agents & Contractors Limited



BUY A PLOT, PAY SLOW

We are situated at Plot No. 294, Dedan Kimathi Road, Urban Street, next to ZCAS, Lusaka Email: nchitoworld@gmail.com Cell: 0978086330/ 0966869024



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 Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says there were some people within the Patriotic Front with evil intentions who wanted to supplant him. But President Lungu says he is available to contest the 2021 elections. President Lungu said this in welcoming the Constitutional Court's ruling which declared that he was currently serving his first term of office because the period which he served after Michael Sata's death, from January 2015 to September 2016, cannot be considered a full term.

Shelve your ambitions now, I am standing in 2021, Lungu tells PF

"A lot of people were worried about who their candidate will be in PF particularly and then we had speculators in the

party of course who were wanting to take over. It is not wrong to imagine that you can succeed, success is inevitable, obviously

there will come a time when I will have to leave. There are those colleagues I must say who were on tenterhooks, not knowing

if I will be available or not, some had good intentions to replace me, some had evil intentions to supplant me but this has now been

put to rest, we have an open space and the party has decided, at least at central committee level that I will be available, and I am available," President Lungu told journalists, Saturday, after a routine early morning run with over 150 staff from Barclays Bank at State Lodge. Meanwhile, President Lungu expressed concern with the number of youths dying from non-communicable diseases due to lack of exercise. He encouraged citizens to adopt a healthy lifestyle by introducing exercise in their daily routines.

FQM's Kalumbila Mine ploughs K440,000 back into community

Kalumbila Mine in North-Western Province, First Quantum Minerals' Trident Foundation has handed over newly-constructed infrastructure worth K440,000 to Jiundu Secondary School.

Speaking during the handover ceremony of the newly-constructed kitchen, dining hall, VIP toilets, fenced and freshly painted girls' dormitory, acting North-Western Provincial Education Officer Boniface Kanema said the donation had added value and given learners an environment conducive to learning.

Kanema, who was the guest-of-honour during the event, however, appealed to the community to encourage girl-children to go to school, adding: "when you educate a girl, you educate a nation."

Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML) Public Relations Coordinator Mirriam Harmon said: "As a commitment and contribution to national development through corporate social responsibility, we will ensure that we complement government efforts in developing communities by working hand-in-hand with the area traditional and community leaders, as well as the district administration stakeholders alike."

She appealed to the children to take education seriously. "I want to take this opportunity to urge the students, especially the girls, to take education seriously and not fall prey to social vices. It was saddening to see only a few girls qualifying for our

scholarship programme because the majority did not meet the entry criteria," Harmon observed.

The mine assisted Kisaasa Secondary School by constructing a three-classroom block, VIP toilets and three teachers' houses all fitted with solar system, among other schools in the area.

And Mubanga was moved to tears during the handover ceremony by Kalumbila Mineral-Trident Foundation to Jiundu Secondary School - **SUMA SYSTEMS.**



Kasempa District UPND Member of Parliament Brenda Tambatamba her party district chairperson Davison Wahuna when she visited the area on December 8, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ZNFU seeks Lungu's intervention on GMOs

By Stuart Lisulo and Sandra Mulenga

President Edgar Lungu must intervene to state government's position on the decision taken by the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) to allow Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into Zambia, says the ZNFU.

And the African Consumer Union (ACU) and the Zambia Consumers' Association (ZACA) have also rejected the NBA's approval that three distributors import genetically modified foodstuffs into the country.

In a statement, Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) president Jervis Zimba said the NBA's decision risks destroying the agriculture sector and the diversification agenda.

He said the government needed to make its position clear and indicate which direction the country was now taking over the genetically modified products.

This follows NBA's issuance of import permits to three companies, Thursday, namely Cold Chain, Horizon and Innscor, to import products that may contain GMOs.

"ZNFU is hence calling on the government to come clean on the matter and tell the nation its position on the GMOs. The Minister of Agriculture should also state which direction we are taking on this matter. In the same breath, we are also appealing for the intervention of the Head of State, President

Edgar Chagwa Lungu, over the GMO imports that are threatening to destroy our agriculture and our diversification agenda," Zimba stated in a press release issued, Friday.

"We are also seeking legal positions as regards this development. As partners in agriculture development, we are ready to meet government to table our position and fears on accepting the importation of foods containing or partially containing GMOs."

He explained that allowing GMOs into the local food chain would cause farmers to lose their access to lucrative overseas markets, and also reverse the gains made in diversifying their crop production.

"The fact that we are a non-GMO country has given us an edge over GMO crop-producing countries, which fact is known in all corners of the world. That we are non-GMO has resulted in our farmers investing heavily in diversification into fruits and vegetables such as Macadamia nuts, Avocados, blue berries, cashew nuts and the greens, most of which are grown organically. This is what has attracted huge international markets, such as the European Union (EU), to Zambia's crop," Zimba explained.

"The sheer ignorance exhibited, or the choice to be insensitive to our local farmers' plight and health implications on our people by

the NBA, deeply saddens us. We risk losing our non-GMO foods export niche on the international market, which has opened doors to Zambia's fruits and vegetables, once we are labelled a GMO country. All the investments farmers and the country have made over the years will count to nothing. The diversification agenda will collapse."

He also argued that the NBA has no jurisdiction to change Zambia's non-GMO status.

"ZNFU is appalled by the NBA decision to allow companies to import foods containing GMOs. From the outset, the NBA should realise that Zambia is a non-GMO country, and we have historically been so. NBA has no jurisdiction to change that," stated Zimba.

"The Authority does not have the capacity to police the importation of these GMOs, and they should be ready to face consequences when the country gets flooded by GMO foods."

And the ACU and ZACA have equally rejected the NBA's approval to allow GMO imports into the country.

In a joint press statement signed by both ACU vice president Muyunda Ililonga and the ZACA executive secretary, the associations alleged that GMOs are "poisonous" for human consumption, and that they should not be allowed into the country.

By *Miriam Chabala*
 Eastern Province Minister Makebi Zulu says President Edgar Lungu will be going for his second term of office in 2021 and not a third as purported by UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema. Conducting a post-eligibility case analysis, when he featured on the PF interactive forum, Sunday, Zulu who is also Malambo PF member of parliament said President Lungu

Lungu's first term will finish in 2021 - Makebi

was constitutionally eligible to stand as President in 2021. "I read something very disturbing where Mr Hakainde was saying

'we are studying this judgment, we are using our collective wisdom to study this judgment...' and then goes further to

say 'what we must learn is that no one is entitled to a third'. Then he goes further to say 'when any arm of government fails to

meet the aspirations of the people, there is what is called people power'... I wondered at that part where that 'people power' was

and what meaning it is supposed to give to the public. But when he says no one is entitled to a third term, I agree with him, no one is entitled to a third term and the constitution itself has defined what a term is. In Article 106 (1), it says 'a President shall be elected for a term of five years'. In the latter article, it defines what a term is, anything less than three years is not a term. So when he says 'no one is entitled to a third term', he's right because the constitution has defined what a term is," said Zulu.

"In this particular case, concerned citizens went to court, and they did put a question for the court to answer as to whether President Edgar Lungu would be entitled to stand in 2021 and the court has pronounced itself on this issue. The court having pronounced itself, it settles the matter, there is no Higher Court to appeal to, unless we are going to appeal to Heaven and the only way to do that is through prayer and possibly Jesus coming today and the world coming to end and there will not be an election in 2021. But as things stand, President Lungu is going to stand in 2021 because the Constitutional Court is the Court that decides with finality. There is an argument that was brought to my attention that the Constitutional Court did not mention President Lungu in the judgment so he must go for interpretation, but what is there to interpret? An interpretation only comes when there is an ambiguity in a matter."



Dangote industries Zambia limited.

Registration no:70044

Tpin:1001878318

Ndola factory

P.oBox 71082

SENIOR CHIEF CHIWALA AREA

PLOT 1676,NDOLA, ZAMBIA

TELEPHONE:+260971243770

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice serves to inform the general public that haulage and/or transportation of unauthorised cargo or passengers on any Dangote Cement Limited trucks without an approval from Dangote management is prohibited/or illegal.

Our trucks are specifically and strictly used for haulage and transportation of Dangote Cement and raw materials for plant use only and at no time should they be used as transport for carrying public goods.

The company shall not be liable for any loss, injury or death in whatsoever way which may arise from such unauthorised activities.

Please be informed further that the company reserves the right to cease and dispose - off such hauled cargo and prosecute perpetrators of such illegal activities in accordance with the Zambian Law.

By Mirriam Chabala

Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Roland Msiska has justified President Edgar Lungu's hiked salary and other allowances, saying the Head of State's conditions of service are "totally different". He has, however, appealed to civil servants and Zambians at large to contribute towards effecting government's austerity measures.

