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By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) says there is need to isolate and condemn the rogue accountants and not the entire profession in public financial management. And ZICA have cautioned government against rolling out the impending Sales Tax next April in the absence of sufficient information for all stakeholders. Speaking during the ZICA President's fourth quarter media briefing on various national matters, ZICA president Jason Kazilimani said there was need for rogue accountants, particularly those who are responsible for theft of public funds, to be isolated and condemned rather

Weed out rogue accountants, ZICA urges government

than blame the entire profession. This comes in the wake of several public sector accountants who have been suspended or dismissed in several government ministries for gross abuse of public funds this year. Among the several cases, government, through the Civil Service Commission, last month

dismissed three accounting staff for fraud and theft of public funds at the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development. But Kazilimani insisted that the rogue accountants needed to be weeded out. "It is important to appreciate the strategic role accountants play in the financial stewardship of the

country and, therefore, require the support of the public. While we appreciate the difficult task the public sector accountants play under difficult circumstances, as a professional body, we expect the public sector accountants to work in accordance with the international code of ethics for professional accountants.

It is, therefore, important to isolate and condemn the rogue accountants and not the entire profession," Kazilimani told the media in the ZICA board room, Tuesday.

He also stressed the need for controlling officers in government ministries to create an environment that should send an early warning signal to detect any variation from expected behaviour.

"While we welcome the dismissal of the accountants emanating from these scandals, we think that more needs to be done, including recovery of the stolen funds as provided for in the Public Finance Management Act of 2018. There is need for the controlling officers to create a control environment that should send an early warning signal to detect any variation from expected behaviour," Kazilimani argued.

"Further, unless there are serious questions of competence, we do not believe that these accountants misappropriated the funds without the knowledge of their superiors."

And Kazilimani advised against rushing to introduce the controversial Sales Tax next

April in the absence of sufficient information for all stakeholders.

Government has vowed to re-introduce Sales Tax as proposed in the 2019 national budget from April 1 next year despite stiff resistance from a broad range of stakeholders, in a bid to avoid paying VAT refunds, especially to mining companies, who are still owed around US \$600 million.

"As we consider the introduction of Sales Tax, it is important to take stock of how the system will be implemented with minimal interruption to business and the economy. Currently, there is lack of information about how it will be implemented, and at what rate, thus leading to investor anxiety and uncertainty in corporate planning, budgeting and forecasting," observed Kazilimani.

"There are fears that most businesses, especially the mines, may react by scaling-down their operations. The lack of certainty in the Sales Tax system negates the fundamental principle of a good tax system. We think that in the absence of further consultation and thorough research, the proposed system should not be rushed, but instead the (Finance) Minister (Margaret Mwanakatwe) must carefully study the rates to be applied, the period of transition and the framework for the Sales Tax system."

5 perish in Mazabuka accident

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Five people have died, while three others have sustained serious injuries, after the mini-bus they were travelling in overturned in Mazabuka District.

The accident occurred, Wednesday, around 06:40 hours at Dallas area North of Mazabuka town on the Great North Road in Southern Province and involved six vehicles, Police Spokesperson Esther Katongo confirmed in a press statement. "Involved in the accident was a Hino truck registration number FR 96 CD GP driven from south to north by Chari Charles, aged 54, of South Africa, also a Volvo truck registration number ABX 8247 towing a trailer registration number ALR 7391T being driven from north to south by Emmanuel

Chimbipa, aged 34, of Chikumbi area in Kabwe; a Toyota Noah registration number BAH 9525 being driven from south to north by Emmanuel Daka; a Nissan registration number BX 88 XM GP driven from south to north by Odycious Hamweemba, aged 48 years of Kakumbi site and service; a Benz light truck registration number BY 97 GR GP towing a trailer registration number CM 64 XG GP and a Toyota Alphard registration number BAH 1786 driven by Emelia Mbewe Thokozani, aged 26 years, of Chelstone from north to south," Katongo narrated.

She stated that the accident happened when the driver of the Hino Truck lost control of the vehicle due to excessive speed and in the process hit into a Volvo

truck, which was coming from the opposite direction.

Katongo explained that the same truck further went and hit into the other three vehicles from the rear, which made the driver of the Toyota Noah to lose control and overturn.

"After the accident, four persons sustained head injuries and died on the spot, while the driver of the Noah identified as Emmanuel Daka, aged 40 years, of Hill Side, Mazabuka, sustained a fractured neck and died on the way to the hospital. All the bodies of the deceased, whose names we have withheld until their next of kin are informed, have been deposited in Mazabuka District Hospital mortuary awaiting post-mortem," stated Katongo.

UPND vows to defend Sesheke, as PF plots a take over

By Mirriam Chabala

The ruling Patriotic Front and the opposition UPND have drawn battle lines ahead of the February 12, 2019, Sesheke Parliamentary by-elections, each vowing to take the seat. UPND deputy secretary general for politics, Patrick Mucheleka, told News Diggers! that the party was ready to defend the Sesheke seat which until November 12, 2018, was held by its member Frank Kufakwandi who died in South Africa after an illness. Mucheleka, however, wondered why the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) had left out Kafue Council Chairmanship seat which fell vacant following the resignation of the UPND Chairperson about a month ago.

"UPND is ready to defend that seat and we will not allow the PF to come anywhere near. But what is surprising is that the Electoral Commission of Zambia has left out Kafue for the Council Chairmanship by-elections. The Chairperson for Kafue Town Council resigned over a month ago and we have information that the Council Secretary immediately informed the ECZ. So we are very surprised as to why they left it out. They have also left out Lufinshe ward in Malole constituency in Kasama. But the reason is simple, this is the manipulation of ECZ by the PF, they think that these two should be handled separately from the rest because they want to go and concentrate on vote buying in Sesheke. But, we are calling on ECZ to exercise its mandate to organise and

run elections independently. They must be able to include Kafue Council Chairperson elections and they must also be able to include Lufinshe ward in Malole constituency in Northern province," demanded Mucheleka. "It's not cost effective for ECZ to try and handle those by-elections separately. At the end of the day, it's the tax payer whose money is being abused. But as UPND, we are ready for the by-elections in Sesheke. We shall participate in all of the elections, including Kafue and Lufinshe ward. We have already started our preparations. Some of the seats were ours and we are going to defend them. For those which are in the PF strongholds, we are also taking steps to ensure that we are ready. In going forward, we want to appeal to ECZ to be a 'dog' with teeth to bite, as opposed to toothless bulldogs. They must be able to enforce the electoral process Act, as well as the electoral code of conduct. Those two pieces of legislation should be adhered to by ECZ and all political parties participating. We shall be able to exercise citizens' arrest wherever we are going to see PF or any other agent being used, including to ensure that there is no abuse of state resources. We are also going to scrutinise everything that they are going to do so that we can have a level playing field."

But in a statement issued by PF media director Sunday Chanda, party secretary general Davies Mwila said Western Province was ready to embrace the ruling party as

evidenced by the Mangango victory and other local government by-elections held recently.

"We are certain that Western Province is open and ready for a new mutually-reinforcing relationship with the Patriotic Front founded on development and equitable distribution of resources. Mangango Constituency has confirmed that the good people of Western Province have enough ground to trust the PF and President Lungu because of its massive development agenda. Our

message is development for Sesheke. The people of Sesheke deserve better. The people of Sesheke must get better. The people of Sesheke will get better by voting for the Patriotic Front," said Mwila.

"For the first time in decades, the PF government through its Ministry of Finance has released the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to all the 156 Constituencies without exception. We mean business when we commit to taking development to all corners of the country. This is what we mean when we

say that President Lungu is President for all Zambians, including those who didn't vote for him in the last election."

Meanwhile, National Democratic Congress (NDC) secretary general Mwenya Musenge said his party was yet to advise whether it would be taking part in the Sesheke by-elections.

