



HH WARNS ECZ

By Thomas Mulenga
UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has warned that the Electoral Commission of Zambia will cause civil strife if they fail to handle elections properly like the case was in 2016. And HH has charged that PF is using police to harass the UPND candidate in the Sesheke by-election Romeo Kangombe. *To page 5*

...you'll cause civil strife if you mishandle elections again



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema flanked by his deputy Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (r) and national chairperson Mutale Nalumango while addressing journalists shortly after the meeting with ECZ officials yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Govt spent K1.5bn on debt repayments in December - Maggie
By Stuart Lisulo
Debt servicing payments gobbled K1.5 billion in December, 2018, the highest single disbursement for an official government function last month, according to Ministry of Finance data. And Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe says the 2019 national budget has commenced implementation. *To page 5*

Economic milestones continue to guarantee PF popularity - Dora

By Mirriam Chabala
Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says there are a number of economic and developmental milestones that the Patriotic Front has achieved that continue to guarantee its popularity. And Siliya has also assured that government is willing to negotiate with mining companies over the new fiscal regime, but insisted that government would not allow a situation where Zambians are not benefiting anything from the mines. Speaking on Diamond TV's Costa show, Sunday evening,

Siliya said Zambians were very pleased with infrastructure development that had taken place in the country. *To page 4*

We don't need police permit to campaign, says UPND
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Court issues bench warrant against 'fugitive' Ndola bottle assault victim

By Daniel Chansa
The Ndola Magistrates' Court has issued a bench warrant against a woman who was indecently assaulted by five other women who accused her of sleeping with one of their husbands. In this matter, it is alleged

that on December 1, 2018, Precious Kapambwe 25, Bridget chisha 21, Magrette Mwansa 25, Catherine Banda 29 and Maureen Mutale 29, jointly and while acting together did abduct the victim in order to put her in danger of being subjected to grievously bodily harm. In count two, the five are charged with indecent assault. However, the case has failed to take off because the complainant has gone missing. *To page 4*

The public service is now a criminal enterprise - Sacika

By Mirriam Chabala
Zambia's public service has now descended into a criminal enterprise because of the rampant theft of public funds by ministers, civil servants who have rapidly built properties from unearned income, says Dr Sketchley Sacika. *To page 3*

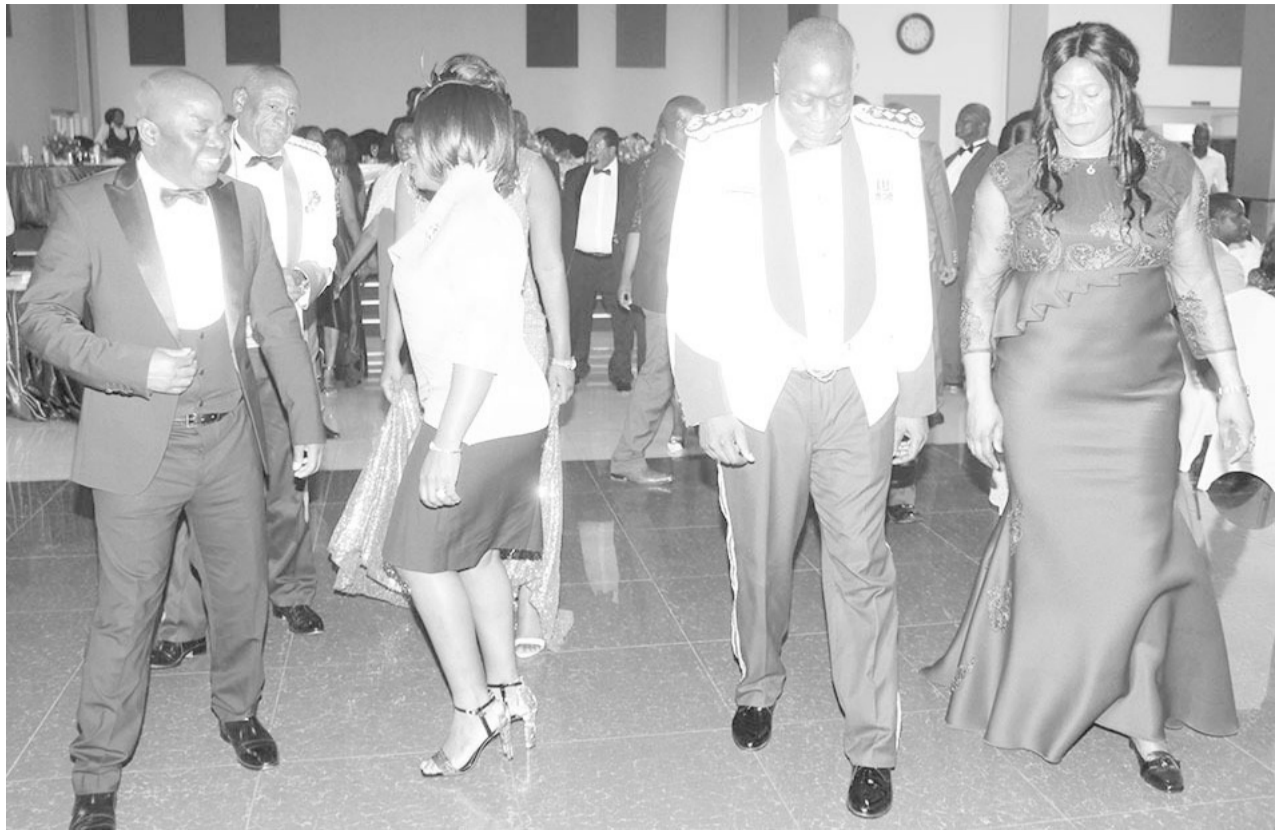
Kabwe man gets 25 years for defiling his step daughter *Story page 4*

Zambians should rise up and take their country back - Andyford

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PAC president Andyford Banda has urged Zambians to ensure that the national dialogue process takes place this year, saying the ideal of getting independence is under threat. And Banda says citizens should stand up and remind those in leadership that they are just caretakers at their mercy. In PAC's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Banda wished all Zambians a happy New Year and a prosperous 2019. He hoped that citizens could gather enough courage to ensure that Zambia gets back on track. "Every person must understand that the challenges we are facing, collectively, as a country must to a large extent be blamed on those we have temporarily given authority to manage our resources, but must also be blamed on us as we fail to hold them accountable. That said, may the year 2019 be the year you

stand up to remind those in leadership that, actually, as citizens and shareholders of this country, you are the boss, not them. They are just caretakers and they are at your mercy," Banda stated. He confidently noted that the Church could be trusted to lead the dialogue process and that Zambians should do what it takes to support the process. "Having attended the meeting with the three Church mother bodies, I can confidently confirm that we can trust the Church to lead the dialogue process. I can confidently affirm that the three Church mother bodies are doing this purely for the good of our country and not anyone's interest. We need to look at the dialogue process as an opportunity that will help reset our country to the ideals that our forefathers stood for when they fought for Independence and the ideals that the MMD fought for in 1991," he stated. "The idea behind the fight for



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo and Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja enjoy a dance with their wives at the 2018 Zambia Police Service national annual ball at ZNS Chamba Valley banquet hall in Lusaka on January 4, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Independence was to ensure that this country is controlled by its citizens, and that the resources should equally be shared for the prosperity of the citizens as opposed to the white minority. The freedom fighters did not envision that 54 years after Independence, the freedom they fought for would be taken away by fellow citizens. Their vision was that Zambia would prosper." He insisted that citizens should ensure the much-hyped national dialogue happens this year. Banda added that citizens

should be aware that some people would not agree to participate in a process that would actually threaten their hold to power through strengthened institutions. "Now, we must be alive to the fact that some people will not agree to come to the table and participate in a process that will actually threaten their hold to power through strengthened institutions. You must remember that their existence depends on weak institutions and laws. That's the reason why in many instances they have deliberately weakened

institutions and undermined laws. Let me remind you that the power to change things in this country belongs to you, the people of Zambia, and not them. Hence, in 2019, ensure that the national dialogue takes place," he urged. Banda noted that although Zambia gained independence, introduced plural politics in order to have a system that would ensure equal opportunity for all and bring about development, the opposite had happened. He argued that the current system was no different

from the colonial or apartheid rule because it had been created to support a few people as opposed to the majority. "Poverty levels have increased, the economy is collapsing and respect for the rule of law is at an all-time low. We still have a system that has been created to support a few people as opposed to the majority. This is no different from the colonial or apartheid rule. We have a system that does not allow citizens to freely assemble as they are at the mercy of the police who take instructions from those in authority through the abuse of the much-talked about Public Order Act," Banda stated. He emphasized the need for the dialogue process to commence this year because the ideals of Independence were under threat. As PAC, we believe the ideals of getting Independence and the ideals of multi-party politics are under threat. Thus, we need the dialogue process to remind each other of those ideals. This process will help in putting, or at least starting the process to put in place institutions and laws that will make it possible to elect leaders of our choice, leaders who we think can actually make our country prosperous," stated Banda. "The dialogue process is mainly about reforms as per our meeting with the three Church mother bodies. The key reforms are governance and political issues such as: constitutional and electoral reforms; respect of human rights; increased political space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Church; application of the Public Order Act; institutional reforms; media reforms; bring back tolerance and civility in politics; and rule of law and access to justice."