Meanwhile, Dr Msiska says government will save around US \$400 million (about K4.7 billion) every year following the decision to withdraw the motor vehicle replacement allowance for Cabinet ministers.

Speaking when he featured on a ZNBC programme dubbed "Plugged In", Thursday evening, Dr Msiska said the complexity of work for the Head of State was much more than

Msiska justifies Lungu's perks

anybody else's.

"A President's conditions of service are treated very different all over the world. So, to imagine that the President has been given a motor vehicle replacement allowance, how is that possible? It doesn't fit in the structure of doing these things, it doesn't fit in any system because the President's conditions of service are totally different from the rest of us, and the reasons are very straightforward. When you are looking at salaries, there are three things you must consider: the span of control, which means, what does this person look at? The impact of long decision and also the complexity of the decision

that particular individual makes," Dr Msiska said.

"For example, if the President makes a mistake, the impact vibrates through the entire system. If you look at the span of control, he's not only Head of State, he's also Commander-In-Chief, he's also now Chair of IDC (Industrial Development Corporation); if you are looking at the work he does. But he's also the Head of the Executive. And in reality, what is even more, he is the only one in the entire system that every Zambian who went to vote made an opinion about. The rest have all got separate constituencies that are much, much smaller than the President. So, I cannot

imagine that anybody in his normal sense of mind would want to ramp the conditions of service for the President." But when asked if civil servants and ordinary Zambians should continue "tightening their belts" in view of the ongoing austerity measures, he appealed to civil servants to contribute towards effecting the austerity measures.

"I was just being told that our growth this year will be about 3.9 per cent GDP. We hope that when we re-base, then next year we will have a further increase and then we should be able to sustain ourselves and manage ourselves. The point is that as a people, when we are confronted

with challenges like the ones we are facing now of fiscal distress, each one of us must contribute and the way to contribute is to understand what government is trying to do in terms of details. But also each one of us... for example...I mean even simple things; I am appealing now, to my civil servants like switching off the lights when they leave their offices; closing the taps when they leave their offices," Dr Msiska said.

"These are all making sure that we all contribute and to do that, we must all become patriotic. I seem to think that there are people in this country who think that when the place goes in flames, it will only go in flames for others. But in reality, we are all Zambians, we have only one country and we must fight to make sure that the economy is stable and we move forward."

And Dr Msiska explained that the removal of the second vehicle from Cabinet ministers' privileges would save government an estimated US \$400 million across the entire system annually.

"If you look at the way we had structured our conditions of service in the past, I would be getting K12,000...That's what's appearing on my payslip. But what it is not saying is that I am housed in a government house; the furniture has been paid for me and the car

is also being refuelled. So, these things that are outside the payroll, when you add them up, that's what shows you the real cost," Dr Msiska explained.

"That's why the salary review report of 2011 was very critical because for the first time, an analysis was done about what the distortions were in the system and how to compare that, they included even the benefits that were outside the payroll. So, it is a question of how we unfortunately designed these conditions of service. In fact, there is a concept in designs of conditions of service. There is a clean wage, and a clean wage just means that whatever you see on the payslip is all you have. There are no other things hidden somewhere and that's exactly where the salary review commission and the pay policy was actually moving, and that's where you actually save money."

He said the hidden expenditures on civil servants' pay were costing the government a lot of money.

"...if you leave it hidden, I will be telling you I am getting K12,000, but in reality, because of these other things that are hidden...and what the government did was to bring these things that are hidden onto the table and said: 'if we are going to really be serious about austerity measures, these are the things that are costing us money.' I can tell you, for example, as a matter of fact, we were looking at the entire cost for maintenance and insurance for the entire system, it's about K4 billion," said Dr Msiska.

"Now, if you think about that much money, even if you reduced it by half, that's a saving. I can give you the figure of looking at the overall system if we introduce all the measures that we are doing in relation to motor vehicles and the rest of it. It will be about US \$400 million, just for the entire system. But [when we have a detailed interview] on Sunday (yesterday), I will show you exactly how much it will cost. Then I will give you the cost of what a GX costs, what the maintenance cost for the GX is, because we have to consult with our colleagues. But we have the papers as far as this is concerned."



Women of Mpungu Ward of Kasempa District in North Western Province listen to Women's Lobby executive director Juliet Chibuta as she speaks to them on the importance of education to a girl child shortly after their area MP Brenda Tambatamba addressed them on December 8, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Govt must pay transporters to expedite inputs - Fungulwe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lufwanyama UPND member of parliament Leonard Fungulwe says farmers in his constituency, who deposited their down payment of K400 into their e-voucher system, have still not been supplied with their inputs. In an interview, Fungulwe revealed that even the transporters, who were contracted to deliver the inputs on behalf of government to the farmers, are nowhere to be seen due to the outstanding arrears owed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

He, therefore, appealed to have the transporters' arrears paid to enable speedy delivery of farming

inputs now that the rainy season is underway.

"I would like to appeal to the people of Lufwanyama, more especially the farmers, that this FISP (Farmer Input Support Programme) exercise has been a challenge all along and I received a call this morning concerning the same that farmers have deposited their monies into the accounts, [but] the transporters who were engaged to transport the same farming inputs to various stations are not on-site, except one out of eight transporters! Now, I am told these other transporters have a challenge, they are complaining to say the government hasn't

given them the down-payment so that they can carry out the exercise," Fungulwe explained.

He appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture to expedite payments to transporters to alleviate farmers' suffering.

"You know, we are in the rainy season, we are in December, and farmers should be busy planting. Now, we are saying the pro-poor government, where is pro-poor here when it is ignoring the welfare of the farmers? So, my appeal to the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, can the government pay these transporters so that they can start transporting the farming inputs to the farmers.

Actually, even yesterday, I was receiving calls from the affected farmers that: 'Honourable MP, can you talk on our behalf concerning FRA' you know this PF government, they say they buy [maize from farmers but] to me, buying is not there. They borrow and what they borrow, up to now, they have not paid back the farmers! So, farmers are affected, and they need to use the same money to purchase the farming inputs from this season, but now, the government is holding onto their monies. So, my appeal to FRA is that can they pay the farmers on time so that the farmers can plan well for the next season," appealed Fungulwe.



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote *Leaving no one behind*

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PF GOVT: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF 7NDP AND VISION 2030 (Part 2)

By Hon Davies Mwila

INTRODUCTION

As a sequel to the last article, we continue to discuss the exploits of the PF in the last 7 (seven) years 2011-2018. Since PF formed Government in 2011 under the late President Mr. Michael Sata (MHSRIP)—and currently under His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu – the national development agenda of the Patriotic Front (PF) has always been guided by three (03) strategic documents, namely: The Patriotic Front Manifesto(s); The National Development Plans (NDPs) The Vision 2030. 7NDP is underpinned by five strategic pillars namely: Economic Diversification and Job Creation; Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction; Enhancing Human Development; Environment for a Diversified and Inclusive Economy; Reducing Developmental Inequalities.

The following is snippet of the numerous ways the PF is on course in achieving the desired outcome under the first Pillar:

A DIVERSIFIED AND EXPORT-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE SECTOR LEVERAGED ON IMPROVING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY FROM FARM TO AGRO-PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

Just a few days ago, Zambia entered a higher dimension in the advancement of irrigation agriculture, when His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa commissioned the 61 million cubic metres water storage capacity Mwomboshi Dam and reservoir in Chisamba district, Central Province.

The Mwomboshi Dam project is an indelible impression of the Patriotic Front government's monumental progress in infrastructure development aimed at fostering national development through agriculture and agro-processing. Its construction of the dam is in fulfilment of the 7NDP and Patriotic Front manifesto on increasing management and utilisation of water resources for agricultural development. Management and utilisation of water resources for agricultural development in line with the PF Manifesto and 7NDP will be achieved by constructing at least one large scale dam per province such as Mwomboshi to irrigate massive areas of land, establish irrigation schemes and facilitate private investment in dams and irrigation infrastructure among other actions.

This is essential to our achieving the desired outcome of a Diversified and Export-Oriented Agriculture Sector leveraged on Improving Production and Productivity from Farm to Agro-Processing and Manufacturing.

The Patriotic Front administration of President Lungu accordingly endeavours to replicate bulk water irrigation infrastructure projects like Mwomboshi across the country. The Aquaculture Development programme:

Aquaculture also known as Aqua-farming, refers to the breeding, rearing and harvesting of all water organisms including aquatic plants.

However, aquaculture in Zambia is mainly restricted to fish farming owing to its high demand on the Zambian market (www.agriculture.gov.zm). The PF Government is currently, developing aquaculture through several projects.

For example instance - on 22nd October, 2017, President Edgar Lungu launched the USD 50million Aquaculture Project.

