



IMS DENIES ARM-TWISTING GOVT

We'll not be involved in collecting toll fees, RTSA, RDA are incharge

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ConCourt decision means Lungu can rule for life by desolving Parley before 3yrs elapses - Changala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Civil Rights Activist Brebner Changala says the Constitutional Court's ruling in the eligibility case entails that President Edgar Lungu can rule the country forever if he so wishes. In an interview, Changala said by declaring President Lungu eligible to contest elections in

2021, the ConCourt had caused more confusion which has a potential to plunge the country into a constitutional crisis. "The ConCourt deliberately shied away from there, they didn't say 'Edgar Lungu will stand or does qualify to stand' but it may as it is, the ConCourt has actually caused more confusion in this country. They have legitimized the current president or indeed any president that will come after him to govern this country," he said. **To page 11**

Boy narrates how his dad had annal sex with him

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665 owing UNZA students missed final exams - VC

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NATSAVE is making losses, says Maggie

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says the National Savings and Credit (NATSAVE) bank has not declared any dividends to government because it has been operating under loss. **To page 2**



IMS Chairman Walid El Nahas (l) with Kapsch group of companies president George Kapsch

Zanaco projects slow economic growth in 2019 due to "trade war"

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NATSAVE making losses - Maggie

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says the National Savings and Credit (NATSAVE) bank has not declared any dividends to government because it has been operating under loss.

And Mwanakatwe says for this reason, government has revamped the management at the bank and further provided a sovereign guarantee to allow it operate efficiently.

Mwanakatwe said this in Parliament, Wednesday, when she responded to a written question from Kalabo Central UPND member of parliament Chinga Miyutu who wanted to know what measures government was taking to improve the banks' service delivery.

"The review of the 2014/2018 strategic plan of the National Savings and Credit bank (NATSAVE) showed that the bank had significantly lagged behind on its key strategic objectives. As a means of realigning the bank an interim turnaround plan was developed in February 2018. The turnaround

plan is meant to bridge the performance gap to 2019 with a new strategic plan which will come into effect. The turnaround plan aims at the following: (i) leveraging on technology to stimulate growth of the bank (ii) implementing a well-functioning performance management system, (iii) achieving operational efficiency and quality customer service, (iv) enhancing the NATSAVE risk management framework, and (v) improving the pace at which audit queries are resolved," Mwanakatwe said. She admitted that the bank was under-capitalized.

"In addition, government has identified several areas that are crucial to improving service delivery by NATSAVE and to this effect [government] has put in place various measures to attain better services in rural areas. I do agree that NATSAVE is under-capitalized and for that reason government is willing to support NATSAVE [and] in so doing, we have provided a sovereign guarantee so that

NATSAVE can go and seek for more funds and this is underway," Mwanakatwe said.

Mwanakatwe said she was putting a lot of pressure on the bank to make it operate profitably.

"NATSAVE has gone through a lot, NATSAVE was not performing and I shared with you [the] 2014/2018 strategic plan, actually they were failing. We have

revamped the management completely of NATSAVE, we have put in technology, we are putting in ATMs across the country working with partners such as NECO to put ATMs. We are revamping the way we operate at NATSAVE and I want you to give us a chance and where there are issues like [lack] of cheque books it's unacceptable. But this is a bank that is capable of doing a lot and they are

really under pressure from my ministry to make sure that they perform and I have confidence on them and this is why I have been able to give them a sovereign guarantee for them to be able to raise the money that they require to be able to operate efficiently," she said.

And Mwanakatwe said NATSAVE was not declaring any dividends to the state because it was operating

under loss.

"The institution is not profit making, it has been making losses, it has not declared a dividend. This is why in my statement, I talked about strategic plans for 2014/2018, we realised that even with that plan, things were not going to work in the manner that we want them to, which is declaring dividends and make profits," said Mwanakatwe.

Lumwana Mine intensifies vocational skills programme

By Martin Musunka

Barrick Lumwana Mining Company (LMC) has pledged to continue sponsoring youths in Kalumbila District in the acquisition of vocational skills under its elaborate alternative livelihood programme to empower residents who are unable to acquire employment in the mines.

The mining company believes in a holistic approach of

empowering people in its host communities, hence the decision to identify youths in the three chiefdoms of Mukumbi, Matebo and Mumena to acquire vocational skills for alternative livelihoods.

LMC sustainability manager Christopher Mukala said that Barrick Lumwana is dedicated to sharing benefits with its host communities

and will, therefore, continue pursuing avenues of providing sustainable life skills for the youths in the three chiefdoms in the mine's operational area. Speaking during the graduation of 30 youths sponsored by Barrick Lumwana Mining Company at Solwezi Trades Training Institute, Mukala explained that the mining company, through its technical and vocational training

interventions, would continue to sponsor youths' acquiring skills to give opportunities to those unable to work in the mine.

"The importance of vocational skills is experience, value and most importantly, empowerment. In most developing countries of the world where the youths leave schools and have to wander the street in search of jobs that have long dissipated—in such cases, vocational skill acquisition comes to the rescue. You should, therefore, use your acquired skills to better yourselves," Mukala said. He said that Barrick Lumwana realises that it only has a limited number of employment opportunities and feels obliged to deliberately introduce programmes that promote self-reliance in the local communities.

Mukala added that the completion of the four-month training in carpentry and joinery and metal fabrication by the 30 participants, sponsored by Barrick Lumwana, presented a sense of fulfilment and joy, giving them hope that they were now ready to take up vocational activities in their various communities. He further outlined that Barrick Lumwana would continue working closely with community-based organisations, such as the Lumwana Community Business Association, Lumwana Agriculture Cooperative Union and Nsabo Yetu Federation to ensure that their members are adequately empowered in their lines of business.

Mukala also encouraged the youths to be innovative and focussed with their newly-acquired skills and seek opportunities that will allow them to become self-reliant rather than always looking for job opportunities at the mine.

The youths thanked Barrick Lumwana for the gesture and asked for start-up capital to set up their businesses so that their acquired skills can be put to good use.

"This is something that we never imagined could happen," said the youths, speaking through their representative, Edson Luapula. — Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.

Delaying IMF bailout could affect economy's resilience - Chikwanda

By Mukosha Funga

Former Minister of Finance Alexander Chikwanda says all responsible citizens must encourage government to take an IMF bailout package because delaying to secure it will affect the Zambian economy's resilience.

And Chikwanda says the opposition is incorrect to think that directing their efforts to check the excesses of government on President Edgar Lungu can bring him down because his approval ratings are high.

Meanwhile, Chikwanda says Africa is still poor because it has institutionalized mediocrity.

In an article titled "Patriotism (Love and Duty to the Country) is an Inescapable and Compelling Moral Imperative for all Citizens" circulated, Tuesday, Chikwanda noted that the IMF's concerns on excess borrowing were plausible.

"A major problem the country has is to sustain expenditure on constitutional and statutory requirements, namely emoluments and public debt which account for more than 80% of the national budget. There are no easy solutions. We cannot reduce the size of the civil service without risks for service delivery and accentuating unemployment. However, government should take the plunge and decelerate the annual wages salary adjustments. As debt servicing becomes increasingly unsustainable, it is inevitable that except for concessionary facilities from multi-lateral institutions such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, etc, the other types of borrowing be frozen which leaves scope to finance viable infrastructure through Public - Private Partnership (PPP). I have in the past noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now less theological. The institution cannot

depart from the ingrained habit of coming with a pre-ordained script from Washington DC. With pain, I admit that the IMF's concerns about borrowings are plausible. The decline in our reserves is rather worrying so let us all responsible citizens urge our government to take the tough medicine - delay could affect the economy's resilience. A program with the IMF gets a diversity of investors onboard. This is the ugly reality of our lop-sided world," Chikwanda stated.

And Chikwanda stated that the opposition was incorrect to think that directing their efforts to check the excesses of government on President Lungu could bring him down because his approval ratings are high.

"The opposition parties and the free (cum opposition) media which in a way try to check the excesses of government misdirect their efforts by concentrating on the Republican and Patriotic Front leader, Mr. Edgar Lungu, with a misperception that they can bring him down. Mr. Lungu's approval ratings in the PF is high and PF feel that the inroads the party is making in provinces where the party's showing was weak in the past is essentially on account of those provinces' perception of Mr. Lungu's affability, humility and a spirit of fellowship. The ingrained diehard segments in opposition should also realise that it is not easy to wish away the numerous development projects going on throughout the country which has not been the case in the past," he stated.

He stated that the opposition would do well to push for Constitutional amendments.

"A more credible opposition would have undressed the many flaws in the constitution because governance does impinge positively or negatively in the

direction or impact of development.

The present electoral system entails that parliamentary and Presidential candidates have to marshal large amounts of financial resources to dish out to the voters or leaders of opinion and influence. Isn't this the genesis and recipe for corruption? It is also a requirement of the law which government cannot circumvent that when a vacancy occurs at the level of parliamentary or local government seat, a by-election is held within 90 days. The cost of by-elections is becoming increasingly unsustainable. It is a good thing for the country to scrupulously fulfil the requirements of the constitution but when health institutions go without drugs, a gloss over morality is difficult to justify," Chikwanda stated.

"Other veritable electoral options such as proportional representation merit consideration. With the system of lists, by-elections and their exceedingly excessive costs are avoided. The voters are asked to endorse the ideas and programs of parties. Those leaders who are consigned to lose in Presidential elections will sit in parliament as long as their parties meet the minimum thresholds. Proportional representation also has fairer and more equitable representation and no personal-to-holder turfs. When there was a change-over to multi-party politics after a number of us confidants of President Kaunda persuaded him not to proceed with a costly referendum but amend an appropriate section of the constitution to reinstitute multi-partyism, all that happened was to craft multi-party politics onto the flawed one-party constitution. The implicit risks of the "privatisation" of the state were not addressed."

He stated that it was time Zambians

stopped playing the blame game and focused on developing the country.

"My admonition to all Zambians is that we have had enough of the blame game and daily screams of obscenities at each other. It is time to pull our very meagre intellectual resources to make Zambia a model country. The global economy is once again palpably slowing down and the headwinds of deceleration look quite gloomy and ominous. Like most of the continent, we are still unhealthily commodity dependent. The dip in commodities can take a downward spiralling at the whims and caprices of a few individual actors on the global stage such as the trump induced trade wars," he stated.

Meanwhile, Chikwanda said Africa was still poor because it had institutionalized mediocrity.

"The entire sub-Saharan Africa, with over one billion people, has a gross national income that is less than France or the United Kingdom (just about \$3 trillion). The continent's two biggest economies, South Africa and Nigeria, have a combined GDP that is scarcely bigger than that of the Netherlands - a country of 41,000 square kilometers in size and a population of 17 million people. Some critical issues are at the core and underlie Africa's retardation. Key among the issues is appalling governance and sentiment and emotion driven decisions which naturally have zero or very little rationality content. The continent has, since liberation from colonialism, put a caveat on intellect and frowned upon depth in thinking and meritocracy - in the process generalising and institutionalising mediocrity. In sociological terms, this is partly because we are transitioning from ascriptive societies (hierarchy-based) to modern achievement based societies," stated Chikwanda.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Constitutional Court has dismissed Dr Fred M'membe's petition with costs, in which he was challenging the Kitwe High Court's decision to quash the Judicial Complaints Commission's ruling which found High Court judge Sunday Nkonde with a prima facie case for professional misconduct.

The court ruled that the petition was improperly before them.

In this matter, Dr M'membe, petitioner, cited judge Nkonde as first respondent and the Attorney General as second respondent.

On February 10, last year, Dr M'membe lodged a complaint before the Judicial Complaints Commission in which he alleged misconduct in the matter Judge Nkonde, as a presiding judge handled the matter between the 'Post Newspaper Limited and Andrew Chimwenda and others.

The Commission proceeded to consider the evidence before it and by a ruling dated November 10, 2017 found that a prima facie case of misconduct had been

ConCourt dismisses M'membe's petition with costs

established against Judge Nkonde.

On November 20, 2017, Judge Nkonde took out an action before the Kitwe High Court against the Attorney General, in which he challenged the decision of the Commission in finding him with a prima facie case of misconduct.

The matter was subsequently settled by the parties on December 5, 2017 through a consent judgement which granted an order of certiorari against the decision of the Commission.