Don't discuss ConCourt outcome or you'll be jailed, YALI warns Opposition Alliance

By Mirriam Chabala

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) executive director Andrew Ntewewe has advised pioneers of the recently-formed opposition alliance to stop discussing the Constitutional Court judgement on President Edgar Lungu's eligibility case or risk going to jail. In an interview, Ntewewe said the continued bickering over President Lungu's eligibility to contest elections in 2021 by members of the opposition parties was not adding any value to the country's political discourse. He, however, urged the 10-member opposition party alliance to clearly define the purpose of their unity and not simply to come together for the core purpose of removing President Lungu and the PF from office. "First of all, we think that the opposition parties that have come together in that alliance must define why they have come together. It would be naive to just form an alliance to try and remove President Edgar Lungu and PF out of government because once they do that, ultimately, what it shows is that what moves their agenda is personal glory, greed and selfishness. That they simply want to remove the party, which

is power, the person who is in State House, and they want to form government themselves. Now, the Zambian people do not want something like that, what they want is a political leadership that will be there for purposes of improving the livelihoods of the people. It is not supposed to be about improving the livelihoods of few individuals who form an alliance and then they want to form government," Ntewewe said. "The basis of an alliance should not be about removing a government. It should be moved by meeting the aspirations of the Zambian people. So, listening to the alliance and listening to what they are talking about, it does not inspire confidence. Because, for instance, the Constitutional Court judgement, we are all aware that the ConCourt is the court of final jurisdiction and when it makes a decision, that is final, it cannot be overturned by anyone. In essence, as YALI, our advice has been even prior to the judgement, that we should respect the judgement that comes out of the courts. If people want to criticize the judgement, yes, they can criticize it, but they are not supposed to scandalize the courts. When you begin to tell people that:

'can you rise against the ConCourt judgement', that is contempt! What you are doing is that you are now trying to take the law into your own hands. What you are doing is that you are not respecting the integrity and sanctity of the courts." Ntewewe added that scandalizing the courts was unacceptable. "From YALI's point of view, we have been very clear that anyone who scandalizes, we will be the first to push for contempt proceedings to be taken against them. So, the background of the opposition alliance, insofar as it relates to the ConCourt judgement, is misplaced and we want to advise the opposition that the best thing they can do is to sit down, try and think about what is it that they are offering the Zambian people because from a person on the sidelines outside politics, looking at what the opposition are doing, it seems they have run out of ideas because one expects them to talk about tangible issues. The Zambian people are concerned about having access to education. They want more secondary schools so that everyone can [have] access to education. That's the debate that we expect the opposition to begin to tell us. What is it that the PF have

done, which themselves they can do better?" wondered Ntewewe. "In 2019, government is going to introduce the Sales Tax and remove VAT; what is the position of the opposition in terms of how the mining sector can grow to create wealth and in the process move our economy to the other level? Unfortunately, these issues are not being debated. So, our call to the opposition is, let them sit down, let them not be moved by envy and jealousy that there is someone in State House who they think should not be there and it's them that are supposed to be there. That's not the case, the debate should be about, what is it that you want to do for the Zambian people, which the PF are not doing and you can do better? That is the debate we are supposed to be having. We are supposed to have a development driven debate. We are supposed to fight intellectually on development discourse. So, debates about the ConCourt ruling should neither be here nor there because it's final, and if they are not careful, they might end up going to jail for contempt. The best thing they are supposed to do is that let us debate intellectually on the development discourse."

By Zindikilani Banda in
Sinda

Eastern Province MMD chairperson Jacob Mwanza says parents need to get more involved in providing guidance on their children's education in order to stop vices like teenage pregnancies.

In interview, Mwanza observed that parents were not doing enough to guide their children on the need to focus on education.

"It's difficult to know which is which because grade seven, we recorded 100 per

East MMD chairperson attributes rising teen pregnancies to poor parental guidance

cent pass rate, whereas grade nine, we recorded poor results and we still don't know the grade 12, and even tertiary [level] how they will fair...The other challenge is that, when parents are called to attend the PTA meetings, you find they don't go yet these meetings are very important because it's the moment you analyse the

academic issues. But you find parents don't go there, and among the few who attend, they go there to attack and accuse the school authorities of misusing the monies they pay. Even at home, they can't sit a child down to find ways and means of checking his or her performance, but we wait for government to do something. So, I urge parents

to be concerned with the education of their children," he urged.

Mwanza also urged the Ministry of General Education to build more schools within communities so that pupils do not have to walk long distances to get an education.

And commenting on the high rate of teenage

pregnancies in some parts of Eastern Province where Chipata recorded 5,000 teenage pregnancies in a quarter, while neighbouring Chadiza District recorded 4,000 teenage pregnancies, Mwanza expressed shock at the alarming high rate despite concerted efforts to tackle the vice.

"The high rate of teenage

pregnancies in Eastern is a shock to me as yesterday or the other day, I was listening on the news that Chadiza has about 4,000 teenage pregnancies; this just shows that our children are highly sexually active such that what to do is not known as everyone is busy fighting the vice, but we still record a high rate? It seems our fight is in vain," he said.

He has since called for greater discipline among children saying their illicit activities will affect their entire lives.

"Pregnancies occur whether we put barriers or not. As long these children don't listen to their parents, we will continue talking and holding our heads in the sand these pregnancies will occur. The onus is not on us, but on our young people, the boys and girls, that the future lies in their hands. They mess up this time, the whole future will be a disaster! It's very shocking to see the percentages of these teenage pregnancies and everyone wonders where the world is going," said Mwanza.

We don't need police permit to campaign during elections, UPND tells Kampyongo

By Thomas Mulenga

wUPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma says there is no law that requires political parties to get permission from police to conduct campaigns during elections. Reacting to the directive made by Home Affairs Minister Steven Kampyongo to Western Province Police command that all political parties participating in the Sesheke by-election must be included on the police schedule for them to conduct campaigns, Kakoma said his party would not adhere to that directive. "All elections, including by-elections, are managed by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), and they are managed in accordance with electoral laws. And during the time of elections, we don't have to get permission from the police under the Public Order Act or whatever other Act that Kampyongo is relying on; we just follow the Electoral law. And ECZ usually calls all stakeholders, all political parties participating in the by-elections to brief them on how to conduct their campaigns and draw up a timetable, which is agreed to by other political parties to be followed. And that is the programme we are going to stick to, not Kampyongo's programme," Kakoma said. He explained that only the ECZ had the mandate to come up with a campaign programme for all political parties during election campaigns "Those things are agreed to at a meeting that will be called by ECZ, where all stakeholders, including the police, they will be in attendance, and when that programme is agreed to, all political parties will be given that programme, including the police, they will be given the programme, and that's the programme that will be followed, not instructions from Kampyongo on how we should conduct campaigns!" Kakoma added. And Kakoma said the PF were the law-breaking

party during by-elections. He said there was nothing for Kampyongo to boast about with the past Mangango by-election as the PF broke the law to disadvantage the opposition. "But even during the Mangango by-election, there was nothing to boast about because when we had our campaigns, we were told to stop campaigning because Vice-President Inonge Wina was going there,

after that, they said Lungu was going there, hence all opposition political parties must stop campaigning. They are the ones who are breaking the law and not the opposition; they broke the law in Mangango and disadvantaged us, there was nothing to boast about in Mangango," Kakoma said. He also alleged that the PF want to arrest the UPND candidate for Sesheke by-election after

he refused to be bought. Kakoma, however, advised that Kampyongo should tell the police not to arrest the UPND candidate as doing so would trigger conflict. "We are geared for the Sesheke by-election, we already selected our candidate. The candidate we selected is a very popular candidate; he has been on the ground for a long time and hence the PF are scared that they are going

to lose and they have been intimidating our candidate; they have also tried to buy him and when he refused, they are threatening him with arrest! It is Kampyongo to tell his police not to arrest our candidate because that's what causes conflict. When you arrest the candidate, it will provoke his supporters and they will react! That's what causes conflict and not what he is talking about," cautioned Kakoma.

Zambia's public service now a criminal enterprise, says Sacika

By Mirriam Chabala

Zambia's public service has now descended into a criminal enterprise because of the rampant theft of public funds by Ministers, civil servants and other officials who have rapidly built properties from unearned income, says former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika. And Dr Sacika has charged that the current crop of Permanent Secretaries in the PF administration are currently not in control of anything as evidenced by the huge number of public officers stealing funds without punishment. In an interview, Dr Sacika expressed shock that Zambia's public service had rapidly deteriorated to a criminal enterprise given the rampant theft of public resources that has gone unpunished. He wondered why public officers, who had frequently been cited for theft of public funds, had gone unpunished for their crimes, and urged President Edgar Lungu to arrest the plunder without any further delay. "Asking Zambians to pay more taxes when the proceeds are likely to go into the pockets of ministers and civil servants and end up being misused, is not a proper way to be running the affairs of the country. The government must first of all examine whether taxes it collects are being put to good use. I find it strange that we can have such rampant theft of public funds and the President is doing nothing about it. Why is he there? Is Mr Lungu there? We expect him to run the affairs of our country in a proper way. But he's not doing so. We must have an audit of the lifestyle of ministers, civil servants to ensure that those that have stolen money or have engaged in acts of corruption, can be brought to book. That's what Zambians want to see," Dr. Sacika said. "How can we have public officers building houses, lodges without mortgages from building

society or the bank? Who is giving them money to build the houses they are building? This is unacceptable! Our public service has become a criminal enterprise where those employed in the public service, where the concern of those involved in the public service is to use their positions to steal money or to engage in acts of corruption and that is unacceptable! The popularity of the PF government is compromised because of what is happening. And what is happening is that Zambia runs the risk of becoming a failed state like the Democratic Republic of Congo. We don't want to go that way." And Dr Sacika charged that the current crop of Permanent Secretaries in the PF administration were not in control of anything. "Our Constitution has defined the role of a Minister and that of a Permanent Secretary. The role of a Minister is to determine policy and to give the Ministry a strategic direction. That of a Permanent Secretary is to manage the institution and ensure that the policies of government are being implemented. But our Permanent Secretaries are not managing their ministries according to what the Constitution says, and that's why we have rampant theft of public funds because they are not in control of anything. Why do we have Permanent Secretaries who are incapable of managing their ministries? The performance of the Permanent Secretaries at the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meetings leaves much to be desired and many people are wondering how such men and women could be allowed to hold such high office in our public service. Our system of government is dysfunctional because Permanent Secretaries love imaginations and managerial skills. Our entire public service system is operating without proper management! So, people are stealing money and

engaging in acts of corruption because there is no proper management and control," he observed. Meanwhile, Dr Sacika endorsed Transparency International Zambia's (TIZ) call for an urgent audit into the lifestyles of the thieving public officials. "I fully endorse the stance that Transparency International [Zambia] has taken over this matter, to institute a lifestyle audit for all government ministers. Why are ministers, civil servants, who have stolen money and are living the lifestyle, which is far in excess of their earned income, not being investigated and prosecuted? Why do we have the intelligence service? One of the functions of the intelligence service is precisely to monitor the lifestyles of people in the public service, and if they discover that you are living a lifestyle, which is beyond your earned income, they should take steps to prosecute you! The revelation by the Treasury Secretary (Fredson Yamba) that last year, civil servants stole K31 million, while other equally huge amounts of money were misused by ministers and civil servants, shows the extent to which our system of government has collapsed," said Dr Sacika. "How can ministers and civil servants steal or misuse tax payer's money to that extent and nobody is penalized or held accountable? It's incredible! How can people steal such large sums of money and nobody has been held accountable? Our system of government lacks purpose, government is failing to solve the problems on what people experience on a daily basis. The delivery of public services and implementation of government programmes is very poor. The local government system has collapsed and various State organizations are under-performing. But you have the ministers and civil servants who are busy stealing money. How do you reconcile that?"