Another notable development is the 5-year US Dollar

50.89 million African Development Bank (AfDB) funded project running from 2017 to 2022, to which the Zambian Government's contribution of funding is 10.8%.

The project is expected to benefit about 1, 200 fish farmers and entrepreneurs comprising 50% women and youth in the identified high-potential aquaculture areas. There will also be approximately fifty thousand (50,000) indirect beneficiaries consisting of entrepreneurs in the aquaculture value chain such as fish processors, fish traders, fish transporters and employees.

The project is expected to foster an enabling environment for the supply of 98 million fingerlings which are key necessities in fish farming. The project is crucial to helping our nation diversify its economy, reduce youth unemployment and poverty.

There are many other PF achievements in Aqua Culture sub-sector. The following is but a glimpse into the voluminous catalogue these exploits:

Apart from the US Dollar 20 million Aquaculture Investment Plan (employing over 600 people) which the PF Government has set up in Siavonga District the PF Government is also promoting cage fish farming on lakes Mweru, Kariba, Tanganyika, and Bangweulu as well as along the Kafue river at Kasaka and the water bodies of Western province. This is being implemented through the Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAED).

Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAED).

Arising from the effective implementation of the ZAED Project, the PF Government has increased fish production from 22, 713 metric tonnes in 2015 to 27,658 metric tonnes in 2016; representing a 22 percent increase.

This significant increase in fish production in only 2 years is evidence of PF Government policies working in the sector.

Once the Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project (ZAEDP) implementation period is completed in 2021, Government expects the annual fish production to increase to over 40,000 metric tonnes from the current 36,000 metric tonnes in 2018.

The ZAEDP project is stimulating a viable aquaculture sub-sector in Zambia which will in turn promote economic diversification, food security and sustainable employment creation, all of which are top priorities of the Government as enshrined in the 7NDP and Vision 2030.

However, Zambia still has a deficit of 87, 000 metric tonnes due to increased human population as well as demand for fish as a source of cheap protein.

In order to bridge this gap and to enable Zambians to improve their welfare through fish farming; President Edgar Lungu is committed to scaling up aquaculture development through strategic investments and partnerships, to stimulate an enabling environment for expansion in the sub-sector.

Research And Development Promotion Programme (Crops, Livestock And Fisheries)

Apart from Aquaculture, the PF Government attaches great importance to research and development in all sub-sectors of Agriculture.

Central to this is Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) is the largest agricultural research entity in Zambia. It has 10 research stations with Mount Makulu Central

Research Station being the institute's headquarters.

The institute's overall objectives are to develop and adapt crop, soil and plant protection technologies and to provide a high quality, appropriate and cost-effective service to farmers. (www.agriculture.gov.zm). The PF Government has boosted support to ZARI to enable it meet its objectives.

In order to promote Research and Development further, the PF Government has scaled up vaccine production at the Central Veterinary Research Institute with a view to improving and protecting crops, livestock and fisheries countrywide.

Enhancing Agriculture Value Chains
Agriculture value chains are a crucial component of Economic Diversification.

President Lungu's Government is devoted to diversifying the economy and reducing over-dependence on the extractive industry.

PF is modernizing Agriculture and prioritise value addition through agro-industries in order to improve productivity and lay the foundation for an industrialised economy.

To this end, President Lungu's Administration has continued to gain significant ground in enhancing agriculture value chains through strategic and significant investments in production, agro-processing and marketing including export market and distribution mechanisms in line with the 7NDP.

The PF Government continues to score many feats through the implementation of a variety of programmes such as the Agro- And Forestry-Based Processing and Manufacturing Promotion Programme.

The following is a selection from the long list of PF Government's achievements in this regard:

- i. Shiwang'andu district of Muchinga Province- In 2015, President Edgar Lungu launched a multi-million Kwacha Forest Plantation for ZAFFICO
- ii. Kasama, Northern Province; a 1,947-hectare ZAFFICO plantation has also been established. It is expected to create 200 direct jobs in Kasama and many more throughout the country.
- iii. More land for ZAFFICO to develop into plantations in Mporokoso and Luwingu districts in Northern Province has also been secured. The aim is to preserve forests as well as create employment in the area and countrywide.

- iv. In April 2018 His Excellency, President Edgar Lungu – launched the "Zambia Plant a Million Trees initiative" at Kapasa Makasa University in Muchinga Province.

CONCLUSION
With His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu leading the way the Patriotic Front Government has made significant strides towards the fulfillment of Vision 2030, and we will not rest on our laurels.

We remain unflinching and relentless in our quest to bequeath to Zambians a strong, dynamic and prosperous industrial Middle-income Nation By 2030 using the PF Manifesto and 7NDP as a stairway to attaining a diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector leveraged on improving production and productivity from farm to agro-processing and manufacturing.

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General

WHY WOMEN LEADERS NEED PROTECTION FROM CYBERBULLYING

By Linda Kasonde

A few years ago, I heard a podcast in which the Swedish Foreign Minister was explaining why it is important to have more women in leadership. She told a story about a fight between two warring territories over a river on a map. All the people at the table were men. When women from the area were introduced to the conversation, they pointed out that in fact, that river had dried up years ago and therefore the men were fighting over nothing. About 50% of Zambia's population are women, and yet only 16.7% of our parliament is made up of elected women members of parliament. Only 9 out of 29 cabinet ministers are women. Men and women differ in perspective due to the different experiences they have as a result of their gender. What we miss out on when women are denied a seat at the table is that different perspective. When women decide to use their voice by taking up leadership positions, they face much more ridicule, intimidation and abuse than men in leadership positions. This either diminishes their voice or silences them. That creates problems for all of us because it means that we are lacking a diversity of ideas. Democracy thrives when the marketplace of ideas thrives. When that pool of ideas is limited, so are the number of potential solutions to our problems. We need more women to point out where the "dry rivers" are. As pointed out by Sophie Stevens and Dr. Erika Fraser in their article, 'Digital Harassment of Women Leaders: A Review of the evidence': "Digital harassment of women leaders is part of the continuum of violence and discrimination against women in the public arena, including women politicians, activists, civil society leaders, prominent feminists or simply female political commentators, academics and journalists... [It] encompasses all forms of aggression, coercion, shaming, harassment threats and intimidation against women in leadership roles on the basis of their gender". There are no Zambian statistics on the prevalence of cyberbullying but there should be. However, anecdotal evidence shows that women in the public eye receive more abuse relating to their marital status, child-bearing ability, or sexuality. A recent example of this was the hurling of unpalatable insults against Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dora Siliya, as she attended the memorial mass of Vespers Shimuzhila. More recently, Copperbelt Province Commissioner of Police, Charity Katanga, was called "inhuman" because she has no children by politician Chishimba Kambwili. Such attacks are indefensible and must be condemned; not because you agree with the views expressed by the individual, but on the principle that every human being has the inherent right to be treated with dignity. That is ubuntu. Women's reputations are so closely tied to their perceived virtue or morality or lack of it. I was

recently on a discussion panel on cyberbullying as a form of gender-based violence. One of the participants from the audience suggested that women leaders are more susceptible to being attacked when they "sleep around". Firstly, that is never an issue for men. Secondly, a woman's perceived virtue is such a soft target. Women regularly get attacked on that basis as a means to discredit them. Often these stories are a complete fiction or a distortion of the truth. They are impossible to disprove or defend; but people believe what they read after all, "there's no smoke without fire". Certainly, our leaders should be role models, but we should be careful not to impose on them a standard of morality that we would not apply to ourselves or our loved ones.

Cyberbullying dehumanises both the perpetrators and the victims. Often the perpetrators spewing out hatred, anger and contempt are themselves suffering from some hurt, disappointment or frustration. For the victims, aside from the effect of women withdrawing or being silenced in public spaces, cyberbullying has serious emotional and psychological effects. Public figures are trained not to react to every provocation, but do not be fooled by tough exteriors, it can be extremely hurtful and damaging to individuals. According to Stevens and Fraser, being cyberbullied can produce "feelings of irritation, anxiety, sadness, loneliness, vulnerability, and unsafeness; to feelings of distress, pain, shock, fear, devastation, and violation". According to an article in the December 2016 edition of the United Nations Chronicle, this can manifest itself in the form of heart disease, insomnia and depression.

What can be done about it? Cyberbullying is essentially anti-social behaviour and that needs to be tackled on multiple fronts:

1. At an individual level, we all need to realise that the people we abuse on social media are real human beings with feelings and with families. We need to think: 'would I post that about someone I cared about?' That does not mean you cannot criticise people; but that you can do so without using cruel, insulting, sexual or demeaning language. Also, men and women who support the fact that women should be in leadership need to defend them online when they are under attack. An injury to one is an injury to all.
2. Social media platforms can stringently enforce their policies on the removal of fake news, fake social media accounts, harmful sexual content.
3. Existing laws should be enforced to curb cyberbullying, but this must not be done at the expense of people's ability to express themselves meaningfully. We also need strong data protection laws that prevent data violations. I would also argue that we need a proper right to privacy introduced in the Bill of

Rights that meets the needs of a digital society.

