



# LUNGU SEEKS MEDICAL HELP

**Kabwe High Court judge laments poor infrastructure**

*By Joseph Mwenya*

Kabwe High Court judge Kelvin Limbani has lamented that despite an increase in the population, Central Province still experiences inadequate court infrastructure. Speaking during the ceremonial opening of the 2019 criminal sessions, Monday, Justice Limbani said inadequate infrastructure affected all other courts in the town, with local courts having to rent former tarvens. "The high court building only has one court room, two chambers for the two High Court Judges and six offices for the 22 members of staff. There is no space for the registry staff who squat in a corridor and the witnesses who have to wait in the sun during court sessions. The same court is used by the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal which circuit three times every calendar year respectively," Justice Limbani lamented.

Story page 7



President Edgar Lungu greets Service Chiefs at KKIA yesterday before his departure for South Africa where he is seeking medical attention - Picture by Salim Henry

To page 2

**PF remains Zambia's pro-poor party - SG**

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF is not just the most democratic party in Zambia, but exists for the poor and shall continue to be the leading political force in the nation. And Mwila says political parties that do not practice intra-party democracy are unlikely to form government. In the PF's weekly newsletter, Mwila stated that whereas other political parties existed to promote the ambitions of certain individuals, the PF had demonstrated practical commitment to promoting democracy.  
To page 3

# Zambia will collapse if PF wins 2021 elections - Kalaba

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
Democratic Party (DP) 2021 presidential aspiring candidate Harry Kalaba says Zambia will collapse if PF is allowed continue governing beyond 2021. And Kalaba says his party will first focus on mobilising itself and making itself know before joining any alliance. Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk programme Tuesday, Kalaba also said that he wouldn't want to drag Shepherd Bushiri's name into cheap politics but accepted the prophesy that he would win the 2021 elections  
To page 5



# Opposition alliance will ditch dialogue if I'm blocked - CK

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
National Democratic Congress (NDC) 2021 Presidential candidate Chishimba Kambwili has insisted that the opposition alliance will walk out of the national political dialogue meeting if any of its members is not allowed to attend. And Kambwili has asked YALI president Andrew Ntewewe to respect the opinions of those challenging the Constitutional Court judgment in President Edgar Lungu's edibility case.  
To page 7

# Vespers death goes to court

Story page 5



# Mukuka urges politicians to stop antagonizing church

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
Political Researcher Cephaz Mukuka has warned some politicians attacking the Church to desist from doing so because they may need its voice in future. Recently, the Felix Mutati-led MMD youth Prince Ndoyi condemned the action by the three Church mother bodies to proceed with the consultative dialogue meeting without the involvement of other political parties. Ndoyi accused the leaders of the three Church mother bodies of driving an opposition agenda. But in a statement, Mukuka, who is also spokesperson for the Nevers Mumbale-led MMD, observed that the three Church mother bodies had come under fire and vicious attacks from some sections of society. He added that these attacks were unfortunate because the Church had been the mouthpiece for the silent majority. "These attacks are very unfortunate to say the least. People should get into political history and see what the Church has been doing for the politicians and the citizenry at large. The Church has been the mouthpiece for the silent majority. This is actually a global trend without debate. People attacking the Church are doing it out of greed and selfishness without shame," Mukuka charged. He noted that the Church was actually a serious stakeholder in national issues. "When we look at things critically, we see that the Church is actually a serious stakeholder in national issues. The Roman Catholic Church has serious investments in the agricultural, health and education sectors, among many other investments across the nation. Equally, the UCZ, Seventh Day Adventist and the Anglican Church, among few others, have followed suit with similar investments. The Church has gone a further mile to establish orphanages, this they do to compliment and supplement government efforts with joy," he explained. Mukuka urged individuals attacking the Church to immediately

stop, saying it had been instrumental in issues of peace and dialogue, and that its critics may need the Church's voice in future. "History shows us that the Church has been instrumental in issues of peace and dialogue. People attacking the Church should stop as soon as possible. The Church has universal influence, which cannot be ignored at all. People attacking the Church, today, may need the voice of the Church tomorrow. It's like those who rubbish the media when in power, and once they lose power, they look for the media to voice out so as to be heard. Examples can go on and on just to show us the power and influence of the Church," he narrated. Mukuka observed that fighting the Church always left culprits in great pain and anguish. He, therefore, urged Zambians to work with the Church. "The Church speaks from a sacred platform whereas politicians and several others speak from other sources. Fighting the Church is a risky battle, which

always leaves culprits in great pain and anguish! The Church does not report to man, but God. God will always defend and protect his Church from such attacks as seen in Zambia of late. These attacks are unholy and should end henceforth without any delay,"

appealed Mukuka. "In Malawi, Zaire (DRC) and Nigeria, we had leaders who tried to fight the Church, but ended badly. Most recently, former President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, picked up a quarrel with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The

Archbishop said one word, and that was to pray Zuma out of office, and surely, it took place! We all need the Church for salvation, guidance, counselling and direction. Let's work with the Church and not antagonise her." Meanwhile, MMD

national secretary Raphael Nakacinda in his party's New Year message to the nation, cautioned Church leaders to stop promoting illegalities by dealing with individuals who were not legally recognized by institutions of governance.

## Kabwe judge laments inadequate infrastructure

**By Joseph Mwenya in Kabwe**

Kabwe High Court judge Kelvin Limbani has lamented that despite an increase in the population, Central Province still experiences inadequate court infrastructure. Speaking during the ceremonial opening of the 2019 criminal sessions, Monday, Justice Limbani said inadequate infrastructure affected all other courts in the town, with local courts having to rent former tarvens. "The high court building only has one court room, two chambers for the two High Court Judges and six offices for the 22 members of staff. There is no space for the registry staff who squat in a corridor and the witnesses who have to wait in the sun during court sessions. The same court is

used by the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal which circuit three times every calendar year respectively. When the superior courts circuit, the judges of the High Court and the support staff operate from home as they have to surrender the court room, chambers and the offices to create room for the superior courts," Justice Limbani lamented. Justice Limbani expressed concern at several court buildings under construction in the province whose works had stalled. "A number of court buildings have been under construction for some time now, among them, Chibombo local court, Makululu in Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Masansa and Chembe. These courts are at various levels of construction

with the general report being that the constructions have stalled. At the High Court, for example, the security wall fence has been undergoing construction for some years now the works are yet to be completed, thereby posing a risk to the security of the judges, court officials and the litigants," he said.