"As NDC, we will be having our Central Committee meeting in the first week of January. It is in that meeting where we shall resolve whether we are going to participate in the

Sesheke by-elections or not. But it's our party's policy that we should be participating in all by elections so that we can sell our party. We also have to be mindful that elections are quite costly and we have to make sure that wherever we are participating, there is tangible support. Although we are mindful that even in areas where we are not popular, just participating will help us to establish ourselves on the ground. So the party will give a position in the first week of January," said Musenge in a separate interview as well.



Bahati Member of Parliament Harry Kalaba buys some vegetables from women at Nsenama market in Mansa, Luapula Province - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale says the Lusaka city roads decongestion project is progressing well, as some roads are being created while others are being expanded. In April 2018, President Edgar Lungu and his Indian counterpart Shri Ram Nath Kovind launched the Lusaka City roads de-congestion project aimed at reducing traffic in the capital city. President Lungu had said that the project would be financed by the Exim bank of India at an estimated cost of US \$289 million with 15 percent counterpart funding from the Government of the Republic of Zambia. Giving an update on the development, Mwale told News Diggers! in an interview that some selected roads would be expanded to four lanes with dedicated

Dedicated lane for buses will ease Lusaka congestion - Mwale

lanes for commuter buses only. And Mwale said the project which is scheduled to be complete by 2020 would also bring to reality the four new flyover roads and bypass routes from Mimosa Chilanga to Great North Road via Garden House area. "The project has started on a very good note. We have opened up a number of roads that are getting expanded into four lanes. First of all you know [that] we developed a master plan for Lusaka called the "JICA-Local Government Master Plan" with the aim of trying to figure out where the new residential areas are

going to be, where the new commercial areas are going to be and how to make sure that movements within Lusaka are done easily just to be able to allow people to do business and commerce without problems. So we are supposed to implement this in a phased approach and there is this first phase that we are doing, trying to decongest Lusaka where we have created some ring roads and also expand some existing roads and create dedicated bus lanes. So some roads will have lanes dedicated only for buses," Mwale said. He said the construction of one flyover road in Makeni

area along Kafue road was already on course. "And this is in a bid to try and make sure that there is easy movement of people within Lusaka. So you have seen some roads have opened up in Woodlands, we have got Musi-O-Tunya Road, we have got Lake Road there, we have got Chindo Road and those [that] we have opened up already. We will end up this project with about four flyover bridges [and] you can see that in Makeni we have got a flyover bridge that has started coming up, we will have five junctions that will be created in some areas where we need junctions,"

Mwale disclosed. He said despite the project scheduled to be completed in 2021, the contractor has expressed confidence that it will be done by 2020. "It has been done after a careful study of what should happen to decongest Lusaka. I know with the rains still coming earliest, we will try and reduce the works but as soon as the rains go, the works will then be expanded and the main contractor Afcons from India is subcontracting a lot of Zambian contractors to make sure that we expand on the works that will be done. And the project is expected to be done by about 2020. It

should end in 2021 but the contractor is very confident that by 2020 all the roads will be completed including having new flyover bridges, new junctions, new dedicated bus lanes [and] expanded roads," the minister said. And Mwale said Kasangula road in Lusaka is one of those roads that would be expanded into four lanes. "You know Kasangula is one of those that will be expanded to four lanes [although] we haven't started the works there and we are going to have some by-passes [like] if you are coming from Southern Province [or] from Kafue and you reach Mimosa there, imagine all those trucks coming from Southern Province and are going to the Northern road or the Copperbelt have to pass through town through Lumumba road and so on, they will stop in future because we are going to create a by-pas off Lusaka right at Mimosa," said Mwale. "We are creating a bypass passing through farms which is going to join roads to Western Province somewhere near Garden House Hotel and then proceed again, cut and join Great North Road somewhere after Mungule or so, so that there is no need for trucks coming from the Copperbelt going into Zimbabwe or South Africa passing through town, [instead] they will use a by-pass. And those coming from the opposite direction will have to use a by-pass. So we will decongest the city and just make sure that people can easily do their businesses [and] move around without difficulties."

PMRC urges govt to empower local industries with capacity-building

By Mirriam Chabala

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) has urged government, through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, to invest in capacity-building for Zambian firms to enable them compete on the continental market. PMRC Head of Research and Analysis Salim Kaunda observed in the Centre's December, 2018, briefing document that Zambia must prepare adequately in order to secure itself a position to get the best deals on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). The PMRC December, 2018, briefing document, which was prepared with help from Centre executive director Bernadette Deka, also suggested that government must implement strategic policies to encourage investment in the manufacturing sector. "Manufacturing industries will need to be strategically considered by promoting value-addition, as this is the sure way Zambia can benefit. In view of this, government must implement strategic policies to encourage investment in the manufacturing sector. Special focus should be given to industrial policy, trade policy and other policies related to cost and ease of doing business. Government must prioritize sectors where Zambia has comparative advantage and build domestic production capacity e.g. agro-processing and mining," Kaunda observed. "There is need to increase sensitization on the CFTA and promote building consensus and understanding the impact of Zambia joining. This would also adequately equip businesses and manufacturers

to strategically position themselves and benefit from CFTA. There is need to identify products that will be floated on the CFTA market." He added that Zambia needed to adequately prepare for the various potential challenges that may be faced in view of potentially increased migration. "Policies must be set up in such a way that Zambian citizens are protected from loss of employment; and that immigration of skilled labour is encouraged to ensure that the benefits of these skills are harnessed. Skilled labour allows the country to be efficient in its production and also its ability to develop advanced technological systems and equipment within the country. Zambia also needs to focus on strengthening the facilitation of movement of capital. As the region becomes a large single market, competition is likely to increase for Zambian producers in particular. It is essential for Zambian producers and businesses to be able to survive in this very competitive market. Research on the potential demands of products that Zambia may have comparative advantage in should be carried out to ensure necessary targeting is done. This will give Zambia an advantage as it services varying customers in different countries. Cost benefit analysis of the best means of business must be undertaken to ensure efficiency and to benefit from economies of scale," stated Kaunda. "Zambia must also invest in technology and equipment, which improve productivity. Zambia can also mobilize domestic resources in such a way that it can survive the potential short-term losses that come with developing

the CFTA. In this way, the country may not incur a lot of costs despite the reduction in tariff revenue. The removal of trade barriers is likely to bring about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and more multinational companies that need to be regulated. The issue of cross-border tax avoidance may arise as a result of this. Zambia may avoid this by endorsing a global common reporting standards for Automatic Exchange

of Information (AEOI), which allows easier access to financial information to the residence country. Support must be provided for small-scale producers to avoid crowding out by a market run by the private sector. Small-scale producers may adapt to the post-CFTA market through enhanced technical, managerial and financial skills and meet industry standards. The government may assist in investment of these

attributes. Zambia's priorities in its trading arrangements is currently focused on interventions that promote value-addition, diversification and job and wealth creation." In order to achieve value-addition, Zambia has recently developed an export strategy focused on ensuring that the domestic industry benefits by manufacturing products that will be able to meet the demands of the CFTA countries.




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Defence lawyer accuses DEC of planting drugs on court officials

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A DEC Investigations Officer Lusungu Muzenje has admitted in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that during their operation, none of the seven court officials and two businessmen, were found with the cocaine that they are accused of trafficking and possessing.

And defence lawyer Keith Mweemba says the reason why DEC did not use video evidence in their operation is because they didn't want to be exposed that they planted the drugs on the accused persons. In this matter, businessmen Eric Chipango, Emmanuel Chimba and court officials Emmanuel Chirwa, Bearvan Mengo, Mathews Mukanda, Victor Nzaila, Florence Mushoka, O'Brian Muyunda and Didie Kangwa, a senior clerk of court, are charged with four counts of trafficking in narcotic drugs and two counts of theft by servant.