By Mirriam Chabala
Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya says there are a number of economic and developmental milestones that the Patriotic Front has achieved that continue to guarantee its popularity.

And Siliya has also assured that government is willing to negotiate with mining companies over the new fiscal regime, but insisted that government would not allow a situation where Zambians are not benefiting anything from the mines.

Speaking on Diamond TV's Costa show, Sunday evening, Siliya said Zambians were very pleased with infrastructure development that had taken place in the country, and that they could relate to the PF's ambition to ensure that the nation's wealth trickles-down to the general citizenry.

"Since PF came into office, we've seen a lot of economic milestones, especially in the last few years. People have been very pleased, especially with the infrastructure development and they can

PF's economic milestones continue to guarantee its popularity - Dora

relate to PF's ambition to truly try and transfer some of the national wealth to the people of Zambia. For those in the construction industry, we have seen that a lot of Zambians have been able to create wealth from the construction industry. Also in the mining sector, the PF administration has really gone out of its way to try and ensure that there is wealth transfer to a lot of citizens. This has been the call for Zambians on the Copperbelt for many years, that we have seen these mines existing, but we can't see transfer of wealth. What has resulted into the wealth of the Copperbelt is because of the force of the PF administration that business must go to Zambians, and that we must see this wealth created. So, we must not underestimate the strength of the PF. If you go around Zambia, there are

remote areas, but you will still find good roads, good schools, good hospitals," Siliya said.

"The ambition to begin to create new districts so that we accelerate development, people are taking pride in that, too. Just last year, we had seven districts declared. People take pride because they start to see massive construction of houses, administration blocks, district hospitals and new schools. People take pride to say: 'we are now a part of Zambia and we belong to this country as well.' So, there are a lot of milestones that the PF has achieved to continue to guarantee its popularity. We are not saying that there are no other things that we could have improved upon. We know that we continue to have challenges with agriculture and the President has said to the Minister of Agriculture:

'I want these issues sorted out.' We must truly transform agriculture from just being maize-centred to truly the business of agriculture, where people become wealthy, and it's not just a way of life; it's the same thing with the mines, that we cannot continue to talk about the mines as a cash cow. We want to see it truly contribute to the coffers of this country so that that revenue is leveraged for us to continue investing in other sectors."

Siliya also said the PF's foreign policy under President Lungu's administration had resulted into a number of visits by some of the world's prominent people.

"In terms of foreign policy; look how the country was positioned this year by the PF administration, we ended up with massive visits to this country by very notable people,

including the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry. We had the President of Turkey, President of Congo, President of South Africa and many others. They came here because they value our friendship. Our President has made a lot of international visits and number one is economic diplomacy, resulting in Turkish Airlines coming to Zambia, resulting in support to the University of Zambia from Japan. But also, the President in 2018 committed to going to visit the people of Zambia. He has made so many trips within the country because he wanted to hear from them first-hand. He does not sit in State House isolated. He wants to know what's going on in the country and when he comes back, he's always saying: 'Minister, this is what I found.' It's amazing when you are in Cabinet with the President, he always says:

'this is what I found when I travelled to this place; this town' and so on, because he wants to be on the ground and share with the people their successes and frustrations," Siliya explained.

And Siliya said government would not allow Zambians to continue not benefiting anything from the mining sector.

"When the Minister of Finance presented her (national) budget, one issue that was truly commended by the citizens and many economists was the fact that she was going to do something new in the mining sector and that, on its own, is an indication that the people have confidence in the budget provisions, which were accepted by Parliament, and even some opposition members of parliament in their debate truly welcomed this. What is clear is that the status quo can't continue and the Ministry of Finance was saying: 'we might not have all wisdom as government, but we are willing to discuss, but what we are not willing is to maintain the status quo.' If there are other better solutions away from what she has suggested, then she's willing to meet the mines and discuss with them, but the status quo won't stay; we know that the mines are indeed a cash cow for this country, but we also want to know that the revenue government gets from there is commensurate with the kind of investment we are seeing there. We want to see more employment in the mines, not the levels that are there. Zambians own the mines and they have begun a dialogue about what is really the best way for us to manage these mines," said Siliya.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has directed the provincial medical office to ensure that more doctors are deployed to Chawama level-one hospital in order to improve the patient-doctor ratio.

And Lusambo has also directed Lusaka District Commissioner Captain Davison Mulenga to ensure that the contractor engaged to expand the hospital harmonizes the conditions of service for its employees.

Lusambo said this during his tour of Chawama level-one hospital where he also interacted with patients and mothers.

The patients complained to the Provincial Minister that there was a shortage of doctors against the rising population.

"[There is] lack of manpower, and then the patients are too many. It too much here and they don't know how to operate things. Just there, children were vomiting at the same place where they are getting temperatures and where they are registering. It's not healthy and it's easy to transfer diseases like that," the patients complained to Lusambo.

But Lusambo assured them that the issue would be looked at and further directed the Provincial health department to examine the problem.

He further toured the construction site within the

Lusambo orders deployment of more staff to Chawama Hospital

premises where he learnt that the casual workers, who are Zambian nationals subcontracted by China Wanco, were working under poor conditions of service.

"We have not signed contracts, and then when we have another problem where when it starts raining and we wait

for the rains to stop, they don't tick us, saying that it's because we are not working during that period. They don't even provide us with lunch! There is not even transport allowance.

And when you try to speak, they fire you! Three of our colleagues have been fired so far," the workers bitterly

complained.

Lusambo, however, directed the DC to engage the contractor and to ensure that the conditions of service for the workers are improved.

"DC, you should look into these issues. So, the DC will work into your issues. You should see the main man and

not these supervisors for these people, and even those who have been fired, make sure you trace their contacts and bring them back. Talk to them," advised Lusambo.

And the Chinese national who was at the site ran into hiding upon seeing Lusambo and his delegation by press time.

Court issues bench warrant against Ndola indecent assault victim

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

The Ndola Magistrates' Court has issued a bench warrant against a woman who was indecently assaulted by five other women who accused her of sleeping with one of their husbands.

In this matter, it is alleged that on December 1, 2018, Precious Kapambwe 25, Bridget chisha 21, Magrette Mwansa 25, Catherine Banda 29 and Maureen Mutale 29, jointly

and while acting together did abduct the victim in order to put her in danger of being subjected to grievously bodily harm.

In count two, the five are charged with indecent assault. However, the case has failed to take off because the complainant has gone missing. When the matter came up on December 26, the state informed the court that the complainant had gone missing.

"I did receive the summons for the witnesses and only managed to find one witness, the father to the complainant who indicated that the Complainant left home and he is not aware of her whereabouts. However, I managed to inform the father to be before court, as at now, I am not in the position to know where the Complainant is. Some few days, I received a strange number who called

on my line and I spoke to the Complainant who indicated to me that she is in Lusaka and that she was not willing to appear or attend court, [for] reasons best known by her self. She further indicated that she is in Lusaka and will never come back in Ndola," the arresting officer, Francis Banda, told the court.

Ndola Chief Resident Magistrate John Mbuji had adjourned the case but when the matter came up, Monday, the state informed the court that the complainant was still not before court.

"The accused are before court. The complainant is still at large. I have an application to make. Our application is that a bench warrant is issued against the complainant. Which should be returnable on 19 January 2019. On this day we will proceed with other witnesses who will be around. On this day if the complainant will not be around (father of complainant and arresting officer)," the state applied. Magistrate Mbuji granted the application.

It is alleged that On December 1, this year, Precious

Kapambwe 25, Bridget chisha 21, Magrette Mwansa 25, Catherine Banda 29 and Maureen Mutale 29 did assault the victim thereby occasioning her actual bodily harm.

It is alleged that on the material day, in Ndola's New Mushili township, the victim was having drinks at start point bar at Masala main market with Harrison Mwanza, the husband to Kapambwe.

Whilst at the drinking place, Kapambwe showed up in the company of her other four friends.

It is alleged that upon seeing his wife, Kapambwe's husband run away leaving the victim alone.

Kapambwe then picked the victim by force and took her to home where she was allegedly forced to undress.

In the video that went viral on social media, the women are seen holding the victim's hands and legs while others are placing a bottle of Castle lager in the victim's vagina.

The women are also heard warning her to stay away from married men as another captures the ordeal on her phone.

Kabwe man gets 25 years for defiling his step daughter

By Joseph Mwenya in Kabwe
The Kabwe High court has sentenced a 42-year-old man of Luano district to 25 years imprisonment with hard labour for defiling his step daughter.

In this case, Simon Munkombwe was alleged to have had unlawful carnal knowledge of his step daughter aged 15 on May 13, 2018 while his wife was away, contrary to Section 138 of the Penal Code. When the matter came up for sentencing Monday, Justice Kelvin Limbani said the offender, Simon Munkombwe, deserved

to be punished to send a strong signal to members of the public to stay away from committing such offences.

"Cases of defilement, especially by relatives, who are trusted by the victims are on the increase. This calls for stiffer punishment to send a clear signal to the public on the need to protect girls in society. You deserve to be locked away to protect girl children and help you reform while in prison as well as reflect on your actions," Justice Limbani said.

Justice Limbani wondered what sort of

enjoyment the Munkombwe wanted to get by defiling his step daughter which his wife could not give him.

"I have gone through the records from the trial court. You grabbed your step daughter, threw her on the bed and forced yourself on her while your wife was away. I wonder what sort of enjoyment you wanted which your wife could not give you. You pleaded not guilty during trial but the trial court found you guilty. I agree with the trial court and consequently, sentence you to 25 years with hard labour," said Justice Limbani.

By Milimo Namangala

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) has urged mining companies to respect the integrity of Zambian workers and desist from using them as a means to influence government policies.

And CTPD says mining companies must be transparent in telling the government what the actual costs of production are instead of referring to their staff workers.