Following the entry of the consent judgement, Dr M'membe brought an action before the Constitutional Court, challenging the jurisdiction of the Kitwe High Court which heard and determined Judge Nkonde and the Attorney General's action.

He wanted the court to declare that the High Court

did not have jurisdiction to hear and determine a matter relating to the exercise of Constitutional power by JCC. Dr M'membe was further seeking a declaration that the proceedings and orders made in cause 2017/HK/771 were a nullity on account of jurisdiction and that all actions taken on account of the proceedings in the case, including the consent judgement, were null and void.

However, on March 27, 2018, the Attorney General filed an application to dismiss Dr M'membe's case, arguing that the petitioner could not purport to set aside a consent judgment to which he was not a party.

Judge Nkonde adopted the State's submissions.

He further stated that in essence, Dr M'membe was trying to use the proceedings to achieve an aim of declaring

the liquidation of Post Newspapers Limited a nullity as he would be saying that the judge had no jurisdiction to perform his functions even to the point of signing off the consent order, which led to the liquidation of the Post Newspapers Limited.

And delivering the judgement on behalf of judges Annie Sitali and Enock Mulembe, Tuesday, Judge Martin Musaluke said Dr M'membe's petition was improperly before the court and therefore dismissed it with costs to the Attorney General and judge Nkonde.

He said while the court agreed that judge Nkonde's action in moving the High Court at Kitwe mentioned some constitutional provisions, their view was that the reliefs sought could not allow the High Court to venture into any constitutional interpretation.

Judge Musaluke said the basis of the suit before the Kitwe High Court was to set aside the decision of the JCC on the basis that the rules of natural justice were not complied with.

"As such, we find that the High Court at Kitwe was competently clothed with jurisdiction to hear and determine the first respondents action," he said. And Judge Musaluke said it was settled law that a consent judgement did not bind non parties to it, adding that any party that wished to challenge a consent judgement had to follow prescribed rules of procedure.

He further said the Constitutional Court agreed with the Attorney General's position that Dr M'membe having not being a party to the matter before the Kitwe High Court, could not now purport to challenge a consent judgement.

Judge Musaluke said the proper procedure would have been for Dr M'membe to have

applied for leave to join the proceedings before the Kitwe High Court and thereafter, by a fresh action, challenge the consent judgement.

"The perusal of the court record under cause no 2017/HK/771 point to the fact that the petitioner made no attempt to join the proceedings before the Kitwe High Court even post consent judgement but instead rushed to seek redress before the Constitutional Court. The routes taken by the petitioner by way of lodging a petition before this court was incongruous and inapt. The petitioner cannot set aside the consent judgement to which he was not a party without following the recognised rules of procedure," he said. Judge Musaluke said although Dr M'membe had argued that his petition did not seek to set aside the consent judgement, the effect of his action in an event that it was successful would result in setting aside of the consent judgement under 2017/HK/771.

He, therefore, dismissed the petition saying it was improperly before them.

"In view of the foregoing and on the totality of the evidence before us, we find that the second respondent's application to dismiss the petition has merit and succeeds. The petition is improperly before this court and we dismiss it with costs to the respondents," ruled judge Musaluke.

Libala pupils in court for possessing leaked exams

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Six Libala Secondary School grade 12 pupils have appeared in court for unauthorized possession of examination papers.

In this matter, Yobe Ng'uni, 18, of Arakan Barracks; Fred Chipampa, 18, of Kabwata Site and Service; Joyce Sialwiindi, 20, of Libala Stage 4B, Enert Manjengwa, 18, of Chawama; Enivia Chimba, 18, of Libala South and blessing Banda, 17, of Chawama are charged with

unauthorized possession of examination paper or information contrary to Section 19 (1) and (2) of the Examination Council of Zambia Act chapter 137 of the laws of Zambia.

It is alleged that on November 2, this year, the six jointly and whilst acting together without lawful excuse, had in their possession Grade 12 examination question papers.

The accused are yet to take plea.

Meanwhile, two teachers have pleaded not guilty to disclosure of examination questions to a pupil, without lawful authority.

In this matter, Alphonsius Milambo, 40 and Angela Mumba, 41, are charged with disclosure of

examination questions contrary to Section 18 of the Examinations Council of Zambia Act, chapter 137 of the Laws of Zambia.

Particulars of the offence are that between October 16 and October 26, 2018, Lusaka, the two jointly and whilst

acting together without lawful excuse, disclosed examination question paper to a Grade nine pupil.

The matter has been allocated to Magistrate T. Mulenga and trial commences on December 27.

7-year-old narrates how dad had anal sex with him

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A seven-year-old boy has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that before he was taken to an orphanage, his father would have anal sex with him at night.

In this matter, it is alleged that Victor Mukuka, 38, of Zesco township in Lusaka, on May 10, this year, had unlawful carnal knowledge against the order of nature.

When the matter came up before magistrate Nsunge Chanda for trial, Monday, the victim told the court that his father used to defile him at night.

"My father used to have sex with me through the my anus and this used to happen at night. I used to feel pain when he had sex with me," he said.

The victim said when he informed a neighbour about his situation, he was taken to the hospital where he was given some medicine and the pain stopped.

He said that after his wounds had healed, he was taken to Home of Hope orphanage, adding that he didn't want to stay with his father because he liked defiling him.

During cross examination, Mukuka asked his son if he ever had sex with him and the child responded in the affirmative.

The matter has been adjourned December 20, this year.



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By Thomas Mulenga

University of Zambia Vice Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba has revealed that 665 students were barred from writing final exams because they were not registered.

And Prof Mumba says UNZA disqualified 12 students for examination malpractices such as carrying mobile phones in the examination rooms.

Meanwhile, Prof Mumba has disclosed that UNZA raised K1.2 million for infrastructure development from its alumni. At a press briefing, Wednesday, Prof Mumba said the said students had, however, been given an option of withdrawing from the institution so that they could return next academic year when they have money.

"A good number of students have been facing challenges with finances and this impacted negatively on their ability to register as students and subsequently write their exams. I must report that there has been an improvement in our collection of school fees hence out of 14,356 students who sat for examinations, only 665 students had not

665 owing UNZA students missed final exams – VC

paid their fees, these are the students who failed to raise 37.5% to register as students and they did not write the final examinations," Prof Mumba said.

"But as a listening management, we have said we are going to do something which is not normal in University operations, we are going to allow you to withdraw and come back next year when you have money to register. Normally, you need to be a registered student to withdraw, but we bent our policies to accommodate these very needy students."

He said going forward, admission to the University would only be confirmed after one proved they had the means to pay tuition fees.

"Over 5,794 applicants have been accepted to enroll at the University as first years. School leavers are 5,416, direct entrants are 378. These incoming students

have been given provisional acceptance letters, pending proof of the ability to pay tuition fees. This approach is introduced in order to avoid the perennial problem the university has been facing of admitting students who cannot pay tuition fees for various reasons. This means that admission will only be confirmed upon providing a letter of sponsorship or upon paying fees. So the admission letter is not an assurance that you have a place at UNZA until you meet those obligations of paying fees," Prof Mumba said.

And Prof Mumba said the university disqualified 12 students for examination malpractices such as carrying mobile phones in the examination rooms.

Prof Mumba disclosed that the University has so far installed 300 bunker beds in student hostels to cushion the accommodation crisis.

"You may wish to know that out of the 24,000 students that the University has, 18,000 students are full time and ideally requires 18,000 bed spaces. However, currently our capacity can only accommodate 3,670 students out of the 18,000. As a result of this, UNZA embarked on a project to produce 1,674 bunk beds at the cost K5 million. So far, 300 bunk beds have

been installed in rooms to accommodate 600 students. The introduction of 1,674 bunk beds will increase our capacity to accommodate 7,018 from the current 3,670," Professor Mumba said.

Meanwhile, Prof Mumba disclosed that UNZA raised K1.2 million for infrastructure development from its alumni. He also announced three resource mobilization campaigns towards infrastructure development at the institution.

"The first one is the K100 project campaign which is aimed at raising funds for the construction of the multi-purpose teaching and learning centre. Through this campaign, the alumni fund has generated K1.2

million in 2018. Government through president Edgar Lungu pledged K90 million towards this fund which will be disbursed to the university in 2019. The second campaign is the 'Buy a brick campaign' which we want to use to raise money to construct a wall fence for the University. You can make K3.50, we are appealing to all nationals to make this contribution. The third campaign is 'Adopt a hostel campaign' which will be a holistic and sustainable measure to deal with the state of students hostels, especially in water and sanitation. This will make it easy for the University to attract foreign students," Professor Mumba said.

He announced that UNZA had registered a company to generate income for the institution.

"We have registered a company of the University of Zambia called 'The University of Zambia Investment Holdings'. This entity will begin its operations in 2019. This entity will be used to conduct all commercial activities of the University, purely on business lines. With regards to recapitalization of our own operations, I am delighted to announce that we have now installed an ultra modern industrial printing machine at UNZA Press, the first of its kind in this country. This printer has been procured at a total cost of 770,000 Euros, approximately \$875,000 or K10.5 million. This machine will be commissioned in January in 2019. Members of the public and the business community are encouraged to give us printing business as we now have the capacity to print at any level according to customer specification," said Prof Mumba.

There's no Luapula United, we are loyal to Lungu - Chilangwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Luapula Province Minister Nickson Chilangwa says there is no such thing as "Luapula United" that is plotting to oust President Edgar Lungu, adding that the purported clique only exists in the heads of those who want to bring disharmony amongst provincial leaders.

Meanwhile Chilangwa says the remarks by UPND vice president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM) that a lot of thieves in government come from Eastern and Luapula will make the opposition party struggle to campaign in the two province.

Last month when he featured on a live Pan African radio programme dubbed "people's debate", GBM charged most thieves in government were from Luapula and Eastern Provinces, going further to list those from the two areas who had previously been convicted or dragged to court for corruption.

GBM went further to allege that there was a power struggle between Housing Minister Ronald Chitotela and his Health counterpart Dr Chitalu Chilufya as both wished to lead a PF faction dubbed "Luapula United" with the aim of taking over the ruling party leadership from President Lungu.

"Most of the thieves in government come from Luapula while others come from Eastern Province. Listeners let me tell you, wasn't Rupiah Banda from Eastern Province who was taken to court? Wasn't it late president [Fredrick] Chiluba from Luapula who was taken to court? Sata was from Muchinga, did you hear

that he was taken to court for theft? [no]. We come to Dora Siliya, isn't she from Eastern Province? Wasn't she the one facing corruption charges? Maxwell Mwale is from which Province? Is he not from Eastern Province? How about this former ZAF commander [Eric] Chimese and they have still failed to arrest him because they were stealing together, isn't he from Luapula? Thieves have destroyed this country, so that is why fellow Zambians, when it's time to vote, do not vote for a tribe, vote for someone who is going to bring you food on the table. Come 2021 let me tell you [that] Zambians will toss out PF through the ballot paper," declared GBM.

But in an interview with News Diggers, Chilangwa said "Luapula united" only existed in people's heads.

"There is no such a thing as Luapula United, it only exist in people's heads. And it is meant to make those of us who work as a team in Luapula Province to be looked at in a negative way. So for us we are not ashamed that we work together as a team and we have to continue working together as a team, but Luapula United does not exist. It is just in the head of those who want to bring discontent and disharmony amongst those of us from Luapula Province," Chilangwa said.

And in his earlier press release Chilangwa said UPND was a party known for alarm and peddling of falsehoods.

"We as Luapula have waited for the UPND to either deny or retract the said statement [by GBM that most thieves are from Luapula and Eastern

Province] but obviously we were wrong to ever think that the UPND has such capacity or such depth to judge between right or wrong. The UPND leadership is now known for alarm, peddling of falsehoods and outright lying. They thrive on divisive and primitive politics and they should not be expected to have the humility and courage to see forgiveness," Chilangwa said.

"We have therefore concluded that the UPND statement was meant to demean and malign the people of Luapula Province and by so doing be frowned upon, and taken as untrustworthy, the statement

was also meant to create a wedge between the rest of the country and the two provinces namely Eastern and Luapula Provinces. This is not just a divide and rule tactic but equally a naked insult to the people of Luapula Province by the UPND."

He warned that with such careless remarks, GBM and the UPND at large would not find it easy to campaign in the two mentioned provinces.