4. At the level of government, we need to see leadership on this issue, particularly from political leaders. They need to send a strong zero-tolerance message to all their followers. Through the Women's Lobby, human rights activist Pamela Chisanga and I have been campaigning for political parties to sign a pledge condemning the sexual abuse, harassment and intimidation of female leaders and calling for political parties to punish the perpetrators from within their parties. To-date there has been no response. However, I am happy to see that the donor community has come up with a similar initiative for all donor agencies. We need to see such commitment right at the top and hopefully it will filter down.

5. Lastly, to all potential women leaders, please come forward. We need more of you. It is only when we have a critical mass of women that our gender will become less of an issue as it will not be interesting anymore. People will then turn their attention to whether or not the women have substance. Lean In. Yes, I still think women still need to lean in. It is hard to be a minority in any circumstance. But just as with the suffragettes and the original feminist movement before us, we need the pioneers and the radicals to draw in the masses.

Women leaders need protection from cyberbullying, not because they are the better sex or morally superior to men, they are not; but because we are not tapping into a rich resource of diverse ideas because there are not enough of them in leadership. It is not enough to have one or two women at the leadership table because there is diversity of views and experiences even within the entire population of women in Zambia. Often, the abuse hurled at women and the stories made up about them are just an attempt to put women in their place and to tell them that they are not welcome in leadership roles. That needs to change.



*Linda Kasonde is a lawyer and civil rights activist. She is a 2014 Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow.
Email: Linda.Kasonde12@gmail.com*

For the first time in the history of Zambia's multi party democracy, we have an incumbent President who is now in pole position to be sworn in for the third time, after already holding office twice. This is not because the Constitutional Court has ruled that Mr Edgar Lungu is eligible to contest the 2021 general elections, but because it refused to say the man is NOT eligible – thereby allowing him to proceed without a court send-off.

To put it more explicitly to our readers, the Constitutional Court was asked to determine if the law allows Mr Lungu to seek office again in the next election, but they left that to the citizens to continue speculating so that they can make their own judgments, while the court invoked fresh confusion with the counting of his days in office.

And just like they left everyone confused by failing to explain how they arrived at the 14 days counted during the presidential election petition, this Constitutional Court has come back to tell the people of Zambia that President Lungu's rule between January 2015 and August 2016 doesn't count

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26 0965815078/0977708285
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in News Diggers or on the website
Call : +26 0967713093/0977708285 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

ConCourt is more dangerous than Zambians think

as a term, without explaining why the man was entitled to gratuity.

Suddenly, the Constitutional Court has forgotten that it was during the same presidential term that they have deleted from the scene when Mr Lungu announced in Parliament that he was forfeiting his Presidential retirement house, as part of the new law for all future Presidents. When critics reminded him that his 18 months in office did not amount to a term in the first place for him to claim a house, let alone forfeit it, the then 'transition' President made it clear that he was entitled

to not only the house, but all accompanying gratuity, because he had been sworn in as Head of State. Today, we are told to discount all that and start counting afresh. We are not surprised.

In fact, we are looking at the celebrations in the PF camp and we can't help congratulating them for winning a court case in which they sued themselves. It somehow reminds us of a television episode in which Mr Bean took himself to a birthday dinner and shocked himself with a birthday card from his own jacket.

Just like in that Mr Bean's comedy,

it is only the PF who are shocked with the ruling. Everyone else is actually surprised that they are shocked, because people still remember that the PF Secretary General told News Diggers on record four months ago, that Mr Lungu was going to be the PF candidate in 2021 regardless of the Constitutional Court's decision. So if the PF's surprise from this court's decision looks genuine, we can only say that their acting deserves an award.

To be honest, this Constitutional Court is very amusing. Hearing a judge from this court warn citizens that it was going to jail anyone

found in contempt by commenting on its undetermined matters made us feel very insulted.

How can they threaten contempt charges on judgment day when all along President Lungu has been warning them of consequences if they disqualified him from the 2021 race? Where were they? If that was not contempt, which contempt are they looking for? This only goes to show that these judges ruled in favour of Mr Lungu in fear of committing contempt of the Presidency.

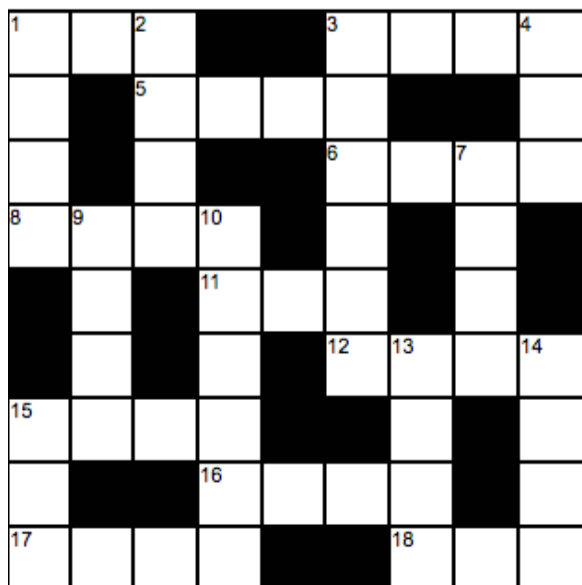
But the problem doesn't start with the judges; it actually just

simply ends with them. The problem is that we have a Constitution which everyone agrees is flawed and laced with inconsistencies and contradictions, but we continue using it without developing an urgent sense to fix the problem. Under normal circumstances, this is what we would have been advocating for – to immediately reconcile the lacunas in the country's Supreme law in the interest of justice.

But of what value is a good Constitution in a country where a poor citizen gets a six-year prison sentence for alleging that there is corruption among judges, and a rich President gets an extra five-year term in office for threatening judges with war if they rule against him? We all know that the fear of Lungu is the beginning of wealth.

Anyway, once again, we wish PF all the posterity as they now embark on perfecting the rigging strategy ahead of the 2021 general elections. To the UPND, we recall Mr Hichilema saying he desperately hoped the PF doesn't change a candidate so he can defeat him effortlessly. Well, they say be careful what you wish for – there you have him!

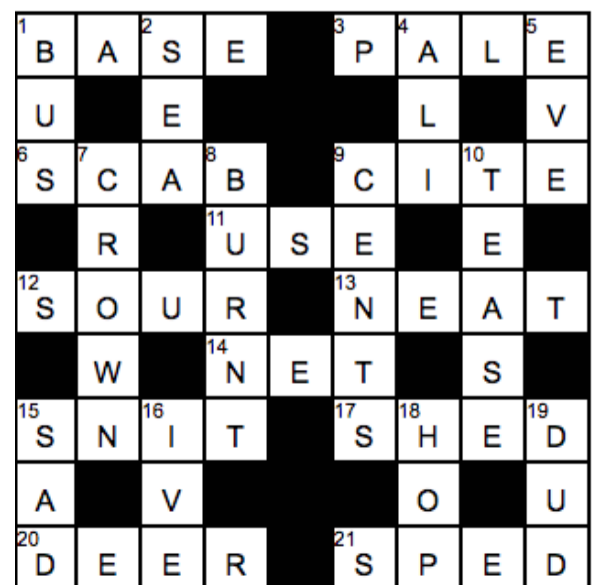
Crossword puzzle 248



“Cruel people offer pity when they no longer feel threatened. However, kind people offer compassion and understanding regardless.” - Shannon L. Alder

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First ___ or financial ___ 3. Graceful bird 5. Aid in wrongdoing 6. Oxidize 8. Lincoln and Vigoda 11. Trash holder 12. Interruptions 15. Painting of ___ Lisa 16. ___ legal or ___ medic 17. In the buff 18. Traveler's aid | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Melody for a single voice 2. Appointment 3. Kite flying need 4. Hard-shelled dried fruit 7. Finish 9. Swedish toy maker 10. Minor injury 13. Actor Sandler 14. Small cut 15. Guy |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 247



Reader's feedback

HH, Kambwili's resolution to mobilise opposition against PF

Lungu will be retired by the people in 2021

Editor,
 "Good move. I'm impressed with this for the first time ever. Now you are standing for us!" - Philip Brown

"All genuine opposition parties must cooperate and struggle against the corrupt PF party regime's tyranny. Edgar Lungu's dictatorship is not strong, it can be defeated at any time; the opposition leaders should coordinate their activities all the time." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Problem is HH and UPND as a whole lacks strategies; Kambwili doesn't bring anything on the table, except comedy. It won't surprise me if the Presidency misses HH again..." - Akapondo Kansansa



Dear Editor,
 "Since the ConCourt has failed to retire him, come 2021, the people will retire him. This is not an issue." - Willey Sinyangwe

"2021 is coming fast. We shall sort out the imposter..." - Chiundule Wansimbi

"The best is to defeat them with our votes. Ba Zambians, come 2021, let's show them whose boss!" - Emely Kajokoto

"Come 2021, we are voting wisely unlike previously..." - Timothy Chipilipili

"It's not a surprise ruling! It would have been if it was otherwise!" - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"I really overestimated them, this is impressive, but voters will do the needful, I believe." - Nambala Joel Frederick

Mwila on Matibini's failure to declare Roan seat vacant being illegal

Editor,
 "How many illegal things have you guys done to even question the Speaker?" - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

by Dr. Matibini, but the people of Roan constituency, therefore, he has a mandate that can and will only finish in 2021. At least Dr. Matibini understands that.