In a statement, CTPD executive director Isaac Mwaipopo appealed to mining companies not to use local workers to bargain with government over the ongoing 2019 mining fiscal regime impasse.

Mining conglomerate First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has commenced the process of laying off staff this quarter following the implementation of the 2019 mining fiscal regime, which took effect from January 1.

Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) Plc has also followed suit by opting to downsize its Nchanga Smelter operations due to low availability of concentrates.

Part of what the 2019 mining fiscal regime has introduced are import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while also hiking export duty on precious stones and gemstones to a rate of 15 per cent.

“The mining companies must stop using Zambian mine workers as tools for bargaining in negotiations on the proposed tax changes; this is manipulative and government should not condone such behaviour. CTPD has observed with great concern that every time there is a standoff between mining companies and government, the mining companies are quick in

Stop using Zambians as tools over fiscal regime, CTPD tells mines

pushing back, and often times using the Zambian workers as ‘sacrificial lambs’ in the bargaining process. This is wrong and must end. While we understand that there could be some concerns from the mining companies with regards to the proposed tax changes, it is imperative that dialogue is prioritized over manipulative and arm twisting tactics,” Mwaipopo argued.

“One thing the mining companies must never forget is that the minerals they are extracting and exploiting belong to the Zambian people, and Zambians have every right to participate and benefit from its natural

resource endowment, and employment is one of the ways through which this is achieved.”

And while Mwaipopo observed that mining companies raised plausible concerns over the new changes, such as the Mining Royalty Tax (MRT), he urged mining companies to be open about challenges in their cost of production instead of instigating Zambian workers as a liability.

“We note that among the most notable proposed changes, the new mining tax regime proposes to make Mineral Royalty Tax (MRT) non-deductible from income tax and increases MRT by

1.5 percentage points on the sliding scale depending on the international copper prices. Government has also proposed to abolish VAT and replace it with Sales Tax effective April 1, 2019,” he observed.

“These proposed measures and other tax changes have infuriated the mining sector in Zambia and resulted into threats to lay-off close to 21,000 workers. The mining sector believes that the imposed new tax changes will affect production and expansion projects across on the sector.”

He also doubted that the new fiscal regime should merit such huge layoffs.

“While we do appreciate a number of concerns raised by the mining companies, CTPD would like to urge the mining companies to be a lot more open and sincere on their production costs, we do not think that the proposed tax changes could warrant such high number of job losses and backlash, unless they tell us that the Zambian work force is a burden they have always wished to get rid of,” Mwaipopo added.

He further pointed out that most mining companies were performing well, according to financial reports.

“It is sad that mining companies have continued to project a picture that

they are operating under tough conditions and that it’s difficult for them to trade profitably, while publicly-available information continues to show that this may not simply be true. For example, in 2017 alone, it was reported by Bloomberg that profits for Glencore, Mopani’s parent company, grew 400 per cent, from US \$1.38 billion in 2016 to US \$5.78 billion in 2017. Owing to this, Glencore paid US \$2.9 billion in dividends to shareholders! We urge the mining companies to explore other ways of cutting down on costs, this is something that can be worked in consultation with government and other key stakeholders. It will also be helpful if they can publish a detailed cost of production so that many can get to know what exactly goes in extracting minerals,” stated Mwaipopo.

ECZ will cause civil strife if elections aren't handled well, warns Hichilema

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has warned that the Electoral Commission of Zambia will cause civil strife if they fail to handle elections properly like the case was in 2016.

And Hichilema has charged that PF is using police to harass UPND candidate in the Sesheke by-election Romeo Kangombe for refusing to stand on the ruling party ticket.

Meanwhile, Hichilema has warned that the Electoral Commission of Zambia will cause civil strife if they fail to properly manage elections by allowing civil servants to

campaign for PF using public resources.

Hichilema was speaking to journalists, Monday, after holding a meeting with Electoral Commission of Zambia officials to raise concerns over irregularities in the electoral process.

Hichilema, who was accompanied by his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM), UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango, Secretary General Steven Katuka, and other party officials, held a closed door meeting that lasted for more than two hours at the Electoral House.

He said if ECZ failed to

heed to his warning, Zambia would have civil strife like the case was in Congo DR.

“So you come through, in an election, through violence, through abuse of the electoral process, through using civil servants and state resources, then you say you have won an election, that’s not true. So we have said to the electoral commission that we cannot continue having elections as though there is no problem. The ECZ must step in if they are to maintain their relevance, otherwise they will be irrelevant. Elections that are not managed poorly can bring civil strife in a country, we are seeing what’s

happening in Congo, just next door to us, they can’t announce election results.

You can see there is some manipulation going on and we don’t want that to spill over here. In fact maybe, following what happened in 2016, we exported this hooliganism into Congo, ourselves as Zambia,” Hichilema said. Hichilema asked ECZ to stop civil servants who were campaigning for PF using public resources.

“We have reminded them of the involvement of civil servants in the elections, which is wrong. As it were in Mangango, there were a lot of District Commissioners, including a permanent secretary from State House who was campaigning for PF, yet they are civil servants, the law doesn’t allow them to campaign in by elections or general elections, because they work for the people through being civil servants. But this is not being addressed, it was in Mangango and we have seen the same happening in Sesheske already, even before nominations. That is what we have come to alert the ECZ that it is their duty to ensure that electoral laws and other laws that restrict civil servants from abusing public resources, motor vehicles, fuel, even when they remove number plates, is illegal and the ECZ cannot stand by and watch the situation,” he said.

“We brought to their attention the violence that is being orchestrated before, during and after elections. The examples to Vwanganai ward in Solwezi, in the last round of by elections, it was bloodshed all over. And we cannot go into another election without the ECZ addressing these issues of violence. Elections should not be used as time to make people bleed blood, No! They are supposed to be happy moments for us to choose leaders that we believe

will serve the people, not these corrupt people that are coming through.”

And Hichilema charged that PF was using police to harass Kangombe.

“We came here to have a meeting with the Electoral Commission of Zambia on matters relating to the fairness of the electoral process, the electoral environment before elections as it is now because there are by-elections coming, and during elections and after elections. Because it is clear from our point of view that the ECZ is not taking the matters relating to the electoral ground being unfair. Let’s start with Sesheke, our candidate was been enticed to stand on their ticket, when he refused to do that, the PF are using the police to harass our candidate. And that constitutes interference with the electoral process, that’s what we came here to alert the electoral commission. Because the issues on the ground in Sesheke have not been resolved and we cannot abuse the police, we cannot abuse institutions of the people to work against the democratic environment in the country, we made them aware of that,” he said.

“We expect our candidate to file in nominations on the 10th January without being abused by the PF using the Police, and the ECZ is sitting, watching.”

And when asked if the party got an assurance from ECZ that the issues raised would be handled, Hichilema said it was not a matter of assurance, but duty.

“It is not a matter of assurance, it their duty, they receive salaries from tax payers, you pay them salaries to do what we have asked them to do. But we also know that they are being abused by the PF, we all know that. It is not a matter of them assuring us, it is to do their duty,” said Hichilema.

Govt spent K1.5bn on debt repayments in December

By Stuart Lisulo

Debt servicing payments gobbled K1.5 billion in December, 2018, the highest single disbursement for an official government function last month, according to Ministry of Finance data.

And Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe says the 2019 national budget has commenced implementation. In a 2018 budget brief issued from the Ministry of Finance, Monday, government paid K1.5 billion last month in debt servicing commitments out of a total of K4.3 billion that was released to fund various government operations. Government’s debt servicing was the highest in terms of the total amount spent, even surpassing personal emoluments for public sector workers that swallowed up K1.3 billion.

The K1.5 billion in debt servicing payments represented around 35 per cent of government’s total expenditure during last month from the 2018 national budget. “Of the K4.3 billion total funding, K1.5 billion was allocated to service both domestic and external debt; K437 million was spent on financing grant-aided-

operations, and a further K1.1 billion went to various government programmes, projects and public service delivery. In addition, K1.3 billion funded the wage bill (personal emoluments) for various public service workers including teaching, medical and security personnel,” the statement read.

“To continue reducing the country’s indebtedness and to ensure fiscal sustainability as charted in the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme (ESGP) and the Medium Term Debt Strategy (MTDS), the government released a sum of K1.5 billion in December, 2018. These funds went towards both domestic and external debt obligations. A further K81.4 million was released to liquidate outstanding liabilities related to the consumption of goods and services by various Ministries, Provinces and other controlling bodies.”

And Mwanakatwe announced that this year’s national budget has commenced implementation.

“The Ministry of Finance has commenced the implementation of the 2019 national budget. As we progress with

the implementation of revenue and expenditure measures for the current fiscal year, we are cognisant of the interest by rating agencies, analysts, investors and other players in the economy to take our activities into account in their assessment of the economy,” Mwanakatwe stated.

She added that government is focused on dismantling the huge arrears of over K14 billion that are still owed to suppliers and contractors.

“This year, the Treasury will continue to pay special attention to arrears dismantling in sectors that will significantly reduce Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) and release liquidity to the private sector. To promote fiscal consolidation, we will maintain a close watch on activity implementation in Ministries Provinces and Controlling Bodies so that there is strict adherence to programmed domestic financing for the year,” stated Mwanakatwe.

“We will also continue to strongly observe the Presidential directive on constant assessment of the quality of expenditure in the public sector in order to allow the government to take remedial measures as unnecessary expenditures manifest.”



REFLECTIONS ON 2018 AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2019 AS A YEAR OF ACTIVISM

The year 2018 just like any other year under the reign of the Patriotic Front was miserable for most Zambians regardless of status in society. The levels of poverty in both rural and urban areas continued to skyrocket unabated. The cost of living for many people shot up. The cost of the food basket went beyond 5,000 Kwacha per month for an average family of six. Many people's incomes are well below K5,000 per month. Some estimates indicate that many people survive on less than \$2 per day. Food has become very expensive. Some people go to the market to buy animal skin instead of steak to feed their families. Chicken heads and legs, nyama soya are the closest to a smell of beef or chicken on the table in urban areas. In rural areas, some people are reported to be surviving on mangoes and wild fruits. There is serious hunger in the country. At one time, the country was shocked to receive embarrassing reports by an international institution that classified Zambia as the hungriest country in the world. Amidst all this poverty, the Apamwambas are living in luxury; increasing their salaries, flying all over the world and buying jets. This is despite the average salaries for most workers in the formal sector such as civil servants being scandalously low and strained by a wage freeze for a long time.

