



# MUMBI MOCKS LUNGU'S TRIBE

**Easterners are so ugly, when they marry  
each other children look like *chinkubala***

*By Mirriam Chabala*

PF deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri says she will slap any Northerner who will try to practice traditional cousinship with Easterners going forward, since some Bembas have taken offence with President Edgar Lungu's "chimbuya" statement that out of every 10 Bembas six are thieves.

In a bid to defend President Lungu's statement, the nominated member of parliament said under the tribal cousinship, there was nothing wrong with teasing back the Head of State; and went further to mock Easterners, saying women in President Lungu's tribe are so ugly that if they marry each other children look like *chinkubala* (caterpillars). *To page 5*

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**If I'm sent to  
prison over  
mismanaged  
funds, my  
staff will  
have to go  
in too, says  
Shamulenge**

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**Journalist  
gets 18  
months for  
contempt**

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**NDC will  
abolish DC  
positions  
- Musenge**

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# Chalikosa urges journalists to be factual in news reporting

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Minister in the Office of the Vice-President Sylvia Chalikosa has urged journalists aspiring to join the elite club in the industry to emulate already-accomplished practitioners by using the power of the pen wisely.

Speaking at an awarding ceremony for outstanding journalists on "Sustainable Diets" in the year 2018 organised by CSPR and HIVOS, Wednesday, Chalikosa, in a speech read for her by Permanent Secretary in the office of the Vice-President Stephen Mwansa, observed that the media plays an important role in contributing towards poverty reduction in the country.

The Minister urged nominated journalists and those aspiring to join the media to ensure that their power was expressed in the good works worth an award instead of joining those associated with false and bad reporting.

"In undertaking poverty and vulnerability reduction



Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Vice-President, Stephen Mwansa (l), awards News Diggers! reporter Mirriam Chabala, as HIVOs regional director Tanya Lupperts looks on - Picture by Jean Mandela

programmes in the country, one of the strategies is through agriculture-led diversification of food production and sustainable food systems because this forms the basis

for better and healthy diets at household-level. This leads to lifestyles that contribute to wellness in the country. By this very strategy, we are able to address many health-

related challenges, including hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The net effect of this strategy is human capital that has higher capacity to drive social and economic

development towards our vision of becoming a prosperous and middle-income nation by 2030. One of the critical component in the strategy stated earlier

is promoting nutrition education and behaviour change communication in society. However, this cannot be achieved without the participation of media practitioners, such as journalists and radio personalities," Chalikosa noted in her speech.

"Therefore, the role of the media, in this regard, is what has brought us to this event. It is an occasion when we award journalists and radio personalities for their great contribution towards poverty reduction in the country. Allow me to pay tribute to the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) and HIVOS Southern Africa for spearheading the awards, targeting poverty reduction in society as a specific intervention. Further, I wish to recognise the efforts of the deserving journalists and radio personalities for this year, for making an indelible mark in the media field, and for joining great men and women among professionals in the media landscape."

She also encouraged media practitioners to always uphold good ethics and promote truthful reporting.

"To those aspiring to join the elite club in the media industry, you are advised to emulate the winners and many accomplished practitioners in the field by using the power of the pen wisely. Let your

power be expressed in the good works worth an award instead of joining those associated with false and bad reporting. I am confident that this event does not only serve as a motivation to upcoming media personnel, but also act as a reminder that the same 'powerful pen' places greater responsibility, among men and women, to raise media ethics higher than ever in promoting truthful reporting. This is what the nominees have done by telling incredible stories of courage, challenge, and triumph focused on promoting national development. To CSPR and HIVOS, job well done for realising that the media industry is a very important partner in national development," said Chalikosa. Meanwhile, HIVOS Advocacy Officer for Sustainable Diets William Chilufya urged all journalists to continue reporting truthfully, even if they had not been awarded at Wednesday's awards.

Some of the journalists that were recognized were; Wendson Mavoro of Diamond TV; August Kaoma of Hot Fm; Flaviour Chishala of Millenium Radio; Jajah Coulbaly of the Times of Zambia; Mirriam Chabala of News Diggers! and Jason Dube of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) for outstanding business talk show, best radio feature, best crop diversity article and best TV talk show respectively.

## Court hears trail of cocaine transaction deal

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A DEC officer has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that Emmanuel Chirwa, a court interpreter, gave out the names of other court officials who were involved in trafficking 24 Kilogrammes of cocaine exhibits that went missing, after he was arrested.

Choolwe Kaliba, 39, a Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) investigations officer further told the court that during their search at Chirwa's house, they discovered a small pistol and a drug exhibit bag in his bedroom.

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 cocaine and two counts of theft by servant.

And when the matter came up for continued trial before Magistrate Victoria Chitulangoma, Kaliba narrated that on September 5 this year, he received a call from an informer, saying there were some people who were about to conduct a drug transaction at Cheers supermarket, along Tokyo Road.

He testified that after he drove to the said location in the company of other officers, he found a Toyota Corolla that was being driven by businessman, Eric Chipango.

Kaliba said when Chipango's vehicle was searched, a black

plastic containing sachets of cocaine was discovered, but the accused refused that they were not his.

"The suspect was refusing that it's not his and that he was asked to send on someone's behalf. He was the only one in the vehicle," he said.

Kaliba told the court that after Chipango was apprehended, he led the officers to his colleague, Emmanuel Chimba.

However, Chimba also revealed that he got the drugs from Chirwa, a court interpreter at the Magistrates' Court.

"We called Emma to talk about which people from court had given him that sample. Emma informed us that Chirwa was the one who gave him," he said.

Kaliba said that same day, a search was conducted at Chirwa's house where they discovered a small pistol and a drug exhibit bag.

"They (officers) searched the bedroom. After searching, they came out with a small pistol and an exhibit bag where we put drugs for analysis. We asked Mr Chirwa what the bag was for. He said he carried documents in it when he was coming home. I asked him if it was lawful for him to do so, he admitted that it wasn't in order, but had just carried documents in there," he said. Kaliba testified that after Chirwa and Chimba where arrested, Chirwa later on revealed the names of other court officials involved in cocaine trafficking.

"After we closed the search at Mr Chirwa's house, we

proceeded to go and search Mr Chimba's house. There was nothing of interest that was found at his house. At that time, it was almost after

02 hours in the morning. We took Mr Chirwa at Central Police, and Mr Chimba, at Woodlands Police. The following day we got the two

suspects. When I interviewed Mr Chirwa, that's when the names of the other suspects, (court officials) where mentioned," said Kaliba.

## Prison break culprits get 4 month sentence

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Two Lusaka men have been sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court for escaping from prison.

The two are; Hitler Kantu, 24, of Kafue and Lawrence Malambo of Kabanana compound. Kantu escaped after he was assigned to apply fertilizer in the main garden at Lusaka Central prisons, while Malambo escaped after lying that he was going to use the toilet.

The matters came up before Magistrate K Sakwanda, Wednesday, for facts and sentencing.

Brief facts in Kantu's matter are that; in May, 2015, the correctional facility officer based at Lusaka Central prison, was assigned to work with 30 prisoners at Lusaka Central main garden.

The prisoners were divided in three groups; others were applying fertilizer, others were spraying and the rest aerating crops.

Around 11:30 hours, the officer was informed by the captain that one inmate by the name of Hitler Kantu, amongst those applying fertilizer, was missing from the group.

A search was conducted but to no avail. The matter was later reported to Kabwata police station and Kantu was later apprehended.

Asked whether the facts were correct, Kantu responded in the affirmative.

In mitigation, Kantu asked for forgiveness from the court, saying he was still young.

"I'm asking this court to forgive me. I'm still young. I'm asking the court to give me a sentence that I will manage," Kantu pleaded. But Magistrate Sakwanda sentenced him to four months imprisonment with hard labour,

effective from the date of re-arrest.