"We have also concluded that UPND has given up on ever getting votes of coming to campaign in Luapula and Eastern Provinces given this level of insults against the people of the provinces. What

drives the UPND to make careless and un-researched statements is not for the love of Zambia, but there insatiable desire to get their dirty fingers on the pie, like they did not do enough damage during the privatisation era because their morals are rotten to the core, they think everybody else's morals are as rotten. We are also aware of manoeuvres by the UPND and GBM in particular to put a sword between Luapula and Northern Provinces, the UPND and GBM must be reminded that we are one people and they will not succeed in dividing us," he advised.

High feed prices force Solwezi farmers to down-size poultry production

By Claver Mutinta in Solwezi

Small-scale poultry farmers in Solwezi are downsizing numbers of chickens for rearing because of hiked feed prices, which are proving to be a huge burden. Farmers in the district have complained of the high cost of feed and pleaded with manufacturers to be considerate of small-scale farmers so that the fledgling sector is not choked, but allowed to grow.

In an interview, Mary Mtalika of Solwezi lamented that most entrepreneurs were facing hardships in procuring feed stock, saying the cost was way above their financial capacity.

Mtalika explained during a Kansanshi Mining Plc mentorship visit conducted by Fortune World Investments (FWI) recently that 50Kg bags of feed, which were previously selling at K215, were now fetching K279 per 50Kg bag.

She said farmers were down-sizing numbers of birds for rearing to avoid

producing malnourished and emaciated chickens.

"We've a big challenge. The prices of feed have gone up! I would love that manufacturers of feed hear our plea, as whenever we go to buy feed, we complain. I used to rear up to 250 birds, but now I can't, it's very expensive! I only manage to keep 100 to 150. They're empty market stands because people have stopped rearing chickens," Mtalika bemoaned.

Though the prices had shot up, she said live chickens were selling at between K30 and K40.

She, however, maintained K45 for her chickens, which had resulted in low sales. Despite the low sales, she was making good profit because she was not in a hurry to sell all her birds. The business development workshop had taught her to be patient and maintain standards, which customers would associate her business with.

"Before the workshop, when birds were not selling quickly, I would reduce the price and I would make a profit of between K700 and K800 per chicken rearing, but now I make between K1,500 and K2,000," Mtalika added.

And FWI chairman Andrew Kafuta urged Mtalika not to give up despite stiff competition.

He also advised her to settle all statutory fees for her to stand a chance to do business with the mines and other organisations. Kafuta explained that value addition in business was important because it increased returns for entrepreneurs, adding that the interest of Kansanshi Mining Plc was to ensure that entrepreneurs succeed.

"We're very happy that the Kansanshi Mining Plc-driven business programme is growing your business, and making you stronger, so don't give up," said Kafuta.

– Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.



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Our view is that the police service should inspire confidence and execute its functions and mandate in a fair and impartial manner.

In or around the year 1996, then Inspector General of Police IG Francis Kaiser Ndhlovu embarked on the police service reform program.

The idea to introduce reforms in the service at the time was well intended and saw more university graduates in the history of Zambia being attested in the service.

However, the Police Service Reform Program could have been hurriedly done and this in its self rendered the entire reforms a complete failure.

Its worth noting though, that this program by and large managed to change the face of the service to a large extent.

The recruited cadet Assistant Superintendents seemingly brought new ideas in the old and discredited police force then.

Whilst the Ministry of Home Affairs supported reforms in the police, attempts to modernize and increase funding to the service remained remote for obvious reasons.

Challenges.

We respect our men and women in uniform and we laud them for carrying out their duties in extremely difficult circumstances.

However, gallant officers who sacrifice and risk their lives for the purposes of maintaining law and order have unfortunately been sidelined and neglected.

Working in the police service is vexing and a total night mare for many officers.

The service is dogged with a myriad of challenges ranging from inadequate office space, accommodation, lack of uniforms and transport among others.

Commanders in most stations dotted around the country can't even remember the last time they received funding.

Funding to field station is erratic.

Most police stations have no proper office furniture and stationary is usually availed to officers by well wishers.

The problems in the police service have been there since independence.

In short, the Zambia police Service in one of the most neglected government departments.

However, the NDC in Government will seriously address this status quo.

Police officers need to be motivated and should work in a friendly and conducive environment.

Harmonization of Salaries.

Salaries for officers in the police service are at variance with those of their counterparts in the other defense and security wings.

For instances, the salary of a Major in the Zambia Army is more lucrative than a Superintendent in the police service.

On comparative basis, the two ranks are at par.

Why should the salary grade for a lieutenant for instance in ZNS be different from an Inspector in the Police service?

Such disparities in salary structures have greatly demotivated police officers who feel sidelined.

The NDC will ensure that salaries for staff in the police and other security wings are harmonized.

An Assistant Commissioner of police for instance should fully enjoy the same conditions and privileges just like a Brigadier General in ZNS, ZAF or the Zambia Army.

Funding.

Funding to the police service has been decimal.

As NDC, we shall ensure that funding to the police service is revised and increased.

Most officers live in ram shackles and have gone for many months and sometimes several years without receiving their allowances.

We are aware that most police officers have never received their combat and settling in allowances for instances.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is fully aware of many of these challenges.

The Office of the IG.

The NDC in Government will ensure that the Office of the Inspector General of police becomes fully autonomous.

Our position is that the appointment of the IG should be subject to parliamentary ratification.

The NDC in Government proposed that the term of office for the IG should be three years.

That the contract of the Office holder should be subject to renewal by the House of Representatives upon recommendations from the PPSC and the parliamentary select committee on National security.

We propose that the appointees to the office of the IG, Deputy IGs and provincial police commissioners should be proposed and submitted to parliament by the independent Police And Prison Service Commission PPSC.

That the independent PPSC should be comprised of qualified men and women with backgrounds for instance in the legal fraternity, defense and security, civil society, human rights, academia etc.

The functions and composition of the envisaged NDC PPSC is however a subject of discussion for another day.

The appointment of the PIG, Deputy IGs and police Commissioners by the President has eroded professionalism in the police service.

This in itself has made the office of the IG completely irrational and impotent.

The IG can't work professionally because of intimidation and harassment from politicians.

The police service has in most instances failed to institute investigations into graft cases because of fear of political intimidation.

Its now fashionable to see officers being fired

and retired in national interest owing to political instructions.

Restructuring of Police service.

The NDC in Government will reintroduce the rank of Chief Superintendent and that of Sub Inspector.

Promotions.

The PPSC under the NDC will completely be independent.

Promotions of officers will be done on merit.

Unfortunately, we have lately witnessed a number of promotions in the service that have not been done on merit.

We propose that promotion qualification exams be reintroduced in the service.

It is sad that well deserving officers have remained stagnant in the same ranks for years without being considered for promotion.

The NDC will introduce the promotion board in the police service.

The board will work hand in hand with the PPSC.

We have a lot of unqualified office bearers in the service particularly at provincial commissioner level.

We have lately observed with dismay how officers who have served for only a few years are being elevated to senior positions even without prior experience.

This has not gone well with seasoned officers who rightly deserve to hold senior ranks but can't do so because in most instances, such officers have no political connections.

Training.

NDC will focus its efforts in retraining officers.

Officers under the CID, PIO, Signals, Forensic science department and others will be sent for advanced training to make them more relevant.

This will be done under local and international training programs.

Public Order Act POA.

The POA is still a thorny issue among political players.

To entrench professionalism in the police service, the NDC in Government will endeavour to revise the POA.

The piece of legislation is archaic and should be revised urgently.

Police Recruitment.

Recruitment of officers will be decentralized. Officers from all regions should be enlisted in the police service.

The current recruitment of officers is worrying. We are aware that political figures had a hand in the recent police recruitment that was a total scandal.

Conclusion.

The NDC in Government pledges to reform and transform the police into a modern, proactive, professional and independent service.

Courtesy. NDC Media Department.

Commercialising the small ruminants value chain will have broad and significant socioeconomic impact on rural livelihoods in Zambia

On the 21st September of 2018, News Diggers published my article titled, "Is Zambia ready for the Saudi Arabian goat and sheep export market?" The article is available on (<https://diggers.news/guest-diggers/2018/09/21/is-zambia-ready-for-the-saudi-arabian-goat-and-sheep-export-market/>). In that article, I made a recommendation, that the government must start by commercialising the currently informal small ruminants (goats and sheep) value chain through a cooperative market model which will be run by farmers, with the government only playing the value chain governance and technical guidance role. In this week's article, I am explaining why formalising the small ruminants value chain will have a significant impact on rural livelihoods in Zambia. I will start by briefly describing: what is meant by commercialising the value chain; what a value chain is; the agriculture sector in Zambia; the current statistics on numbers of households keeping livestock and their distribution; number, type and distribution of livestock reared based on the Central Statistical Office 2017 preliminary livestock and aquaculture census results. I will not discuss the accuracy of these census results because this is a story for another day. However, I need to make a note that statistics are vital. Wrong statistics can derail or give wrong figures for planning and accordingly wrong projections. Thus the data generated by those mandated to provide accurate statistics should strive at all costs to produce close to correct figures as what obtains on the ground.

What is commercialisation of the small ruminant value chain?

In this context, commercialisation of the small ruminant value chain means developing a well-organised system with capital resources, infrastructure, institutions, legal frameworks and markets (Roets and Kirsten, 2005). The existing international, regional and local niche markets that remain to be exploited, coupled with shifts in global consumer preferences and demand have opened up the possibility of commercialising the small ruminant value chain.

What is a value chain?

A value chain consists of "the full range of activities which are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of production, delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use" (Kaplinsky and Morris, 2001). At one end of the agricultural value chain are the producers – the farmers who grow crops and raise animals. At the other end are the consumers who eat, drink, wear and use the final products. In the middle are many thousands of men and women, and small and large businesses. Each person and each business performs one small step in the chain, and each adds value along the way by growing, buying, selling, processing, transporting, storing, checking, packaging, and disposing. All these activities and processes add to the value chain. The agriculture value chain is one of the most important and significant in terms of sheer volumes traded and magnitude yet it is still one of the most neglected.

Agriculture Sector in Zambia

Zambia covers 75 million hectares (752,000 km²), out of which 58% (42 million hectares) is classified as medium to high potential for agriculture production (ESLIP, 2016). The Zambian agriculture sector is mainly comprised of crop, livestock and

fish production. Three broad categories of farmers exist in Zambia: small-scale (these are mostly under the traditional sector), medium (emergent farmers), and large-scale (World Bank, 2011). Small-scale farmers are generally subsistence producers of staple foods with an occasional marketable surplus and consist the greater majority of farmers for both crop and livestock production. Most of the farmers practice a mixed crop-livestock farming system, which is only integrated to a lesser extent. National emphasis has been on crop production mainly maize given that it is a staple food. However, crop production is seasonal and rain-fed due to inadequate irrigation technologies. On the other hand, livestock production is practised throughout the year and takes the first option of liquidity when there is a financial need in a household. The government is emphasising on the need for diversification to other crops besides maize, and other livestock besides cattle, even though this has been on paper and not actualised.

Number and distribution of households raising different types of livestock in Zambia

Table 1 shows that goat keeping households are more widely distributed in all provinces compared to cattle keeping households, which are mostly concentrated in four (4) provinces, namely Eastern, Central, Western and Southern (CSO 2017). This means that strategically formalising the goat value chain will lead to a broader or evenly distributed wealth in all the provinces, which will eventually have more impact on the socioeconomic determinants linked to the development of this country.

Number, type and distribution of livestock in Zambia

Figure 1 shows that cattle and goats are the mostly reared type of livestock. Again, cattle distribution is more biased to Southern, Eastern, Central and Western provinces, due to among other factors, lifestyle as well as a cultural heritage, and the presence of the Kafue and Zambezi floodplains, which provide a good environment for agropastoralism. Much as 35% of goats and sheep are concentrated in the Southern province, the numbers are more widely or evenly distributed among all provinces in Zambia. This again provides leverage for pro-poor socioeconomic development through commercialisation of goat and sheep value chain.

What do we learn from these statistics?