He noted that improved infrastructure would lead to enhanced dispensation of justice. "We are hoping that this year substantial progress can be made with regard to the construction and completion of court infrastructure. This would help resolve the challenges of office space and court houses, thereby, lead to the enhanced dispensation of justice," said Justice Limbani.

## Social media abuse has reached a level of fallacy - Mukwita

**By Mirriam Chabala**

Zambia's Ambassador to Germany Anthony Mukwita says social media abuse in Zambia has reached a level of fallacy where people are just cooking up lies, thereby, affecting the country's international standing. And Mukwita says President Edgar Lungu's commitment to the fight against corruption has made the German government to reconsider freezing its support to Zambia following the misapplication of that country's Rural Basket Fund. Featuring on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Mukwita expressed worry over the pace at which lies about Zambia were fast spreading on social media, explaining that the country had reached a stage where the whole social media communication space was at a level of fallacy. "Like they say: 'a lie goes half way across the world before the truth puts on its running shoes.' So, it's a bad thing. Today, I can tell a lie about brother Grevazio and people believe it and it takes a year before he can exonerate himself, and that's just one person; for a country, it's worse.

One bad tweet, which is false has the ability to dent the country's image! By the time you are coming to correct that situation, a lot of damage has been done. Allow me to commend one of my friends and brother, Amos Chanda (President Lungu's spokesperson). Recently, we have seen that the moment a mis-fact has been published, it hasn't taken 24 hours to respond," Mukwita argued. "So, it's a slippery slop where you start explaining and wasting time on something that is inaccurate. Somebody will say: 'Zambia owes US \$15 billion' and yet we know for a fact, according to the information that has been published by the Ministry of Finance, who are the authoritative people, that what we owe is actually US \$9 billion. So, the social media aspect, if it dents your image and takes so much time before you can get down to the real fact and explain to the people that we want this money to come and help the vulnerable, or we want this business to come to Zambia so that we can create jobs. So, I think we have reached a certain

level, which makes the whole social media communication in Zambia to a level of fallacy and this is because some people will come up and cook some facts... and some people, even when you have explained, even when you have been cleared by the courts of law, they will still want to believe the social media lie. That's a bad thing. Social media itself is not a bad thing, it has helped to improve communication, but it's not about the speed, it's about accuracy." And Mukwita said President Lungu's commitment to the fight against corruption had made the German government give Zambia a second chance, even after some officers abused aid from that country. "We know that some six directors in the recent past have been suspended and are under probe, and that some people have already been arrested. So, in terms of assurance when you are dealing face to face with some people, you want to know, are they walking the walk and talking the talk or are they just blowing hot air? But in our case, we are able to say that this President has taken action. So, you should give him

another chance because he's not the one who's directly involved in this, but everybody who has been directly involved, for instance, in the Rural Basket Fund, people have been arrested and others suspended," said Mukwita. "The Germany story was a bad story, but it was cleared, which was why, in November, 2018, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development of Germany sat together and started discussing further corporation for 2019. If that had not been resolved, that meeting would have not taken place. Allow me to thank the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having sat long before that leak came out to resolve the issues. People don't even know that the Ministry of Economic Development of Germany and the Ministry of Finance did meet in November, which means that we are on clear ground with the Federal Republic of Germany, going to 2019 and beyond, which is good because we have enjoyed warm relations with Germany since after Independence."

By Mirriam Chabala

Prominent Lusaka lawyer Dickson Jere has advised Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) to take the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to task over why the commission does not seem to be investigating individuals who have questionable amounts of wealth. Commenting on TIZ president Rueben Lifuka's suggestion that President Edgar Lungu should order for lifestyle audits for everyone serving in his government, including himself, as a way of fighting corruption this year, Jere told News Diggers! that the closest law which was close to a lifestyle audit was one where the ACC could demand an explanation on how someone had become rich. "If TIZ wants a lifestyle audit for politicians, that needs to be put into law. Anything that is outside the law will be illegal. At the moment in Zambia, we don't have 'life-[style]' audits per se. But what we do have, which I think is adequate is that the Anti-Corruption Act provides that any individual can be questioned to justify the source of his wealth or property, which more or less is a lifestyle audit because if they come to you and ask you 'how did you acquire this property?', you should be able to justify. So, maybe what TIZ should be saying is, why has the ACC not been proactive in making sure that those who are suspected to have

# Jere questions ACC's inertia to question public officials' rapid wealth acquisition

been involved in corruption are subjected to that particular law so that they can justify," Jere advised. "The law is there, but we have not seen it being applied to people who are have been mentioned or suspected to have been involved in corruption. It is more about implementation or enforcement of the law as opposed to subjecting everybody across the board to lifestyle audit. Secondly,

is that, those holding the position of (Cabinet) Minister are required by law and those who are members of parliament to do annual asset declarations before the Chief Justice under the Ministerial and Parliamentary Code of Conduct Act. So, maybe TIZ should take keen interest in reviewing the declarations, which were made each year and see the procession of how one

who declared one house within a year has three or four houses. That will then allow ACC to follow-up on lifestyle audits." And Jere said that the proposed lifestyle audit should not only be targeted at politicians, but also Permanent Secretaries and top government directors. "I would be adding that the Ministerial and Parliamentary Code of Conduct at the moment

is very restrictive; it only deals with members of parliament and Ministers. It should be subjected to deal with all government officials at the level of assistant director and above because directors and assistant directors and Permanent Secretaries are the chief executives; they are the ones who make the decisions everyday. If a politician has to do any transaction, that transaction has to pass

through the Permanent Secretaries and Directors because they are the most influential in terms of making any transaction go through, and yet they are not part and parcel of the code of conduct, which requires that there is the annual declaration of assets. For such, I would be saying that they should be subjected [to] as opposed to only leaving the politicians alone," said Jere.