So, ba Mwila, please deal with the PF; that's the only place you have leverage over and not national matters!" - Goma Chibeza

"Have you paid back the money you were paid when Parliament was dissolved? That's illegal, unreasonable and violates all the articles in the Constitution of Zambia! It's not a use of discretion, but an act of theft! Didn't you also run to the court house?" - KT Mubanga

"See who is talking? Just the way he talks is illegal, his nature is illegal, his concerns, very illegal. Actually, everything about him is illegal, and here he wants to condemn the Speaker." - Urwyler Kalota

"Single-sourcing contracts, failure to give power to Speaker; the list is endless! Wake up, Mr Mwila." - Ownani Msiska

"Mr. Mwila, kindly comment on the Speaker's refusal to table the impeachment motion on the floor of the House." - Jibambo Kafwilapanembo

"Sorry boss, Kambwili wasn't elected

GMOs being allowed back into the country

Editor,
 "If these genetically-modified foods will be introduced in Zambia, the dealers in GM foods must distinctly label the packages so some people who don't want to consume them, know them well in advance. I, for one, don't want to eat them for fear of their side effects." - Frederick Ntemena Kafumbe

Learn to consult the public." - Brighton Mulonga

"I miss his Excellency, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, who took great exception to Genetically Modified Organisms, even when our country was hardly hit with hunger, he rejected GMO maize." - Nchimunya Mazuba

"While the West are going back to natural food, we get GMOs. Cry my beloved country." - Christine Chooma Chipili

"Mwanawasa rejected GM foods because at that time, we lacked the capacity to handle them and that is how NBA was formed. If, indeed, risk assessments have been done, then I don't see a problem. We cannot remain spectators, while the rest of the world benefits from the promise of biotechnology." - Mubonda Kalumbilo Pascal

"Sad, and shame on you scientists! We have fought this battle for years only to lose in the end because of selfish individuals. Tell us your benefit.

"Which constitutional provision or law did the justices rely on in passing judgement? This is not a matter of common sense; it ought to be backed by statute! Anything short of that amounts to miscarriage of justice and the voters will definitely correct it in 2021." - Lazarous Mwewa

"Just like his friend Kabila next door, they don't want to give up power and will do anything! ConCourt is a sham of a court!" - Ben Chibwe

"But why wasting tax payers' money in 2016 when he could have ascended to power automatically? In my own opinion, this ConCourt is a mockery to us Zambians who believe in democratic dispensation." - Mike Phiri

By Stuart Lisulo

Government should shelve plans to relaunch the forthcoming Zambia Airways in 2019 because the chances of success are slim, the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) has insisted.

According to research compiled by the CTPD's lead researcher, Bright Chizonde, the much-anticipated national

Zambia Airways relaunch should be shelved - CTPD

carrier, which is due to be introduced in the first quarter of 2019, is likely to fail on account of the non-favourable conditions Zambia finds

itself in. Chizonde outlined in a detailed analysis that out of 15 factors, only three are favourable towards making Zambia Airways

a success. He explained that the three factors favouring the national carrier were Zambia's structure of the economy, with a

massive service sector geared to support the airline; training facilities, offered by the Zambia Air Services Training Institute (ZASTI)

and management and technical assistance as the new airline is poised to have a mixed board and management comprising of both Zambians and Ethiopians.

The comprehensive analysis, however, exposes 12 major factors that could lead to the national carrier's failure to remain viable and sustainable, which include: Zambia's size of the population, with a small middle-class; size of the economy, whose Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is less than US \$30 billion, compared to Ethiopia's US \$81 billion, or South Africa's US \$349 billion; lack of airline autonomy given government's 55 per cent stake; limited maintenance facilities; business model and limited market share.

Other factors Chizonde pointed out include: no private sector participation; government's fiscal capacity to finance the ambitious joint venture and high cost of operations remained unfavourable, while poor financial management of public funds; the country's strategic location and the profitability of the airline all remain inconclusive.

He, therefore, concluded that the grand plans to relaunch the national airline in 2019 should be shelved.

"Based on this and other forms of analysis employed in the study, CTPD concludes that the decision to relaunch Zambia Airways is not prudent due to the current macroeconomic situation.

The Zambian government is seeking to pursue fiscal consolidation in order to reduce the accumulation of public debt and to achieve major macroeconomic goals," stated Chizonde in a press release.

"Considering the slim chances of success, the high risk associated with aviation and the capital intensiveness of the industry, we are of the considered view that Zambia should shelve plans to relaunch a national airline as the venture may worsen Zambia's economic challenges in trying to keep it afloat."

Kasempa farmers plead for help from Tambatamba

By Tenson Mkhala

Kasempa UPND member of parliament Brenda Tambatamba says the slow pace at which the E- voucher is being implemented in her constituency will lead to severe hunger next year because farmers have no money.

And Mpungu Ward induna, Mumba Lukulu Wakufita has complained that government is not helping the farmers, adding that they have suffered due to the delay in accessing their farming inputs and late payment of their monies.

Speaking when she toured Mpungu Ward, Tambatamba expressed concern with the slow pace at which the E- voucher was being implemented in Kasempa.

She added that this would lead to severe hunger next year because farmers had no money.

"The poor implementation of E-voucher is an imminent threat to food security and livelihood in the constituency. The majority of farmers here have not yet accessed farming inputs for the year 2018-2019 farming season under the e-voucher system. Let me tell you that the slow pace at which this E-voucher is being implemented here in Kasempa would lead to severe hunger next year because farmers have no money and they are waiting to receive their inputs which has totally delayed," she said.

Tambatamba said the people in her constituency depended on agriculture as their livelihood because



Kasempa UPND Member of Parliament Brenda Tambatamba and her entourage greet Induna Mumba Lukulu Wakufita of Mpungu Ward on December 8, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

there was no industry in the area.

She said government's failure to give the farmers inputs on time, was killing them.

"You see people here depend on agriculture. This is their source of living and if government is failing to give such people the inputs on time then, it means they are killing these farmers. Look, Kasempa district was established in 1902 and it has continued on a development advocacy agenda to free itself from constraints including poor road network across the 22 wards. This is an acceptable and government should not treat its people like this," she said.

And Tambatamba appealed to the Food Reseve Agency to quickly pay the farmers in the area what was due to them.

"I want to appeal to this FRA that it should quickly

move in and start paying these farmers their monies. We have a lot of farmers here in Kasempa who have not been paid. The farmers cannot do anything. They cannot pay for their children's school fees. They cannot buy fertilizer because they do not have money. FRA has not yet paid them.

Why should farmers be subjected to such treatment where they are made to wait for their monies? My appeal once again to both FRA and minister of agriculture is that, can you give farmers what belongs to them," she said.

Tambatamba further questioned when government would work on the Kasempa- Mumbwa and Kasempa-Kaoma roads.

"Some of the key roads infrustracture brought to the attention of government that had not been worked

on are the long standing Kasempa-Mumbwa road and Kasempa- Kaoma road. Both roads are the shorter gateways to Lusaka, Central and Western Provinces which when worked on, can offer market for agriculture expansion. When is this government going to work on it?" Tambatamba asked.

Meanwhile, the area Induna, Mumba Lukulu Wakufita said farmers in Kasempa had suffered due to the delay in accessing their farming inputs, as well as, late payments of their monies.

He complained that the PF government was killing farmers instead of helping them.

"Honorable Tambatamba, we the farmers here in Kasempa have suffered due to the delay in accessing our farming inputs by this government and also

the late payment of our monies. Most of these farmers you are seen here honorable, cannot do anything at the moment because FRA has not paid them their monies. We do not know when we shall have our monies. We have not been told anything and we are just waiting," he complained.