The Patriotic Front has continued on its trajectory of poor policies and planning resulting in the collapse in socio economic service delivery. Sectors such as Education, Health, Agriculture, manufacturing and Tourism have continued to receive visionless attention under the PF government leading to a decline in economic growth. When the PF took over government in 2011, the economy was growing at 6 to 7 percent per annum. It has shrunk to 3.5 percent. Some analysts even think growth is below 3%. This, as UPND argues, is not enough for a nation striving to attain a prosperous middle income status by 2030. UPND's vision is to grow the economy by not less than 10 percent per annum in the long run.

SOCIAL ECONOMIC SECTOR

The PF has failed to arrest the high levels of unemployment in the country resulting in most of the qualified labour force mainly youths to engage in illicit activities as a means of survival. In 2018, for example, 27,000 graduate teachers applied for deployment in the civil service but only 2,000 were recruited by the government, throwing more than 25,000 graduate teachers back on the streets with the private sector not strong enough to absorb such a huge number. This is against the backdrop of a national teacher shortage of 30,000 as of June 2018. Has anyone taken time to find out what has happened to the 25,000 graduates that were not successfully absorbed into the public sector despite paying affiliation fees to the Teaching Service Commission.

The Health sector is reeling under a nurse shortfall of 20,000 as of November 2018 despite the hundreds of graduate nurses that are churned out onto the labour market by the several tertiary institutions annually. The PF promised to employ 30,000 nurses by 2030 which means an average of 3,000 per year. They can hardly employ even 500 per year. Such pronouncements are not anything new with the PF. Promises of 1 million jobs to be created between 2015 and 2021 are yet to be fulfilled but what the nation has seen is a myriad of retrenchments especially in the mining sector. The

government itself has imposed an employment freeze, except for essential services and filling vacant positions. The year 2018 under the PF also saw more than 56 thousand youths applying for recruitment in the police service but only a paltry 1,000 were recruited, throwing another chunk of 55,000 youths on the streets without any tangible survival prospects.

The agriculture sector has continued to register dismal performance with the infamous Farmers Input Support Programme (FISP) becoming a complete failure. The national maize annual output has been declining over the years due to poor policies. Late delivery of farming inputs, a discredited e-voucher system and late payment for the crops bought from the farmers has compounded the poor tonnage yield thus affecting national food security. A bag of mealie meal today is selling between 90 and 100 kwacha in some parts of the country, which many people cannot afford. Most farmers have given up on government initiated programs opting for private driven programs. A classic example is Gwembe district where the Food Reserve Agency only managed to buy fifty two (52) bags of maize in the 2018 crop marketing season with most farmers opting to trade with the private sector which offers a higher purchase price and paid upon delivery. This lack of confidence in the government crop marketing system by the farmers shows that the PF's performance in the year 2018 has continued to be dismal leading to a failed social economic sector.

The PF government has failed to protect the poor and vulnerable people in society. Large sums of social cash transfer funds meant for the poor have been stolen or mismanaged. Corruption has taken centre stage in society. Government is in the forefront promoting corruption by awarding contracts to friends, relatives, PF cadres and Chinese nationals without following tender procedures. Ubomba mwibala alya mwibala has been institutionalised as a normal PF government policy. People complained about fire tender, ambulances, road contracts, toll gates and many shoddy deals but government closed its ears.

POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The year 2018 started and ended with the country heavily sliding into dictatorship. The nation continued in 2018 to witness some of the worst human rights atrocities with shrinking political space. We have had political players summoned and arrested by police on flimsy charges such as unlawful assembly, conduct likely to cause the breach of the peace through the use of the infamous Public order Act. Police wantonly used live ammunition and other brutal means in stopping peaceful demonstrations resulting into the death of one UNZA fourth year student from tear gas suffocation. The police had in 2018 stopped and arrested members of the clergy assembled in a church on a charge of illegal assembly on the Copperbelt. The UPND President Hakainde Hichilema was summoned to appear before Ndola police on fake allegations. Both the civil society and political movements have continued to have their space invaded by both police and political players while the media continued to operate under threat with a number of community radio stations invaded and threatened with closure for hosting opposition political players. A media practitioner is currently serving a jail sentence for publishing an article questioning a judicial judgement.

Some opposition political players were pursued into cemeteries and beaten while ruling party cadres have continued to reign terror in bus stations and markets contrary to national statutes. A trajectory of lawlessness continued to characterize the PF rule in 2018 while efforts by the church to spearhead a process of national dialogue and reconciliation have been met by stiff resistance from the PF and its surrogates who stand to lose out.

THE UPND IN 2019

As the country's major political party, the UPND under the leadership of President Hakainde Hichilema will step up its role as the political watchdog and provide hope for a people that have lost hope for tomorrow owing to the poor governance levels under the PF. The UPND expects the PF government to solve the problem of unemployment especially among the young people. This should be the number one priority. If the PF government fails to seriously tackle unemployment, they should leave office because they are incompetent and time wasters.

We equally expect the PF government to solve hunger and poverty in the country. They cannot continue to wine and dine while the people are wallowing in poverty.

In 2019, we expect the PF government to put to an end the wanton looting of national resources through corruption. If PF is allowed to continue to embrace corruption, there will be no country to talk about come 2021.

The party through its vibrant legislative and civic leaders will continue providing checks and balances on the PF government and its corrupt, extravagant and dictatorial leadership. The UPND has declared 2019 as a year of activism and calls on all Zambians to join in the movement against dictatorship, corruption, economic malaise, exorbitant spending by government as well as break down in the rule of law. While our Members of Parliament will continue to question PF policies which are negating national growth, we call upon Zambians to seize this opportunity and demand for accountable leadership from those mandated to deliver social and economic services. It remains up to the UPND, Political Players, the Church, Civil Society, Student movements and all citizens to respond to the clarion call and place Zambia first ahead of any selfish political and sectarian interests. We call on the church to continue with its National Dialogue process and we remain hopeful that a voice of divine reasoning shall intervene. The UPND wishes to assure the nation that it shall without conditions participate in the church driven National Dialogue Process as we believe it is the only sure way of restoring national confidence and pride among Zambians. The nation is bleeding from the ills of tribalism, nepotism, regionalism, corruption and mismanagement. We however remain optimistic that together as a people, we are strong enough to overcome and the UPND is ready to lead that crusade in the year 2019. Better days are coming ahead. We shall be bruised but our resolve is much stronger going forward.

Our People, Our Land, Our Power

Issued by:
Charles Kakoma
Chairman - Information and Publicity.

Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama
 Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist
 ...Only in **Diggers!** Ear to the ground

Inspire your staff in 2019

I have this feeling 2019 should be a great year for entrepreneurs across the country. However, in order to win, the management ought to inspire their staff to do more, win more and innovate more. There are many employees who went through a tough time in 2018. The news has been about hundreds not being paid salaries for months because circumstances were tough. You cannot properly deliver to your company when you are not sure about whether your job is valid. The mining companies closed the year with internal op-eds about how they plan to lay off some of the staff on account of a difficult operating environment. This is a huge dent on staff morale.

I personally believe that despite the anticipated challenges to our economy, some of them expected to be realised, I have confidence that if managers turn the clock, focus on staff and their levels of motivation, businesses can still win. In any case, businesses that will consider the global market will beat the internal economic hiccups. My own business is extending its business influence to the region, opening up new frontiers because there will always be economies that do well.

Even here in Zambia, a number of businesses are expected to perform beyond expectation this year provided they hook well into the many other opportunities opening up. The key word is inspiring our employees to be innovative, efficient, effective and able to turn on their entrepreneurial mind-set.

I started the year by helping a number of businesses to unlock the existing productive potential among their staff members and looks like the magic is already working for some of them. Within two weeks of training managers of a certain company about how to win through their own people, feedback has been excellent, 'Mr. Kanyama, it has never happened that our staff can win contracts even before end of the Christmas break.

That lecture was miraculous,' said the Chief Executive Officer. But how do we inspire our staff?

PRAGMATISM: I have told my own staff, 'we have marketed enough but marketing without cheques is not business. Let us roll up our sleeves and I am first to go.' Pragmatism is more than being efficient, it's about delivery. The boss should go first. As the overall manager of the business, demonstrate hard work, duty of care, frugality in the management of resources, and at times, doing the work yourself.

I advised one CEO, 'One of these days, do the insurance underwriting yourself at the front desk. Spend the

"You are at the helm, live the life of success, affirm it loudly and show everyone the business can win"

whole day there and show the rest of the staff how it is done in terms of speed and quality.' It means the winning companies in 2019 are those with highly productive CEOs able to demonstrate to the rest of the staff that getting results requires taking the frontline.

Managers will not emerge from those boardrooms and air-conditioned offices to demonstrate the execution of projects.

MENTOR: I am one of those few managers who delegated less in 2018 because I feared the quality of work would be compromised if I entrusted subordinates to do it. I was burnt out. The rest of the staff watched in horror how I nearly collapsed for trying to do everything myself: drafting tenders, visiting clients, conducting training sessions, at times ten days continuously. By the close of the year, I was left torn apart emotionally and physically. Worse still, the administrative part of the business (finances) were in disarray, prompting auditors to charge us twice more.

Are you willing to make a performance transition this year by mentoring your staff to carry out tasks they have never done before? You have a team of professionals in your organisation whom you pay huge salaries and these individuals want to be entrusted with challenging tasks. I have raised this issue because in our own survey during training programmes of executives in 2018, we discovered that many managers tend to do the work themselves. You have no choice but to equip your people through training programmes, well designed internal mentorship initiatives and assigning them to new assignments.

MOTIVATE: Motivation is a direct way of inspiring staff. This time, they do not just observe you from afar about how you manage the business. You can also inspire them by communicating positively about succeeding against all odds. Your company should be about demonstrating a culture of achievement, from the sweeper to the directors. Identify the good side of your people, the business, the customers and let everyone's attention be drawn towards exceeding expectations. You are at the helm, live the life of success, affirm it loudly and show everyone the business can win.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says government shall by the end of this year add 3,000 extra bed spaces to the current 11,100 in correctional centres.

And Kampyongo says there's need to provide for sentences that can be served within one's community in order to reduce congestion in prisons.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Irene Mambilima has noted that the Judiciary has reduced on the backlog of cases.