Meanwhile, the brief facts in Malambo's case are that; on May 15, 2018, a correctional facility officer at Lusaka Central prison was assigned to work with 10 inmates.

After working for about an hour, Malambo requested to go to the toilet.

The officer instructed the captain amongst the inmates to escort Malambo, but after 10 minutes, the captain came back alone and indicated that Malambo was not in the toilet. A search was conducted but to no available.

After investigations, Malambo was apprehended.

Asked whether the facts were correct, Malambo admitted that they were correct.

In mitigation, the accused asked for leniency from the court, saying what he did was wrong. He further said he wanted to see his family again and also continue going to school.

However, Magistrate Sakwanda sentenced him to four months imprisonment with hard labour after noting that escaping from custody had become rampant among inmates.

She added that she would be failing in her duties if she did not punish him to deter would-be offenders.

"I have heard what you said in mitigation. However, what you did was wrong [by] escaping from custody without authority. The whole essence of taking you to a correctional facility was to teach you a lesson and to deter you from committing another offence. This has become so rampant amongst the inmates, I will, therefore, be failing in my duties if I do not deter other would-be offenders. I sentence you to four months with hard labour with effect from the date of arrest," ruled Magistrate Sakwanda.





*Kenneth Kaunda conferring with India high commissioner to Zambia Ngultham Jathom Gangte after delivering his message (herein attached) on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi 150th birth anniversary at Lusaka Intercontinental Hotel*

# 2 Lusaka men sentenced to 3 months for stealing bed

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced two men to three months imprisonment for stealing a double bed worth K700 from a carpenter. In this matter, Jimmy Phiri, 22 and Kennedy Nyirenda, 23 had pleaded guilty to theft on Wednesday after stealing a double bed worth K700 on December 7, this year, property of Christopher

Kunda.

The matter came up before magistrate Sakwanda, Thursday, for facts and sentencing. Brief facts in this matter are that on the material day around 17:00 hours, Kunda who runs a carpentry workshop secured his furniture which included, four double beds and left the office.

However, the following day around 02:00 hours, he received a phone call where he was informed that his double bed had gone missing. Kunda reported the matter police and investigations eventually led to the arrest of the two accused persons.

In mitigation, the two asked the court to be lenient saying if sent to jail, their families would suffer.

Phiri and Nyirenda added that sending them to jail would deprive them of the opportunity to continue with their education.

The court however sentenced them to three months imprisonment.

# Lungu is our servant, we should not obey him without question - Mulongoti

*By Mirriam Chabala*

People's party leader Mike Mulongoti says stopping President Edgar Lungu from contest elections in 2021 cannot cause chaos. And Mulongoti says the named 10 united opposition parties have only come together with a common agenda of helping to redeem Zambians from the many problems that they may be facing under the PF regime. Commenting on the FODEP observation that continued bickering over President Lungu's eligibility to contest 2021 elections would lead to instability in the country, Mulongoti said nothing of that sort would happen because President Lungu was not the law himself.

"We are all guided by the law. Nobody is beneath the law and nobody is above the law. Mr Lungu, besides this question of eligibility, he has breached the law on many occasions. Having done that, he has got no moral right to insist that the same law he abused must protect him to stand as President in 2021. If you breach one clause in the Constitution, you've overturned the whole government. The PF must accept one thing, they are using their hearts instead of their heads when they insist that President Lungu can stand in 2021. The Constitution that was amended did not supplant the whole Constitution. So the old constitution is still there and this was just an amendment to the existing Constitution... but again,

where we found the problem with the Concourt is that in answering the question, they said there was an irregularity in the question (petition)," Mulongoti observed.

"When they came to that stage, they should have stopped because if a question is irregular, you can't change it because it's not your question. Once you begin to change the question to suit what you want to interpret and pass judgment on, then everything goes wrong. The Concourt made a mistake, the minute they realised that the question was irregular, they should have said 'no, we can't answer it because it's irregular' and then they would have sort the mandate of the people who applied for interpretation. But they ignored that and went on to make a decision based on their new understanding of the question. There is a principle at law that says 'don't answer a question you've not been asked'. So the Concourt answered a question they were not asked. But whoever thinks there will be chaos... chaos over what? Is Mr Lungu the father of every Zambian? Is he the father for all of us that we should obey him without question? No! The President is not the law, he's a servant of the people and when his time is up, he must be ready to leave."

Meanwhile, commenting on Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) Spokesperson Jackson Silavwe's concerns that the

parties must not pre-empt items earmarked for discussion at the national dialogue table, Mulongoti said politicians had the right to discuss any matter, provided they are within the law.

"We are political parties with a common agenda to help redeem the people

of Zambia from a lot of problems that they are facing. Our role as political parties is to provide checks and balances and we can do it as individual political parties or collectively, that's still within the law. Then secondly, the issue of dialogue is not between PF and UPND. It's dialogue

for all of us, so we are free to express our views and because of that, there is nothing wrong with us discussing the issues on the dialogue table. These are issues we've been championing all along, why should we all of a sudden be closed out? Why?" asked Mulongoti.



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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Some workers at Lusaka's Hotel Intercontinental have accused their General Manager Bruce Poter of racism after he accused them of stealing more than 450 Kilograms of meat.

The workers who have written a letter of complaint to President Edgar Lungu are asked the Head of State to intervene and save the hotel from crumbling.

Poter could, however, not be reached for a comment as he was said to be on leave and out of the country.

In the complaint letter addressed to the President, the workers alleged that between September 2017 and 2018, more than 80 staff had left the hotel due to frustrations instigated by the general manager.

# Intercontinental Hotel workers accuse general manager of racism

The workers added that others left because they were forced to resign, while some were fired.

"Dear Sir, the standards of the hotel has fallen because the general manager doesn't care about that. Between September 2017 and September 2018 more than 80 permanent and experienced staff have left. Some left because

of frustrations by the general manager, some left because they were forced to resign, some left because they were fired, some left during the VSS. In January this year, the director of human resource was also forced to resign," read the letter.

"Out of the four staff that were in H/R all have left and only the training

manager is the one acting as H/R. In April this year the chief Engineer was put on redundancy, replaced by a junior staff. The assistant chief of security was fired and chief of security who worked for more than six years and who knows the security of the hotel was transferred to another department as a duty manager. The

new chief of security was employed compromising the security of the hotel. The entire accounts senior staff has left, leaving only contracted staff. Most of the senior staff in house keeping, engineering, sales, P/R and purchasing department have left."

The workers disclosed that on Friday October 5, 2018, Poter called a

staff meeting where he accused them of stealing 450 Kilograms of meat and further charged that Zambians were accustomed to stealing.

"You people in this country steal a lot; from January 2018, to September 2018, you have stolen more than 450 kg's of meat. You Africans I know your background, most of you, come from homes where you use paraffin lights you do not have electricity... Stop stealing," the workers quoted Porter as saying.

"He does not consider the importance of an employee he thinks everyone is a thief. He is targeting long serving staff to be fired so that he can replace them with casuals. Everyone is working in fear because he threatens to fire people."

## NDC will abolish DC positions - Musenge

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge other than abolishing the Local Government Service Commission, NDC will also dissolve offices of District Commissioners and redeploy staff to Local Government Authorities where there's lack of human resource.

And Musenge who

is former Copperbelt Province minister, says when in power, NDC will not tolerate political party cadres who collect levies at markets, stations, as well as other forms of illegal taxes from traders.

In his party's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Musenge highlighted some of the things that hindered Local Government

Authorities from having discretion in determining their own expenditure allocation.

He stated that Zambia had not experienced, comprehensive decentralisation reforms which had produced results to guarantee an efficient and effective administration of Local Government Authorities

for purposes of public service provision.

"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," he stated.

"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."