The accused persons are charged with one count of trafficking in 80.11 grams of cocaine without lawful authority and another count of trafficking in 1 Kg of cocaine without lawful authority.

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

Chirwa is also facing one more count of trafficking in 4.5 grams of cocaine without lawful authority and another count of theft by servant where he's alleged to have stolen 4.5 grams of cocaine, the property of the government of Zambia. Meanwhile, all the seven court

officials are charged with one count of theft by servant where they are alleged to have stolen 24 kilograms of cocaine between August 4, 2017 and August 9, 2018, the property of the government of Zambia.

At the previous sitting, Muzenje, 42, had produced nine sachets of cocaine, plus another small sachet of the said drug in a black plastic, as his evidence.

And when the matter came up before magistrate Victoria Chitulangoma for cross examination, Tuesday, the witness admitted that DEC did not find the accused persons with the quantity of cocaine that they are charged with, during the entire operation.

He added that they did not find any of the accused persons buying or selling the said cocaine.

Muzenje further said there was no preliminary chemical examinations in the field to determine whether the drugs they allege to have found was cocaine.

Meanwhile, defence counsel Keith Mweemba noted that it was unreasonable for DEC to have charged the accused persons with trafficking in drugs, the same quantity as

that which was destroyed two years ago.

"So you can charge someone with trafficking in drugs which don't exist, do you have that power? It is a fact that you have not identified any drugs on these counts because they don't exist. Yet these people are in custody because of these same malicious charges where you have not identified any drugs of that magnitude," he said.

And Mweemba disclosed that DEC had continued to investigate the matter even when it was already in court. Asked by Mweemba whether he had documentary evidence to exclude the dangers of planting the drugs on the accused, Muzenje said he didn't have any.

He further said DEC did not gather video evidence during their operation because the office only has one camera and at that time it was being used in other operations.

At this point, Mweemba took Muzenje to task saying the duty of providing video evidence was on them, as DEC.

He further accused them of planting drugs on the accused. "Video evidence is one of the ways of excluding the dangers

of planting drugs. That duty of providing video evidence is on you as DEC. You did not gather video evidence, yet you have the facilities. If this video evidence was there, the allegation of you

planting drugs on the accused would have been put to rest. Otherwise you planted those drugs," he said.

"The reason why you omitted all these important aspects was to make sure that you were

not exposed that you planted these drugs on these people. You planted these drugs. You already knew that even if you put these people in custody, this cocaine will turn up positive upon being tested."



His Royal Highness Chief Chisunka of Luapula Province speaking to Harry Kalaba when the former foreign affairs minister paid him a courtesy call

Zambians should protest ZAMRA's hiked fees - Pharmaceutical Society

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia president Jerome

Kanyika has urged Zambians to protests against the proposed revised license

fees by the Zambia Medical Regulations Authority (ZAMRA).

And Kanyika has revealed that there is rampant theft by some pharmaceutical companies who charge exorbitant prices for basic drugs like Panadol. ZAMRA has proposed a revised schedule of fees for hospitals, pharmacies and retail medical stores, with some fees doubled, while others have been increased by between three to six times.

Reacting to ZAMRA's proposed upward revision of fees for operating licences for all drug dealers, Kanyika urged the authority to stop issuing licenses to pharmacies, which are within 200 metres-distant from each other, with immediate effect.

In an interview, Kanyika also appealed to government to start considering setting the prices for medical drugs next year, saying that pharmacies were exploiting poor Zambians with high costs of drugs.

"I have seen the proposed fees. Other fees are okay, while other fees are not okay. What I mean is the fees for opening a retail pharmacy, which has moved from K4,750 to K20,000, that shift is too much! It can be okay if they make... to reach that far (periodically) unlike just adding at one time. Then again, if you check how the business is this time, the hospital pharmacy is making a lot of money and it cannot stay at K3,100. When you go to these big hospitals, you find that they are stocking all sorts of these medicines and they

are not sending prescriptions to retail pharmacies, meaning that the hospitals are making more, but are paying less. In terms of the licences, which is about K3,100; if that figure can go a little bit higher, it is possible that figure should remain the same with what they are proposing for pharmacies together with the vet-agro shop figure," Kanyika explained.

He suggested that the revised fee for agro-veterinary needed to go higher for pharmacies because vets make a lot of money.

"For vet shops, they are saying it's going to be from K4,750 to K9,750. Again that's not fair, while for a pharmacy, they have moved it from K4,000 to K20,000. This time ZAMRA is making a lot of money through the veterinary medicines. Now, why and how can a veterinary shop, which sells antibiotics and other medicines for vets, pay less money, while the other side the pharmacy pays more money? I think it is very unfair on the pharmacy side, and if ZAMRA wants these fees to go as they want, they need to harmonize all the fees," Kanyika added.

Kanyika added that the fees had been raised to abnormal standards when the industry was already making losses due to the competition with illegal drug dealers, among others. "And we should know that these fees are paid per year. And on the pharmaceutical wholesale fees, I think ZAMRA should reconsider. Raising the fees is not a problem, but the way they

want to increase is where the problem is. All the same, the Society is not worried about the increment, but the major problem that we have is (i) we have a lot of illegal drug stores; (ii) we have a lot of illegal drugs that are on the market that are not registered with ZAMRA; (iii) we have a lot of illegal drug dealers who are competing with registered drug dealers. So, ZAMRA gives licenses...and let me take this opportunity to tell ZAMRA to stop with immediate effect issuing licenses to pharmacies that are next door to each other," he appealed.

And Kanyika revealed that there is rampant theft by pharmaceutical companies who charge exorbitant prices for basic drugs.

"The Pharmaceutical Council sat yesterday and they discussed, and we passed the resolution to say ZAMRA should start considering a 200 metres radius because a pharmacy is not about business, but about service delivery to the people. And not only that, government should also come in to control the prices in terms of the medicines. There is too much stealing from the pharmaceutical companies; stealing from the public where this pharmaceutical company will be selling Panadol at K1, while the other pharmacy will be selling the same Panadol at K5. This also applies to private hospitals. Government should come in and control the prices so that the poor people are protected," revealed Kanyika.

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Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka High Court has reserved ruling in the matter where PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has applied for judicial review over the refusal by the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to declare Chishimba Kambwili's Roan Constituency seat, vacant.

In this matter, Mwila had stated in an affidavit in support of application for leave to commence judicial review, that the decision by the Speaker to refuse to declare the Roan Constituency seat vacant, was illegal as it violated Article 72 of the Constitution.

He cited the Attorney General as the respondent, seeking the following

High court reserves ruling on Speaker's refusal to declare Kambwili's seat vacant

reliefs: a declaration that there is no suit on the part of Kambwili for Roan Constituency pending before the High Court to challenge his expulsion; an order of certiorari, removing the decision of the Speaker to declare the Roan seat vacant; and costs. The grounds on which Mwila is seeking the reliefs are that; the decision of the Speaker to refuse to declare the Roan seat vacant is illegal as it is in contravention of Article 27 of the Constitution and; that the decision of the Speaker to refuse to declare the seat

vacant in order to give the Courts latitude to deal with the matters conclusively, is unreasonable and illegal as it amounts to use of discretion that the Speaker does not possess.

When the matter came up yesterday, High Court judge Mwila Kombe said she would deliver her ruling on a date to be advised to the parties.

Earlier during the hearing,

the State asked the court to dismiss the application, saying the court had no jurisdiction to hear the Constitutional issues raised by Mwila.

In augmenting the State's

submission, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly Cecilia Sikatele filed an affidavit in opposition to Mwila's application. "There is currently before the Court of Appeal by Hon. Chishimba Kambwili challenging the decision by Judge Maria Kawimbe dated October 25, 2018 pending hearing and subsequent determination," stated Sikatele.