The duo were speaking at the ceremonial opening of the Lusaka High Court criminal sessions for 2019 held under the theme, "restoring dignity for the incarcerated", Monday.

Kampyongo announced that government shall add additional 3,000 bed spaces to the current 11,100 in prisons, by the end of this year.

He said that these improvements would come through, two ultra modern correctional facilities being constructed at Mwembeshi in which the developers shall in return take possession of Lusaka Central and Kamwala Correctional facilities.

"My government has since 2012 increased the capacity of correctional centers from 8,250 in 2011 and to 11,100 by the

Govt will add 3,000 bed spaces in prisons this year - Kampyongo

end of 2018. Furthermore, we shall by the end of 2019, add an additional 3000 bed spaces to the current 11,100 bed spaces. These improvements are coming through two ultra modern correctional facilities currently under construction at Mwembeshi in Central Province through public-private partnerships, in which the developers shall in return take possession of Lusaka Central and Kamwala Correctional facilities," he said.

Kampyongo further said in order to reduce congestion in correctional facilities, there was need to provide for sentences that could be served within one's community, especially for non violent offences.

"There are some short term measures that we must work together on to reduce congestion in the correctional facilities such as providing for sentences that could be served within one's community, especially for non-

violent offences and offenders. Technologies to monitor offenders left in communities now exist and the offenders incarcerated within the confines of their homes for example, cannot pose any threats to society. We must therefore take advantage of these technologies and make serving sentences within communities," he said. Meanwhile, Justice Mambilima said the ceremony was always an important event on their Annual Judicial Calendar because it gave them an opportunity to self-introspect and plan for the year ahead.

She said in 2018, the Judiciary continued to vigorously address the problems of backlog and delayed judgments.

"In my official opening speech for the Ceremonial Opening of the 2018 High Court Sessions, I stated that the biggest challenge that was afflicting the Judiciary was the backlog of cases and delays in the disposal of cases

and the delivery of judgments. I am glad to disclose that in 2018 the Judiciary continued to vigorously address the plaguing problems of backlog and delayed judgments," she said.

"I must mention that in the last three years, the judiciary mounted an aggressive policy against backlog in both criminal and civil matters. This was in reaction to a public outcry for the speedy delivery of justice and the need to fulfill our constitutional mandate to ensure access to justice to all and speedy dispensation of justice. To this end we have drastically reduced on the time an accused person spends in the criminal justice system."

She commended stakeholders for their support, adding that their aggressive fight against backlog was intensified last year. "This was achieved with the help of other stakeholders like the Director of Public Prosecutions' Chambers, Legal Aid Board,

Prisons and Police Services and the Law Association of Zambia. I wish to commend the stakeholders and urge them to continue supporting us. Also of importance, is the support rendered by the Treasury by making extra funds available for the extra court sessions. As a result of all of this, the High Court is now current in that it is dealing with criminal matters filed in 2018," she said.

And Justice Mambilima said out of 532 criminal matters filed in the Lusaka High Court last year, 294 cases were disposed of while only 112 cases were pending trial or judgement and the other 112, were pending cause-listing. She said the significant disposal rate of cases had brought about a significant reduction in the backlog of cases.

Justice Mambilima added that their mission this year was to ensure that there was no backlog of cases again.

"Our mission this year is to

ensure that backlog does not rear its ugly head again at Lusaka. We will also send the task force on backlog to Kitwe and Livingstone in the first quarter of this year to dismantle backlog at those two stations," she said. She announced that the judiciary had reached an advanced stage in the process of coming up with High Court rules which would help in fast tracking of cases and assist Judges in case management.

Justice Mambilima added that the rules made provision for time within which a judgment should be delivered.

"The Rules make provision for time within which a judgment must be delivered. This innovation is a reaction to the public outcry for the need to have predictability in terms of disposal of matters. We will soon submit the draft Rules to the Ministry of Justice for further legislative procedures," said justice Mambilima.

In his political discourse column published in News Diggers! on Monday, University of Zambia lecturer Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa named National Democratic Congress (NDC) party leader Chishimba Kambwili on his list of Zambian heroes who inspired the nation in 2018.

“The Roan constituency rebel PF MP has quite successfully recast himself as the spokesperson for the ‘common man,’ street vendors, university students, the workers and many others who are disillusioned with Lungu’s rule. In a context of what appears to be a systematic crackdown on free speech, he has also become one of the PF’s most trenchant public critics – exposing corruption in government, highlighting Lungu’s manifold inadequacies, denouncing economic exploitation by Chinese investors and refusing to be silenced. For all his troubles, he has been the subject of police harassment and prosecution, but even these State-driven manoeuvres have seemingly not slowed him down. Hate or like him, Kambwili cannot be ignored. He is well-liked, especially on the Copperbelt, as a ‘no-nonsense’ doer and a charismatic leader with the common touch,” Dr Sishuwa wrote about Kambwili.

We couldn’t agree more. Honourable Kambwili is the most aggressive opposition figure at the moment and we wrote about

Kambwili must refrain from body-shaming

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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this in our editorial opinion of 2017 titled “Kambwili is a good bad man”. Indeed, Kambwili is a spokesperson of the common man and the voiceless, and he does this at great risk to his health and entire life.

But like any other human, the former chief government spokesperson has weaknesses and shortcomings. Today, we would like to point Honourable Kambwili to areas where he needs to polish up in order to leave no one behind in his aggressive advocacy for good governance.

You see, Honourable Kambwili, there are things that are okay for anyone to think about, but such things would become inappropriate if said out loud to the public. Unless one is being trained as a priest or evangelist, we don’t see anything wrong with a mind forming an opinion about someone’s nature because it is

the natural duty of the brain to identify what is normal and what is not from what the eyes see. But such a thought must stay suppressed and kept away from public ears.

We don’t think that Honourable Kambwili has fared very well in his quest to acquire this leadership requisite. For some time now, we have observed that the former minister likes body-shaming people. These include political rivals and others who are hell-bent on silencing him.

Since 2016, when Honourable Kambwili’s rivalry with Luanshya Mayor Nathan Chanda was brought to public attention, the Roan PF member of parliament has always referred to this man as a “kunkubiti” or a jerrican container if directly translated. When Chanda was recently elected PF Copperbelt Province chairman, Honourable Kambwili repeated his mockery. This stereotype

description of the Luanshya Mayor is out of the fact that he is not as tall, but rather looks like a young boy when in fact he is a fully-grown adult.

We love it when Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu is a ‘pomwee’ and that he has evidence of the Head of State’s criminality because, if it is true, that is a habit, which the President can stop. He just needs to discipline his appetite for fast wealth and no one will call him a thief. But His Worship, the Mayor of Luanshya, can’t do anything about his stature. It is not his fault and he has no control over that portion of his life. It is not that he doesn’t eat well or he is a sinner, no! That’s just how he is.

Like we said, it registers in almost everyone’s mind who meets Mayor Chanda for the first time that his height is not in tandem with his age, but that is a very easy thought to empathically suppress

without making reference to. Opening one’s mouth to call this man a jerrican can only be expected from an ignorant hater who deserves no chance in public office.

But Honourable Kambwili wants the highest public office in the land and hopes Zambians can elect him Republican President after next year. This is why we feel it is not only unfair, but utterly wrong for him to inflict pain in Mayor Chanda’s heart over what he can’t change. If this civic leader is a thief and Honourable Kambwili has evidence, let him stand tall and expose this criminality. If he is abusing the authority of his Mayoral position, recruiting relatives and corruptly selling plots in Luanshya, this bad governance must be told to the public; but the Mayor’s stature should have nothing to do with it.

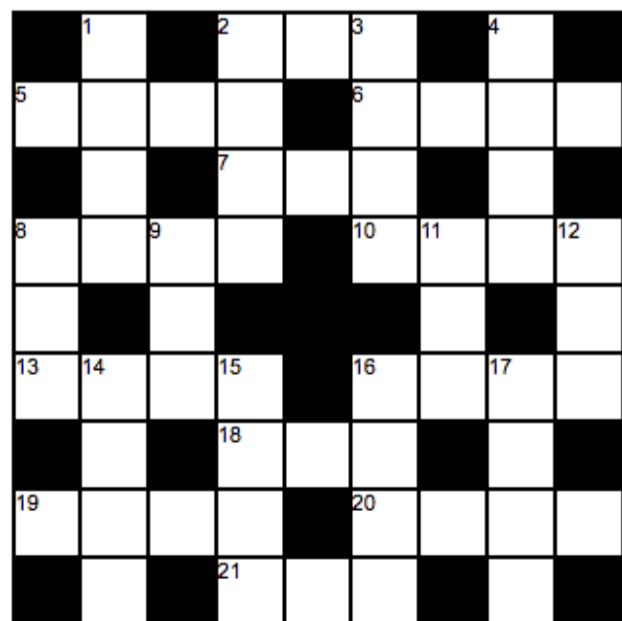
In the same vein, making a mockery out of

Charity Katanga’s lack of children was another offside statement from Honourable Kambwili. There is nothing wrong with pointing out that the Copperbelt Province Police Commissioner is unreasonable in her execution of duty. The more she gets this criticism, the sooner she can change for the better. But suggesting that Commissioner Katanga is brutal on other people’s children because she has never experienced child labour herself was not expected from Zambia’s ‘incoming President’.

Just like Katanga and Nathan Chanda, there are many other citizens that Honourable Kambwili will meet who have no control over their portions in life. Laughing at Mayor Chanda and Commissioner Katanga for not having the advantages that others have is not any different from mocking those that are physically challenged. Leaders and those seeking to lead others must refrain from this stereotyping and body-shaming.

As we march towards 2021, Honourable Kambwili cannot afford to offend a section of society that he should be speaking for. As a spokesperson for the voiceless, it is imperative that he carefully scrutinizes what his mouth can say. He needs to know that there is no single person who is perfect. If Honourable Kambwili’s body was perfect, he wouldn’t be seeking life warranty from insulin every day.