Musenge stated that to resolve the above challenges, NDC would ensure that Local Government Authorities had the power to determine their own expenditure allocations

without interference from central government.

He further stated that his party would enable Local Government Authorities to have the capacity to collect their own revenue and define their own tax base.

Musenge added that NDC would not tolerate political party cadres who collected market levy, station levy and other forms of illegal taxes from people.

"We will not tolerate political party cadres 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," he stated.

And Musenge stated that their devolution plan would ensure that Local Government Authorities fund more than 80 percent of their operations in the provision of public service. "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," he stated.

Meanwhile, Musenge stated that NDC would abolish the Local Government Service Commission because local government staffing and planning would be controlled and managed by the local government themselves.

He further stated that they would dissolve offices of the District Commissioners and redeploy staff to Local Government Authorities where human resource deficiencies were in existence.

"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. We will also ensure that government only retains the role policy formulation and oversight over local government authorities," stated Musenge.

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President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (right) addresses businessmen during the Zambia Japan Business Forum in Tokyo, Japan on Thursday - Picture by Salim Henry

## Mumbi hits back at Lungu's tribe, escalates Chimbuya

By Mirriam Chabala

PF deputy secretary general Josephine Chilufya Mumbi Malama-Phiri says she will slap any Northerner who will try to practice traditional cousinship with Easterners going forward, since some Bembas have taken offence with President Edgar Lungu's "chimbuya" statement that out of every 10 Bembas six are thieves.

In a bid to defend President Lungu's statement, the nominated member of parliament said under the tribal cousinship, there was nothing wrong with teasing back the Head of State; and went further to mock Easterners, saying women in President Lungu's tribe are so ugly that if they marry each other children look

like chinkubala (caterpillars).

Mumbi further noted that apart from selected Bembas who had politicised the President's 'joke' made at the Economics Association of Zambia (EZA) gala last week, some other tribes had jumped on the opportunity to destroy the cordial relationship that had existed between the Northerners and Easterners since time immemorial.

"Naba Nevers Mumba baiminamo, beleti ba Lungu bachite apologise (Even Pastor Nevers Mumba has joined those calling on President Lungu to apologise). Where is this thing coming from? Because ine (me) am on record, naile ku Eastern Province, I was quoted saying

Eastern women are very ugly, that's why Eastern men marry us Bembas because they want to improve product yabana (of the children). I said abanakashi baku Eastern Province bonse babi, (All the women from Eastern Province are so ugly). Why hasn't that brought controversy? Lelo beme ba Nevers bayama, ba Kambwili beme... Nga lelo pali ba Lungu chapilibuka shani? (how can Nevers and Kambwili take issues with tribal cousinship today just because it's President Lungu speaking?) Let's not politick about everything," Mumbi said.

"Nikatala namona umubemba (I should never see a Bemba), if they don't apologise kuli ichililo akasube uwaku

Chipata ubunga (whenever there is a funeral, I must not see a Bemba smear powder on Easterners. Tuleke nafilya fine tucita ichimbuya (We should stop the traditional cousinship). I am just praying that uukafwa mukalamba sana uwaku Chipata. Umubemba akeme na powder, akafola amapi from me (I pray that an elderly person from Chipata dies, so that I can slap a Bemba who will try to do chimbuya. Apa pene epo chipwile nokupwila (the tradition ends here). Takuli ati 'Mbuya nipaseko yamanzi', chisililetu (there should be no more begging in the name of cousinship).

When asked if President Lungu was also doing Chimbuya

with the Chinese when he said they were as resilient as cockroaches, Mumbi said people misunderstood the context of what the Head of State was trying to communicate.

Awe, that's different. And if you hear the context in which he talked about the Chinese, he was simply saying 'the Chinese are strong and they are many, they can survive in any condition' and let me quote mama Chibiliti, what she said on Millinium radio when people were saying 'the Chinese they are taking over our jobs'. Mama Chibiliti, that wise woman gave an example to say 'don't we have Zambians who are working in South Africa? Don't we have Zambians who have gone to India to look after old people? That is the context in which the President was speaking," she said.

"You see, what is sad is that apart from these Bembas who are politicising this issue, some other tribes have jumped on it and they want to create enmity between the Easterns and Bembas. We should not allow other people to divide us. This is how we have always lived and we joke with each other as traditional cousins. But they are jealous of us. And those who are arguing to say the President has no right to do Chimbuya because he's the President, are they even aware that we did chimbuya with him at the funeral of Victoria Kalima? Where were they? We did chimbuya with him and he paid us Bembas over K50,000." When asked if it was okay for Bembas to call President Lungu a thief in the name of cousinship, Mumbi said that is how it was supposed to be.

That's the way it's supposed to be. Ifwe fwebabemba nga nachitukalipa, naifwe kufwaya ichinga kalipa abaku Chipata.

Me I tell Easterners that your men marry us Bembas because kumwenu takwaba abanakashi abasuma. Your relative married me in order to improve the product of the children. Then they answer me to say 'iwe uli na flat figa (they mock me back by saying I have no big buttocks) just to make me annoyed. But since they don't want that, then the tradition should end here. Nkamone umuntu, Grey Zulu nga afwa, akese na powder (When Grey Zulu dies, I should not see a person with powder). Let's give each other boundaries," Mumbi said.

Without referring to President Lungu who is a Nsenga from Petauke and married to First Lady Esther Nyawa who is also from the same region, Mumbi stressed that Eastern Women were so ugly that if they get married to a fellow tribesman, the children end up looking like a caterpillar.

"Tell them that me I married an Easterner because in Eastern there are no beautiful women like me and a Nsenga married me to improve on the product of the children. Because sembe banakwatilana beka beka, bana sembe baoneka monga visenda and that's what I tell them always. You know Easterners both men and women they have big buttocks cifukwa bakumba mbeba. Filya fine bakumba imbeba nabafulama, their butts protrude (Easterners have big buttocks because of digging mice. So every time they are digging their buttocks protrude and they stay like that). So both of you men and women you have the same big buttocks, so even if mine are English buttocks, the children get the big buttocks from their father. So ndiye improvement yamene iyo (that's how we improved the product)," said Mumbi who is married to a Phiri.

## Coca-Cola Zambia sold to Coca-Cola Beverages Africa

By Geoffrey Zulu

Africa's largest Coca-Cola bottler, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa Proprietary Limited (CCBA), has acquired the Coca-Cola soft drinks business of Zambian Breweries Plc (Zambrew) and commenced operations.

With this acquisition, the non-alcoholic ready-to-drink business of Zambrew has been transferred to Kalundu Beverages Limited, trading as Coca-Cola Beverages Zambia (CCBZ).

CCBZ is a fully-owned subsidiary of CCBA via Coca-Cola Sabco East Africa Limited (CCSEA).

Commenting on the transaction in a press statement, CCBA chief executive officer Jacques Vermeulen explained that the acquisition fit into the company's long-term growth strategy.

"The acquisition makes perfect sense both for us and for consumers in Zambia. We see a compelling long-term growth opportunity for non-alcoholic ready-to-drink beverages in Zambia. This

acquisition of Zambrew's soft drinks operation will allow us to share best practices and improve our service for both the formal and informal markets and at the same time, accelerate innovation. It will also allow us to achieve enhanced efficiencies which, in turn, will mean an improved and more seamless service for customers," Vermeulen said.

And the managing director for CCBA's Southern Africa region, which includes Namibia, Botswana and now Zambia, Norton Kingwill, speaking during a press briefing at Protea Hotel Arcades, Tuesday, said:

"CCBA's aim remains to drive long-term sustainable growth, leverage our scale and build capabilities to accelerate sustainable growth. We believe this acquisition aligns very well with that ambition."

CCBA is the 8th largest Coca-Cola bottling partner worldwide by revenue and the biggest on the African continent, accounting for about 40 per cent of all Coca-Cola volumes sold in Africa.