# Patriotic Front remains Zambia's pro-poor party says Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF is not just the most democratic party in Zambia, but exists for the poor and shall continue to be the leading political force in the nation. And Mwila says political parties that do not practice intra-party democracy are unlikely to form government. In the PF's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that whereas other political parties existed to promote the ambitions of certain individuals, the PF had demonstrated practical commitment to

promoting democracy and good governance internally and externally. "Whereas other political parties exist to promote the ambitions and aggrandisement of certain individuals who even go to the extent of institutionalizing dictatorship by manipulating indefinite term clauses into their constitutions, the Patriotic Front has demonstrated practical commitment to promoting democracy and good governance internally and externally. The Patriotic Front, therefore, stands

out undisputed, not just as the most democratic party in Zambia, but more poignantly, as the only democratic party in our nation," Mwila argued. "While others are blindly driven by dogmatic regional inclinations, as well as cult personality and the questionable fleeting wealth of an elitist few; PF is driven by entrenched democratic principles across its structures represented in the length and breadth of Zambia. This national intra-party democratic attribute has engendered a sense of ownership

and belonging by the majority poor and people across the social strata." And Mwila added that PF existed for the poor. "Patriotic Front is the people; and the people are Patriotic Front. We exist for the poor among us. The party demands hard work, honesty, sacrifice and self-reliance in all activities to improve the living conditions and ensure greater benefits to the people of Zambia," Mwila added. He stated that because of its democratic nature, the PF yearned for more robust engagement on things that mattered to Zambians and refuses to be bogged down by mudslinging or name-calling politics. "Because of our democratic nature, we yearn for more robust engagement on things that matter to the Zambian people. PF has further demonstrated that accountability and transparency are key elements in fulfilling our people-given mandate. We have continued to show our commitment to promotion of dialogue and peaceful coexistence of political parties. This is because from our founding, we have held the strong belief that democracy is about engaging in robust and healthy political discourse and not acrimonious altercation devoid of substance," Mwila stated. "That is why, as a party, we have refused to be bogged down by any mudslinging, name-calling and card-stacking politics aimed at stalling development. Zambia at 54 must do away with 'personality politics' by embracing politics of substance." Meanwhile, Mwila noted

that undemocratic cults of personality were unlikely to form government, adding that the PF was more likely to remain in government because the party adheres to intra-party democracy. "It has widely been observed that a political party that adheres to intra-party democracy like PF is more likely to form and remain in government than one that does not. This is because a political party that does not practice intra-party democracy cannot be trusted by the people to respect and promote democracy if they formed government. Charity begins at home and this is true for democracy!" he said. "How can political parties that do not practice intra-party democracy effectively participate in the growth of our national democracy when they have not held intra-party elections for more than a decade; some of them since 2005? How can they give what they do not have?" He insisted that the PF would continue to be the leading political force in the nation. "The Patriotic Front shall continue to be the leading political force, and it shall continue to be the revolutionary organization it is, because internal participatory democracy shall continue to be rigidly and strictly maintained welded together by patriotism and the voluntary acceptance of belonging to it. Therefore, no one dare challenge us when we affirm that the Patriotic Front remains Zambia's number one party of choice - head and shoulders above any other!" stated Mwila.

# Petroleum Management Bill will limit govt control - Energy Forum

By Geofrey Zulu

Energy Forum Zambia (EFZ) says there is need to enact the Petroleum Management Bill to give all stakeholders a clear roadmap of what government's role in the oil sub-sector will be. And EFZ has projected fuel prices will remain relatively low for at least two years depending on the performance of the local currency against major convertible currencies. In an interview, EFZ chairperson and energy expert Johnstone Chikwanda said stakeholders were anxiously awaiting the enactment of the Petroleum Management Bill to clarify government's role in the oil subsector. This follows a landmark pronouncement made by former Finance Minister Felix Mutati who told Parliament in November, 2016, that government would limit its role in fuel procurement. Mutati had announced at the time that oil marketing companies (OMCs) would takeover procurement of fuel into the country in March, 2017. But the Energy Regulation Board

(ERB) in January, 2017, announced plans to ban OMCs from importing fuel to force them to buy from the ailing Indeni Petroleum Refinery in Ndola, signalling government's tight grip on fuel procurement has still been maintained over two years on. "For us, as an industry, what we are looking at is patiently waiting when the Petroleum Management Bill is going to the Parliament because that Bill is the one that is going to inform, guide and mentor how various stakeholders are going to engage in the sector. We believe our concerns have been captured in that Bill, we haven't had sight of it, but that is something that all can anxiously look forward to," Chikwanda said. He explained that in the proposed Bill, the industry strongly requested government to ensure that there is sufficient exit management plan when government will be disengaged from participating in the procurement of refined products. However, Chikwanda observed that there is political will from the current PF administration, which gives

hope to the growth of the industry. He also is impressed with the progress made so far by Britain's Tullow Exploration Company in Northern Province, but he urged government to give regular updates on the ongoing oil exploration project. And Chikwanda projected that fuel prices will remain relatively low for at least two years depending on the performance of the local currency against major convertible currencies. He observed that the fundamentals that affect the fuel pump price other than international oil market prices and the performance of the local currency, were also a plethora of different factors that are loaded in the price model, which are country-specific. "We are projecting that the oil prices are going to remain relatively low for a couple of years; our projections are that they [prices] could be still in the range of 60 to 80 US dollars per barrel over the next few years," explained Chikwanda. He added that fuel price models differ from country to country as rates and taxes are put into consideration.