"We are complaining bitterly because this government is not helping us farmers. They are killing us. We depend on farming and so if they (FRA) cannot pay us then how are we going to survive? How are we going to pay our children's school fees? How are we going to pay for e-voucher? We need to be helped because we are suffering."

Tambatamba is in her constituency to interact and check on some of the projects being undertaken in the area.

Chill Edgar, forcing yourself on people will invite a revolution, warns Shakas

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Former Katuba UPND member of parliament Jonas Shakafuswa says President Edgar Lungu should chill because forcing himself on the people would invite a revolution.

On Friday, the Constitutional Court ruled that the period which President Edgar Lungu served after Michael Sata's death, from January 2015 to September 2016, could not be considered a full term, thereby implying that the incumbent was therefore eligible to contest the 2021 elections.

But in statement shared on his Facebook wall, Saturday, Shakafuswa laughed at those who defined the Constitutional Court's ruling as giving President Lungu a third term, adding that the ruling party had taken advantage of the lacunas in the Constitution.

He stated that President Lungu didn't change the Constitution to enable him run for a third term, but it was politicians and other groups who found it fit to define a term of office, generally.

"I laugh when some quarters are defining the ConCourt ruling as giving Edgar a third term

and want to capitalize on that to gain political mileage. This is very cheap thinking which can't sell. Edgar hasn't changed the Constitution to enable him run for a third term. The Constitution was changed by politicians and groups, who found it fit to define a term of office. This was not defined for Edgar, but generally," he stated.

Shakafuswa urged people to swallow their pride, saying they had an opportunity to pass a Constitution which could stand the test of time.

He charged that Civil Society Organisations to him, ruined the whole Constitutional process because they wanted it 'adopted as was'.

"People have to learn to swallow their pride. We had an opportunity to pass a Constitution which could stand the test of time. But opportunists wanted to ride on the perceived support of the Civil Society, who, to me ruined the whole Constitutional process. They wanted the Constitution 'adopted as is'. Did they study it. Did they notice the implications of adopting the 'Constitution as is'. Most of these so called Civil Society are just noise makers who don't possess the expertise to



PF members show solidarity to President Lungu at the Supreme Court as the Constitutional Court determined his illegibly last Friday

have detailed analysis of serious issue but want to work as media experts. Here we are, wanting the Courts to give judgement for political expedience. Looking for a storm from a tea cup. Not in Zambia," he stated.

And Shakafuswa stated that Zambia had experienced revolutions to bring about change. He stated late Michael Sata was a revolutionist, but unfortunately did not have the required people to maintain the

revolution, as a result, the 'less tax, more money in the pockets,' had become a far fetched dream.

"We have experienced revolutions in this country brought by Gallant men, the likes of Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, Derrick Mbita Chitala Arthur Wina and them. They did not advocate blood shed, but held the bull by the horns to bring about change. Michael Sata was a revolutionist, but unfortunately did

not have the required people to maintain the revolution. As a result, the less tax, more money in the pockets, has become a far fetched dream. So to ask for peoples power needs an agenda. Not cosmetic events which you know are of window dressing in nature. Yes things in the country are bad, but we don't need cheap opportunism to make it worse. We need consolidated efforts to first lay a foundation to make things right. The

problem we have is we have these angels who think they know it all. Tekanyani (chill)," he stated.

Meanwhile, Shakafuswa urged President Lungu to "chill", saying forcing himself on people would invite revolution.

"As for Edgar, Chill. This country belongs to all Zambians. The resistance you are facing is because you have given it to PF. You have stripped so called opposition the rights to have jobs in government. The rights to do business with government. The rights to be heard. The rights to association. The right to expression. The rights to be Zambians and to enjoy the Zambian fruit. People are still waiting for lower tax, more money in their pockets," stated Shakafuswa.

"Do you know what brings about revolutions? Suppression, Repression. And leadership which thinks they are on first name basis with God. Become a servant of the people. Not a servant of PF, and especially your corrupt helpers at State House, who have turned State House into a procurement centre for the country."

Court jails teacher one year for stealing batteries

By Sandra Mulenga

A desperate practising primary teacher at Rusangu University has been sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labour by the Kitwe Magistrate Court for stealing Energizer batteries from Shoprite checkers at Mukuba Mall.

Alex Mwansa told Senior Resident Magistrate Mwansa Chibalo that he resorted to stealing three packs of batteries after he failed to raise K150 for his assignments.

Mwansa told the court that he was desperate to have his school assignments done on time and that he did not have money to use when working on them.

Mwansa explained that he stole the batteries with the aim of selling them to raise the money he needed.

He, however, told court that he failed to sell the batteries as he was later apprehended by a Shoprite security guard.

This is a case in which Mwansa

was charged with theft, contrary to the laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence were that on November 22, 2018, in Kitwe Mwansa stole three packs of Energizer batteries valued at K209.97, the property of Shoprite, Kitwe.

And when the matter came up for plea, the accused person pleaded guilty to the offence.

And Magistrate Chibalo said upon the accused person's own admission of the offence, he had found him guilty as

charged, and was convicting him accordingly and put him on his mitigation.

In mitigation, the accused person begged for the court's leniency as his academic and professional career were going to be put on hold if imprisoned.

But Magistrate Chibalo said he was sentencing him to one year with hard labour, and that if he was not happy with the sentence he had a right to appeal in 14 days.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday again denied that his campaign colluded with Russian operatives, but made no comment on claims that he directly organized hush payments to ward off a possible sex scandal during his White House run.

Trump took to Twitter, his favorite means of communication, to address the multiple court filings that dropped on Friday in connection with special counsel Robert Mueller's sweeping investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

"AFTER TWO YEARS AND MILLIONS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS (and a

Trump denies collusion after revelations in Russia probe

cost of over \$30,000,000), NO COLLUSION!" the president said.

Later, he told reporters: "We are happy with what we are reading. There was no collusion whatsoever. There never has been. The last thing I want is help from Russia on a campaign."

While the filings indeed did not appear to reveal evidence of collusion, they did offer a wealth of new information about

what Mueller's team is looking into, along with other federal prosecutors in New York.

Prosecutors directly implicated Trump in efforts to buy the silence of two women who claimed they had affairs with him, saying he directed his then-attorney Michael Cohen to offer them hush money.

"With respect to both payments, Cohen acted with the intent

to influence the 2016 presidential election," the New York prosecutors said.

"In particular, and as Cohen himself has now admitted, with respect to both payments, he acted in coordination with and at the direction of Individual-1," they added, referring to Trump.

The payments are technically unrelated to the Russia probe, but

prosecutors painted a damning picture of the "extensive, deliberate, and serious criminal conduct" of Cohen -- once a member of Trump's inner circle of trusted aides.

In August, the 52-year-old Cohen pleaded guilty to violating campaign finance law in connection with the payments.

"Cohen deceived the voting public by hiding alleged facts that he believed would have had a substantial effect on the election," prosecutors said.

- 'Synergy on a government level' -

In a separate sentencing memo, Mueller said that Cohen was in contact with a Russian national as far back as November 2015 who offered "synergy on a government level." That was months before Trump formally won the presidential nomination and well before previously reported contacts.

The Russian national claimed to have ties to the Kremlin and repeatedly proposed a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The individual said the meeting could have a "phenomenal" impact "not only in political but in a business dimension as well," but Cohen never followed up, Mueller said. That combination of political and business interests could spell trouble for Trump, whose real estate empire was seeking to build a signature tower in Moscow as late as mid-2016 in the midst of his White House bid.

Last week, Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the Moscow real estate project.

Recent filings in the Mueller probe have suggested the White House knew that Cohen planned to lie to lawmakers about his contacts with Russians.

Due to his "relevant" and "substantial" help, Mueller declined to

recommend additional jail time, but Cohen is still expected to face four to five years behind bars.

- Multiple 'lies' -

Also on Friday, new twists and turns emerged in the case against Trump's onetime campaign manager Paul Manafort, who was convicted in August of financial fraud and witness tampering charges and pleaded guilty to a second set of charges a month later.

Prosecutors accused Manafort of multiple "lies" to investigators: about his contacts with administration officials even after striking a plea deal; about a debt payment; and about his interaction with a suspected Russian intelligence officer.

The breach of the plea deal could lead to a stiffer jail sentence than the 10 years originally envisaged for the 69-year-old veteran Republican consultant.

Manafort has been convicted mostly on charges related to his work for pro-Moscow politicians in Ukraine between 2004 and 2014.

But he has also been investigated for his possible role in alleged campaign collusion with Russia.

Mueller has been inching ever closer to the White House, and on Friday, Trump fired off a volley of tweets against a probe he dubs a "witch hunt," accusing Mueller of "big time conflicts of interest" and alleging he coerced false testimony from witnesses.