CCBA shareholders now are: The Coca-Cola Company, 65.5 per cent, and Gutsche Family Investments, 34.5 per cent.

The company boasts a diverse pan-African footprint with more than 32 bottling plants servicing over 650,000 outlets that serve a combined population of over 249 million people across the continent.

The objective of the takeover is to grow the business and increase job opportunities for Zambians.

This acquisition by CCBA adds two more plants to its footprint on the continent - one in Ndola and one in the capital, Lusaka.

CCBA bottles and distributes beverages whose trademarks are owned by The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) or TCCC's affiliated entities and is the world's 8th largest Coca-Cola bottler by revenue.

Including the Zambian acquisition, CCBA now has over 16 000 employees across its operations in Africa with more than 30 bottling plants in 12 countries.



# Banking and Financial Services Sector key to entrepreneurship growth

**By Andyford Mayele Banda**

Once the PAC government fixes our politics, our governance and sorts out corruption as discussed in the previous articles, it will surely be on course to deliver its vision of an entrepreneur government. Zambia needs an ENTREPRENEURIAL GOVERNMENT; a government led by people with diverse ideas. PAC is poised to deliver through the introduction of an ENTREPRENEURIAL GOVERNMENT driven by a fresh crop of new generation politicians. The banking and financial services sector will be key in this process.

As a new generation politicians, we are set for socio-economic resetting. We are also geared for more competitive, efficient, effective and sustainable ways of public and private sector management. We are motivated to abandon obsolete economics, programs and defunct methods. We are innovative, imaginative and creative. We will take informed and calculated risks. Our entrepreneurial government will work hand in hand with the private sector leveraging markets for them.

We will employ solid business sense in the central as well as local governments. We will capitalise on win-win public-private partnership and joint ventures. We will rely on stable local enterprise for stable government operations. Our entrepreneurial government is market oriented. It focuses on performance measurement and always reward merit; not corruption. We shall work to make things work. We shall not shirk from dreaming the economic dreams that are to manifest in financial freedom for Zambian citizens and economic independence for the nation.

In order to create a significant number of jobs and stabilize our economy, we must ensure that we empower Zambians. We must not neglect any industry that can create any job available. We must do everything to diversify our economy not just to one industry but to every industry that can create at least even one job. The PAC philosophy is to empower Zambians and spark consumer spending which in turn will create an economic chain reaction. We call it an economic chain because we know that when we ensure that majority Zambians are able to buy goods and services, other jobs will be created. Hence the idea is to create enough direct jobs which will in turn create enough indirect jobs.

In order to grow our economy we must ensure that we have a strong and thriving banking and financial services sector. In order to grow our financial services sector we must restructure it to ensure that it's focused more on supporting its customers to growth more than just a convenience to keep money for customers and yield profits for banks. The PAC knows that without finding solutions to ways and means of assisting the smallest businesses who in most cases have no fixed assets to put in collateral when accessing loans, it will be difficult to create a banking and financial services sector that is focused on growing Zambians and their small businesses.

PAC knows that this is not only a task for banks but it's also a task for the government to come up with policies that will ensure banks are attracted to give money to small businesses and entrepreneurs. The small businesses include airtime dealers on the street, welders, block makers, cleaners, bus drivers, marketeers etc. Currently majority of small and medium businesses cant access loans from the banks including those that have collateral. This narrative will not grow the economy if its tolerated for too long. The PAC's vision is to ensure that banks and other lending institutions take the lead in giving loans to small businesses and not the government.

The other reason why banks must take the lead is because it is not the core business of the government to give out loans; but rather the core businesses of the banks. Hence bank can vet individuals accurately as opposed to the government. The bank has better techniques to collect money than the government. Most importantly it's the PAC's vision to ensure that every person regardless of their political affiliation has equal opportunities to access financing and we know the banks will be better placed to ensure that this is done because of already existing systems in place.

As earlier alluded to, the PAC government will take risks to ensure that most Zambians especially small businesses have access to finance. However, the risks won't be too grave for the government to lose money. The vision of the PAC is to put in place policies that will guarantee the bank's capital and

ensure their money is recovered as agreed. A PAC Government will immediately enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with banks and other lending institutions to enable and heighten the uptake of loan and lease services from financial Institutions. The MoU financial services will be backed by official government bond.

PAC is aware that government has a limited capacity to give loans to the people. PAC knows government does not have the requisite systems to ensure that the loans are fairly distributed and recovered. Therefore, a PAC Government will be a smart and effective facilitator of public and private market functions. A PAC Government will not be a direct money lender to Zambian entrepreneurs but a loan and lease finance guaranteeing entity as necessary. A PAC government will work with banks and financial institutions to come up with policies that will be formalized into memorandum of understanding to ensure that the people of Zambia are empowered and also ensure that the banks' money is secured through government guarantees.

This scheme will also help grow the banking and financial services sector. A PAC Government will leverage both public and private markets to curtail monopolies and cartels, to curtail profiteer exploitation of the poor and uneducated, and to sustain flawed markets particularly in the rural areas. A PAC Government will catalyse the formation of new markets and private sector suppliers and share in the risk of expanding supply.

For the banks to be comfortable to enter this MOU, the government must operate efficiently and like discussed, this will be possible through clean up and restructuring. Key also to this process is that the small businesses must be structured in order for them to operate efficiently. In the next article we will discuss restructuring the Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) from being a financial institution to being an organization that grows entrepreneurs through structuring them, training them, creating financing opportunities, creating business opportunities and monitoring them.

**Andyford Mayele Banda**  
**President**  
**People's Alliance for Change (PAC)**

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Livestock Permanent Secretary Dr David Shamulenge says he has warned his officers at the ministry that if he gets imprisoned over mismanaged funds, they will have to go in too.

This came to light when Dr Shamulenge and his team appeared before PAC to respond to audit queries cited in the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended December 31, 2017.

Senga Hill constituency PF member of parliament Kapembwa Simbao during the proceeding observed that from the responses submitted to the committee, it was clear that staff at the ministry feared PAC more than they feared the external auditors.

"It seems as if the officers at the ministry are more scared of PAC than the Auditor General. I want to find out why is this the situation? Why don't they understand that if they don't answer the auditor General then they will end up at PAC? Why don't they know that the Auditor General's report is what brings them here? Why do they seem to find everything when they know that they are coming to PAC and they fail to find them when they are being seen by the Auditor General?" Simbao asked.

Committee Chairperson Howard Kunda who is also Muchinga constituency MMD member of parliament added to the question by saying "And they don't fear the law, they only fear PAC?"

Chinsali constituency PF member of parliament Kalalwe Mukosa also advised the auditors are given the required information during the audit process to avoid being cited. "PS I think some of these issues can be resolved [in that] when the auditors come to your office looking for information and are not given, it is against the law," Mukosa advised.

And Lukasha constituency Independent member of parliament Mwenya Munkonge cautioned that the late submission was creating doubt on the authenticity of it. "Late submission of information to the Auditor General's office gives doubt to the credibility of the information. So now in this age of forensic accounting,

# If I'm jailed over mismanaged funds, my staff will have to go in too, says PS Shamulenge

some of those reports which you are saying are available, should we use forensic tactics in determining when they were written? And as it is, we are in December, by January you should start preparing for auditors visits. So my question is why are we failing to prepare properly for the auditor general's visits even on outstanding queries?" Munkonge asked.

Then Deputy Auditor General in charge of Audits Phales Phiri noted that certain information submitted by the PS to the committee was not agreeing with the information the auditors were given.

"Looking at the documents that have been submitted now, I can give an example of the same one where we are talking about holding of workshops

without an authority as late as 28th August when the controlling officer responded. We were told that they had regretted that authority was not sought from the Secretary to Cabinet to hold these workshops outside government premises. Now we are wondering suddenly we are being told [that] there was authority given. So we find it very difficult, how do we clear such things? On one end we are given this [and] when we come to PAC, there is another submission," Phiri observed.