Black Mountain mining activities making Kitwe dirty, laments Mayor

By Sandra Mulenga
Kitwe Mayor Christopher Kang'ombe has advised small scale miners at the

black mountain to follow the laid down rules of mining so as to avoid being in conflict with the local

authority. During a review meeting held at Kitwe City Council yesterday, Kang'ombe

observed that the miners had been careless in their mining operations, adding that the transportation of materials was resulting in spillages, thereby making the newly constructed roads dirty around the Central Business District.

"We just want to ensure that all the activities at the mountain are running smoothly and that there is no negative effect on the community, because as a council we have seen that the roads have been left with materials that are destroying roads," he said.

"Truck drivers from the Chapamo Mining Processing Limited have been dropping material on the roads thereby spoiling motor vehicle tyres."

He said the residents had been complaining of tyre bursts due to the bad status of the roads caused by the spilled mining materials.

He said it was important for all truck drivers to use the authorised roads such as the designated Kalulushi Road, so as to save the lifespan of the roads within the CBD.

"No truck driver is allowed to use the roads in town, but we have been seeing that some drivers have been driving through especially on weekends. People have been complaining and we do not want to hear complaints from the residents because our duty is to listen to the public's interest. All trucks should be covered with tents to ensure that there is no spillage," said Kang'ombe.

And Chapamo Mining operations Managers Hebban Chibale said the mine was dealing with truck drivers who have different attitudes and behaviours.

He said the mine has given directives in its rules regarding the designated roads for all truck drivers to use, but admitted that some drivers were disobeying the orders.

"Sometimes it is the [bad] attitude of these drivers because we do tell them what to do and they decide to go off's route, sometimes we do conduct patrols so as to just make sure that truck drivers operate in a good manner," he said.

Chibale pledged that his mine would put in an extra effort in ensuring that the truck drivers follow the laid down procedure of operations.



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NDC's local Government Policy

Zambia has not experienced comprehensive decentralization reforms which have produced results to guarantee an efficient and effective administration of local government Authorities for purposes of public service provision. The reasons are quite numerous. Firstly the positions of district commissioners at local level appointed by the head of State provides a direct link with the executive arm of government therefore bypassing the local government authority and undermining the powers of elected councillors. This situation causes overlapping functions and creates policy uncertainty.

The local government act of 1991 also needs to be amended so that central government does not interfere in its operations. Under the current act, the minister and central government are able to overturn the decisions of local government Authorities. Central government can reverse by-laws, taxes and other policies that are not in their interests or that of the central party in power and this adds to policy uncertainties.

Interference also comes in from the local government service commission. The commission was setup in 2011 to oversee the recruitment, transfer and firing of Local Government workers country wide. Local government service commissions mostly political party affiliates are appointed by the executive. This creates interference by the party in power and central government in the management of human resource by local government Authorities.

Also to be noted is that there is significant central party influence that

restricts local autonomy because many local government officials including councillors are mostly accountable to the (central) party administration as their security of tenure in their offices is tied to the party in power.

The above mentioned reasons hinder local government Authorities from having discretion in determining their own expenditure allocation which suits their local needs.

To ensure that the above challenges are resolved: the National Democratic Party will do the following:

- * We will ensure that local government Authorities respond to local needs by ensuring that they have power to determine their own expenditure allocations without interference from central government

- * We will also enable local government Authorities to have the autonomy and capacity to collect their own revenue, setting their rates over locally assigned revenues and defining their own taxes base. We will not tolerate political party carders who collect market levy, station levy and other forms of taxes from poor Zambians who wake up early morning to sustain themselves through trade. All public places, such as town Halls, markets, bus stations and bus stops will be administered by the Local Government Authorities.

- * Although Local governments rely on central government for funding, capacity and structures to deliver public services, our devolution plan will ensure that local government authorities fund more than 80% of their operations in the provision of public service.

- * As part of our reforms, local

government Authorities will be assigned with the functions and responsibilities of basic public service delivery functions such as primary health care, education, agricultural extension, local water supply, waste management disposal and road construction at district level and ward level.

- * Local government staffing and planning will be controlled and managed by the local government themselves. To ensure this, we will abolish the local government service commission.

- * As NDC we will create administrative capacity at the local council level not only devolving power and functions but by also retaining human resource from central government to local level and cut off unnecessary long chain of commands

- * We will dissolve offices of the district commissioners and redeploy staff to local government Authorities where human resources deficiencies are in existence.

- * These reforms will ensure thriving local government Authorities which are accountable to the people than politicians. These reforms will ensure that public services at local level such as Solid waste management, water reticulation, disaster management, crime reduction, Housing and Infrastructure, land allocation and town planning are effective and efficiently run.

- * We will also ensure that government only retains the role policy formulation and oversight over local government Authorities.

By Mirriam Chabala

Mines Minister Richard Musukwa has warned that government will not be stopped from implementing the new tax regime by mining houses threatening job cuts in the extractive sector.

And Musukwa has called on trade unions in the country to be vigilant and work with government in ensuring that the "evil" mining houses are put in their place, insisting that Zambian resources belong only to Zambians.

In an interview with News Diggers!, Musukwa said he was aware that some "evil" mining houses had for a long time been scheming to blackmail government by threatening to prune Zambian employees if it effected the proposed tax changes.

But Musukwa said the mining houses should start by pruning expatriates if their operational cost challenges were genuine, saying sending away expatriates would be a good cost-saving measure because they were the highly paid, compared to Zambian employees.

"The schemes being postulated by mining houses are arm-twisting tactics, something they cannot do in their home countries. But we will not allow situations where mining houses start dictating what type of taxes we should have! Imagine having a country where we can have foreigners telling us how we should tax them? When they come here, they come

Evil mining firms won't blackmail govt, we'll deal with them - Musukwa

under a guise of investors and enjoy a lot of concession and holidays. In fact, at the time when they have to start paying taxes, most of them wind up operations, they would have already made huge profits! So, what government would like to do in these new tax measures is to ensure that we seal transfer pricing, tax avoidance, which have been perpetuated by these multinational companies," Musukwa said.

"What they need to do before they prune any Zambians is that they should prune all expatriates. That's the first saving measure they should do, so that we remain with Zambians who are able to run and operate these mines. In most cases, these so-called expatriates are people that have just been learning from Zambians! They have been here and in the process they have frustrated our highly-trained and competent Zambians to run and manage the affairs of our country. Actually, these expatriates are some of the highest paid in the mining companies, one expatriate can even pay 50 Zambians. So, that is the first option they should consider in terms of cost-saving measures.

And in today's modern age of computers and Internet, they are able to even manage the company outside the country," Musukwa explained.

He noted that the reasons being advanced by the mining houses intending to cut down on their workforce were not justifiable.

"Mining operations are such that they are operated at an international platform, and at an international platform, mining anchors on the commodity price. As we sit today, the commodity price of copper is stable. In the mining industry, a time where we get to hear of suspension of operations, job cuts, is when the copper price goes down. The copper price has not gone down at the international platform to warrant these actions by these mining houses. These are actions that are meant to ensure that they cripple government, but we will not entertain that! In 1964, we fought for political independence, but time has come for Zambia to fight for economic independence from these multinational companies that want to hold us to ransom," Musukwa said.

"These multinational

companies are here to ensure that they make maximum profit on behalf of their shareholders. But the PF, here, is in government at the pleasure of Zambians. Those foreigners don't vote, the people who vote for us are Zambians and we owe it to them. That's why we want to ensure that we reduce the burden on Zambians by taxing mining houses, which must contribute significantly to development. How come for so many years poor Zambians have been subsidizing these mining companies in terms of power and other services? We will not! It is time for our people to get relieved by ensuring that multinational companies, which operate in Zambia and exploit our resources are taxed fairly. In our quest to tax mining companies, we will not

tax them out of business, we will ensure that there is fair return on their investment."