When we talk about agriculture in Zambia, what comes to our mind is crops and how Farmer Input Support Program (FISP) and Food Reserve Agency (FRA) take more than 70% of our budgetary allocation to agriculture. Similarly, when we talk about livestock in Zambia, what comes to our mind is cattle. In the livestock subsector, our budget has always been skewed towards the control of cattle Diseases of National Economic Importance such as Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). What has been the impact of our current way of doing things? Are our so-called pro-poor interventions yielding great results, which are widely distributed? Are we paying lip service to the development of the export-led livestock sector? Where do we put small ruminants? Do we understand the potential of commercialising the small ruminants value chain? Fortunately, the 2019 budget seems to answer some of these questions through the allocation of K483.2 million towards climate resilient livestock

management and small ruminant value chain support project. Though not much, this is a step in the right direction. The big question is, what strategies have been put in place to actualise the small ruminant value chain support through the 2019 budgetary allocation? I will leave this question for the relevant ministries to reflect upon, as they will be spending the K483.2 million allocated towards climate resilient livestock management and small ruminant value chain support project. I will provide some options in the next article.

From these statistics, we learn that the numbers of households keeping small ruminants are more or less evenly and widely distributed across all the provinces, and so is the number of goats and sheep. Some of the reasons behind this observed countrywide distribution of goats and sheep are:

1. Small ruminants require less capital and cash to buy and maintain;
2. They are more convenient for distress sales while the death of a single animal is less damaging compared to cattle;
3. They grow and breed faster and can often thrive on harsher terrain;
4. Having made an initial investment in small ruminants, it may be possible to expand and having accumulated a large enough flock, to switch to cattle.

Therefore, poor farmers are more likely to own poultry, sheep and goats rather than large stock. This means that investing in commercialising the small ruminant value chain will have significant benefits, among them:

1. Broad involvement of households in poverty alleviation through small ruminant production, marketing and consumption. A goat is an attractive livestock for poverty reduction.
2. Broad involvement of households in contributing to national food and nutritional security. Zambia has more than 40% of undernourished children

(UNICEF 2017). This calls for broad participation of remedying the problem of undernourishment. Therefore, commercialising small ruminant value chain is a potential remedy for malnutrition;

3. Wide distribution in the creation of direct and indirect jobs along the entire small ruminant value chain;
4. A broad allocation of national resources through small ruminant production, marketing and consumption;
5. Broad participation of households in the diversification agenda from copper to of agriculture led export economy;
6. Gender and social inclusiveness in national economic activities. In most cultures in Zambia, men own cattle and only a male child inherit when the male household head passes on (Randolph et al, 2007). However, women mostly own small livestock such as goats and chickens. Commercialising the small ruminant value chain has a potential of involving more women and other marginalised communities in livestock production. A joint involvement of male and female in goat rearing regardless of social strata is a catalyst for national socioeconomic development.

Looking at the highlighted benefit, it cannot be overemphasised that commercialisation of the small ruminant value chain will have a significant and broad socioeconomic impact on rural livelihoods in Zambia. This however, does not suggest ignoring investment into the cattle production. Let us end with the following questions: Who should commercialise the small ruminant value chain in Zambia, and how can this be done? How can we stimulate demand on the consumption side? I will answer these questions in the next article.

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Table 1: Number of households rearing different types of livestock in all the ten provinces of Zambia (source: CSO 2010).

Province	Number of Households rearing respective livestock species			
	Cattle	Goats	Sheep	Pigs
Central	50,954	65,018	2,045	15,710
Copper belt	8,297	23,121	1,319	9,046
Eastern	105,950	71,535	6,206	66,721
Luapula	1,927	43,091	616	7,366
Lusaka	13,230	29,229	1,336	3,708
Muchinga	10,315	33,918	727	18,878
Northern	10,651	53,826	1,054	21,922
North Western	11,482	38,585	942	8,693
Southern	104,513	126,513	5,945	35,969
Western	31,646	13,088	97	14,165
Total	348,965	497,924	20,287	202,178

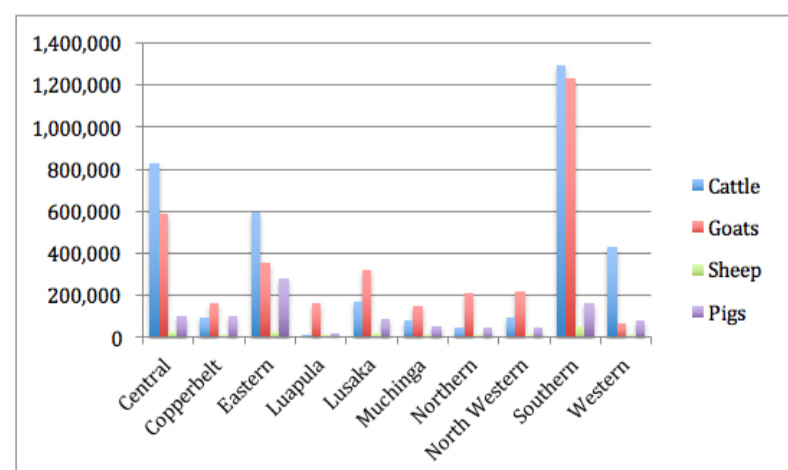


Figure 1: Number, type and distribution of livestock in all provinces of Zambia (Source: CSO 2017)

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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While the rest of Zambia was joining the world in observing 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and the international Human Rights Day, a gang of women in Ndola chose to give an unforgettable gender lesson to a cheating husbands' lover.

According to the police, a Ndola wife, identified as Precious Kapambwe stormed a drinking joint in a gang of friends to confront her husband, a Mr Harrison Mwanza, who was enjoying some beer with his lover Denise Mwanakubwila. Unfortunately, upon seeing his wife and the gang charging towards them, Mwanza bolted, leaving his lover in hot sauce, literally.

The brutal gang of wives dragged the 21-year-old accused lover to a house where they forced her to strip naked. As punishment for (allegedly) sleeping with their husbands, the women shoved a bottle of Castle Lager into the private parts and poured hot chili, much to the horror of the poor young lady. To show their wrath to the whole world, one of the gang members filmed the horrific episode and shared it on social media.

We were stunned to learn that a woman, who needs no induction to the reality of how excruciatingly painful it would be to undergo genital torture with such grisly devices, would do something like that to a fellow woman. This was worse than being gang raped; it was worse than what slave owners did to their captives. And it was all captured on camera to further mortify and degrade the dignity of a woman accused of sin. Why Zambia, why?

You cannot reform a cheating husband by torturing his lover

Remembering that during the 16 Days of activism against Gender Based Violence, the line minister called for the castration of male sex offenders, we wondered what kind of punishment she would recommend for these merciless female offenders who have shocked the entire world with their brutality on their fellow woman.

Quite alright, we have observed that this seems to have been a well calculated operation by the said gang of brutal wives, and it appears to us that they had been hunting for this 'cheating' couple for quite some time because they were too prepared for the showdown, and the husband wouldn't have run away if Precious was a mere drinking buddy. But even assuming that the accused lady was guilty, this measure of

punishment cannot be justified.

This operation was criminal because the aggrieved wives took the law into their own hands, and it was also foolish because they ganged up against a symptom, leaving the sickness on the loose. Did those women expect that the cheating husband would reform if they mangled the genitals of his lover? Precious wept and vowed never to sin again, but will these women succeed to mutilate each and every other girlfriend that Harrison Mwanza may have in his phonebook? How stupid!

Yes, we admit that there is a serious moral decay in some marriages nowadays, but the manner in which couples resolve their domestic differences has a strong effect on the rest of society. We have always held the view that

if marriage counselors have failed to resolve your issues; if pastors and spiritual counselors fail to bring peace in a home; it is better to separate and preserve a life.

We do not encourage promiscuity in anyway, but even outside marriage, logic and common sense dictates that when faced with such a situation in a relationship, one has to deal with their partner before pointing a finger on the outsider. This is because it is simply unsustainable to chase after intruders from your relationship for the rest of your life.

Looking at the age of the Ndola victim, we can't help but caution young ladies to slow down a little on life. Before deciding to engage into a relationship with this married man, Precious needed to ask herself how she would feel

if her future husband did exactly the same thing to her. She is even lucky that she survived the wrath of Mrs Mwanza's gang members, otherwise her life would have been taken away in an instant because that's what insecure wives do nowadays. But all that risk for what? A couple of cold beers? This is so unfortunate.

We also want to throw this indictment on parents who pressurise their daughters into getting married at a particular age. This has led to a lot of bad desperate decisions among the young girls who believe that when that age limit passes, no man would ever look at them. Some parents may argue that "we don't pressurise our daughter in any way", but even asking "when are you getting married" is pressure enough.

Sometimes this pressure

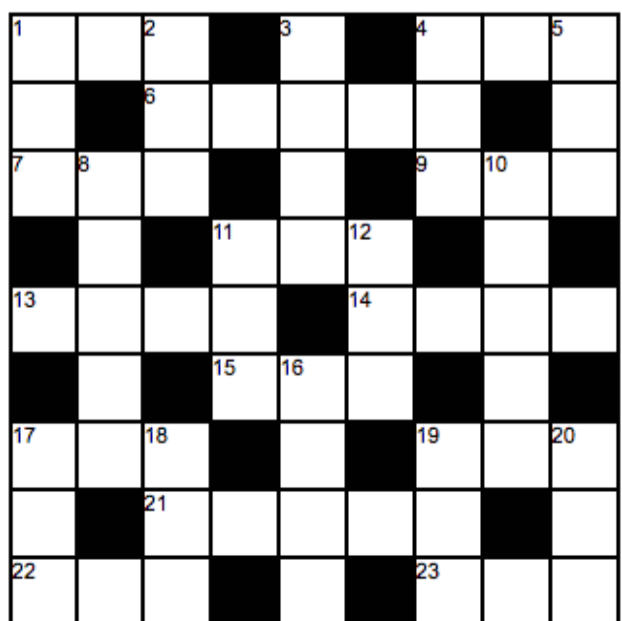
comes from brothers and other elderly family members; they don't understand how that question affects someone's decisions. The girl is left with no options but to start looking for marriage in all directions. Such pressure actually takes away from the longevity of marriages; because the bride and groom were not granted ample time to know each others' weaknesses and strengths.

Family pressure will force a girl to look for marriage even among married men because she is naïve and believes when that wealthy, good-looking husband says, "I will leave my wife to marry you". But when a calamity comes knocking from a botched marriage hunt, the same relatives who were fueling her desperation start condemning the daughter for disgracing the family.

Wise parents don't pressurise their daughters into marriage. They simply invest their last penny into the girl's education. When this girl attends university and gets a good job thereafter, it won't matter at what age she gets married, and that decision is left to her. When the girl begins to feel a little too old to live under the parents' roof, she will simply move and live independently. After all, she has her own salary to support herself and the rest of her family.

We salute the police for arresting the Ndola gang that inflicted the barbaric assault on a poor victim of a cheating husband, but this development is a reflection of what ails our society, from which we must all, as citizens of this country, draw lessons.