She also gave examples of the queries which had contradicting responses from the PS.

"I can also give an example of page four where there was payment of imprest for

a trip not undertaken by Mongu Provincial Fisheries and Livestock Coordinator (PFLC). Our observation was that an amount of K20,000 was paid to the PFLO to undertake a tour for five nights. However there was no evidence that these activities were undertaken but an amount of K2,600 that was paid to the driver was recovered. Now the response is that 'no, the trip was undertaken and the reports have been compiled,' Phiri revealed.

"So we are wondering if you recovered from the driver, how then did the officer move to undertake that visit? And then I have gone to the appendix that you have provided, if you go to appendix five, the report is indicated July and

August 2017, the funds were paid in May. If you go to the attachment of the register for the people who attended those meetings, the date is in September 2017. So I am wondering how then do we clear such things? Payment is in May, the report is dated July and August, the purported register is for September, for a report that is prepared in July and August. So we find difficulties in clearing such issues. So maybe the controlling officer can explain that."

In his response, Dr Shamulenge said he would reconcile the matter with the office of the Auditor General and admitted that he risked being imprisoned for poor supervisions of his ministry.

"I have taken note and we

will reconcile what she has submitted. Actually I have taken the advice very seriously and what I have done...and I know it is true that come next year it will be very tough. If I don't supervise properly I might go in and I am aware because it is stated very clearly, and I have told them (my officers). And what I have done now is that I have told my internal auditor that if I go in [for] four years, you at least you must go in for 12 years if you don't submit the internal audit report and he has submitted. So we will look at that internal audit report which he has done and then get guidance from the external auditors and see that we start working on them so that we don't wait for PAC," Dr Shamulenge responded.

# Lusaka journalist gets 18 month sentence for contempt of court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Supreme Court has slapped Rainbow Newspaper editor-in-chief Derrick Sinjela with one year six months simple imprisonment for contempt of court.

And MISA Vice Chairperson Hyde Haguta has described the judgement as a sad development in the media fraternity, adding that journalists should not be intimidated but remain strong by ensuring that they are professional in their work.

Sinjela was cited for Contempt of court following his remarks on the Supreme Court's decision on Savenda Vs Stanbic Bank Case, where he accused the judges

of corruption and bribery following their decision in favour of Stanbic Bank.

The remarks were published in his Rainbow Newspaper between April and May 2018, titled "Zambian Supreme Court verdict in the Savenda vs Stanbic Bank is questionable" says COMESA, SADC journalist.

He had apologised to the court after pleading guilty saying he made errors in his news judgment by repeatedly criticising Stanbic Bank and attacking the judges.

However, when the matter came up for judgement, Thursday, Deputy Chief Justice Marwin Mwanamwambwa, who sat with judges Gregory

Phiri, Evans Hamaundu, Royda Kaoma and Nigel Mutuna sentenced him to a custodial sentence of 18 months simple imprisonment with effect from yesterday.

He however, remarked that had Sinjela not admitted to the charge, they would have given him a much heavier sentence.

"So that's your sentence. He is now a prisoner, take him to jail!" Justice Mwanamwambwa ordered.

And speaking after the judgment, MISA Vice Chairperson Hyde Haguta described the judgement as a sad development for the media fraternity and a free press.

"I don't know what to say. It's a sad day [and] it's very difficult to talk. For us in the media fraternity, that's puts us at very awkward position in terms of reporting issues in the way we should see them. We are constrained to speak.

He urged journalists to remain strong, ensure that they were professional in their work and had correct facts, adding that the judgement should not scare them from reporting on issues.

"That's the only way that we are going to be safe. This should not scare us from reporting issues the way they are supposed to be professionally, provided that we are on fact, accurate, honest

and balanced. Journalism is about freedom of expression, its about giving citizens a platform to be heard. We are a watchdog for the citizens and in doing so, we are compelled to give accurate and correct information in whatever we are doing. Let's work hard, let's not be intimidated. let's have the fear to report wrongly but not fear to report a story that's correct," he said.

And SACCORD executive director Boniface Chembe reiterated that it was a sad day that required a lot of digestion.

He hoped that going forward, what had transpired in the last few weeks would not deter individuals who wanted to continue engaging in human rights work in the country. Meanwhile, GEARS Initiative Executive Director McDonald Chipenzi said he admired Sinjela's courage because if it were others, they would not have been in court.

"That is great courage and shows that what he believed in, he has lived up to it until this day. This also shows that we have to be careful now, either to be silent inside court or outside, but at the end of the day we have to protect our rights to expression," he said.

Sinjela's sentence comes barely a few weeks after SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire, who is currently in exile, was slapped with a six year jail sentence for contempt of Court regarding his remarks in Savenda Vs Stanbic Bank Case.

# ACC arrest Kitwe woman for impersonation

By Milimo Namangala

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested a 25-year-old woman of Kitwe for forgery and impersonating an ACC officer.

In a statement issued by ACC Acting Public Relations Manager Dorothy Mwanza, Mulenga Mukuka was arrested for uttering a false document, contrary to the laws of Zambia.

"Mulenga Mukuka, who at the time of arrest was residing at House No. 40503, Libala South in Lusaka, an assistant accountant at Jack Christian Academy in Parklands, Kitwe, was arrested and charged with four counts of making a false document, contrary to Section 352 of the Penal Code Cap 87 of the laws of Zambia. Mukuka was further charged with five

counts of uttering a false document, contrary to Section 352 of the Penal Code Cap 87 of the laws of Zambia. She was also charged with one count of impersonation, contrary to Section 18 as read with Section 41 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012," the statement read.

Mukuka also attempted to procure a loan from a named financial institution by producing an introductory letter bearing her names and claimed to be an employee of the Commission.

"Details in the matter are that Mukuka pretended to be an Anti-Corruption Commission Officer when she attempted to procure a loan from a named financial institution. She produced an introductory letter

bearing her names, and purporting that she was an employee of the Anti-Corruption Commission, when in fact not. She also forged two pay slips in her names indicating that she was an employee of the Commission and on government pay roll when in fact not. Mukuka further filled in a loan application form with false information that she was employed as an internal auditor by the Commission when in fact not," Mwanza added. Mukuka was arrested by the ACC, Tuesday, and is expected to appear in court next month.

And in another case, the ACC in Chirundu arrested and charged a local court officer for corrupt practices involving K6,000.

"Hardley Chipepo, aged 53, of Mess

Flats in Siavonga District, has been arrested with one count of corrupt practices by public officer, contrary to Section 19 sub-section 1 as read with Section 41 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012 of the laws of Zambia," stated Mwanza.

"Details are that between 1st April, 2015, and 31st May, 2015, in Siavonga District, Hardley Chipepo, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, corruptly received K6,000.00 cash inducement or reward to facilitate an acquittal of a Mr. Mulenga Chabala who had been arrested by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) for being in possession of psychotropic substances. Chipepo has been released on bond and will appear in court soon."



News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD  
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PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078  
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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

We are elated to see that the opposition in Zambia has decided to unite and speak with one voice on various issues affecting citizens. We are told that this coalition is not about supporting one candidate to stand in 2021, at least not for now. They say each political party will retain autonomy, but unite when need arises to address specific governance challenges.

A few observers and critics have already argued that this move may have been implemented too early and could lose momentum by 2021. Others feel this is a premature, desperate congregation of selfish individuals who don't have the capacity to sacrifice their personal interests for the greater good of serving Zambia.

Our opinion is that this united opposition front, or whatever appropriate name it has adopted, must be supported by all well-meaning Zambians. In fact, it is good that various political parties are showing willingness to work together before the hype for the next general elections reaches climax.