Musukwa further called on workers' unions in the mining sector to help government put non-compliant mining houses in their place.

"They are used to arm-twisting, we are aware that the last time they arm-twisted government, government changed and gave them what they were expecting, and this is what they are expecting us to do. But sorry, we will not do that. Those who want to come to the table must come with clean hands and those who have genuine concerns over their operations on our tax regime, they must present their issues to the Ministry of Finance. Government is open to candid, critical and friendly

discussions than the blackmail, which we are seeing here...

In fact, what I can tell you is that these evil mining houses have been for a long time been planning to declare our people redundant and they have just found an opportunity," argued Musukwa.

"How can you account for someone to write a pruning letter to our people even before the (2019) budget is implemented? This is how evil they have been scheming for a long time to declare our people redundant! We, therefore, are calling on the trade unions to be vigilant and ensure that these mining houses are put in their place because these are resources for our workers and they should not just wake up and decide what they want to do!"

ZCCM-IH posts K975 million profit rise

By Stuart Lisulo

ZCCM-IH posted an increased profit after tax of K975 million

during its financial year ending March 31, 2018, from K729 million in the previous corresponding period, triggered by high copper prices. According to a provisional abridged group statement of comprehensive income year ended March 31, 2018, ZCCM-IH earned an increased profit of K975 million for the period under review, up from K729 million in the same period last year, buoyed by an upsurge of copper prices and strong production volumes.

"The Group reported a profit of K975 million (2017: K729 million) representing 33 per cent increase, driven by improved production volumes of copper in most of ZCCM-IH's investee companies and an upsurge in copper prices during the year. London Metal Exchange copper price increased by 4.8 per cent to US \$6,724/tonne (2017: US \$5,858/tonne) during the year," ZCCM-IH announced in a statement issued in Lusaka.

"ZCCM-IH's performance is expected to continue improving in light of continued improvement in copper prices which drives the performance of most investee companies in the mining sector."

The Group, however, sustained massive operating losses of K130 million compared to a profit-making position of nearly K848 million in the corresponding period last year, due to the performance of its subsidiary, Ndola Lime, among other factors.

"The Group recorded an operating loss of K130 million (2017: profit K848 million), mainly due to Ndola Lime Company Limited's continued loss-making position, which contributed an operating loss of K167 million (2017: K1,152 million) during the year. Additionally, the impairment of the investment in Konkola Copper Mines Plc amounting to K218 million increased the recorded operating loss during the year," stated ZCCM-IH.

Opposition alliance has sent PF into panic - CK

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says the opposition alliance has thrown the Patriotic Front into disarray and panic because the ruling party expected to be dealing with a fragmented opposition. And Kambwili has hit back at PF media director Sunday Chanda, saying he doesn't understand how "the boy" was raised by his parents where he saw nothing wrong with insulting his own father.

In an interview, Kambwili said the coming together of the opposition parties to speak against the injustices happening in the governance system had unsettled PF hence using its media director to insult critics.

"The mere fact that opposition has come together to fight the injustice, the abuse of the Public Order Act, the abuse of the media, to call for the amendment

for the current constitution which has too many lacunas is sending shivers to the PF, because they thought they would handle the opposition as a fragmented unit. But to see us come together and speak the same language, obviously has gotten them scared. They are panicking now. For them to respond with insults on the opposition leaders means they are scared. The mere fact that they are insulting that unit of purpose, it means they are panicking," Kambwili said.

He then urged Chanda to tame his tongue, warning that his verbal excitement would soon land him in trouble.

"But my advice to Sunday Chanda [is] let him be civil and not insult innocent people, it's not right. He cannot call president Milupi and idiot, he cannot call me an idiot, he cannot call Chipimo an idiot. All these people

are order than him anyway, all of us are older than him but for him to call us...I don't even know how that boy lived with his parents whether he was not just insulting his father, because when you insult older people, you insult even your own father," said Kambwili.

"But that is how poverty is, the boy wants to survive so we forgive him. I cannot waste time responding to Sunday Chanda because he is a political nonentity. He is used to insulting people but he will pay for those insults. Let him not think that the way he got away after insulting Mr [Michael] Sata, Mr Sata gets into office and today he is insulting people using the platform of Mr Sata. He will not get away with it [and] I have been taking note of all the wrong things that he has been doing and insults and when the time comes, he will pay."

Foreign Affairs official named in loan scandal at Zambian Embassy in Belgium

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

News Diggers! findings have revealed that the former Diplomat who owes a Belgium Bank 40,000.00 Euros, about K546,000, as revealed in the Auditors General's report is currently working as Personal Assistant to Permanent Secretary, Ronald Simwiinga at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Alice Chisala who was Second Secretary when she entered into an agreement with the Belgian ING Bank, was recalled last year leaving her K546,000 debt unpaid.

"It was observed that at the time of her return to Zambia, the officer

was owing a local bank an amount of 40,000 Euros, equivalent to K546,000, arising from a loan she obtained from the bank. A scrutiny of records revealed that the matter of settling the outstanding amount of 40,000 Euros had been presented to Ministry of Finance by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for possible funding. However, as at 31st August 2018, the funds had not been sent to the Mission to settle the loan," Simwiinga submitted to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, Monday.

But News Diggers has learnt that the officer in question is actually the

personal assistant to the PS who was making submissions to PAC.

"Although the Zambian Mission in Belgium has taken over the liability and expected to pay the debt with help from the Ministry of Finance, government has not recovered the money from Chisala, but has instead redeployed her at the Foreign Affairs Ministry where she is serving as Personal Assistant to Simwiinga," said a highly placed government source.

"This is the diplomat who caused the Zambian Embassy in Belgium to be cited in the Auditor General's report. The bank may stop dealing

with the Zambian Embassy and its diplomats in Brussels. You don't expect her to work in the office of the Permanent Secretary. Chisala's debt of K546,000.00 is the largest amount ever that a Zambian Diplomat has left unsettled in a foreign country."

Members of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) heard on Monday that the Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary tried to ask the Ministry of Finance to settle the loan on behalf of Mrs Chisala but the Finance Ministry has refused to do so. It was also revealed that Mrs. Chisala would pay back the loan in 83 years

but members of the PAC where at pains to understand the repayment modalities, arguing that the time frame was too over stretched as the officer would have retired from the civil service by then.

Former Ambassador to Belgium, Grace Kabwe left K62,517 and K32,857 unpaid monies accrued through medical insurance and damages to the official residence.

Simwiinga told PAC that recoveries of the monies owed by Kabwe had been effected through the Casualty Notification Form upon payment of gratuity.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Former Attorney General Musa Mwenye State Counsel has made a very good observation about how African governments react and treat citizens who criticize bad decisions. He says such oppressive regimes often abuse words like “patriotism” to portray critics as bitter dissidents who deserve no one’s respect. This is wrong, State Counsel Mwenye says, because “patriotism” and “loyalty” mean two different things in a political set-up.

“The word ‘patriotism’ is often misunderstood and sometimes deliberately misrepresented. Criticism of governments or ruling parties and comments adverse of governments are routinely classified as unpatriotic. By definition, patriotism is a devoted love, support and defence for one’s country. Patriotism is, therefore, loyalty to the country and not loyalty to any one person or group of persons. Africa has seen several dictatorial and corrupt regimes. At different times in the history of this continent, patriotism has demanded that those governments, which are corrupt and dictatorial, be criticized and condemned by citizens for abusing the countries we love,” observed Counsel Mwenye.