Crossword puzzle 251



"A real leader is one who leads the people in a right direction, changing their thoughts towards a constructive way for the welfare of all, whether the leader is in a government or not."
- Ehsan Sehgal

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "___ a Wonderful Life" 4. Duo 6. Trophy or medal 7. Possibly will 9. Nothing 11. Snake-like fish 13. Employs 14. Kind of sax 15. Young seal 17. Single number 19. Indefinitely long time 21. Presidential nickname 22. Coffee alternative 23. Bigg_ Loser | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Big Blue" high tech co. 2. Watch covertly 3. Fragrant wood 4. Four and six 5. Hedwig, e.g. 8. Fiery felony 10. Preface 11. Extra Sensory Perception 12. Legs, when sitting 16. Bring to ruin 17. Not home 18. Greek H 19. See with it 20. Pecan or almond |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 250



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Chipimo's insistence that ConCourt misinterpreted Constitution to favour Lungu

Editor,
"Elias Chipimo has done justice to this debacle. I must confess until his analysis, I was getting confused with why out of the two issues raised, only one was covered by the ConCourt and not the way the issue was

presented. The confusion I had emanated from bit noticing that the ConCourt was deliberating on the assumption of the rikeof the National Assembly. Now it is as clear as daylight. Thanks NAREP president Elias Chipimo JR. Not sure what will happen now that a misinterpretation by the highest court has been noticed," - Solomon H Phiri

"What an intelligent analysis. What can be better than this," - Mumba Mubanga

"The Court failed to interpret the intentions of the framers of that piece of legislation. After Zambia had done away with the one party system, the people wanted to make sure that no one stays in power longer than necessary. Clearly our Judges had other things on their minds when making that decision," - Kaumba Mulanda

"Elias Chipimo is trying hard to mislead unsuspecting masses on this just for political gain. Why is he beating about the bush. This is a straightforward matter. Why does the new constitution include the phrase "for the purpose of clause 3" in clause 6. I put it to everyone that the phrase for the purpose of clause 3 indicated in clause 6 automatically supports ECLs Eligibility according to 6b... Why can't Elias also explain the meaning of repeal and replacement to his unsuspecting spectators.. He knows very well that the part of the old constitution he is trying to confuse people with is no longer law...Remember that A repeal is the removal or reversal of a law. There are two basic types of repeal, a repeal with a re-enactment (or replacement) of the repealed law, or a repeal without any replacement," - Curtis Chirwa



'Lungu weakest opponent in 2021 - Kambwili'

Editor,
"Lungu is a very weak political opponent. In order to survive, he relies on political violence, deception, lies and tribalism. Lungu's abuse of Zambia police and Zambia Intelligence Service powers must be fought without delay," - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Power of incumbency will be at play. This is the desire of most politicians so that they can abuse systems. God have mercy. Anyway Zambians will be best judges in the both with ballot papers," - Arizona Kakole

"Kambwili should ask HHH how hard it is to be in opposition. He is just dreaming!" - Kelvin Chitala

"Living in denial isn't healthy," - Beasley Nkandu Kafiswe II

"An interesting statement. He will win again" - Joe

Police arrest Ndola women filmed torturing girl for sleeping with their husbands

Editor,

"While you are in custody, the girl you beat up with your friends is somewhere at a Lodge busy making love with your hubby. He is apologizing on your behalf and is even planning to dump you and marry her instead," - Fishay Zulu

"Indecent Assault is just too simple and light...the police should find a much heavier and stiffer charge which is notailable...charge them with" conduct likely to kill"...they should rot in jail," - Mwandama Bwalya Chola Musubila

"Indecent assault only?? What about kidnapping her? That was also a form of sexual abuse, indecent exposure.. please let's not give these women a slap on the wrist only," Thokozile Tkay Mwanza

"Such barbaric acts in this day and era! You would expect five adult women to advise each other better and taking a more human approach than what those people did. It is a shame that people can still behave like we are in the stone age!" - Memory Chilanga

By Joseph Mwenda

Intelligence Mobility Solutions (IMS) chairman Walid El Nahas says his company will not be involved in the collection of toll fees from motorists at toll plazas, but will only provide the technology for vehicle monitoring to curb false declarations especially among cross border truck drivers.

And Nahas revealed that motorists in Zambia will pay K975 for re-registering vehicles in order for the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) to install the Radio Frequency Identification chips that his company is providing. News Diggers! has been carrying out an investigation into the government concessions signed between IMS, RTSA and the Road Development Agency, to establish why the State was engaging a private firm to takeover revenue collection at the said institutions.

But when contacted yesterday, the IMS boss said the concession agreements do not have any provisions for the private company to get involved in revenue collections.

In this verbatim interview, Walid El Nahas gives the IMS side of the story and explains government's benefits from the concessions and further seeks public support for the deal.

Question: Was this deal subjected to competitive bidding? How did you coerce somebody in government to award it to you?

Answer: The RTSA concession was tendered and advertised in the newspapers for a month and half. We submitted our proposal first and after it went to the PPP unit, it had to be advertised for competing bids. They received the competing bids and we were the best solution. We got it without giving anyone in government not even a dollar. During that period, we also knew the PPP Act also protects us to do road tolling as well. Kapsch is a world leader in providing traffic technology systems. It has tolled in several countries and found solutions in several countries. So we joined the tolling in the same bid and it went to technical where it was approved.

Then when it went to the PPP council it was said that tolling shouldn't come under RTSA, but it should come under RDA. So they

IMS will not be involved in revenue collection - Walid

approved RTSA and they asked us to re-submit the tolling under RDA with the protection of the PPP Act.

Tolling today brings the government about US\$100 million a year. This is money that comes from cross border countries, and we all know that the correct mileage of these trucks is never declared. So when the two projects came together, it was to track these trucks to make sure that they pay the proper amounts for what they are declaring.

Q: How are you sharing this revenue with government?

A: The revenue split of this cross border tolling is 90 per cent gross to government and 10 per cent to us. From the 10 per cent that comes to us, we have to pay for the system, fix all the borders, we have to make sure that we pay the RTSA employees that are working on this project, which I think is a very reasonable deal because our profit margin here is one to two per cent. In order to secure the cross border infringements on road tolling, we have to make sure that it is installed on the tollgates. So that when a person declares 500 kilometres but drives a thousand, on entry of the borders, he will be monitored on how much he is paying. The data will be given to all borders that this number plate paid this amount, so he will be asked to pay the penalty plus the extra. If he doesn't have money, we have websites that are controlled by the National Road Fund Agency and RDA that foreign owners of these trucks can pay online and automatically it will show that it has been paid and the truck will pass.

Q: Are you collecting money on behalf of the government?

A: No! Government is running the show we are just in the backgrounds providing the technology and infrastructure which will be run by RDA and NRFA. Our role is just to support the technology and provide solutions. Today, there is no Escrow account any more.

Everything goes into control 99. We don't get involved in the money, we don't have access to it. IMS doesn't run RTSA, it does not run RDA or NRFA, it is a back office responsible for providing technology.

Q: Are you the company that is now responsible for registering cars in Zambia so that you can install the so-called Radio Frequency Identification chips on vehicles?

A: For security reasons, RTSA is handling the car re-registration and IMS doesn't have access to anything.

Q: Is it true that you are frustrated that motorists have been too compliant against speeding, and you are not making the money that you intended to make, so you are now installing cameras secretly?

A: That is not true, our concession period was due to the fact that the government wants to achieve road safety. We cannot install speed cameras without making a public announcement of where it is going to be. We cannot change that because that is the law and we obey the law. This is RTSA and the police doing that remember, and we are only providing the technology.

Q: Some people have complained that your speed cameras are giving false information where someone receives an alert that they were speeding when in fact it is not true.

A: That is not possible, our cameras are all certified. They are the highest technology, they are the first cameras that are being launched with infrared technology for in the night. So the driver does not get bothered, and all this will be announced to the public.

Q: How much will you charge motorists for installing this device and how much will you get from that?

A: The revenue split will be as follows: The total charge will be K975

Q: Per vehicle?

A: Yes per car. From this charge, K525 goes to government, K200 goes to plate numbers and people will not have to pay extra for the plate, K100 goes

to RFID technology, how much is remaining? K150, from this we have to pay all the employees of RTSA working on this project, and then the little that remains is what goes to IMS.

Q: I really need to demystify this, because Zambians are curious and would like to know why a foreign company will be monitoring their movements with this tracking device. Do you have access to the speed cameras?

A: The fines are done on the RTSA and Zambia Police Control. There are RTSA employees working on this. We are not involved at all.

Q: But people don't understand why you are providing this technology that will enable RTSA and the government to monitor my car movements. My car is not a truck and I don't transport goods, so why should you monitor where I go?

A: Today speed cameras are worldwide, the government doesn't know where you are going, but they will know when you are speeding and you will get an infringement ticket. That is the only time they will know where you are speeding from. Don't you think this is good development? And the government is not spending.

Q: Yes it is not spending, but when we look at the number of years when you will be implementing this deal, it shows that at the end of 17 years you will have collected so much from government and you will have spent nothing.

A: Excuse me! We will have spent nothing? My retain on investment is very clear sir, in this concessions. It's well outlined that my retain on investment is about 13 to 14 per cent, which I think is very fair.

First of all, the 90 per cent that you have reported that IMS gets and the government gets 10 per cent. IMS has to pay VAT on revenue, withholding tax for the employees, withholding tax on office rent, by the way we have only four foreign expatriates and we have 55 Zambians. So total due

to IMS after tax is about K400, 000, total due to government is about K1 million. This is the August operation schedule. This is even before our operational costs. So in August we ended up with a negative of K1,400, 000 while the government makes a positive of K1 million. This is from the August income. The actual split at the end of the 17 years is 81per cent RTSA and 19 per cent IMS.

Q: Let's go to the road tolling. Zambians are asking why their government is failing to simply collect toll fees and they have to surrender this simple responsibility to you to collect money.

A: There is a very serious fact that you have to know. The government is not surrendering the tollgates to the company. Currently how does the government build the tollgates, the Ministry of Finance releases the money and it goes to RDA, RDA builds the tollgates and gives it to the NFRA to run the tollgates. Now instead of the Ministry of Finance borrowing money to give to RDA to build and handover to NRFA, there is a company called IMS which is offering to build these tollgates for them, hand them to toll structures and the NFRA will run the tollgates. So basically we don't come anywhere near this. The IMS doesn't come anywhere near this project. It's just a Public Private Partnership where they run the show while we provide the technology to link it to RTSA. In other words we provide a loan for the infrastructure.

Q: So IMS will not be collecting toll fees?

A: Definitely not! The people who will be in the booths will be National Road Fund Agency workers. The people who will be working in the back office operation room are NRFA people. IMS will only be there for technical support if anything happens. The agreement we have with government indicates clearly that the data savers will be inside RDA. We have no access at all.

Q: Why are you saying to

government that 17 years is good and seven years is bad for this project?

A: In the re-negotiations, the government said we run seven years on the already existing tollgates. Now this is a synchronized system which will have to work with the rest of the systems. If we are able to put the system together, it has to be a nationwide project, otherwise it will be ineffective. The refusal that we have on that is that it will not accomplish what we plan to do for the nation, for the benefit of revenue collection.

Q: Is it not only true that you would like the project to go for 17 years so that you can maximize your return on investment?

A: Listen sir, return on investment is not the question. The question is that they want to give the 10 tollgates, which is not how IMS would like to operate because we want to provide a system of technology that will be effective nationwide. In seven years they want us to do 10 tollgates, now the remaining tollgates once they are operational, what's the conflict that will be there with our system on the other 10 tollgates?

Then we will start going for renegotiations again. That is why we would like to build all the tollgates at the same time and install them with this technology.

Q: Have you finally agreed on this tollgates deal with the government over the number of years for implementing this project?

A: We haven't agreed, but we are still negotiating to reach a place where we can do the best for the ministry to provide the solution for Zambia and at the same time trying to achieve the technology output that we are putting in Zambia.

Q: Thank you for allowing us to come and get your side of the story.

A: I would like to also thank you for taking your time to come and get facts about this project. I know that your newspaper would like to give the people of Zambia facts. IMS and Mr George Kapsch would like to thank the people of Zambia for the opportunity to do business here.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Civil Rights Activist
Brebner Changala says the Constitutional Court's ruling in the eligibility case entails that President Edgar Lungu can rule the country forever if he so wishes.

In an interview, Changala said by declaring President Lungu eligible to contest elections in 2021, the ConCourt had caused more confusion which has a potential to plunge the country into a constitutional crisis.

"The ConCourt deliberately shied away from there, they didn't say 'Edgar Lungu will stand or does qualify to stand' but it may as it is, the ConCourt has actually caused more confusion in this country. They have legitimized the current president or indeed any president that will come after him to govern this country. The concept of the term was for the purposes of calculating the emoluments that have accrued to the incumbent [and] not for eligibility for one to stand. For one to stand, the eligibility

Lungu can now rule for life - Brebner

is anybody who has served twice is not eligible. It's a very straight forward English but the situation the ConCourt has put us in now is very dangerous. They have re-written the Constitution themselves to suit their admired candidate, in this case Edgar Chagwa Lungu," Changala said.

"What this means now is that when any individual does not serve above three years or indeed served below three years [then] that is not a term. The term is or anybody who has served three years and above up to five years, that is to the new found Constitution by the Constitutional court. Now this means that Edgar Lungu can rule this country forever if he wants, before he clocks three years, he can dissolve parliament, which is not a term, and call for fresh elections. He has those powers in the Constitution. And he will be

eligible to stand. So again, when he is about to clock another three years, for any mysterious reasons, he can dissolve parliament and call for another fresh elections. He doesn't need to clock three years and above [that's] according to the Constitutional court, because when he clocks three years and above, they are calling it a term." Changala insisted that the ConCourt established its own new law that any president who serves below three years is eligible to re-contest in an election.

"That is the new law they have established. And get me correctly that I have said that the Constitutional Court has established a new law that 'anybody who served below three years is eligible to stand,'" Changala charged.