Why do we think so? In our view, political leadership doesn't mean being in State House or ministerial office and signing government contracts and giving orders to civil servants. It is very possible for a group of people to contribute immensely to a country's governance system even before forming government, and we have seen this work in progressive countries where laws are respected.

If anything, a vibrant opposition is as good as an efficient government, if not better. People think this unity is too early or premature because they want it to be formed for one purpose and one purpose only, which is to remove President Lungu

# A vibrant opposition is as good as an efficient government

and his Patriotic Front from power. Yes, eventually, it inevitably culminates into that objective, but forming political pacts for that sole purpose is what has caused united fronts to lose elections in the past.

We would like to argue that the responsibility of changing government is not bestowed on the opposition, but the people who desire to be governed differently. When citizens feel the existing government is too corrupt, oppressive and failing to uphold the promises it made before it was voted into office, it becomes their duty to take it down. But in order to bring about positive change in government, the electorate needs to be presented with an opportunity to scrutinize options among the available alternative political formations.

People want a government of leaders who are willing to sacrifice

their personal interests, leaders who genuinely love this country, take advice, tolerate criticism, respect the provisions of the Constitution and have the capacity to unite the country. Those who want to govern need to satisfy the leadership attributes listed above. Once the people identify such a political formation, they will not shy away from selecting new leaders from it.

It is for this reason that we support the formation of this united opposition front. We feel that it has come at the right time to fight the bad governance practices being perpetrated by the Patriotic Front. The people of Zambia have always been yearning for a much stronger voice, a voice that will point to the issues affecting them, and mounting actionable pressure on those elected to provide public service to perform their duties.

Considering that this

political alliance insists that it has not been formed for the purpose of propping up a 2021 presidential candidate, we feel then that it is espousing a good cause that deserves support. If it proves to be effective in speaking for the voiceless and oppressed citizens, then we don't actually see it losing momentum ahead of 2021.

But we must warn that uniting for ulterior motives has the potential to leave the opposition even more fragmented than it already is. If those who are organizing this political alliance are going in with the desire to weaken and swallow other political parties, there will be a devastating fallout from the divisions that will ensue because people who have principals don't like being used.

For this alliance to work and last long in delivering the desired checks and balances on behalf of the

people of Zambia, its leaders must suspend their egos. Those who feel powerful and more popular must be willing to lower themselves and elevate those alliance partners who may be perceived to be weak and less popular; otherwise why are they inviting them to a formation if they don't recognize their relevance? They must get together with the appreciation that each of the alliance leaders has their own strength and weakness, but together, they form a formidable pact.

We would like to end by advising those who are defining the agenda for this alliance to be progressive and calculative in their activities. They have to know what battles they can fight and win, and which battles they must not waste time on. If they want to champion for electoral reforms, for example, as a united opposition, they now have a formidable

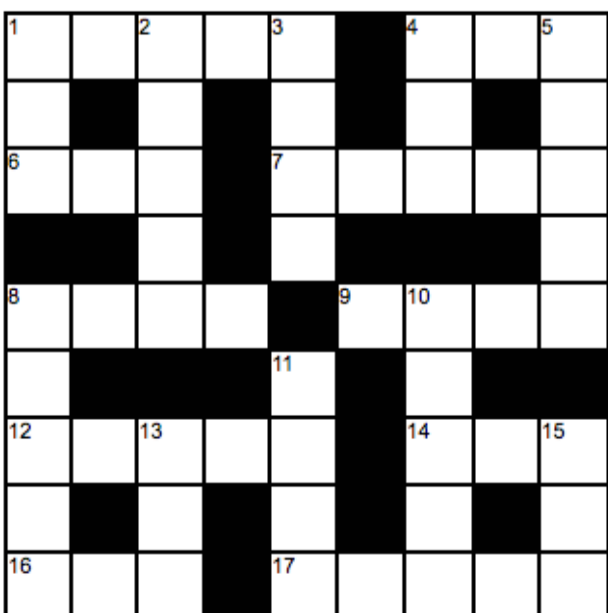
front that can win the attention of international organizations that fund elections in Zambia. They need to speak with one voice and tell the outside world where things go wrong in Zambia and how votes are stolen. Let them call for help in addressing loopholes in the electoral system before 2021. That is what they must focus on as they aggressively challenge corruption, abuse of power and State capture under the PF.

We heard from its recent joint press conference that this political alliance will fight tooth and nail to prevent incumbent President Edgar Lungu from contesting presidential elections for the third time. That is okay to say for the voters to hear, but directing all energies to achieve this will be a waste of time, as it were during the 2016 presidential election petition. Petitioners had a point, but the President had the power and money! Who won?

President Lungu is standing in 2021, unless nature decides otherwise. There is no court that will reverse the decision of the Constitutional Court, it's done and dusted – illegal or not, that is the PF candidate. It was more feasible to challenge the third term bid before the court had a say on it than it is now after the biased judges have endorsed his candidature.

Yes, the third term failed under Frederick Chiluba because Zambia had a very powerful civil society then, the church leadership was respected then, Cabinet ministers were loyal to the country rather than an individual, while eminent lawyers and judges loved Zambia more than money. We live in a mafia state today where money controls everything and everyone; it's each one for himself, and God for us all.

## Crossword puzzle 257



*“When a man truly sees himself, he knows nobody can say anything about him that is too bad.”*  
- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**Across**

- 1. Surgical beam
- 4. Used to be
- 6. One of the 5 W's
- 7. Promise
- 8. Two together
- 9. Internet auction site
- 12. Zealous
- 14. Drink cooler
- 16. Investigate
- 17. Risk money

**Down**

- 1. Rule
- 2. Holler
- 3. Impulsive
- 4. Miniscule
- 5. Feeling regret
- 8. Sandwich necessity
- 10. Take along with you
- 11. Bird in a cornfield
- 13. Comedian's bit
- 15. Unit of corn

## Solutions to puzzle 256





# 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.

## United opposition's push to prevent Lungu's 'third term'

Editor,

"Let's just accept the ConCourt ruling not crying over spilled milk. Our focus should be the 2021 election than wasting time

on baseless issues; that's where opposition political parties lose it, mainly politicizing anything." - Rodgers Banda

"This 'no third term' stuff is a waste of time because that decision will not be reversed. Accept that ECL is standing, but also see the opportunity of him being an extremely weak candidate. It is actually a blessing that he is standing." - Mwimanenwa Kamona

"What are these people afraid of? Respect the courts! Face him at the election!!" - Obino Mwewa Chishimba

"It's quite strange how these guys are so afraid of ECL. The ship is self-destructing and, if anything, facing him in election is the best way to retire him." - Samuel Chibale

"Why wasting time on such issues; that Constitution was made to suit ECL on the eligibility. They must reorganize, quietly off camera, tell people what they want to do. Otherwise, PF will win again! Just imagine the fuel went down globally, but they're not reducing. Many Zambians don't read in between the lines; PF is more interested in staying in power, nothing else!" - Latter Rain

"That is childish! Instead of campaigning, you want to waste time on third term? You will all cry again if you don't change your attitudes!" - Lweendo Muzambalika

"The opposition we have is too rigid & lacks the political acumen to cleverly counter their opponent." - Evans H Susman



## 'Kalaba should be allowed to work without police interference'

Editor,

"Let Kalaba do his work, police please! Remember that no govt lasts for good." - Mulenga Phiri

"Take note; some of you still in PF; that this is how bad the PF has become; you'll be treated the same once you go the other side." - Chanda Pochoko

"Police have a duty to maintain law and order in the country and not to intimidate anyone. All that is needed for them

is to act professionally as they execute their duties without fear or be impartial towards others." - Charles Chiluba Chuutu

"Mr Kalaba, if you're not intimidated, just go on with your business, but be assured should you make a blunder, the police will be on your neck." - Charles Banda

"That is the chaos you loved. Now see for yourself; was it worth it?" - Shepherd Shadunka

## ND OPINION: Chitotela lied to Parliament

Dear Editor,

"That only confirms that he's part of the team that did the wrongs in that contract fiasco, and as such, he feels duty-bound to cover up with such a magnitude of impunity!" - Robby LM

"They are all the same! No one in PF likes the truth. It's all sweet talk and bootlicking!" - Baldwin Njovu

"I don't know whether it's just me, but since the time Sata fired Chitotela for allegedly stealing CDF funds, I have never trusted this Chitotela guy. He doesn't seem honest!! He is lucky because it seems Lungu has a liking to people with questionable characters. Levy and Sata wouldn't have spared him!!" - Hector Ndlovu

"What baffles me is the lies that are being peddled in our August House. Worse still is where the Speaker does not caution anyone making these lies making him appear like he lives outside this planet! Is that the way we will downgrade all our institutions in Zambia?" - Solomon H. Phiri

"Parliament is becoming to be obsolete! Nowadays, a Minister can even lie in the House with no consequences!?" - Ben Chibwe



The United States Senate has unanimously approved a bill to make lynching a federal crime in the country.