# 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 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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> to January 21<sup>th</sup> 2019;

10.4 Supporting documents such as CVs are to be attached as appendix  
Proposals should be delivered not later than 1700hrs on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

# Lungu's christianity is untraceable - Mucheleka

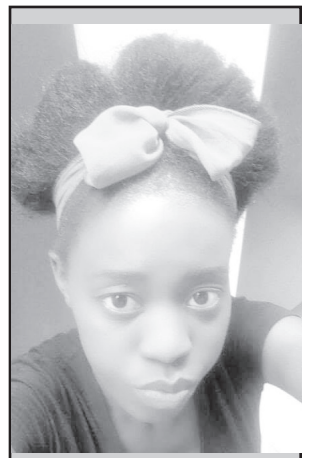
**By Thomas Mulenga**  
UPND Deputy Secretary General Patrick Mucheleka says President Edgar Lungu was not a Christian when he was residing in Chawama compound, adding that there is no church from where the Head of State's religious background can be traced. And Mucheleka says it would be a mistake to block Kambwili from taking part in the January 18 Dialogue process. Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star program, Tuesday, Mucheleka said all past Presidents had traceable Churches where they congregated except for President Lungu. "President Lungu was recently in Kitwe where

he was quoted that those who want to take over from him must be Christians like him. Come on! Who tells president Lungu that the others are not Christians and he is the only Christian? First of all, we know where we are coming from, we know who president Lungu was. Even today if you ask him to tell you which Church he belongs to, he won't tell you. He came from Chawama, people who live in Chawama know that he never used to go to any of the Christian Churches, if he became a Christian, perhaps he became a Christian after becoming President. But even with that, he has no right to judge, he believes that no one else is a Christian but himself," Mucheleka said.

"When you are a Christian there are certain Biblical and Christian values that you are expected to push for, such as promotion of peace, justice, reconciliation and equity. I am Catholic myself and I know that president HH is SDA, I know that late president Sata was Catholic, I am not sure about former president Rupiah Banda, but I know that President Mwanawasa was a Jehovah's Witness and later converted to being a Baptist, late President Chiluba was a member of UCZ, founding President, Kenneth Kaunda, son of a Church minister from the United Church of Scotland, and later on UCZ. But for President Lungu, you can't say

which Church he belongs to, who is his pastor?" Meanwhile, Mucheleka said the alliance of ten opposition political parties was giving the PF sleepless nights. "The alliance of ten political parties is the greatest 2018 year end gift to the people of Zambia and a 2019 New Year's gift. When we are talking about the abuse of public order act, the victim is not only UPND, the victim is also NDC, the victim is PeP, PAC is also a victim, ADD and all well-meaning political parties, except those that are aligned to the PF such as the MMD Mutati faction who are allowed to hold meetings with or without police notification. That is not the case with other political parties, we are ever followed and harassed wherever we go," Mucheleka said. And Mucheleka noted that the PF were trying to frustrate the dialogue process by shunning meetings called by the three Church mother bodies "There are people who have tried to destabilise the dialogue process, on the 28th of December, the three Church mother bodies were able to convene a successful dialogue consultative meeting with political parties, 25 serious political parties turned up. Of course our friends from PF boycotted that meeting. We are hoping that on 18th January, all political party leaders will turn up. It is in the interest of all stakeholders and the country to have this

dialogue. When we have tension in the country we should dialogue. Of course in PF, there are those hotbeds that would want the situation to continue being the same that the tension should continue, no! We should be able to fix this," Mucheleka said. Mucheleka also warned the PF that an attempt to prevent NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili from attending the dialogue process was a big mistake. "Concerning my brother Kambwili, if you are called to a meeting and other people have also been called, how would you start complaining about other people who have been invited? If NDC themselves have decided that they send their consultant Honourable Chishimba Kambwili to represent them, how should that worry anyone? Why should PF or someone in ZCID be worried if NDC decide to send Hon. Kambwili to represent them? Hon. Kambwili is a major stakeholder in this country, we all know that. And if you think you can use this process to get at him, you are making a very big mistake, let NDC decide who should represent them. You cannot start prescribing to others how they should attend the dialogue meeting, we cannot not go to PF and say since President Lungu is a republican President he cannot attend the dialogue meeting, no, he is the president of PF as well, leave that to PF to decide," said Mucheleka.



## Vespers' inquest to be heard on Feb 11

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
The Lusaka Magistrates' Court will on February 11 hear an inquest to ascertain how the UNZA student, Vespers Shimuzhila came to her death. During the said hearing, about 12 witnesses will be called to testify before the court can come up with a verdict. Shimuzhila, who was a fourth year student, died of suffocation in October last year after police allegedly burnt one of the hostels using a tear gas canister during a student riot. Later, the Zambia National Students Union demanded an independent inquiry into Shimuzhila's death. The Director of Public Prosecutions then ordered an inquest into the death of Shimuzhila. And when the matter came up for hearing before magistrate Silvia Munyinya, Tuesday, a prosecutor from the National Prosecutions Authority, Zalila Sakala informed the court that none of the interested parties in the matter, were present. He then asked for time to prepare summons to call the parties. "No parties are before court. We need to prepare summons to call them," he said. Sakala then applied that the matter comes up on February 11, this year, for hearing. Magistrate Munyinya then granted the request and adjourned the matter to the said date. Meanwhile, a 15-year-old male juvenile of Lusaka's Independence Township has appeared in court for allegedly having unlawful carnal knowledge of another juvenile, against the order of nature. In this matter, the 15 year-old is facing one count of unnatural offences contrary to section 155(a) of the penal code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence in this matter allege that on December 3, 2018, Lusaka, the juvenile had unlawful carnal knowledge of another boy against the order of nature. And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Ruth Kapulo, Tuesday, the juvenile could not take plea because his parents were not present in court. The matter comes up on January 14, for plea.