“The Central African Republic had Emperor Bokassa, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), had Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga,

Incompetent leaders govern with iron fists

while Uganda had Idi Amin Dada. Just to the south of our own beloved Zambia, we had Ian Smith in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), who declared Independence from his Kith and Kin in England under Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). In South Africa, we had the racist Apartheid Government. All the governments cited above were vile, oppressive and dictatorial. In some cases they were also corrupt, incompetent and uncouth.”

Counsel Mwenye added: “In those countries, it was everyone’s patriotic duty to speak out against these regimes and to condemn their senseless acts of oppression and misrule. It was also the highest form of patriotism not only to condemn the needless corruption of some of these regimes, but also to take a stand against oppression and

corruption. Patriotism demands us to be loyal to the country and not to an individual, a tribe or a political formation. If acts of economic sabotage are committed by those within our tribe or political formation, we must speak in defence of the country.”

This statement could not have been put any better, and it could not have been any more accurate to Zambia. In Zambia today, the ruling party and its leadership have abused the word “patriotism” with unimaginable proportions. People who opens their mouths to criticise government are not only regarded as unpatriotic, but are also threatened with arrest.

This is what they did to Hakainde Hichilema when he suggested that listing of State-Owned-Enterprises (SOEs) on the stock exchange is as bad as selling to foreign investors, who are the

only clique with readily-available resources to buy shares.

In Zambia today, when you say there is too much corruption, abuse of authority and reckless spending by government, those in power claim that such statements are detrimental to the economy. They blame the depreciation of the kwacha on such criticism, and further warn that those uttering such sentiments would be dealt with severely.

These are signs of incompetence; this is how incompetent leaders govern, using iron fists. A working government that knows how to drive the economy can’t be brought down by simple criticism. It is also a sign of insecurity, because only an insecure government fears its own shadow. A regime that is in charge of the system doesn’t panic when it is being criticized; it simply listens and picks what it

considers as constructive criticism, while ignoring political haters. A progressive government respects citizens, instead of scaring and demanding loyalty from citizens who hold opposing views.

Look at what is happening in France today. The French government has accepted that citizens do not only have the right to criticize bad governance, but also has the constitutional right to protest if nothing is done about what they are complaining about. We have watched on television how the very civilized citizens of France have poured onto the streets in their millions, burning cars and destroying property. What have the police done? They have fought back, tirelessly trying to restore order, but more importantly they have respected and protected the rights of the citizens.

Like we stated above, those were very civilized

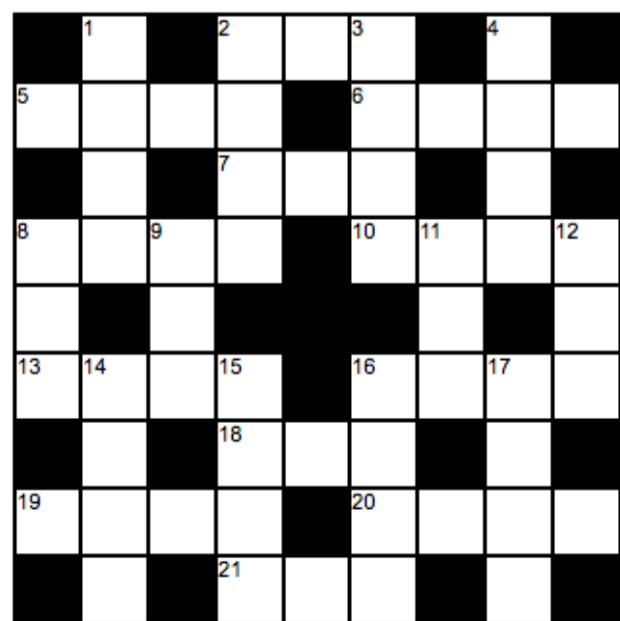
citizens living in a very developed Western country endowed with all sorts of wealth, plus a huge economy. Therefore, it was embarrassing, especially from an African perspective, to see such scenes happening in a country that you aspire to be. Those protests were not a very good political advert about the state of a nation.

But can we say the protesting citizens of France were being unpatriotic to their country? No, they simply refused to be loyal to an individual holding the office of President, while issues to do with their welfare were being ignored. They refused to accept the “unjustified fuel price hikes”. They wanted a France that has favourable living conditions for citizens.

That is what true patriotism means, being loyal to a country, not one individual or political set-up. But in our Zambia, the police only consider members of the Patriotic Front as patriotic citizens who have the right to protest against the opposition and critics. That is what they call patriotism, loyalty to one individual going by the initials ECL.

This is exactly how dictatorships are born, they start by muzzling the press, and then they take away citizens’ rights of expression before arresting political opponents. Then they manipulate the Constitution to tailor it in a manner that grants them leeway to stay in power forever.

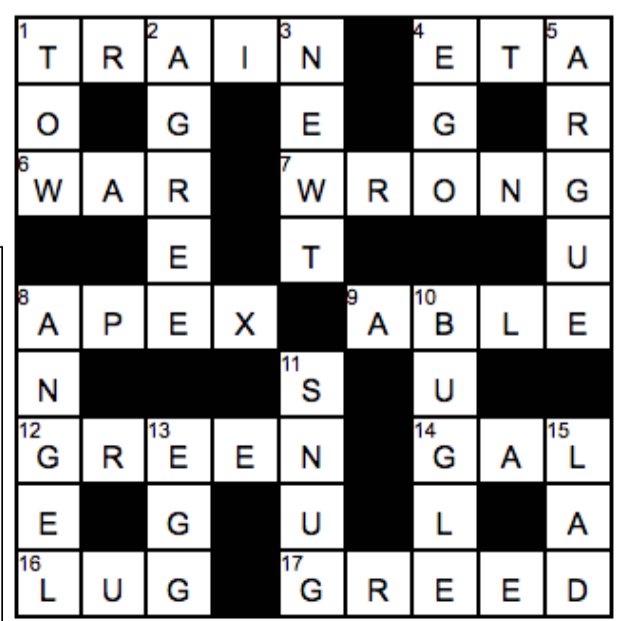
Crossword puzzle 256



“To be creative means to be in love with life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a little more dance to it.” - Osho

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Night flier 5. Grows on the head 6. Monster like Shrek 7. Yankovic and Pacino 8. Below the mouth 10. Sharply pierce 13. Holler 16. Manhattan neighborhood 18. Egyptian cobra 19. Make a digital image of a photo 20. Strongly encourage 21. Hearing organ | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School subj. 2. Cereal grain 3. Eject 4. Neighborhood 8. Bowl 9. Out of sorts 11. Overly 12. Scare word 14. Engrave 15. Bowling alley 16. Cowboy boot attachment 17. Immense |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 255



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.

Wynter's argument on Lungu's 'illegal' 2021 candidacy

Dear Editor,

"Well said, Ba Wynter. It is clear that the third term issue will go to the wire; it will settle the 2021 elections. 2021 will be a referendum Lungu and

the ConCourt judges. Should they lose 2021, it'll be very difficult to avoid prison by all these people involved. The scale of criminality and conspiracy is too astounding!" - Terence Daniel

"If Wynter Kabimba, when he was Justice Minister, had removed those lacunas from the draft Constitution, the current confusion wouldn't be there; even Ngosa Simbyakula is a culprit because he did nothing to correct the anomalies! Anyway, whether dictator Lungu intends to stand in 2021 or not, the fact is that Zambians want him to quit State House, now!" - Chivunda Samusungwa

"So, Wynter has changed his stand again? Why do you somersault, Mr. Kabimba? What did you tell us last time?" - Brill Sinbad

"Read Article 106. Clause(1), (3), (5) (b), and (6) (a) and (b), of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) No. 2 of 2016. Reading the above, I am in agreement with the ConCourt on ECL eligibility for 2021, but that does not make him a sole candidate. However, if he got his gratuity as President, then he is automatically disqualified because he would have technically enjoyed the benefits of someone who has served a full term." - Mukanda Mbanacele