For Senate Democrat Richard Blumenthal, a former federal prosecutor, Trump is in legal jeopardy.

"The pieces of the mosaic or the puzzle are coming into place, and the walls are closing in on Donald Trump, and his inner circle, including his family," Blumenthal said.

"I believe he could be indicted and the trial could be postponed until after he finishes service."

AFP



South African cities short of cemetery space

In the middle of the vast Avalon cemetery in Johannesburg's Soweto township, two gravediggers shovelled soil out of an old grave containing remains buried years ago.

They were preparing the grave to be reused as towns across South Africa are fast running out of space to bury the dead.

Population growth, migration to urban areas and an influx of foreigners has put huge pressure on land in urban areas. Adding to the problem is a cultural resistance to the practice of cremation.

Between 45 and 60 graves are re-opened each week on average to allow for second burials in Johannesburg, the country's largest city and economic hub.

Authorities warn that if no action is taken to change how the dead are laid to rest, urban areas will run out of room in as little as 50 years.

"Burial space is fast diminishing. This is caused by the fact that Joburg is currently experiencing high migration," said Reggie Moloi, the city's cemeteries and crematoria manager.

Johannesburg is not the only city in South Africa battling the shortage.

The southeastern coastal city of Durban raised the alarm more than a decade ago.

The city had an unusually high death rate in the 1980s, having been particularly hard hit by political violence and HIV/AIDS,

say officials.

- 'Run out of burial space' -

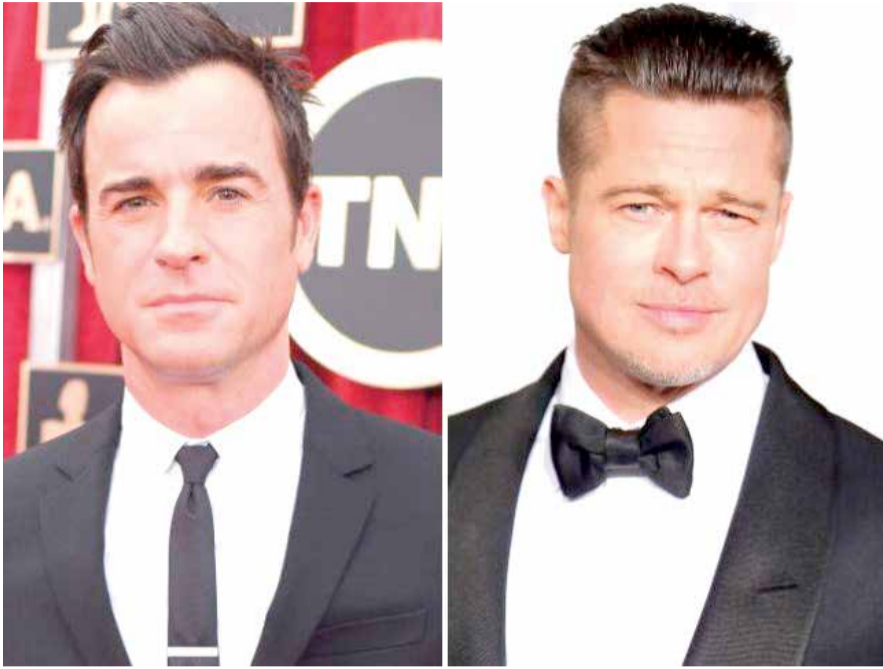
"We noticed that cemeteries then filled up in a shortest period of time and that quite soon ... (we were) going to run out of burial space," Thembinkosi Ngcobo, the head of parks in eThekweni, which includes Durban, told AFP.

People seeking burial space could soon be turned away, he warned. "We are facing a very serious problem."

"The situation is dire and not readily understood... because to the eye it seems there is sufficient (space)," said Denis Ing, deputy chairman of the South African Cemeteries Association.

The public did not grasp the scale of the problem, he said. AFP

Jennifer Aniston says her marriages to Brad Pitt and Justin Theroux were 'very successful'



Jennifer Aniston doesn't think that success in marriage is defined by staying together forever.

Opening up about her personal life in the January 2019 issue of *Elle*, the beloved actress shared that even though her relationship with Brad Pitt and Justin Theroux didn't last, knowing when to end a relationship has its own value.

"I don't feel a void. I really don't," the *Dumplin'* star, 49, told *Elle*. "My marriages, they've been very successful, in [my] personal opinion. And when they came to an end, it was a choice that was made because we chose to be happy, and sometimes happiness doesn't exist within that arrangement anymore."

"Sure, there were bumps, and not every moment felt fantastic, obviously, but at the end of it, this is our one life and I would not stay in a situation out of fear. Fear of being alone. Fear of not being able to survive. To stay in a marriage based on fear feels like you're doing your one life a disservice," she added. "When the work has been put in and it doesn't seem that there's an option of it working, that's okay. That's not a failure. We have these clichés around all of this that need to be reworked and retooled,

you know? Because it's very narrow-minded thinking."

Aniston and Theroux split in February after two and a half years of marriage and seven years as a couple. The actress was previously married to Pitt from 2000 to 2005.

Aniston went on to share that despite the fixation people have about her marital status, she's never placed a high priority on tying the knot.

"I also was never a kid who sat around and dreamed about a wedding, you know? Those were never my

fantasies. When I was first popped the question, it was so foreign to me," she told *Elle*, adding that her priorities were "always about finding a home that felt safe."

Another source of fascination around Aniston surrounds the fact that the actress has yet to embark on motherhood.

Asked about whether she sees having children in her future, the *Friends* alumna shared that "some people are just built to be wives and babies" but "I don't know how naturally that comes to me." *Yahoo*



Meghan Markle's dad says he's 'hand-delivered a letter' to duchess' mom asking why she shut him out



Meghan Markle's father, Thomas, is once again trying to publicly reconnect with his daughter.

The pregnant Duchess of Sussex has been on the outs with her dad for quite some time now, but the 74-year-old retired TV lighting director is done with being ignored, and has even asked his ex-wife, Doria Ragland, why Meghan is putting up "a wall of silence."

"I have been frozen out and I can't stay silent," Thomas told the *Mail on Sunday* in an interview published on Saturday. "I have made dozens of attempts to reach my daughter via text and letters, but she and Harry have put up a wall of silence."

"Everyone says, 'Why don't I just shut

the f**k up? That Meghan can't speak to me because I'll give away secrets.' But that's bulls**t. I've been accused of every terrible thing you can think of," he continued, adding that he's sent several texts. "Her number hasn't changed and they haven't bounced back."

Thomas, who says he hasn't spoken with Meghan since after her wedding, was involved in a staged paparazzi photo scandal prior to his daughter's nuptials. He then gave several negative and public paid interviews in which he bashed the royal family and Prince Harry. He later vowed to never disrespect his daughter and her husband by making any more negative remarks. *Yahoo*

We are here to be champions, not invincibles

- City boss Guardiola bullish after first defeat

Pep Guardiola is unconcerned by Manchester City relinquishing top spot in the Premier League after his side slumped to their first league defeat of the season at Chelsea.

Goals from N'Golo Kante and David Luiz ended City's unbeaten run, with Liverpool's earlier win over Bournemouth meaning the Reds lead the way after 16 games.

But Guardiola was in bullish mood despite the defeat, insisting that it was always unlikely City would go all season without suffering a defeat.

"Everyone ask me about this, I said that it not going to happen," Guardiola told a news conference.

"We're not here to be invincibles, or to be unbeaten, we're here to try to be champions. It doesn't matter. We want to make one point more

than our opponents. Now, at the moment, Liverpool are better than us.

"We are in December, if you ask if Liverpool can win the Premier League, I would say yes. If you ask me if Tottenham, Arsenal or Chelsea can win the Premier League, I would say yes.

"There is not a sport in the world that one team or player wins everything.

"It's about how you lose, we played the way we want to play. After that, when the opponent is good we say congratulations."

Both Guardiola and Sarri lined up without recognised strikers in their starting XIs, with Hazard and Raheem Sterling deployed in false nine roles.

And Guardiola, whose side dominated possession without offering the cutting edge required to make a breakthrough,



Chelsea's David Luiz celebrates scoring his side's second goal in a shock 2-0 win over Manchester City

joked that he and Sarri had agreed to play with identical systems.

"Yesterday I call Maurizio

we decided to play the same way," Guardiola added.

"He tries to win, I try

to win, when he wins I congratulate him, he congratulates me [if I win].

"He is exceptional, I admire him and he deserves all the credit." **Goal.com**

Sancho shoots Dortmund nine points clear after derby win



Bereaved Jadon Sancho fired Borussia Dortmund nine points clear at the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday with a late winner in a 2-1 derby triumph at Schalke, while a Robert Lewandowski double against Nuremberg lifted champions Bayern Munich up to second.