## 3 in court over land scam

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
Three people, among them, a retired Army officer and a government worker, have denied a charge in which they are alleged to have swindled a Lusaka woman out of K50,000, by lying that they had a plot to sell, when in fact not. In this matter, 60 year-old Joseph Mudada, a retired Army officer of Chalala; 35 year-old Moses Ngowani, a bricklayer, also of Chalala and a 43 year-old Human Resource Management Officer, Alfred Kalaba of Chilenje South, are facing one count of obtaining money by false pretences. It is alleged that the three, on October 4, 2017, Lusaka, jointly and whilst working together with intent to deceive or defraud, did obtain K50,000 from Violet Nthembi by purporting that they had a plot to sell when in fact not. And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Silvia

Munyinya, Tuesday, the accused persons all denied the charge. Magistrate Munyinya however noted that the first and second accused persons had not been consistent with attending court sessions before taking their plea. Asked why they had been missing court as they were supposed to take plea last month, the second accused said he didn't know which court to go to, whereas the first accused said he was in Solwezi. She warned them that if their attendance did not improve, their bail would be revoked. "If you want to continue with your police bond, you have to be consistent. Going forward, if I see that your attendance is not good, I will remand you in custody. This matter was allocated in December but you are only taking plea today," she said. The matter comes up on February 8, 2019, for trial.

# Zambia will collapse if PF wins 2021 - Kalaba

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Democratic Party (DP) 2021 presidential aspiring candidate Harry Kalaba says Zambia will collapse if PF is allowed continue governing beyond 2021. And Kalaba says his party will first focus on mobilising itself and making itself know before joining any alliance. Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's Let the People Talk programme Tuesday, Kalaba also said that he wouldn't want to drag Shepherd Bushiri's name into cheap politics by listening to those saying that he has decided to stand in 2021 because of a prophecy that he will be the next president. "This issue is not even about the PF [and] that is why I have looked at this thing from a very holistic point of view. What requires to be done now is a change of system. Unfortunately the PF leadership in its current state is not capable of changing the system because the system that is currently obtaining is obsolete. It requires to be challenged and it requires someone who can be very radical when it comes

to doing things like that. I will be very radical myself in the beginning [and] so many things will have to be called to order for us to make progress because when you don't do that then there is a problem," Kalaba said. "If the PF leadership was capable of turning the fortunes around, I would not even have resigned. That's why I was saying, to have this leadership of the PF continue beyond 2021 will be catastrophic. It will be very catastrophic for this country because this leadership believes in business as usual. You need to think outside the box. Look, just know that the PF will be kicked out in 2021." He said joining the alliance was not DP's priority for now because the party needed to get stronger first. "I think for me these things of alliances, no. First of all the people that have invited me to work with them, the Democratic Party, this is just a new party on the scene, strictly speaking and they require to spread the tentacles. They require to make themselves strong, they require to mobilise so that they can get stronger. So they need to restrict themselves to getting stronger

[and] when they get stronger, those issues of trying to be with that one and that one will come later," Kalaba said. Asked whether if it were true that he took his path after Shepherd Bushiri's prophecy that he was going to win the presidency in 2021, Kalaba said he would not be part of those who want to drag a man of God into cheap politics, but said he received the prophesy with both hands. "First of all how I wish that story is true, if that story is true, I receive it in Jesus' name so that it happens as it has been said, but the truth is that people will say all kinds of things in politics and for me I am now used. What I will pick I will pick, what I will ignore I will ignore. The fact is I am a Christian and I will continue being a Christian and there are fathers in the Christian faith that I listen to. Whether it is Shepherd Bushiri or not, I am saying Shepherd Bushiri is a prophet of God, respected by many and we are not going to drag him in cheap politics and I refuse to be part of those that want to mudsling a man of God, I say no," Kalaba said. And the former foreign affairs minister

said if elected President he would stop "the nonsense" of businessmen dancing to the tune of the governing party in order for them to win government contracts. "What kind of a country is this that unless you sing 'PF' that is when you are going to get a contract? If you have got a contract and you are singing another song, they will say 'no he is not supporting us.' Who told them that in this country unless you belong to the PF that is when you can have a meal? Who told them that unless you belong to the PF that is when you can breathe? Who told anybody that unless you become PF that is when your children should go to school? We are supposed to be guaranteed by virtue of being Zambians and that is why I have said even though our aspirations might be singular, we as a people, we as a country have got a shared destiny. here is no shop for Democratic party just like there is no shop for the UPND, I am yet to find one. There should even be nothing like because I am a business man and I should dance to the tune of PF, I am going to end this. I will stop this nonsense," said Kalaba.





# Democratic Party

*Let's believe again!*

**Why we deserve your vote**



## Ambition, Character in Leadership



The latin maxim ; Nemo dat quod non habet, literally meaning "No one gives what they don't have "puts many of us that aspire for Public office on trial. Going into 2021, the Zambian people must look beyond political ideologies espoused by those aspiring for political leadership (Public office) and further into the character of the aspirants. As has been the case, we have asked far 'too much' from men and women with serious shortcomings on their character. We have been unfair to them, ourselves and the great nation of Zambia.

We have become a nation accustomed to 'kwalolo mwela and ebo batushila type of politics, applying little or no introspection to the decisions that will affect generations. Others too, will throw unnecessary jibes and deliberately way-lay the masses to accepting this mediocre style simply because they fall short of the character and substance demanded of a leader. The level of character that this Great nation of Zambia desperately needs.

The question stands, If Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and team maintained a high level of discipline and character. Why then should we fail to do it now? Why have we celebrated individuals with flawed characters and blown-off the candles of those like Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika, Peter Magande to mention a few, that have propagated for character and integrity in leadership.

In this article, we look into the character and integrity of the 2021 Presidential aspirant Hon Harry Kalaba.