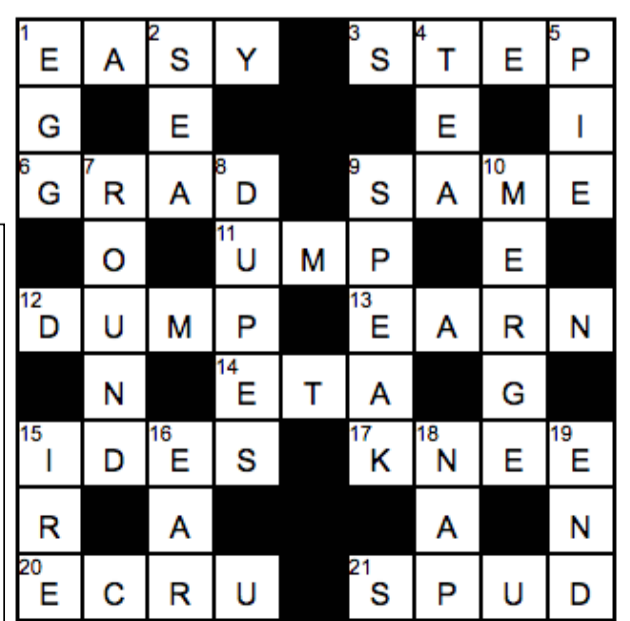
Crossword puzzle 267



“Not responding is a response--we are equally responsible for what we don't do.”
- Jonathan Safran Foer

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Stitch 5. Weight measurement 6. Deserve 7. Web address 8. Fail to mention 10. Temporary worker 13. Equal amounts 16. Glance over 18. Iota preceder 19. Skiing surface 20. Reebok rival 21. Small amount | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gift tag word 2. Lewd material 3. Contusion 4. Prudish; proper 8. Mined material 9. Make angry 11. Deer relative 12. ___-pom 14. Blow off steam 15. A lizard 16. Beach surface 17. Tattooist's supply |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 266



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.

Mumbi on Lungu's humility, unlike UPND

Editor,

"You have to admire Mrs. Mumbi Phiri's simplicity. She is gifted in intelligence and is a deep thinker. The only attribute one needs to be

a good leader in Zambia is to be humble. Such intuition is a rare gift. God bless Zambia." - Ben Kauzeni

"Our humble leader, the one with a big stick to use against all who dare challenge his actions. Mumbi Phiri, your wisdom or the lack of it is most interesting. Lungu is far from humble. If Lungu was humble there would be no police brutality against opposition supporters in this country. He would have made politics a fair affair for everyone." - Mwila Chama

"Mumbi Phiri, don't mock God on your dirty dealings. Did God allow Chavula, the Ugandan, to be in the ECZ server room or did God prepare the ECZ identity card for the same Chavula? What were you doing at City Airport yourself where you accused Mwaliteta and punished him for 1 year without apparent reasons? Your ranting one day will make you stand in court to testify your actions!" - Maseka Mutesi

"Humble indeed! But we shall know him by his fruits. Here is someone hypocritically calling himself 'Christian' but at the same time avoids reconciliation championed by clergy. He slips away from the dialogue like a black Mamba in the name of 'committed with other programmes on the Copperbelt'. Meanwhile, he targets some 'churches' whose leaders are vulnerable due to poverty, thereby, creating divisions between Church mother bodies and his other 'church clergy' so as to weaken the real Christian voice whose objective is to ensure good governance. This is cheap and at the same time very dangerous, divisive type of rule, which he has thrived on since he has been our 'humble leader' " - Martin Nyanjagha

"So, you call that fiasco of a convention in Kabwe and the 2016 fraudulent elections, godly? Come on, let us not deceive ourselves for God cannot be mocked; we will surely reap what we sow." - Josius Banda



Kalaba on all politicians being deemed dishonest

Editor,

"What does he expect after what he did during the Mulungushi issue where he supported the voting of raising hands, only to change after getting what he wanted! I, for one, cannot trust HK and CK." - Boyd Mulyata

"It is difficult to trust politicians because a good number of them are there to serve their own interests. Strangely, they can even fail to empower their own members, who sacrifice so much for the party. When a party forms government, they even forget about people who sacrificed their lives and resources just to make sure that the party forms government. Now, if politicians can treat their own members like that,

what more poor Zambians? Politicians only humble themselves during campaigns and after that they become small gods. In fact, citizens must stop clapping when politicians kneel down during campaigns because they just fool people into believing that they are humble, yet they are not. So, politicians must brace themselves for tough times in convincing voters except for those who can be bribed." - Newton Kapambwe

"Kalaba is a dribbler guys; he is moving bit by bit. He is a factor & threat come 2021." - Franco Mudekwa

"Bane, 2021 is a turning point. Let us vote wisely to restore democracy & rule of law. No tribalism. no regionalism." - Chanda Pochoko

Mwila's boasting of PF being a model of intra-party democracy

Editor,

"If you are true democrats, allow opposition to hold meetings freely! You even arrest an MP meeting his/her own constituents at their house! Shame on you!" - Mwengo K. Anthony

"If you are true democrats, allow KBF to challenge ECL!" - Patricia Nzamose Kauluka

"Silliness! Democracy of fights & intimidation!" - Mwengo K. Anthony

"Democracy has to be seen! How you treat the opposition, not the way you treat your own members!" - Ernest Simwanza

"PF held an election, that's great. You have to give it to them that they have shown something that other parties don't show. But this doesn't make the PF leadership a good democratic leadership. We know that no one can challenge Lungu for the presidency, and if democracy is not a theme at the highest level then nothing else matters. The PF are not democratic!" - Martin Mbewe

"There is no model of democracy that the PF can boast about. When anyone who speaks against government is deemed evil then where is the democracy? No one in government can criticise anything because they would be fired like Lucky Mulusa. This PF is about Edgar Lungu and the people who are eating with him and licking his boots like Lusambo and his fellow ministers." - Newton Chenda



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TERMS OF REFERENCE TO CONDUCT A DESK REVIEW ON THE COMPARISON IN OPERATIONS OF CIVIC PLATFORMS SUCH AS WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES IN THE SADC REGION TO THOSE IN ZAMBIA

1.0. CONTEXT

The Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) is a civic non-partisan, non-profit making organization, registered under the Societies Act of Zambia. The Foundation was formed in 1992, as a successor to the Zambia Election Monitoring and Coordinating Committee (ZEMCC), which was formed to monitor Zambia's first round of multi-party elections in 1991. FODEP has an established and functional Secretariat mandated to run the organization and provide coordination of organization activities on the daily basis on behalf of the National Executive and the general membership. FODEP's strategic focus is on four main themes namely: Elections and the Electoral Process, Democratic Governance, Legal and Policy Framework, and Local Government Development. FODEP with financial support from Diakonia with support from Swedish International Development Aid (Sida) is implementing the Enhancing Service Delivery through Active Citizenship Project (ESEDAC) under the second phase of the Strengthened Accountability Programme. The project seeks to contribute to improved and quality public service delivery through increased participation and inclusion of women and men in development and governance processes at sub-district, district and provincial levels by 2021. The programme is being implemented in Zambezi, Kalumbila, Mushindano, Solwezi and Chavuma districts of North Western Province of Zambia. As a result, FODEP is seeking to engage a Consultant to conduct a desk review on the operations of civic platforms such as WDCs in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Region aimed at providing alternative policy frameworks to influence effective operation of WDCs to those in Zambia.

The proposal to be submitted should address the service providers' ability to provide the consultancy Services referred to herein.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comparative desk review on the operations of civic platforms such as the WDCs in the SADC region to those in Zambia. It is aimed at providing alternative policy frameworks to influence effective operation of WDCs.

Specific Objectives

Outputs	Time Frame for Delivery
Inception Report to include, <i>inter alia</i> , the detailed proposed methodology and a Work Implementation Plan	Within 7 days of contract signature
An initial report of the findings and recommendations for enhancing the operations of the WDCs	Within 7 days of contract signature
Final Report with recommendations	Within 7 days of contract signature

5.0 DURATION

The terms and conditions of the CONTRACT shall apply for the duration of the CONTRACT, beginning on the actual date of commencement of WORK and the COMPLETION DATE.

6.0 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Financial proposal should be submitted separately and should include all administration costs including overheads, printing, posting, copying, and presentation.

7.0 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment of the Consultant for the provision of deliverables outlined in Clause 4 above shall be according to the following schedule:

- Acceptance of the Inception Report	30%
- Acceptance of the First Draft Report	35%
- Acceptance of the Final Report	35%
Total	100%

8.0 QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Eligible Consultants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- 8.1 Degree in Law, Public Administration, Local Government, or related field.
- 8.2. At least ten years relevant experience in providing legal, gender and local governance, public administration services at least five (5) of which should be in the area of local governance;
- 8.3 Familiarity with, as well as experience concerning, the Zambian local

1. To study the legal and policy framework surrounding the formation, operations, source of funding, reporting structures, rights holders' participation, the role of local and central governments of civic structures such as the Ward Development Committees in the SADC countries. To study the functioning of the civic structures such as the Ward Development Committees in the SADC countries.

2. To study the effectiveness of the civic structures such as the Ward Development Committees in the SADC countries in providing an interface between the communities and the local government.

3. To recommend approaches for enhanced rights holders' participation in the WDCs in Zambia.

2.2 Research Questions

1. What legal and policy framework support such structures?
2. How are they selected?
3. Who do they report to?
4. Where do they get their funding from?
5. What is their operational structure?
6. How do they ensure community participation?
7. What is the role of local and central government in the functioning of such structures?
8. What are the responsibilities of the structures?

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will:

1. Prepare an inception report which details the methodology/approach to the assignment and a related work implementation plan;
2. Prepare and submit for discussion, a report of the findings and recommendations for the enhancement operations of the WDCs;
3. Submit the final document and the finalized report on findings and Recommendations informed by comments received.

4.0 OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES:

The consultant will submit to the Project Coordinating Team for approval the following:

governance systems and SADC local governance civic platforms;
8.4 Excellent communication and presentation skills.

10.0 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Eligible Consultant(s) should submit technical and financial proposals in both electronic and hard copy format. Proposals should also include *inter alia*:

- 10.1 Statement of relevant experience i.e. similar assignments executed in/under execution in the last five years;
- 10.2 Measurable goals and objectives and methodology;
- 10.3 Indication of availability to carry out the Consultancy during the period January 14th to January 21st 2019;

10.4 Supporting documents such as CVs are to be attached as appendix
Proposals should be delivered not later than 1700hrs on January 11th, 2019 at the address below:

Attention:
Executive Director
Foundation for Democratic Process – FODEP,
Plot 284 – B Omelo Mumba Road,
Rhodes Park, P.O.Box 32387,
LUSAKA
Email: fodephq@gmail.com
mc2mweenge@gmail.com
gilbertchisenga33@gmail.com

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

2 Gabon coup plotters killed

Two soldiers who took part in Monday's attempted coup in Gabon have been killed, the president's office says.