"The problem that we have with regards to the interpretation of the Constitution is our learned lawyers don't know what it means (twice held office) this clause doesn't mean twice sworn-in, but I repeat, twice held office in my layman understanding it means one has served two terms as President and its purpose is to prevent a president who has served or held office twice to come and stand for election again, like what the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, did. Without this clause, you can see President Chiluba, if he was alive, he could be eligible to stand." - Charles Banda



Andyford's analysis on opposition coalition for 2021

Editor,

"Fantastic article, my dear president! Keep it up." - Stan Sichita

"Well articulated, Andy. Opposition needs to work hard together for the betterment of our land." - Ritah Mwika Mwilima

"Well said! This young man is a breath of fresh air on the political scene and talks much sense; Zambia needs more intelligent people like him." - Mutinta Mulonda

"I like this type of thinking! Thumbs up, Andyford Banda and the other opposition political

parties should take this suggestion seriously." - Emmanuel Jox B Ponde

"All parties should maintain their identity although working together on certain issues. We want multi-partyism to thrive. That's what we heavily chose in the 1990s" - Fidellis Mutenekwa

"These political coalitions have never and will not work." - George Mundia

"Do you really believe that these African politicians can change your lives around? Not me! They are all the same; they are in it to eat." - Clive Nyambe

Soko's revelation on paying fines for excessive speeding

Editor,

"So, you abrogate road rules and you want to pin others?" - Kaunda Bwalya

"For the chief to be regularly fined, it simply means he does not accept the 60km/h. This paves way for upward revision as service delivery is delayed due to low speed limits." - Joseph Makinka Chibbabbuka

"If it is true that Zindaba Soko also pays speeding fines, then it may mean that even he realizes that 40km/h speed limits are impractical. The intriguing thing though must be that he more often than not must drive an official RTSA car, which is most definitely not registered in his personal name. Either of two things likely happens: that his fines are paid from the office petty cash or the charges are reversed as the system is an RTSA operation. Does he have proof of payment for his speeding contraventions?" - David M Mwanangombe

"The cry for revised speed limits on most Lusaka roads is a genuine one, which needs your urgent action, ba RTSA. Just recently, I got a speed fine for driving at 64km/hr in Great East Road, which is very unrealistic, I even regretted." - Tino Maramwidze

"Perhaps, Mr Soko needs to tell us why he also drives contrary to the prescribed speed limits else we will simply conclude he, too, knows the speed limits in most cases are just plain ridiculous!" - Mbinji Mufalo

"Yes, for you K300 is nothing, but what about the masses struggling financially?" - Muwi Mate Mbuyoti

South Africa 'issues Grace Mugabe arrest warrant'

South Africa's state prosecuting authority has issued an arrest warrant for Grace Mugabe, Zimbabwe's former first lady, the Times Live news website is reporting.

Mrs Mugabe was accused of assaulting a young model, Gabriella Engels, in a hotel in South Africa's main city, Johannesburg, in 2017.

She was allowed to return home after she applied for diplomatic immunity - but in July this year a court annulled a government decision to grant her immunity.

Mrs Mugabe said at the time that she had acted in self-defence after the "intoxicated and unhinged" model attacked her in a hotel room where her two sons lived.

Times Live says the lobby group AfriForum, which has been pursuing the case, made the announcement about the arrest warrant at a press conference on Wednesday morning.

It quotes AfriForum CEO Kallie Kriel as saying:

"It seems that justice is going to take place and we are looking forward to this matter going forward."

The alleged assault took place about three months before the military takeover in Zimbabwe

which saw Robert Mugabe resign as president after 37 years in power.

The Sunday Times reported in August that the South African government accepted a court ruling declaring the diplomatic immunity granted to Mugabe as invalid. The matter was then referred back to the NPA.

"The conferment of diplomatic immunity on [Mugabe] is null and void, as the court has decided. We leave it to the NPA to see the way forward," international relations and cooperation minister Lindiwe Sisulu said in August.

The DA and AfriForum applied to have Mugabe's diplomatic immunity revoked after she allegedly assaulted South African model Gabriella Engels at a hotel in Johannesburg in 2017.

Mugabe allegedly assaulted Engels after she found the model partying with her two sons at a Sandton hotel.

Engels suffered serious injuries, including a gash on her forehead. While charges were laid, Mugabe was controversially allowed to leave the country after the government granted her diplomatic immunity.

BBC



Zimbabwe's military used "unjustifiable" force against opposition protesters in the wake of this year's presidential election, an inquiry has found.

Six people were killed after troops intervened to curb protests in the capital, Harare, on 1 August.

The independent commission said the army had acted disproportionately when it fired on fleeing demonstrators.

But it blamed some opposition figures for inciting the violence.

The army and police clashed with demonstrators who took to the streets amid allegations that the ruling Zanu-PF party had rigged the 30 July vote.

Zimbabwe army used 'unjustifiable' force in post-election clashes

"The commission's finding is that the deaths of those six people arose from the action of the military and the police," a summary of the final report reads.

"The use of live ammunition directly at people especially while they were fleeing was clearly unjustified and disproportionate," it adds.

The seven-member commission, which was set up by President

Emmerson Mnangagwa following his narrow victory, found the deployment of the military to have been legal.

It also accused the opposition MDC Alliance of enflaming tensions, citing speeches from some of its leaders.

"Had the riots not been checked the situation could have escalated resulting in disastrous consequences," it said. The seven-member

commission, which was set up by President Emmerson Mnangagwa following his narrow victory, found the deployment of the military to have been legal.

It also accused the opposition MDC Alliance of enflaming tensions, citing speeches from some of its leaders.

"Had the riots not been checked the situation could have escalated resulting in disastrous consequences," it said.

The commission has recommended that the government pay compensation to the families of the victims and to the dozens of people who were also injured in the protests.

On Tuesday, Mr Mnangagwa said he would "study the recommendations and decide the way forward".

"I am satisfied that the commission of inquiry diligently carried out its mandate," he added.

But the opposition immediately dismissed the report and said the government was trying to "whitewash" the actions of the military.

"Our view is that they are... making a false equivalence between the demonstrators and those who were shooting unarmed protesters using bullets and guns," an MDC spokesman said.

Last month, MDC leader Nelson Chamisa distanced himself from the demonstrations on 1 August, calling them "stupid".

"It was very stupid, even, for people who demonstrated... it was stupid, because they then opened themselves for attacks and manipulation," he told journalists.

BBC

Blind Amphibian creature named after Donald Trump

US presidents tend to receive their fair share of honours, but Donald Trump may want to ignore his latest one.

A newly discovered amphibian that buries its head in the sand has been named after him, apparently in response to his comments about climate change.

The Dermophis donaldtrumpi, which was discovered in Panama, was named by the head of a company that had bid \$25,000 (£19,800) at auction for the privilege.

The company said it wanted to raise awareness about climate change.

"[Dermophis donaldtrumpi] is particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and is therefore in danger of becoming extinct as a direct result of its namesake's climate policies," said EnviroBuild co-founder Aidan Bell in a statement. The small, blind, creature



is a type of caecilian that primarily lives underground, and Mr Bell drew an unflattering comparison between its behaviour and Mr Trump's. "Burrowing [his] head underground helps Donald Trump when avoiding scientific consensus on anthropomorphic climate change," he wrote.

The world's leading scientists agree that climate change is primarily

human-induced.

But Mr Trump, whose administration has pursued a pro-fossil fuels agenda, has accused those scientists of having a "political agenda" and cast doubt on whether humans were responsible for the Earth's rising temperatures. "I don't know that it's manmade," he said in an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes in October. "I'm not denying climate

change but [temperatures] could very well go back," he added, without offering evidence.

Last month, Mr Trump questioned a report by his own government that found climate change would cost the US hundreds of billions of dollars annually and damage health.