"The way forward in this country, first and foremost, the Constitutional Court needs

to come out and understand that a term is for emolument purposes, to calculate who has served so many months, so many years and not to use it as an eligibility for one to stand because the framers of the constitution have said 'anybody who has held office twice is not eligible to stand.' It's in black and white. And I want to go further [by saying] in this new found happiness by bwana Edgar Chagwa Lungu, when he goes to file in the nomination papers to the chief justice, there will be a challenge because he will be filing nominations for the third time."

He charged that the ConCourt judges were all unqualified to sit on the bench.

"And what is very important is the constitutional court failing to address this confusion [which] they have caused and to stop threatening people because we also know [that]

by law as established, they are not qualified to sit on that bench. And quote me right, by law as established, they are not supposed to be sitting on that bench because they have not met all the requirements that are needed for somebody to be a constitutional court judge. They have not met all those benchmarks of the law. So they are illegally there, fear nothing. And I am also doubting how they were ratified, whose interest were they serving? Was it the law or the interest of the appointing authority? Because the constitution is supreme and to surrender to us a group of citizens who do not meet the cardinal requirements of the Constitutional [court] judge, that is also an anomaly. And the confusion they have actually created in this country is recipe for anarchy," Changala said.

Changala said there is need to consult legal minds on whether

or not the Judicial Complaints Commission is able to address and revisit the qualifications of the ConCourt judges.

"We urgently as a country collectively need to address the issue of competence and qualification of our colleagues in the Constitutional court. This matter must be addressed urgently. We need to consult our legal minds whether the Judicial Complaints Commission is able to address this issue by revisiting the qualifications for each and everybody who is sitting on the Constitutional court. My take is that the Constitutional court should have taken some elevated people from the High court to the Constitutional court and the new judges who are in the constitutional court should have started their careers in the High court so that they gain experience to handle serious social and human rights issues that may be brought before them. At the moment they have created a serious gap in terms of doubt as to their qualification. And this is supported by the constitution itself as established by law. This must be taken very serious or else they are plunging this country into a constitutional crisis which emanates from the Constitutional court," said Changala.

"I have consulted very serious lawyers in this country, gurus at law [and] they agree with me that the constitutional court has opened a Pandora box in that they have made a judgement that is half baked, which is not well researched and probably with an ...motive, it must have a motive, there was a motive to deliver such a judgement to the people of Zambia. And lastly, President Edgar Lungu does not qualify to appear on the ballot again. That is cardinal as established by law. They must not confuse us [or] later on must not sit on those high chairs to confuse us. The good judgement thinks and defends the judiciary but the bad the bad judgement is a recipe for anarchy, ridicule and other things that will follow thereafter."

I didn't know it was a bullet wound when I operated on Precious' baby - Surgeon

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Fairview Hospital general surgeon, who removed the bullet from Precious Mangesana's daughter's neck, has told the Lusaka High Court that he was upset after the operation because the people who had taken the girl did not inform him that it was a gunshot wound.

The witness further informed the court that dimension of the wound on the child was less than two centimeters.

In this matter, a Lusaka businessman Nshinka Kaputo is charged with two counts of murdering his girlfriend, Precious Mangesana and acts intended to cause grievous harm.

Kaputo, 34, is alleged to have shot dead Mangesana, a MultiChoice employee, on October 5 last year.

He is also charged with the offence of engaging in acts intended to cause grievous harm, contrary to Section 225 (a) of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia.

It is alleged that on October 5 last year, Kaputo shot his daughter, Naila Kaputo, an act intended to cause grievous harm.

When the matter came up for continuation of trial before Justice Catherine Phiri, Wednesday, the State said they were ready to proceed and called their 11th witness to the stand, Dr Jabulani Munalula, 46, a General Surgeon at Fairview Hospital.

Dr Munalula, who has been a general surgeon for 18 years, informed the court that on October 6, 2017, between 05 and 06:00 hours, his colleague informed him that there was a two-year-old child who had a bleeding wound on her neck and needed assistance.

"He notified me that the child had a bleeding wound in the neck and he wanted me to come in and assist the child. I found the child crying with a wound in the lower right

neck," he said.

Dr Munalula said the child, who he came to know as Naila Kaputo, was with a lady who was identified as her aunt.

He, however, said when he asked how the wound came to be, no details were provided, only a mention of a fight between the parents.

Dr Munalula said he therefore proceeded to the theatre to stop the bleeding.

He added that after washing the wound, thinking it was an ordinary one, he found a deformed bullet inside.

"There was a mention of a fight between the parents and that the child somehow got involved in the fight. Based on my physical findings on the bleeding wound on the neck

of the two-year-old, I decided to take the child to the theatre to stop the wound. Once we were in the theatre I proceeded to wash the wound thinking it was an ordinary wound. But on further exploration, the wound kept growing deeper and we found a deformed bullet," he said.

Dr Munalula said this was unexpected as no mention was made by the family.

He added that this upset him because had he known earlier that it was a gunshot wound, it could have changed his management of the wound.

"We removed the bullet and explored to make sure there were no additional injuries. Then I closed the wound. Because it was a bullet, I

decided we needed to do a CT scan of the child's neck. The scan did not show any other injury and we admitted the child for observation. I was quite upset because I felt the people who brought the child could have told us that there was a gun involved because it could have changed my management," he said.

"I tried to find the aunt who brought the child but found she was no longer available. We put the child in the custody of the mother's family and reported the matter to the police. I handed over the bullet to the police."

Dr Munalula further said the child was discharged two days later in a stable condition.

He disclosed that the bullet

injury in that area of the neck could cause major bleeding and potentially death.

"There are several critical structures located on the base of the neck. Blood vessels that go to the brain, right arm, nerve tissues and the lungs. The blast injury from the bullet in that area can cause major bleeding and potentially death. If not identified and removed can cause infection and further complication to the child," said Dr Munalula.

In cross examination, Dr Munalula said the dimension of the wound on the child was less than two centimeters.

He added that the wound was a laceration or a cut.

Trial continues, Thursday.

Zanaco projects slow economic growth in 2019

By Abraham Kalito

Zanaco head of economic research Dr Patrick Chileshe says the trade tensions between the west and China will keep commodity prices subdued and ultimately affect economic growth locally in 2019 and 2020 to a greater extent.

And Dr Chileshe says inflation is projected to average 8.6 percent in 2019 from 7.7 per cent in 2018.

Meanwhile, Dr Chileshe says the Kwacha will depreciate if policy intervention is not taken quickly.

Speaking during the 2019 Zanaco Economic Outlook, Dr Chileshe said the outlook remained positive in 2019 and 2020 but that risks, including a decline in commodity prices due to trade tension, would impact growth to a greater extent.

"Global economic outlook and projection also remains positive but with heightened tensions, especially the trade war that has broken out... risks have intensified. The escalating trade war, though talks have continued, tightening of financial conditions, expected rise in production costs, all these will negatively impact the growth of the economy in the country. Global financial conditions are tightening and are likely to create vulnerability in debt

ridden countries. Trade tensions have dampened business optimism and business sentiments have deteriorated as time goes. Dark clouds of trade tensions lead to weak commodity prices declining in the third quarter of 2018, with agro-commodity prices also declining. Unresolved trade tensions will keep commodity prices subdued. Commodity prices are expected to remain subdued if trade tensions are not resolved and the risks will be tilted to the downside," Dr Chileshe said.

"Locally, economic activity deteriorated in the third quarter free strong performance in the second quarter with key reasons being, drop in commodity prices, high exchange rate volatility and build up in arrears. Outlook for 2019 and 2020 remains positive. 2018 growth is expected at 3.8% from earlier forecasts of 4.3%. 2019 growth is projected at 4.1 percent of GDP growth while 2020 growth is expected at 4.3%. However we do have risks to this growth and they include trade wars. The west and China have been in trade war for sometime now. Risks to grow in 2019 and 2020 include, trade wars, tight global financial conditions, failure to unbundled arrears, introduction of sales tax, projected poor rainfall"

And Dr Chileshe said inflation was projected to average 8.6 percent in 2019 from 7.7 per cent in 2018.

"Inflation has edged upwards in 2018 and is expected to rise further in 2019. Inflation breached the upper bound of the target range in the third quarter due to both food and non-food prices. Inflation is projected to rise in 2019 and is expected to average at 8.6 % from 7.7% in 2018. There are risks to this forecast including higher exchange volatility due to trade deficit, external debt service obligations, sovereign credit downgrade, El-nino. Downside; improved electricity supply-lower cost, governments efforts to arrest growing debts," he said.

"Zambia's sovereign risk increased fiscal imbalances fuel sovereign credit rating downgrade. Yields on bonds have risen sharply. Rising government debt, tight global financial conditions and failing commodity prices have fueled sovereign downgrade. Key factors explaining this include; concern about growing external debt, rising yields in advanced economies and drop in commodity prices. Outlook remains bleak if the following continue, growing debt, subdued commodity prices and tight global Monetary policy conditions. Ease Monetary Policy and

subdued demand cause lending and deposit rates to fall. In the third quarter of 2018, liquidity eased compared in the second quarter following the Bank of Zambia's move to maintain ease monetary policy. In general in tests rates on deposits and low and dropped because of the subdued demand and elevated liquidity. However, yields on government securities rose due to fall in demand for government paper."

Meanwhile, Dr Chileshe said the Kwacha would depreciate if policy intervention was not taken quickly.

"Total debt has risen by a constant average growth rate of 15% per year since 2008. However, going forward, we believe credit growth will remain subdued because of expected pick up in inflation, higher non-performing loans, high arrears owed to suppliers but plans to reduce arrears can tremendously improve credit growth. Zambian Kwacha to remain largely stable in short term but likely to depreciate in 2019 if policy intervention is not taken quickly enough. Risks to exchange stability include; higher holding of domestic assets by foreign investors. Rising external debt to constantly create room for rumours and it's adverse effects and rising crude oil prices," said Dr Chileshe.

Ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen jailed for 36 months

Michael Cohen, the former lawyer to Donald Trump who once said he'd take a bullet for the president, has been given a 36-month prison sentence. He is the first member of Mr Trump's inner circle to be jailed over the special counsel's inquiry into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election. He has pleaded guilty to multiple crimes including campaign finance violations, tax evasion and lying to Congress.

In court Cohen lashed out his ex-boss.

Cohen, 52, told Judge William Pauley in the Manhattan courthouse that Mr Trump caused him to "follow a path of darkness rather than light".

He told the court his "weakness was a blind loyalty to Donald Trump" and that he "felt it was my duty

to cover up his dirty deeds".

The sentencing was related to two separate cases brought by the Southern District of New York and Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Mr Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations for his role in making hush money payments to women who alleged affairs with Mr Trump. He will serve that term concurrently with a two-month sentence

he was given for lying to Congress about a possible Trump Tower project in Moscow, a charge leveled by Special Counsel Mueller.

The judge gave Cohen until 6 March to report to jail at the Otisville prison in upstate New York.

In addition the jail term, he was also ordered to forfeit nearly \$2m (£1.6m).

As he left the court, he did not pause to speak to the assembled media. *BBC*



Often in recent years, Michael Cohen has said things like, "I will do anything to protect Mr. Trump," or "I will always protect our" president

Ghana drones: Row over blood-delivery devices

A row has broken out in Ghana over the government's decision to buy unmanned drones to deliver blood and essential

medicines. The government wants the drones to deliver to hospitals nationwide, especially in remote areas.

Some MPs say they want more spent on clinics and ambulances instead of what they call a high-tech vanity project.

Government minister Pius Enam Hadzide rejected the criticism, saying the plan sought to improve health services.

The Ghana Medical Association called for the immediate suspension of the newly approved drones deal, arguing that it would not solve the country's health problems and needed to be tested on a trial basis first.

Mr Hadzide, the deputy minister of information,

said he was "taken aback" by the comments, saying the association had been consulted. But he also said "our doors remain open for further engagement and consultation".

The scheme was recently approved along partisan lines by 102 votes to 58, and is set to be implemented next year.

A US company, Zipline International Inc, is to be paid more than \$12m (£9.5m) to run the project for four years.