They were shot dead after security officers stormed the national radio building which they had taken over. Three others are under arrest.

The junior officers claimed they seized power "to restore democracy" in oil-rich Gabon, where the ailing leader's family has ruled for 50 years.

"The situation is under control," the presidency statement said.

Coup leader Lt Kelly Ondo Obiang, was on the run for a brief period, before being found hiding under a bed, reports Radio France Internationale (RFI).

"The situation is calm. The gendarmes who are often stationed there have taken control of the entire area around the radio and TV headquarters, so everything is back to normal", said Guy-Bertrand Mapangou, a spokesman for the government of the west African country.

Mr Mapangou said that the army generals, civil society and opposition leaders mentioned in the rebels' statement as potential supporters would be investigated.

The spokesman for Gabon's main opposition party has however denied any knowledge of a link with the rebel soldiers.

Clay Martial Obame Akué said that he wasn't aware of any link between the soldiers and Jean Ping - the leader of the Coalition for the New Republic, RFI reports.

Current leader Ali Bongo, who has been out of the country for two months, succeeded his father Omar Bongo as president in 2009. He narrowly won re-election in 2016 in a poll marred by violence and accusations of fraud.

What happened this morning?

Rebel soldiers took control of the national radio station in the capital, Libreville, at 04:30 local time (03:30 GMT) to read a short statement announcing a "National Restoration Council". **BBC**



Sarri demands replacement for Monaco-bound Fabregas

Maurizio Sarri insisted on Monday that Chelsea must replace Cesc Fabregas as the veteran midfielder looks set to leave the Premier League outfit for Thierry Henry's Monaco.

The 31-year-old's contract

expires at the end of this season and he appeared to say goodbye after Saturday's 2-0 FA Cup win over Nottingham Forest, where he applauded all sides of Stamford Bridge.

The Blues boss said

Fabregas had a "free day" on Sunday, refusing to confirm or deny reports the playmaker had travelled to France to meet with Monaco, but demanded that the Blues supply him with reinforcements should

he join his former Arsenal teammate Henry in Ligue 1. "If Cesc will go, of course we need a replacement," Sarri said to reporters ahead of Tuesday's League Cup semi-final first leg against Tottenham at Wembley.

"Now, with the midfielders we are in trouble, I think. Without Cesc we have only five, so we are in trouble. We need a replacement."

With Chelsea offering one-year contracts for players aged over 30, Sarri added that Fabregas, whose opportunities have been limited this season, should accept a two-year deal on the table from Monaco for the good of his career.

"In my opinion, he needs to go," said Sarri.

"You know very well the situation. You know very well in this club there is a rule -- the renewal of players over 30 is usually one year.

"He has an offer for two years. I don't want a very important player as Cesc unhappy." *AFP*

I have to be disciplined, says ref of the year Gladys Lengwe

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ/MTN Best Referee of The Year award winner Gladys Lengwe says she is fully aware of the pitfalls that come with big achievements in a male-dominated sport like football saying discipline plays a pivotal role in staying clean.

Lengwe, a top FIFA female referee who scooped the award after beating fellow nominees Derrick Kafuli and Audrick Nkole is cognizant of the fact that she became a role model to young girls that want to pursue a career in football. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Lengwe said that

she would be cautious enough not to fall for any behaviour that could make her defy the code of conduct or ethics that govern the game of football. "I am aware that the higher a person goes, the more temptations come and one can easily be brought down. It is unfortunate when you work so hard to be where you are and only to be brought down by one wrong act. I have to make sure that I stay disciplined especially that I now have young girls looking up to me in this male dominated sport," she said.

Lengwe who is Kitwe-based further said that she had

bigger plans this season adding that she would work harder to add on her knowledge and experience that she had so far obtained.

"I have set a high target for myself this season. I want to do better than I did last season and add on to what I learn in this sport. It is all about working harder for me so that I keep improving. I just

have to keep learning," said Lengwe.

Lengwe's latest achievement in 2018 was officiating the final match of the African Women Championship between Nigeria and South Africa. FIFA Under-17 Mens World Cup and Under-20 Women's FIFA World Cup are accolades that are already under her belt.

Meanwhile, her male counterpart Janny Sikazwe who was among the whistle men at the 2018 Men's FIFA World Cup in Russia is serving provisional suspension on suspicion of corruption following the way he handled the CAF Champions League match between Tunisian side Esperance and Premeiro Augusto of Angola.

Fathi eyes continental football

By Alex Chilumbwe
NAPSA Stars coach Mohamed Fathi says he is eyeing for a top finish

in the 2019 super league in order for his side to record a debut continental football appearance.

Fathi, who just resumed training yesterday Monday after 21 days of drilling his team in

Nakonde said that he was looking forward to a better performance than last season's where he finished 14th on the table.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Fathi declared his side ready to navigate its way through other teams to achieve the continental dream.

"The target is to play continental football so yes, I want to win the league title or for a bad result at least finish where I will be able to play continental football. This is a good side I have and it is capable of achieving this set target," said Fathi.

Meanwhile, injured prolific midfielder Collins Sikombe also sounded on the team's anticipated improved state that would help them fight for the league title.

"We are good to go and compete favourably this season. We did not start well last year but the fact that we survived relegation means we can do even better this season. We will be fighting for the league title too and we are prepared," said Sikombe.

According to NAPSA Stars media, Sikombe strained his ankle during the team's 21 days of training in Nakonde.

Rakitic unsure if Barcelona will do the 'normal' thing with Valverde's future

Ivan Rakitic says it would be "normal" for Barcelona to offer Ernesto Valverde a new contract, but has admitted that he is unsure of the club's plans for their current manager.

As things stand, the Blaugrana will be entering the market for a new boss this summer.

Valverde will see his current deal expire at the end of the season, with no fresh terms on the table as yet.

With a La Liga and Copa del Rey double having been enjoyed under the 54-year-old last season, and with the promise of both of those titles being defended in 2019, an extension would appear to be a formality.

Questions have, however, been asked of a coach whose side is also chasing down another Champions League crown and Rakitic concedes the Barca players remain in the dark when it comes to future plans.

The Croatian midfielder told reporters after a 2-1 victory



away at Getafe: "It's an issue for the boss and the club [to decide on]."

"We're really happy with him and the whole coaching setup.

"The most normal [scenario] would be that he continues with us, but we have to focus on our job, which is playing

and winning football games. Let them [the club and Valverde] decide what's for the best."

Rakitic has remained a regular for Barca during Valverde's time at Camp Nou and started in a deep-lying central midfield role against Getafe.

He is delighted to have played his part in the collection of three more points, with Barca having opened 2019 after the winter break in Spain with a hard-fought success which has taken them five clear at the top of the Liga table.

"All teams struggle against Getafe," said Rakitic.

"They're a strong, compact team. Their coach [Jose Bordalas] knows what he has to do and his team are well drilled.

"It's an important win and we have to keep following this path. We go home happy and now prepare for what's to come." *Goal.com*



Iran's defender Ramin Rezaeian (C) fights for the ball with Yemen's forward Abdulwasea Al Matari (R) during the 2019 AFC Asian Cup Group D football match between Yemen and Iran at the Mohammed Bin Zayed stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday - AFP



President of Senegalese Football Federation Augustin Senghor (L) presents a gift to Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o during a press conference on Goree Island off the coast of Dakar yesterday, ahead of the CAF 2018 awards ceremony. AFP

SALAH SET TO RETAIN AFRICAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR TITLE

Liverpool star Mohamed Salah is set to be named 2018 African Player of the Year for a second successive time at a gala awards ceremony in Senegal Tuesday.

The sharpshooter is competing against fellow English Premier League stars, Liverpool teammate Sadio Mane from Senegal and Gabonese Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Arsenal.

Consistent scorer Salah has already won the 2018 BBC African Footballer of the Year prize and it would be a shock if he did not add to his collection of individual honours in Dakar.

Should he be confirmed as the best footballer in Africa once again, Salah will become the first player from the north of the continent to claim back-to-back titles.

Ivorian Yaya Toure, Samuel Eto'o from Cameroon and Senegalese El Hadji Diouf achieved the feat in a competition first staged 48 years ago with Malian Salif Keita voted number one.

Manchester City midfielder Toure, the younger brother of former Arsenal defender Kolo, went on to finish first four times in a row from 2011.

Eto'o and Ghanaian Abedi 'Pele' Ayew are also four-time Player of the Year winners, but not in consecutive years.

Paris-based France Football magazine organised the



annual award until the mid-1990s when the Confederation of African Football (CAF) took over.

Votes from national team and selected club coaches, CAF officials and unnamed 'experts' count toward deciding who lifts the trophy.

Salah scored 44 goals in all competitions for Liverpool last season, his first at Anfield after moving from Italian Serie A outfit Roma.

- Slow start -

After a slow start to the 2018/2019 campaign, the right-side attacker has

netted 13 goals, one less than Aubameyang and Tottenham Hotspur and England star Harry Kane.

The Egyptian also scored the winning goal against Napoli at Anfield last month that took Liverpool to the knockout phase of the Champions

League at the expense of the Italian club.

Salah had less success with Egypt last year as injury ruled him out of the loss to Uruguay at the start of the World Cup in Russia.

He did score against both Russia and Saudi Arabia,

but the north Africans were beaten in both matches and exited without securing even one point.

Later in the year, Salah scored twice but failed to convert two penalties as the Pharaohs ran riot at home to Niger in a 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier, winning 6-0.

Aubameyang, the son of former Gabon star Pierre, has made the top three for the fifth successive year, finishing second in 2014, then first, second and third.

Mane was third behind Algerian Riyad Mahrez and Aubameyang in 2016 and second last year, 118 points adrift of Salah.

Madagascar and Mauritania, first-time qualifiers for the Cup of Nations, will compete with Uganda for the national team of the year award.

Asisat Oshoala from reigning African champions Nigeria is seeking a third straight victory in the Women's Footballer of the Year category.

Her rivals are compatriot Francisca Ordega, and Christinah Kgatlana from South Africa, runners-up to Nigeria in the 2018 Africa Women's Cup of Nations. AFP