England winger Sancho, whose grandmother passed away in mid-week, slotted the winner 15 minutes from time in Gelsenkirchen to seal Dortmund's first away derby win for five years and maintained their unbeaten start to 14 league games.

"The goal was for my grandmother," Sancho told reporters after netting his sixth goal of the season.

Thomas Delaney's seventh-minute header for Dortmund was cancelled out by a Daniel Caligiuri penalty just after the hour mark before Sancho struck following a beautiful one-two with Raphael Guerreiro.

"The second goal by Sancho was worked out incredibly well -- we do things like that in training," said Dortmund captain Marco Reus.

"We really deserved it, because we

dominated the game for 90 minutes.

"We went off the boil in the second half, but showed the right mentality in the end."

Dortmund looked set to easily get their fifth straight league win when Delaney found space in the congested area early on to head home a floated Reus free-kick.

However Schalke drew level on 61 minutes when the video assistant referee judged that Reus had fouled Amine Harit in the area and Caligiuri banged home the resulting spot-kick. **AFP**



City still the best - Sarri

Chelsea's 2-0 victory over Manchester City has not changed Maurizio Sarri's view that it will be "impossible" for his team to win the Premier League title this year.

The Blues handed Pep Guardiola's side their first loss in the division this season, with N'Golo Kante and David Luiz scoring either side of half-time at Stamford Bridge. Sarri's side are still seven points behind City after 16 games and eight behind new Premier League leaders Liverpool.

And the Chelsea coach remains insistent that his team cannot maintain a sustained title challenge this season due to his view that City are the continent's finest side. "As I said, always as you know, I think the gap is impossible to cover this kind of gap only in one season," Sarri told a news conference.

"One match - you can play one match, of course. Then in the competition of 10 months it's very difficult to cover the gap. I think they are, at the moment, the best team in Europe. **Goal.com**

By Alex Chilumbwe
Nkana coach Beston Chambeshi has expressed optimism that his side can win the CAF Champions League saying his team has the capability to withstand pressure that defines the continent's biggest league. Chambeshi's team qualified to the next

Nkana can win CAF League - Chambeshi

round of the competition after beating a Mozambican side UD Songo 3-1 on aggregate, and acknowledged that all teams in the competition were outstanding in their respective leagues. Speaking during a briefing in Kitwe, Chambeshi said that he had prolific players that

would keep guiding the team to higher stages of the competition and consequently conquering Africa. "If a team qualifies to the next stage of the competition it means it is doing fine. I have good players that can withstand the pressure and actually win the champions league. I am satisfied with the way they are playing and I am looking forward to reaching far in the competition," said Chambeshi. And Nkana skipper Walter Bwalya underscored the importance of his teammates to stay focused in the competition. "It is a tough competition and we have to keep in mind that it gets tougher per stage. I always remind my teammates to stay focused and work harder because we can never have it the easy way. We have to fight for it and I think we have what it takes to keep winning," said Bwalya.

Wada wins Telkom for Baroka FC

By Alex Chilumbwe
Zambian coach manning a South African side Wedson Nyirenda made history on Saturday by guiding Baroka FC to securing their Telkom Knockout Cup after defeating Orlando Pirates on penalties as the clash ended in an exhilarating 2-2 draw. Nyirenda who is also a former Zambia National Team coach headlined

the goalie performed as his duty demanded and stopped the attempt. It was a denied golden opportunity for Pirates. From numerous goal threats that Baroka suffered at the hands of Pirates, Nyirenda's side responsively upped the tempo and forced the opponents to park a bus but could not find the key to unlock their goal account.

Seconds to the break, Nyirenda's boys found the back of the net through an aerial ball

that was directed in by Jemondre Dickens. Minutes before the goal was scored, Pirates suffered a one man down challenge as defender Marshall Munetsi was given a straight red card for a dangerous lunge. In the second half, Orlando Pirates fought against the disadvantaging fact of being one man down and almost equalized in the 47th minute in an attempt that went way over the bar. Two minutes after Pirates' wasted chance, Baroka soaked into the same

misuse of the opportunity as Tebogo Sodi fired his above the bar with only one defender to beat. However, Pirates levelled matters when Musa Nyatama tapped in a Justin Shonga well-struck set-piece that came off the post and the back of the Baroka goalkeeper. The two sides, thereafter fought from side to side but neither could break the 1-1 tie in the required 90 minutes. They eased and stretched as they awaited extra 30 minutes to hopefully have a

winner. Baroka scored their second goal in the 108th minute of extra time from the spot when Mpontashane brought down Sodi in the box. It seemed Nyirenda's boys would edge Pirates 2-1, but rivals equalized through Lorch's header that emanated from Shonga's cross in the dying minutes of extra time. It was 2-2. Baroka however laughed last as they beat Orlando Pirates 3-2 in penalties with a winner scored by Chipezeze.

Zambian tabloids when he booked a debut spot in the final match of the cup after his side fixed rivals Kaizer Chiefs 2-1 in a Soweto Derby of the semifinal. The start of the final match was not without exceptional liveliness that indicated that the two sides would only accept defeat after the final whistle. Baroka got the much needed chance to take lead but their skipper Mduduzi Mdantsane cheaply lost possession to Theminkosi Lorch who paced for a one-on-one chance with Baroka goalkeeper but,

Bwale sharpens Chipolopolo ahead of Mopani U-20 semis

By Alex Chilumbwe
Under-20 coach Charles Bwale has described a draw against the junior Mambas of Mozambique as unfortunate saying he aimed to win all the group

matches of the Mopani Copper Mines Under-20 COSAFA tournament taking place in Copperbelt province. On Saturday, the junior Chipolopolos recorded

a 1-1 draw against the junior Mambas after leading up to the 74th minute in their final group match while soccer fans expected the young lads to win following the senior

national team's failure to qualify for 2019 AfCON at the hands of the senior Black Mambas. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Bwale said he would drill the boys in

the training sessions and tighten all the loose ends as they prepare for their next opponents in the semifinals. "I planned to win all he group matches and it was going on well until yesterday when Mozambique held us to a draw. I am not disappointed because we did not actually lose but I feel we would have done better. I just have to tighten all the seemingly loose ends and defend better in the semis," he said. Bwale also said that his side was the favourite to win the cup adding that his side was more tactical and stronger. "I think we are going to win this tournament but of course not with ease. There are tough teams here but mine is tougher and more tactical. Every substitution I have so far made did not disappoint and they all understand what they are playing for. We just have to win it," said Bwale.



Barcelona skipper Lionel Messi celebrates after guiding a freekick past Espanyol's goalkeeper on Saturday night

'Ballon d'Or is a lie!' - Alba slams Messi snub

Lionel Messi's fifth place finish in the Ballon d'Or rankings proves it's "a lie", Barcelona star Jordi Alba says, accusing the award of favouritism towards Real Madrid players.

The Argentine finished outside the top two for the first time since 2007 as the decade-long stronghold he and Cristiano Ronaldo have had on the trophy came to an end, with Luka Modric being named the world's best player in 2018. While Ronaldo came in second in the vote, Messi dropped behind World Cup winners Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann, which Barca boss Ernesto Valverde dubbed "absurd". After seeing Messi inspire the Catalan side to a 4-0 win over Espanyol with two free-kick goals and an assist on Saturday, Alba says there is no debate that his 31-year-old team-mate is still the best around.

"The Ballon d'Or is a lie, there are many club and press campaigns [surrounding it]," the 29-year-old left-back told reporters. "Everyone knows that Messi is the best player in the world by far."

"If Cristiano was still at Real Madrid he'd get the Ballon d'Or. There were many fans and journalists who wanted Cristiano to

get the Ballon d'Or when he was in Real Madrid.

"Well, Cristiano left... and Modric gets it."

Messi was a target for criticism from Brazil icon Pele, who says the Barca star should not be compared to himself or Argentina hero Diego Maradona.

And Alba hit out at the 78-year-old for his claim that Messi "only has one skill".

"Pele may not see it very

well, if he says that about Leo," he said. "Messi has everything."

Alba was not the only Blaugrana player to sing Messi's praises after his masterclass against their local rivals, as Sergio Busquets hailed him as the world's No.1.

The Barcelona captain is now on 11 goals in 13 La Liga games, making him the first in history to break into double figures 13 years in a row. **Goal.com**



Sublime Salah fires Liverpool top to prove he's still the Premier League's most decisive player

WADA SHINES

...wins Telkom for Baroka FC

By Alex Chilumbwe
Zambian coach manning a South African side Wedson Nyirenda made history on Saturday by guiding Baroka FC to securing their Telkom Knockout Cup after defeating Orlando Pirates on penalties as the clash ended in an exhilarating 2-2 draw. **To page 15**