Three black senators introduced the bill in June to allow lynching to be charged as a hate crime alongside existing crimes such as murder.

For much of US history, lynchings were rarely prosecuted at all.

More than 200 anti-lynching bills have been introduced to Congress since 1918, all of which have been voted down.

Lynching is murder by a mob with no due process or rule of law. In the US South in the 19th and 20th Centuries, thousands of African Americans were lynched by white mobs, often by hanging.

In a tweet, Senator Kamala Harris - one of the bill's architects - said the vote was "history."

The bill was a bipartisan effort. It was first introduced earlier this year by Ms Harris and Cory Booker - both Democrats - and by Republican Senator Tim Scott.

According to the text of the bill, at least 4,742 people were reported lynched in the US between 1882 and 1968. It says 99% of all perpetrators had escaped punishment and called lynching "the ultimate expression of racism in the United States".

"Today, we have righted that wrong and taken corrective action that recognizes this stain on our country's history," Booker said in a statement following the vote

# US Senate passes first anti lynching law after vote

on Wednesday.

The bill needed the backing of 60 Senators to pass. All 100 members voted in favour of the bill including Bernie Sanders, the former Democrat

presidential contender, and Kentucky Republican Mitch McConnell, the Senator Majority Leader.

"I thought we did that many years ago," Mr McConnell said earlier this year in an

interview with Sirius XM radio. "If we need one at the federal level, I certainly will support it," he said.

Presiding over the vote was Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, a Mississippi Republican

who stirred controversy last month after joking that she would attend a "public hanging" if invited by a supporter.

The first anti-lynching bill was introduced to Congress

100 years ago by Republican Representative Leonidas Dyer of Missouri. The bill passed the House but was opposed by Democratic senators from southern states and failed to pass the Senate. In 2005, the Senate passed a rare resolution apologising for the repeated failure to approve anti-lynching legislation. The bi-partisan resolution was backed by 90 members of the Senate out of 10. **BBC**

## Ethiopia approves boundary commission to resolve disputes

Ethiopia's parliament has approved a controversial bill that allows Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to set up a commission to resolve conflicts triggered by identity and border disputes between regional administrations.

The bill was fiercely resisted by some members of the parliament, who declared it unconstitutional. It was eventually approved with a majority vote.

More than 1.4 million people are currently displaced as a result of ethnic conflicts within the country.

The new Identity and Boundary Issues Commission will be tasked with studying the causes of such conflicts and providing solutions to lawmakers.

Most of the opposition to its establishment came from MPs representing the Tigrayan region in the northern part of the country, where the optimism that follows Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's reform measures is weaker than elsewhere in the country.

Currently, ethnic disputes and identity questions are expected to be resolved by the lower house of parliament, which renders the commission irrelevant, the dissenting MPs argued.

The formation of the commission might widen the rift between the new administration and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front party, a member of the ruling coalition. **BBC**



## Stepfather of 'Baby Daniel' found guilty of murder

The stepfather of 'Baby Daniel', a three-year-old boy whose death shocked South Africa in 2016, has been found guilty of murder and child abuse by a court in Johannesburg.

"Baby Daniel" died after suffering burn wounds to 60% of his body, as well as broken bones and a severe

head injury.

The boy's mother was found guilty of neglect and abuse.

The judge said that while there was no evidence that she had participated in the killing, she had "deliberately neglected to give [the child] proper care." **BBC**

# Sudan protesters torch ruling party HQ over rising prices

Demonstrators call for overthrow of Omar al-Bashir's government as anger spreads over rising bread and fuel prices

Protesters in Sudan have set fire to the ruling party's offices as part of a series of demonstrations against rising bread prices and shortages of fuel, both subsidised by

the government.

Images circulating on social media showed the ruling National Conference Party's offices in Atbara, some 320km north of the capital Khartoum, being set on fire, while other fires were scattered across the streets at the centre of the protests.



Residents told Al Jazeera that the protests were triggered after bread prices increased from one Sudanese pound (\$0.02) to three Sudanese pounds (\$0.063).

The protests, which also broke out in the city of Port Sudan, the capital of Red Sea state, saw demonstrators call for the "overthrow of the regime", a slogan that was common during the Arab Spring uprisings that swept through the region in 2011.

Hatem al-Wassilah, the governor of the Nile River state, told Sudania 24 TV that a state of emergency had been declared in Atbara and a curfew imposed from 6pm local time (16:00 GMT) to 6am (4:00 GMT).

"The protests began peacefully and then turned to violence and vandalism ... We declared a state of emergency and a curfew and the closure of schools in the city," he said.

Bread prices have more than tripled since the start of this year after the government decided to stop importing wheat from overseas.

Officials had hoped the move would create competition between private companies importing wheat, and therefore act as a check on price rises - but a number of bakeries have since stopped production, citing a lack of flour.

This forced the government to increase

flour subsidies by 40 percent in November.

In October, Sudan sharply devalued its currency from 29 pounds to the dollar to 47.5 after a body of banks and money changers set the country's exchange rate.

The move led to further price increases and a liquidity crunch, while the gap between the official and black market rates has continued to widen.

Sudan lost between 75 and 80 percent of its oil reserves in 2011 after the southern part of the country became an independent nation, denying the north billions of dollars in revenues.

In a separate development on Wednesday, leading opposition figure Sadiq al-Mahdi returned to the country after nearly a year in self-imposed exile.

Mahdi was overthrown in 1989 by a group of military commanders close to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's National Congress Party.

"The regime has failed and there is economic deterioration and erosion of the national currency's value," Mahdi, who heads the Umma party, told thousands of his supporters.

His party has argued that Bashir must go in order to improve the country's image abroad and attract crucial investment and aid. **AL JAZEERA**



# Top FIFA instructor drills local refs

By Alex Chilumbwe

A top FIFA Referees Technical Instructor Felix Tangawarima is in the country to conduct a five-day development project for 30 youthful whistle-men from across 10 provinces and among them, 8 are females.

And FAZ President Andrew Kamanga has urged the participants to embrace integrity as the core of their refereeing career adding that referee development was at the core of the game's development.

He said that the country should look beyond having only two top referees that have made the FIFA World Cup cut.

"The area of refereeing will help us take our football forward as well as sustain the growth of the game.

As an association we have embarked on a number of reforms," he said.

"If you do not invest in the pillars of refereeing as well as coaching and the players, then there will be no football. I think this [is] why you tend to see that



Trainee referees pose for a photo at the National Heroes Stadium where the five day training programme is taking place

maybe at the national level we may not have delivered results in the few years not because we did not want to get the results but it is a combination of factors."

Kamanga also said that the Zambian league had become highly competitive

and needed a cadre of referees that are equal to the task to match the quality of the game.