Its an undeniable fact that the state of nation is a reflection of its leadership. Nations like Singapore under the leadership of Lee Kwen Yue which in the the 1960's had a lower GDP than that of Zambia, nations like China which in the 1980's decided to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty to become the worlds powerhouse and indeed our Burkinabe brothers who embarked on a journey of self-discovery and sustenance all have one thing in common- Leadership, Leadership with character laced in charisma, passion and a clear understanding of the past, the Present and the future. Having the extraordinary ability to reconcile the three elements for the benefit of the nation. This is what the Democratic Party and Harry Kalaba present! A competitive leadership with the energy, drive and selfless passion that puts the interest of the nation and its people first as required for such a time as this, with a deep embodiment of knowledge of the global economy and politics, and the mind to apply R&D, innovation for our nation to stand out in this global village. All this done with the realisation that time is not our best ally.

A Noviate (Roman Catholic-White Fathers) still given to a prayerful life, a family man with one wife, a civil servant par excellence, having served upto Assistant Director level until his resignation in 2008, a representative of the beloved people of Bahati, a Deputy minister and finally a full cabinet minister in his 30's until his resignation in 2018. The DP 2021 Presidential candidate carries a clear message of Hope, restoration and most importantly- Calling the Country to Order. Heralding the belated need to return our great nation

back to its glory days.

When he served at the vice Presidents office as deputy minister, he supervised the programmes that looked a continually averting crises as the embarrassing perenial cholera outbreaks in the capital city. At the Ministry of lands, he demystified the myth that one had to have political influence or friends to acquire a title deed. It was during his tenure that the ZILMIS land management system was introduced to increase efficiency in land alloaction and management of land in Zambia. He was of the thinking that for as long as Zambians had no title deed, the very sovereignty and identity of the Zambians was threatened. Access to capital also hinged heavily on the issue of ibdigenous Zambians holdibg title to Land. During his time at Lands, its on record that the highest number of title deeds were issued to indigenous Zambians. The DP Presidential candidate was then elevated to the position of full Cabinet minister to overlook Zambia's foreign policy a position he served for over four (4) years. Its during this time that we saw the nations FDI sharply increase and countless bilaterals, JPC's signed in our favour, including heading serving key roles in the regional and continental bodies.

This is the man we present to Zambia. A man who believes in a shared vision for prosperity and who is highly allergic to corruption hence his resignation from the corruption tainted Edgar Lungu led cabinet. A man with inherent love for mother Zambia and for you and I.

***Lets Believe Again!***



By Mirriam Chabala

Raphael Nakacinda says the Felix Mutati-led MMD faction has chosen to strengthen the party as it awaits the court's ruling in a matter in which Nevers Mumba's team is challenging the legality of its leadership.

Nakacinda, who is the faction national secretary, told News Diggers! in an interview that his party was optimistic that the courts would soon make a determination in their matter so that the parallel Mumba-led faction could cease its disruptive behaviour in MMD party affairs.

"For us, we are already in the mood of mobilization and organising the party. Those who have gone to litigate and whatever, that's their business. But we are just optimistic that those shenanigans can be brought to a close quickly so that the continued disruptive behaviour of certain elements that have wanted to claim to be leaders of the party can be brought to a stop; so that the party can begin to concentrate more

# Mutati's MMD keeps fingers crossed awaiting court ruling on leadership wrangles

on mobilising than to be answerable to unprofitable sentiments. But there is no effect [really]; it doesn't stop us from organising ourselves. It doesn't stop us from doing the programmes we are undertaking, and mind you, very soon, we will start elections in the provinces. So, those who are still going to court and whatever, they are wasting their time. What they should have been doing is to participate in the elections of the party, and the convention is coming; they can come and participate at the convention if they think they have something to offer this country and to the party," Nakacinda said. And Nakacinda, the nominated member of

parliament, added that the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) should only be inviting political parties recognised by the Registrar of Societies when conducting consultative meetings. "What we are saying is that, when there is a consultative meeting of political party presidents, it should be political party presidents that should attend, and the criteria should be very clear: you go to Registrar of Societies and get a list of political parties registered in this country, and also the leaders recognised by the Registrar of Societies, and let them be the ones to attend that consultative meeting. But when we now start the dialogue

process, I want to believe that during those open preliminary sessions, stakeholders, civil society, trade unions and others, will equally be invited and be given the total number of those that represent those organisations. I think it will also be open to other political players in whatever form and shape, they are welcome to participate. But we can be having confusions where we have a summit or meeting of political party presidents and you have people who are not presidents, [but] belong to four political parties at the same time [in attendance], you can't have that kind of confusion," said Nakacinda. "You remember that this is

a continuous programme. We had the Secretary Generals' meeting in Siavonga, where we agreed on areas that, as political players, we felt needed to be dealt with. After that meeting, that's when we approached the Church to chair a process that would be all-inclusive with other stakeholders. But before the Church can start that process of chairing, we needed to agree on the

administrative aspect of this dialogue process, meaning that we needed to set up a secretariat, and we agreed to have a joint secretariat between ZCID as well as the three Church Mother Bodies. Secondly, we needed to also structure the dialogue process in terms of the time, the milestones that need to be achieved, up to the time that those reforms that should be proposed, can now go to Parliament for enactment. We also agreed on the agenda for a meeting of party presidents and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It is that MoU that we will need to bring the presidents about. When the presidents have nodded to say: 'this is the correct thing to do', we proceed now to invite other stakeholders."

## Opposition alliance will ditch dialogue if I'm blocked - CK

By Mirriam Chabala

National Democratic Congress (NDC) 2021 Presidential candidate Chishimba Kambwili has insisted that the opposition alliance will walk out of the national political dialogue meeting if any of its members is not allowed to attend.

And Kambwili has asked Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) president Andrew Ntewewe to respect the opinions of those challenging the Constitutional Court judgment in President Edgar Lungu's edibility case, saying every Zambian has the right to express their thoughts.

In an interview with News Diggers, Kambwili said the newly formed 10-member opposition alliance was speaking the same language and that it would not entertain the humiliation of any of its members either by President Lungu or ZCID.