Opposition MP Cassiel Ato Forson said the government had negotiated an "extremely bad" deal

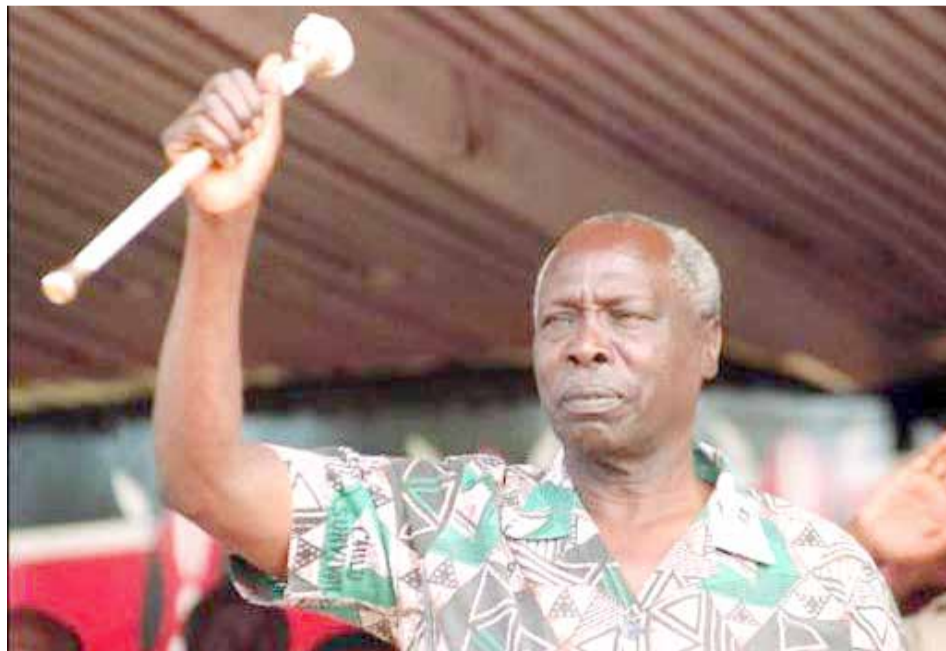
with Zipline.

The BBC's Favour Nunoo in Ghana says that earlier this year it was reported that the country had fewer than 55 ambulances serving a population of 29 million.

He says this has angered some members of the public who think the drones scheme is not appropriate given the challenges that exist in the health sector.

The case of drone use in Rwanda has been cited by supporters of the Ghana deal, our correspondent says, but critics argue that Rwanda at the time had a more robust healthcare system. *BBC*

Kenya's ex-ruler Moi, 94, admitted to hospital



Kenya's former President Daniel arap Moi, 94, has been admitted to a private hospital in the capital, Nairobi, for a routine medical check-up, his office says.

Mr Moi was one of the "big men" of African politics, having ruled Kenya from 1978 until his retirement in 2002.

In March, he had his knee checked at a

hospital in Israel and was discharged with a "clean bill of health", his office said at the time.

He underwent a knee operation in Nairobi in January 2017.

Mr Moi's knee is said to have troubled him since he was involved in a car accident in 2006. *BBC*



Drones used in medical facilities

Duchess of Sussex gives award to her wedding dress designer

The Duchess of Sussex made a surprise appearance at this year's British Fashion Awards - to present a prize to the designer of her wedding dress. Clare Waight Keller, artistic director at Givenchy, was named womenswear designer of the year at the event. The Duchess said Waight Keller was "leading on the global stage with vision and creativity". "When I met her for the first time 11 months ago I knew we would be working very closely together," she added.

Meghan, who wore a one-shouldered black Givenchy gown for the occasion, paid tribute to Waight Keller's "incredible kindness" at the Royal Albert Hall ceremony.

The Birmingham-born designer became the first female artistic director of French fashion house Givenchy in 2017. In her acceptance speech, Waight Keller thanked the Duchess for trusting in her when it came to making her wedding dress.

"To have someone like that trust you in an incredible moment in their life is something that is just the most unbelievable honour," she said. "I can't thank you enough." Other big winners of the night included Italian fashion house Gucci, which won brand of the year. Its president and CEO, Marco Bizzarri, also picked up the business leader award.

Dame Vivienne Westwood, winner of the positive change award, used her acceptance speech to claim she had a plan to save the world from "climate change and financial crash". Monday's ceremony

was a glamorous affair with the biggest names in fashion in attendance. Models Kate Moss, Kendall Jenner, Jourdan Dunn and Winnie Harlow made appearances alongside such actresses as Penelope Cruz, Uma Thurman and Rosamund Pike. Victoria Beckham also made a rare red carpet appearance alongside husband David and son Brooklyn. **BBC**



Your wife is not your best friend, and thinking she is will kill your marriage

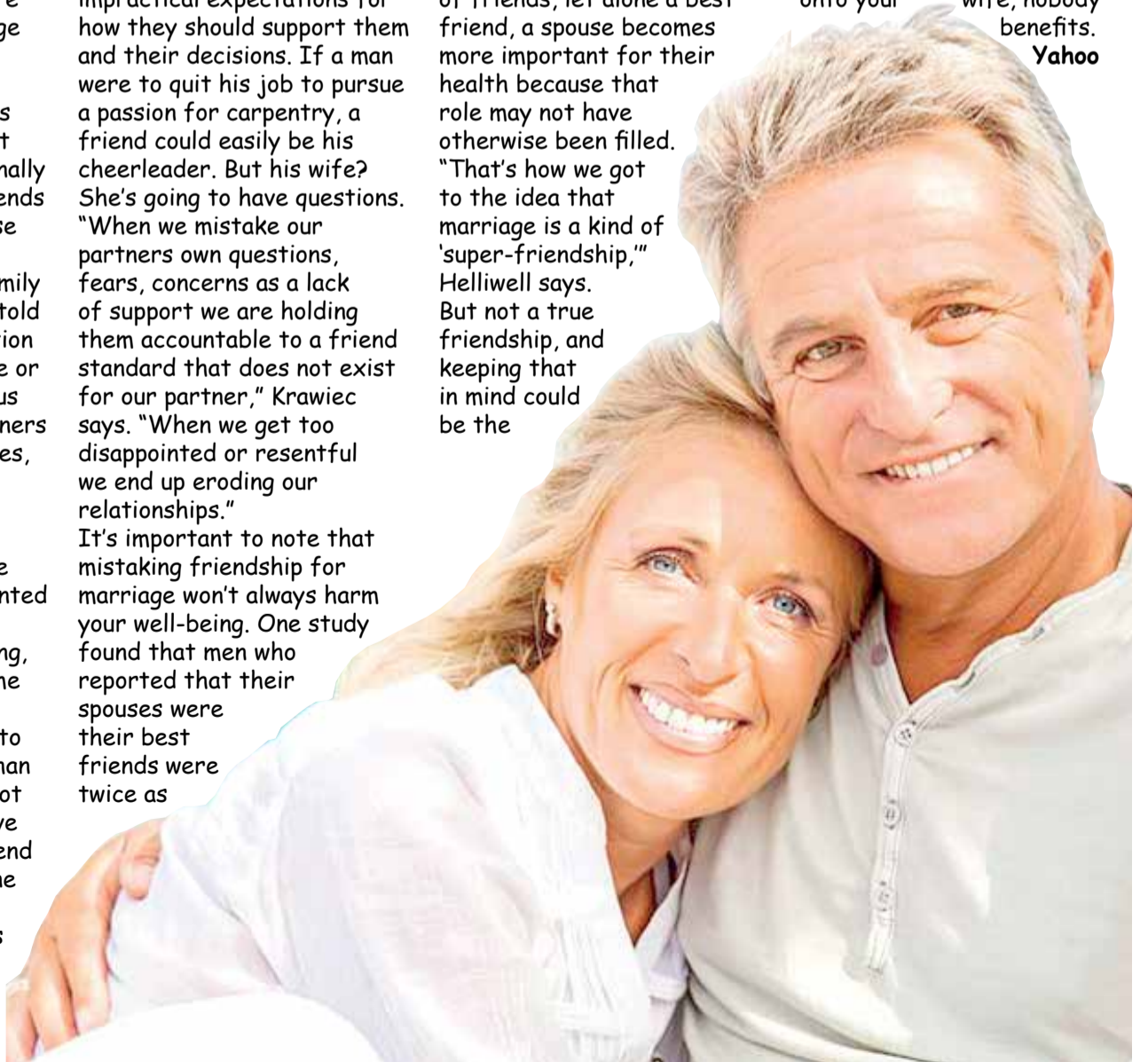
Think your wife is your best friend? You're wrong. It doesn't mean your marriage isn't wonderful—it's just a recognition that friendship and marriage, while they share key areas of overlap, are fundamentally different relationships. And conflating the two can cause far more problems for your marriage than your friendships, experts warn.

"In most cases our friends do not live with us, are not financially, legally, relationally entwined with us. Our friends are attached to us because they want to, when they want to," marriage and family therapist Carrie Krawiec told Fatherly. "They have volition and empowerment to leave or at least take space from us when necessary. Our partners are connected to our homes, family, schedules, life." It makes some sense why marriage and friendship might be confused for one another. It's well-documented that marriage is good for individual health, well-being, and longevity, and the same is true for friendship. Married people also tend to rely less on friendships than single people. But that's not because their spouses have stepped into the best friend role—it's because everyone else has. "When married, you also have each other's parents and siblings as sources of support — or even children," Krawiec explains. "Married people

tend to have a broader pool of potential supports." However, that's different from friendship and mistaking one for the other can cause conflicts in marriages, Krawiec warns. Husbands who expect their wives to be their best friends may develop impractical expectations for how they should support them and their decisions. If a man were to quit his job to pursue a passion for carpentry, a friend could easily be his cheerleader. But his wife? She's going to have questions. "When we mistake our partners own questions, fears, concerns as a lack of support we are holding them accountable to a friend standard that does not exist for our partner," Krawiec says. "When we get too disappointed or resentful we end up eroding our relationships." It's important to note that mistaking friendship for marriage won't always harm your well-being. One study found that men who reported that their spouses were their best friends were twice as

likely to report high life satisfaction. John Helliwell, a professor at the Vancouver School of Economics who conducted the research, told the New York Times that this is likely because men tend to have fewer friends. And for people who don't have a lot of friends, let alone a best friend, a spouse becomes more important for their health because that role may not have otherwise been filled. "That's how we got to the idea that marriage is a kind of 'super-friendship,'" Helliwell says. But not a true friendship, and keeping that in mind could be the

difference between a successful marriage and a life full of disappointment. If it helps to think of your spouse as a best friend who happens to be financially and legally tied to you, go for it. But keep in mind that, when you heap best bud expectations onto your wife, nobody benefits. **Yahoo**



Dembele proves he's no Barca B player with Spurs wonder-goal

This was a night Ousmane Dembele needed to stand up for himself, and he did, with a brilliant individual goal as Barcelona drew 1-1 against Tottenham in the Champions League.

After a string of stories about his poor discipline, his poor diet, his poor sleeping habits and above all, his poor timekeeping, the Frenchman had something to prove following his latest misdemeanour on Sunday.

Yet again he was late for training, two hours late, and only turned up then because Barcelona's security staff went to his house to find him.

Dembele will reportedly be hit with a big fine and the news created a new storm around a player that has provoked as many bad news stories for the club as good ones.

Not what they wanted when they shelled out up to €147 million to sign him from Borussia Dortmund in the summer of 2017.

Perhaps he was taking on the role of 'Neymar's replacement' a tad too seriously, given the Brazilian's penchant for negative press. Ernesto Valverde rested seven of the side that started the Catalan derby win over Espanyol on Saturday, so perhaps being picked in this 'Barca B' team could be seen as a kind of punishment for the French winger.

After all his team had already qualified in top spot from Group B and this game only meant something to Spurs and Inter, with the Premier League side eventually going through on head-to-head away goals thanks to Lucas Moura's late equaliser.

But if it was punishment, Dembele didn't let it show. This is the Dembele Barcelona want. The Dembele that races

half the length of the field to score, leaving the opponents' defence in tatters.

Winning the ball back in the middle of the pitch by robbing Kyle Walker-Peters in the seventh minute, the Frenchman saw two options. Pass to Arthur, who would be through on goal. Or take the riskier option, the one which could see him berated if he messed up, going for it himself.

Brazilian pass-master Arthur is small and hardly a sprinter, so Dembele decided to go for option number two, come what may. After all, he's no stranger to criticism.