"You will notice that even our Super League now is very attractive to the foreigners who keep coming. If you look at where

we are as a country, we have now four teams competing in the CAF tournaments that is also giving you a pointer that our game is on the upswing," Kamanga said.

"In recognizing all these developments, we have

noted with concern that we seem to have taken our foot off the accelerator when it comes to developing referees. I think this is why in the last FIFA programme, a few months ago they trained our referees and I had the opportunity to

discuss with our referees manager to say where are we going to be 10 years from now when it comes to officiating?"

Kamanga further urged the participants to put integrity at the heart of their career and conduct themselves in the highest level of professionalism.

"Football being what it is, there is a lot of temptation, but if you decided that you want to be a top referee you need to have an impeccable integrity, you do not need to be someone who is easily corruptible. There are things which will be thrown in your face as you go but a good name is always important because that is what will take you far. My appeal is let us build good names in the way we conduct our business," summed Kamanga.

## Late Ribery winner grabs Bayern victory over Leipzig

A late goal from Franck Ribery fired Bayern Munich to a nervy 1-0 win over RB Leipzig on Wednesday, which saw the Bundesliga champions move to within six points of league leaders Borussia Dortmund.

For long periods on Wednesday, it looked as if Bayern would squander the opportunity given to them by Dortmund's shock defeat by Fortuna Dueseldorf on Tuesday.

Both sides came within inches of taking the lead in the first half. Robert Lewandowski was denied by a fine save from Peter Gulacsi at one end, while Dayot Upamecano thundered

a header against the crossbar at the other.

Niklas Suele and Joshua Kimmich both missed chances from close range in the second half. Two red cards for Renato Sanches and Stefan Ilsanker

crowned a scrappy game late on, but not before Ribery had finally swept in an 83rd-minute winner to breathe new life into the title race.

"Ribery took the goal brilliantly," Bayern's Thomas Mueller told

Sky. "He just popped up exactly when and where we needed him. Thanks, Franck!"

Bayern remain in third, but are now five points ahead of fourth-placed Leipzig. Eintracht Frankfurt, meanwhile, remain

hot on Leipzig's tail despite being held to a 2-2 draw at local rivals Mainz. Robin Quaison fired Mainz ahead on ten minutes before Luka Jovic pulled Frankfurt level on the half-hour mark. *AFP*

## Green Buffaloes can win SFaxien tie, says Mulenga

By Alex Chilumbwe

Young Green Buffaloes (YGBF) football team coach Josphat Mulenga says his senior counterpart Biltone Musonda and his team can pull out a surprise on Saturday and beat

Tunisian side CS SFaxien 3-0 in the return fixture of the CAF Confederations Cup, saying Arabs struggle to play well on Zambian pitches.

Mulenga whose Division one side finished as

runners-up in the 2018 Barclays Cup tournament after losing to Nkana FC, noted that Buffaloes was strong enough to overcome the 3 goal deficit after a 4-1 defeat in Tunisia.

In an interview with

Goal Diggers! Mulenga expressed uttermost confidence in Musonda's squad and pledged his unrivaled support for the team saying solidarity should start from outside the pitch in order for the players to keep a positive spirit.

"I know I'm one of the few people that still have hope in the team but trust me Buffaloes can pull out a surprise and beat SFaxien three goals to nil. The Arabs always struggle on our pitches but we are familiar with them. We just need to show the boys that we have confidence in them so that they can go on the pitch with morale and determination," said Mulenga.

Meanwhile, Buffaloes striker Friday Samu noted that failure to beat CS SFaxien would be a huge disappointment to both

the team and management. Samu is also cognizant of the dying confidence of fans in the team.

"If we fail to beat them then we are in trouble because management won't take it lightly. It would be more disappointed and already we have fans that called us title pretenders in the super league. Losing this encounter would be proving them right so we just need to win it with the required aggregate for us to qualify to the next stage," said Samu.

Green Buffaloes will face CS SFaxien of Tunisia on Saturday at Nkoloma stadium in a return fixture of the CAF Confederations League Cup while ZESCO United will battle it out with TP Mazembe in CAF Champions League at Levy Mwanawasa stadium in Ndola.

## Belgium end year ranked ahead of world champions France

Belgium will end the year as No. 1 ahead of world champions France in the global rankings released by FIFA on Thursday.

Belgium, beaten by France in the World Cup semi-finals, edge Didier Deschamps' team by one ranking point.

Belgium have 1,727 points by FIFA's calculations to 1,726 for France. Brazil are third on 1,676.

FIFA noted on their web site that France, who were ranked No. 9 last Christmas, were the year's "Best Mover" after a "stellar 2018...having gained more points (165) since December 2017 than any other nation."

The governing body of world football also noted that Europe and Asia have gained top-50 places at the expense of Africa.

Europe has 31, an increase of two, Asia is up one to three and Africa is down three to five top-50 representatives.

Kosovo were the biggest climbers, jumping 46 places to 131.

FIFA rankings, December 20:

1. Belgium, 2. France, 3. Brazil, 4. Croatia, 5. England, 6. Portugal, 7. Uruguay, 8. Switzerland, 9. Spain, 10. Denmark *AFP*



Mauricio Pochettino is "the special one" and will be the man to replace Jose Mourinho at Manchester United, says Jamie Redknapp.

The current Tottenham boss is considered to be a leading contender to fill the managerial void at Old Trafford.

Various other options are said to be in the frame, but United would seemingly welcome the opportunity to bring in another coach with considerable Premier League experience.

No deal will be done any time soon, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer having taken the reins until the end of the season, but the situation will be reassessed before the summer.

Redknapp believes that is when Pochettino's services will be secured, with the former Spurs midfielder

## 'Special one' Pochettino will join Man Utd this summer, says former Tottenham man

telling Sky Sports: "I think Manchester United will get him. I think they will go for it and I think they will get him. "Of course [Spurs fans should be worried] because he's the special one, he's a great manager that everyone would want at their club.

"Tottenham have got to do everything in their power to keep him, it's as simple as that. He's a very talented manager, the players adore him and play for him and you can see why Manchester United would want him."

While tipping Pochettino to take on a new challenge in Manchester, Redknapp concedes that the Argentine

will find it difficult to walk away from an ambitious project in north London.

He added: "It is all there for him, moving into a new stadium, a great young side and if he was to move it would be a real shame for Tottenham. "But I'm sure, knowing Daniel Levy, he will think 'where is the next one, who is the next manager that could take this club forward?'

"He will know there are people out there. There are not many like Pochettino but I would say someone like Eddie Howe would be the perfect fit for Tottenham; he gives young players an opportunity.

"So I don't think it will be

the end of the world but it will be a huge blow because it will give a lot of players the opportunity to say 'if he's gone we might want to go as well'.

"They have to keep him, it's as simple as that. Tottenham have let a lot of their best players go in the last 20 years but they can't let their best manager go because he's a special talent. It would show a lack of ambition if they did let him go."

Tottenham currently sit third in the Premier League under Pochettino and have made their way into the semi-finals of the Carabao Cup, where they will face capital rivals Chelsea. *Goal.com*



# BUFFALOES CAN RECOVER - MULENGA

*By Alex Chilumbwe*  
Young Green Buffaloes (YGBF) football team coach Joshat Mulenga says his senior counterpart Biltone Musonda and his team can pull out a surprise on Saturday and beat Tunisian side CS Sfaxien 3-0 in the return fixture of the CAF Confederations Cup, saying Arabs struggle to play well on Zambian pitches. *To page 11*



Timo Werner of RB Leipzig is fouled by Renato Sanches of Bayern Munich



Franck Ribery of Bayern Muenchen celebrates scoring the opening goal with his team mates during the Bundesliga match between FC Bayern Muenchen and RB Leipzig at Allianz Arena on Wednesday - AFP