"I am going to attend the national dialogue meetings as a member of NDC. If they don't allow me, then we will walk out [as opposition alliance] members because we are working in unison. How do you expect a body, you cut off the leg and you expect the whole body to be intact. When you cut off the leg, the whole body is injured and it can't function. We work and speak one language, so if they eliminate anyone of us... and it's not just about Chishimba Kambwili, anyone of us, then we will walk out," Kambwili said.

"That's why we have decided to be working together so that we do things together. So if you touch anyone of us, you touch all of us, that's the principle. That's why we refused for ZCID to be part of the process because we knew that the whole essence of bringing ZCID on board is to try and bring in certain issues that would eliminate others from attending the dialogue meetings. But this dialogue is not only about political parties, it is actually about national issues. So NDC is an independent party and they have a slot for three participants and they have decided to include me. So who is Edgar Lungu and ZCID to refuse me to attend? And why are they scared of Chishimba Kambwili?"

Meanwhile, Kambwili said Ntewewe should stop threatening those challenging the ConCourt ruling in President Lungu's eligibility case, saying they had the right to challenge it just as those supporting the ruling also had the right to do so.

"Tell Ntewewe that that's his opinion and he should respect other people's opinions. If his opinion is that the Court has made a decision and nobody should talk about it, we respect his opinion but let him also respect other people's opinions to discuss these matters because nobody can tell anybody to stop discussing certain things in Zambia, nobody has that right. We all have the right to express ourselves. The problem with some of these young boys in these NGOs is that they are made to drive a certain agenda and we don't want to go into details as to what YALI's agenda has been. The people of Zambia already know who YALI is. So let him leave other people who want to make a comment make a comment, he should not be threatening people with going to jail," said Kambwili.

Recently, Ntewewe had advised the pioneers of the opposition alliance to stop discussing the ConCourt judgment in President Lungu's eligibility case, saying they might go to jail if they continued bickering over it.

# Lungu heads to South Africa for medical treatment

By Zondiwe Mbewe

State House has announced that President Edgar Lungu yesterday left for South Africa to seek medical attention.

In a press statement yesterday, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda stated that President Lungu was going to South Africa for an urgent consultative meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa on the electoral process in Congo DR.

He however added that, the President would thereafter attend hospital for his "routine annual medical review".

"His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia will this afternoon (yesterday), leave for South Africa for an urgent consultative meeting with his South African counterpart President Cyril Ramaphosa on the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After the summit on the DRC, the President will attend hospital for his routine annual medical review," Chanda announced. Meanwhile, Chanda stated that in his absence, President Lungu had designated Vice-President Inonge Wina to act as President until he returned.

Sources told News Diggers, Monday, that the Head of State had not been enjoying good health in the past few days and sought to be

treated in South Africa urgently. The sources added that State House was going

to suspend all appointments with the President until about January 21, leaving his

availability for the January 18th national dialogue event in question.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu (right) walks Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis after a meeting at State House in Lusaka yesterday - Photo by Salim Henry



“Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (LWSC) would like to advise members of the public to ignore the message being circulated on social media claiming that water has been contaminated and that the utility has advised people to desist from consuming it. LWSC has not issued any notice of that nature and we would like to advise our customers to ignore that message. It is very clear that the message, which is from an anonymous source, is an attempt at alarming and causing unnecessary panic amongst members of the public”, read a statement from the water utility last week.

But merely a day after the Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company released this statement, denying that there was any water contamination in any parts of the capital city where they supply the commodity, it came to their attention that they were wrong and the social media alerts were accurate. Nyumba Yanga, NAPSA Complex, Malata Compound and parts of Ibex Hill had actually been badly hit by typhoid and other waterborne diseases.

To say that this was a poor way of handling a public relations issue is an understatement. This was beyond negligence of duty. Negligence of duty would be keeping quiet or doing nothing when reports are flying around that there is water contamination in the city. But encouraging members of the public

# LWSC negligence explains annual cholera crisis in Lsk

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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to drink a commodity that is believed to be poisonous is an act of extermination.

Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company did not just deny that there was water contamination in the said residential areas; they actually went ahead to assure the vomiting victims that water was not a source of their sicknesses so it was safe for them to drink more of it. This is very annoying, and we are glad that a group of residents in the affected areas have taken legal action against Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company.

Like former State House press aide George Chellah rightly observed, in a typical old-fashioned public relations management style, Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company rushed to deny what they had not yet investigated. Meanwhile, scores of families were trooping to nearby hospitals

and health centres desperately seeking medical help.

As if that was not enough mess on one crisis, we are further told by residents of NAPSA Housing Complex that the water utility actually lied about the measure it was claiming to have put in place to prevent the spread of contamination. When Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company came to admit that, indeed, there was water contamination in the areas, which they had declared safe, they claimed that they had doubled the dosage of chlorine in order to purify the water pipes and storage tanks. But when inspectors from the Ministry of Health visited the residents to test the water quality, the results revealed that there was no chlorine in the water at all!

This water contamination crisis speaks volumes about the capacity of Lusaka

Water and Sewerage Company to provide safe drinking water to people. Zambians should no longer be surprised that Lusaka faces a cholera crisis every rainy season. Those employed to manage water sanitation are playing games with human life, printing useless statements from the comfort of their offices without having a clue on what it is truly happening on the ground. When the whole population rises to protest, that is when they step out to see the mess.

This careless manner of managing life-threatening problems is very dangerous and must be condemned in the strongest terms. Not even animals in a zoo deserve to be treated with this level of negligence. In fact, it would be a crime if a zookeeper subjected wildlife to poisonous food and the animals died. Lusaka Water and Sewerage company needs to put its house

in order before their negligence leads to the much-dreaded cholera outbreak.

And this crisis mismanagement actually reminds us of how the PF government deals with similar situations, and there are lessons to be learnt here. The PF is also very good at this “dismiss first, get facts later” approach. It is a defence mechanism that has shamed everyone in this regime, including the President himself.