"I don't believe it," he told reporters at the time. After taking office he

announced that the US would withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement, which commits countries to keeping a limit on rising global temperatures.

He justified this decision by asserting that he had been elected to serve the citizens of Pittsburgh and not Paris and the deal disadvantaged US businesses and workers.

BBC



'I have nothing to say' - Mourinho keeping quiet after Utd sacking

Former Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has told reporters that he has nothing to say about his dismissal from Old

Trafford, a day after he was booted from the hotseat at Old Trafford.

The Portuguese led the Red Devils to Europa League

and domestic success during his tenure at the helm, but a poor run of form across the first half of the 2018-19 campaign has

seen him pay the price. Former United forward Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has taken charge on an interim basis until the end of the season.

And, while much of the football world has been discussing United's decision and what the future might hold for Mourinho, the departed manager was not entertaining questions as he appeared publicly for the first time since the news broke.

Trailed by members of the media as he left his house in London, Mourinho responded to queries by saying: "Let me walk. I have nothing to say."

Originally arriving at Old Trafford in 2016 to replace Louis van Gaal, Mourinho endured a tough domestic campaign in the Premier League during his first season in charge, but brought the club silverware in both the Europa League and the League Cup.

He then took United to second in the Premier League during the 2017-18 campaign, ensuring Champions League football

for the second season in a row at Old Trafford, and had only secured progression to the last 16 last month.

But his strained relationship with key signings at the club, namely Paul Pogba, saw rumours of a split between him and the squad, and a 3-1 loss to Liverpool on Sunday effectively ended any title ambitions for the third season in a row.

Despite his glittering career across the rest of Europe, the 55-year-old was unable to convert his time in his coveted position at the Red Devils into the success he attained elsewhere at the likes of Porto, Premier League rivals Chelsea and Serie A side Inter.

With United sixth in the table at the end of Mourinho's tenure, Solskjaer's reign will begin with a trip to the Norwegian's former club Cardiff City on Saturday. **Goal.com**

Nakambala Leopards appoint Saileti head coach

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zeddy Saileti has been confirmed as coach for Mazabuka-based super division side Nakambala Leopards while Linos Makwaza has been appointed as his assistant.

Saileti told Goal Diggers! that he was honoured by the appointment and added that he will commit to restoring the dwindling winning ways of the team.

"It is an honour for me and I'm very excited to face the challenges that come with this duty. Nakambala Leopards is a good team and they have survived relegation. I believe I can restore and improve its winning ways," he said.

The new coach realised that he had a huge task at his hands but he was confident that team work and listening

ears would help him and his team go places.

"Working together and understanding what team work means is one of the things that will help me and my assistant go places. It is never an easy task so we will keep an attentive ear for advice," said Saileti.

Saileti was with Lumwana Radiants but the club management declined to renew his one year contract after a shabby start to the 2018 season. He was also a manager at Nkana football club before Bestone Chambeshi took over.

Linos Makwaza on the other hand was Acting Head Coach for NAPSA Stars in the 2017 football season where he guided the pensioners to an epic runners-up finish in the Barclays Cup tournament after losing to ZANACO FC in the final.



John Collins #20 of the Atlanta Hawks dunks against Ian Mahinmi #28 of the Washington Wizards at State Farm Arena on Wednesday in Atlanta, Georgia - AFP

Mupopo comforted by Kundananji's records



By Alex Chilumbwe

Banned athletics star Kabange Mupopo says she is comforted and not intimidated by Racheal Kundananji's track records in the just ended Region 5 youth games in Gaborone, Botswana. Kundananji won three Gold and a Silver medal during the competition in Gaborone and she holds the regional and national records for 800m and 1500m races in the Under-20 category.

Mupopo, like Kundananji is also a footballer, and was a Shepolopolo regular before her sporting ban. Although Kundananji's rise to stardom in both disciplines could block the way for Mupopo's return, the banned sprinter is not in any way fazed.

"I cannot be intimidated by her records at all. She was here two days ago and we talked about how she should keep the Zambian flag high in both athletics and football so that the world outside Africa can see that our talent is raw and ever green. I was actually comforted by her medals because I didn't want any other country to get them," Mupopo said.

The Green Buffaloes sprinter further called for the support of all sports women that are making strides in sports saying that their bravery should be recognized.

"It is not an easy choice to make a choice of taking sports as a career in Zambia because families have little confidence in it. So if a young girl or any female takes it up and is making good progress, it is important to support them because that is a lot of courage and bravery," she said.

Mupopo further disclosed that she would return to athletics next year and was planning a thunderous comeback while emphasizing the importance of discipline.

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) banned Mupopo for four years for doping violations. Mupopo was alleged to have taken some external substances that saw her ban being effective on 12th August, 2017 to 11th August, 2021. She became one of the more than 30 world athletes that have been banned according to the latest sanctions on doping and non-doping violations.



Frank Ntilikina #11 of the New York Knicks tries to save a ball from going out of bounds during the game against the Charlotte Hornets on December 14, 2018 at Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. AFP



Gladbach's Thorgan Hazard (r) and Nuremberg's Tim Leibold fight for the ball. AFP

FAZ BANS CHILONGO

By Alex Chilumbwe
The FAZ Ethics Committee has written to City of Lusaka general secretary Christopher Chilongo, banning him from all

football related activities for 90 days for unethical conduct. This is after Chilongo failed to appear before the committee to be heard in a matter where

he is said to have presented a letter meant for Robson Malupenga and Company to the Registrar of Societies as recommendation from FAZ to enable him register City

of Lusaka Football Club as a society. The Ethics committee says the letter was in fact meant to clarify the club's existence only.

"In accordance with Article 39 (1) of the said FIFA Code of Ethics, you were duly accorded the right to be heard on 2nd and 16th November 2018 but failed to

cooperate by not appearing before the Ethics Committee which is contrary to Article 39 of the same Code," FAZ wrote.

"The committee therefore resolved forthwith to impose a 90 day provisional ban on you from all football-related activities in accordance with Article 6 (1) and (2) of the FIFA Code of Ethics 2012 edition after which you are expected to appear before the Ethics Committee. Failure to do so the committee will proceed to hear your case in your absence," read the letter.

Sponsorship and ownership wrangles engulfed City of Lusaka football club in 2017 and according to Chilongo, there were third party interferences in the management of the club's internal wrangles.

On 28th September 2018, FIFA urged FAZ to sort out the issues at the club after City of Lusaka wrote a complaint letter to the World football governing body, saying the wrangles at the Division one side were a national matter that required FAZ to settle.

Man United appoint Solskjaer as manager until end of the season

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been appointed as Manchester United's interim manager for the rest of the season.

The former Red Devils striker, who played at Old Trafford for over a decade between 1996 and 2007, takes over on a temporary basis in the wake of Jose Mourinho's exit on Tuesday.

A United statement read: "Manchester United announced today that former striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been appointed as caretaker manager until the end of the 2018-19 season.

"Solskjaer will take charge of the first team with immediate effect and will remain in place while the club conducts a thorough recruitment process for a new full-time manager."

He arrives from Norwegian side Molde, having returned to the club for a second

stint back in 2015. Mike Phelan has also returned to United in the role of first-team coach and will work alongside the club's former midfielder Michael Carrick and Kieran McKenna.

Solskjaer, whose appointment had been accidentally revealed late on Tuesday, told United's official website: "Manchester United is in my heart and it's brilliant to be coming back in this role. I'm really looking forward to working with the very talented squad we have, the staff and everyone at the club."

A forward perhaps best known as a "super sub" for United, Solskjaer famously came off the bench against Bayern Munich in the 1999 Champions League final to score an injury-time winner and hand Sir Alex Ferguson's side their first European honour for over 30 years. *Goal.com*