Dembele turned on the gas and blazed past Walker-Peters again, giving the

young right-back a brutal introduction to elite football. Now in the area he fooled Harry Winks by cutting back inside, onto his left foot, which he used to slide the ball past Hugo Lloris and score a brilliant goal.

Dembele's speed was scary. Not just his physical speed, which saw him rip through Tottenham territory like an Olympian sprinter, but his technical speed too.

While Winks was sliding in, Dembele was already ready to shoot. His finish wasn't that far away from Lloris but the ball was past the French keeper before he could react. Maybe he needs those extra hours in bed to function in moments like this. *Goal.com*



Gary Neville's Valencia reign: From future Man U boss to laughing stock

In an alternate universe Gary Neville might be the Manchester United manager by now - on the bench at Mestalla on Wednesday night in the Champions League, enjoying a returning hero's welcome by Valencia supporters.

But after taking over on Spain's east coast in December 2015 Neville's managerial dreams were quickly dismantled and, sacked in under four months, it spelled the end of his fleeting career in that field.

"It'll never happen, I'm a million miles away," the former Man United defender explained in 2017, when asked about a return to the dugout.

As well as his legendary status at Old Trafford,

Neville is a successful businessman with his fingers in many pies, from restaurants to hotels, so ultimately his foray into coaching will not define him.

However his torturous reign in Valencia will not be forgotten quickly either. Neville's appointment was seen as bizarre at the time and disastrous when he was sacked.

Valencia took only 14 points from 16 league games under Neville and the coach was dismissed with the team in 14th, six points above the relegation zone.

The Englishman made mistakes. How could he not? Walking into a coaching job at one of Spain's biggest sides without speaking the language was an error to

start with.

Neville had no experience as a head coach and, while that didn't make it impossible for a coach to succeed, it certainly made it unlikely.

Neville, a friend and business partner of Peter Lim, the Spanish side's Singaporean owner who bought a 50 percent stake in Salford City, also arrived without back-up, although brother Phil Neville was already at the club working as an assistant manager.

Not having anyone come in with him who spoke Spanish was a grave mistake. Neville would have been bolstered significantly if he'd had a team to work with that knew the league, the players and the fans, and understood the language, the media and the culture of the country.



Ask Neville now and he will tell you La Liga is a tougher league than the Premier League, and the Spanish media are more direct and fierce than their English equivalents. Sometimes his press conferences seemed like a shooting range with Neville the target.

Training sessions were painful. Neville would issue an instruction, it would need to be translated into Spanish, the players would ask questions, they would need to be translated into English. Everything took twice as long as normal, an extremely frustrating situation for the players, not to mention Neville himself. Eventually Pako Ayestaran was parachuted in to help in February. Even by then the players still found it difficult to understand the coach. At a meeting with the club's captains and key players where Neville explained Ayestaran's arrival, midfielder Enzo Perez thought the Englishman was resigning.

Neville managed Ayestaran's arrival well, telling brother Phil and coach Miguel Angel Angulo that the former Liverpool assistant

manager was there to try and take his job, rather than theirs - which eventually came to pass.

The former right-back wasn't walking into the role completely cold, having worked as a consultant with the club while operating as a Sky Sports analyst before being hired, but it was not enough to understand how intense the job would be.

While at first the players responded to the new coach for the novelty factor, that effect didn't last long and pressure began to mount.

Neville kept his role as part of Roy Hodgson's England coaching team, which was an error. When you are in charge of any team, it needs to be your sole focus. Moreso when it is a club the size of Valencia.

Tactically there were mistakes too, with Neville even pointing one out himself while commentating on a Middlesbrough game.

"I think [Alvaro] Negredo could score goals but he probably would need a partner now, which begs the question why I didn't put a partner up with him at Valencia," Neville explained on Sky. *Goal.com*



Sadio Mane of Liverpool is challenged by Nikola Maksimovic of Napoli during the UEFA Champions League Group C match between Liverpool and SSC Napoli at Anfield on Tuesday in Liverpool, UK. AFP



AFP Forum
Alex Caparros / Getty Images / AFP

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Lionel Messi takes on Toby Alderweireld and Dele Alli of Tottenham Hotspur during the UEFA Champions League Group B match between FC Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur at Camp Nou on Tuesday

Tottenham defied doubters by pulling off CL escape at Camp Nou - Poch

Mauricio Pochettino revelled in Tottenham defying what he said many had dubbed "mission impossible" on Tuesday as they drew away to Barcelona and qualified for the Champions League's last 16. Spurs needed to match Inter Milan's result at home to PSV Eindhoven, which they did, thanks to Lucas Moura's 85th-minute equaliser snatching a 1-1 draw at the Camp Nou.

Inter were held to the same scoreline by PSV, sending Pochettino's side through in second place in Group B, despite them taking just a single point from their opening three games. "No-one believed in us," Pochettino said afterwards. "People said it was mission impossible but we are here. It is a massive achievement for the club." Ousmane Dembele's superb early goal looked set to put Tottenham out, as Son Heung-min, Harry Kane and Moura all missed excellent chances. Moura's late strike, however, set up a dramatic finale, with Spurs players left to wait after the final whistle for the finish to be confirmed in Italy. Victory, and progress to the knock-out stages, represents an impressive achievement for Tottenham, particularly given they have had to play home games at Wembley this term while their new stadium continues to be delayed. *AFP*

Invincible women's Green Buffaloes complete clean sweep of titles with league triumph

By Alex Chilumbwe

Green Buffaloes Women Football team has continued its dominance in women football in the country with their latest achievement being successfully defending the league title unbeaten, winning all but one game in the 22 played games. The female combatants, unlike their male counterparts have shown consistency in topping the league table and have supplied the female national team with eight players to represent the country in various competitions. The latest ones being the female Total Africa Cup that Ghana hosted and Nigeria defended and the COSAFA tournament that South Africa hosted and won. Buffaloes coach Charles Haalubono and his assistant Beauty Mwamba shared their sentiments towards their team's ever-green success in women football and the challenges that

they encounter in ensuring that the ladies stayed on top of their game. This was yesterday in an interview with Goal Diggers! "It is never an easy road but we manage to organize them. Mainly it is because discipline is cardinal when you are under Zambia army and secondly, they dedicate so much to the game. The moment they step on the pitch they get down to business and such passion pushes me to help them more. Passion is one of the reasons we look beyond their moods," said Haalubono. And assistant coach Beauty Mwamba noted that the ladies were selfless and understood how important it is to work as a team. "Although a good number of them play for the national team, they drop that mentality at club level and level the ground. There are school going stars in the club like Ireen Lungu

and Melaine Mulenga who play better than seniors but they never show elements of pride. This makes the team stronger," said Mwamba. Meanwhile, skipper of the side who is also national team fullback Anita Mulenga hoped that the team spirit continued and assured the fans of

defending the league title in 2019. "I would very much want us to remain united on the pitch even though we may have differences off it. I can also assure you that we will defend the league title in 2019 and we will win all the games unlike this draw against Red Arrows that we

have recorded this season," said Mulenga. The Lusaka league has 13 teams and the army-sponsored side has defended the title five times consecutively while it has won it more than eight times. Buffaloes have won all the tournaments that were lined up in 2018.

Lwandamina tells Sven to take responsibility for AfCON failure

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina says national team coach Sven Vandebroek should take responsibility for failing to qualify the Senior National Team to 2019 AfCON and not find comfort in blaming local assistant coaches that were reluctant to use computer-related technology in coaching.

Lwandamina noted that the Belgian was only trying to shift blame of his failure by attacking local coaches adding that no principled local coach would be willing to work with him because of his hurtful remarks. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Lwandamina said that it was too soon for Vandebroek to start taking shots at local coaches

saying that he would need their input in the future on certain things. "He should just take responsibility for failing to take the team to 2019 AfCON instead of shifting blame to local coaches. His words may hurt others and he may need these local coaches in the future for one or two things. Personally I wouldn't be

willing to work with him and any principled coach would not," he said. At a media interaction in Kitwe on Sunday, the Belgian said that he failed to pick an assistant coach because most coaches he approached were not conversant with computer-related assignments required in particular training sessions. Meanwhile, the 2018 super league title defending coach said that preparations for CAF Champions league's group stage were on the right track adding that the players were as expectant as fans in the next clash against Congo DR's TP Mazembe. "We have a bigger challenge ahead and it will be more than Sonidep of Niger that we beat in both home and away matches. The players are looking forward to the game and I should say that they are just as expectant as fans. We will do our best but like I earlier said, there will be no wonders but only a good game to showcase and hopefully win," said Lwandamina.

PSG had to change mentality - Thiago Silva

Thiago Silva feared Paris Saint-Germain had blown their Champions League chance before rallying to qualify as Group C winners. One victory from their opening four round-robin matches left the Ligue 1 champions staring at elimination but a hard-fought 2-1 win over Liverpool in Paris preceded Tuesday's 4-1 triumph at Red Star Belgrade. Kylian Mbappe, who scored PSG's fourth in the Serbian capital, told reporters Thomas Tuchel's squad had unleashed a few home truths upon one another following back-to-back draws against Napoli. But Brazil centre-back Thiago Silva conceded he felt the damage had already been done. "The goal is achieved. I was a little scared this year that we would not go to the round

of 16 because it was difficult," he said, as quoted by L'Equipe. "But in the difficulty, there are positive things. I'm happy with the last matches we did. I think mentally, since Naples, we have changed a lot. "The draw in Naples was my fault. For the Liverpool game, I pushed the players a lot because I felt they needed it. "If we had conceded a draw against Liverpool, we were almost eliminated. But we managed to win against a team that can still be a finalist this season. We beat them." The 34-year-old added: "Today was a little easier. When Belgrade scored, we stayed calm, patient. "I feel we play more like a team. I hope we will continue like this until the end of the season." *Goal.com*



Lwandamina takes a swipe at Sven over comments that local coaches can't use computers in training...

ACCEPT BLAME FOR AFCON FAILURE

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina says national team coach Sven Vandebroek should take responsibility for failing to qualify the Senior National Team to 2019 AfCON and not find comfort in blaming local assistant coaches that were reluctant to use computer-related technology in coaching.

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Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker (13) pulls off an acrobatic save during the UEFA Champions League, Group C football match between Liverpool and Napoli on Tuesday at Anfield stadium

'It was amazing': Jurgen Klopp hails Alisson's wonder-save

Jurgen Klopp saluted Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker after the Brazilian's superb late save ensured his side advanced to the Champions League last 16 with a dramatic 1-0 win over Napoli on Tuesday. Klopp's team were just seconds away from reaching the knockout stage as they clung to the first-half lead given to them by Mohamed Salah.

But Napoli had a golden opportunity to knock out the Reds in the closing seconds of their final Group C tie. When a cross ran through to Arkadiusz Milik in stoppage-time at Anfield, it seemed certain he would score what looked a simple chance from close range. But Alisson spread himself to make a brilliant stop as Milik paid the price for

shooting too close to the keeper. Klopp sought out Alisson, in his first season with the Reds after joining from Roma in a £56 million (\$69 million) deal, to hug his star on the pitch during the joyous scenes after the final whistle. And the German was quick to praise Alisson's key contribution, as well as the fine 34th-minute goal from Salah. AFP

'We have training' - Valverde warns Dembele despite Tottenham goal

Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde admits Ousmane Dembele is not out of the woods yet despite his thrilling strike in Tuesday's Champions League draw with Tottenham.

The France international was fined £90,000 (\$112,000) this week for turning up two hours late to a training session on Sunday, following the 4-0 win over Espanyol. Dembele answered his critics with a fine solo goal inside seven minutes at the Camp Nou but Valverde is not ready to let him off the hook just yet.

"He has made a great goal, possible for players with his talent," said the Barca boss.

"We are happy with him and we said that throughout the season things happen that we try to solve internally.

"We hope that he and the rest will continue to give us much joys.

"I do not know [if the case is closed], tomorrow we have training."

With Barcelona already assured of top spot in Group B, Valverde made seven changes from the weekend win for the visit of Spurs.

Luis Suarez and Gerard Pique were among the senior players to miss out, while Lionel Messi was left on the bench and only played the last 27 minutes of the 1-1 stalemate.

Though victory in the Catalan derby over Espanyol was delivered with relative comfort, Barca's lead atop the La Liga table will be tested against Levante and Celta Vigo before the winter break.

And the club's two upcoming games was key to Valverde's decision to holding Messi back. **Goal.com**