In today’s age, an institution cannot just dismiss a report as “social media gossip”. Social media has become a very strong tool for disseminating information, and government leaders, along with those culprits at Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company, should invest in some fact-checking training so they can know what to dismiss and what to take seriously. It is foolish to deny facts for the

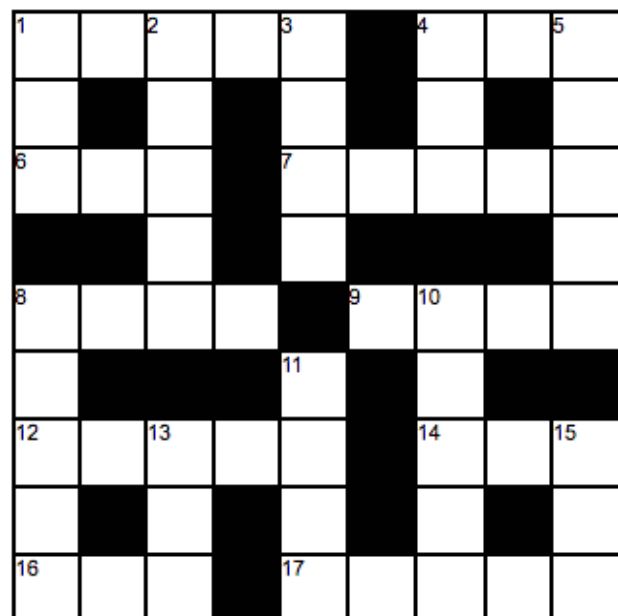
simple reason that the information was first heard on social media.

There is no journalist in the world today who can claim to have more detailed information on an issue than all the people on social media. In the same vein, there is no government leader anywhere in the world who can claim that they have better facts on a public matter than all the social media users.

This is a digital age, Zambians who come across vital information will not wait until they find a phone number for Paul Shalala at ZNBC so that the national broadcaster can share the information on its 19:00 hours news. Whistleblowers will simply publish what they know on social media and it is up to investigators to take a bite and verify.

Social media is not anyone’s enemy; it is a pool of data for everyone who has interest to dip in and make use of the information that is relevant to their interests. Only companies like Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company will disregard social media reports and face such avoidable humiliation. Bwana Patson Phiri, do your PR, but izi nzelu zaku sewerage zisale mu 2018.

## Crossword puzzle 268

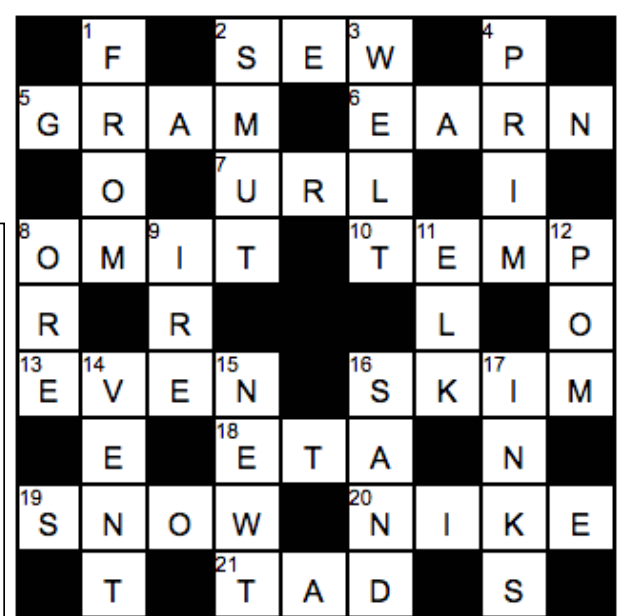


*“Be steady and well-ordered in your life so that you can be fierce and original in your work.”*

*- Gustave Flaubert*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adhesive</li> <li>4. Wee drink</li> <li>6. Significant time period</li> <li>7. Sugary</li> <li>8. Belt out a tune</li> <li>9. Thing that's worshipped</li> <li>12. Buyer's concern</li> <li>14. Unit of corn</li> <li>16. Regret</li> <li>17. Sheepish</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Round baked dessert</li> <li>2. Blemish</li> <li>3. Effortless</li> <li>4. Observe</li> <li>5. Flower feature</li> <li>8. Outstanding</li> <li>10. Nightmare, e.g.</li> <li>11. Pay for use</li> <li>13. Drink cooler</li> <li>15. Purge</li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Solutions to puzzle 267





# 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.

## Kafwaya's explanation on expatriates driving GRZ vehicles

Editor,

"The Minister is right. An expatriate working for the government can drive a GRZ vehicle. What is required is

a valid Zambian/SADC or International driver's licence of the said expatriate and a certificate of competence issued by govt to enable one drive a govt vehicle, and due authorization by the concerned Permanent Secretary authorizing the said expatriate to drive the given govt vehicle during and after working hours and over the weekend. It's called a 'weekend pass'." - Musa Ziba

"As Minister in charge of all govt transport, Kafwaya is not even sure as to whether foreigners are allowed to drive GRZ vehicles. He is not inspiring at all, and this is where I have a problem with most of these Ministers. They are not assertive all because they need to keep their jobs. Foreigners are not allowed to drive GRZ vehicles, period. Likewise, Zambians are not allowed to drive GRZ vehicles, unless they have passed a certain GRZ driving test." - Mike Phiri

"Foreigners working in GRZ, just like Zambians are allowed to drive government vehicles subject to having valid drivers' licenses, driving competency and if driving on weekends, 'weekend pass'." - Mushika Simukama

"At this day and age having these kinds of people running government makes you sad because the guys know how to speak their English, and most of them are good graduates, but when they are given certain responsibilities they are turned into 'sebana wikute.' Zambia, today, does not need either expatriates or foreign investors. The reason is simple: Zambia has more than enough experts in every field from education to mining at every level, but are undermined by people like who think the Chinese man is important or knows better than a Zambian." - Mofi Kaseketi



## Banda's request that dialogue shouldn't be used to embarrass Lungu

Editor,

"Corruption and its architect is not worthy of any respect at all. This dialogue is unconditional unless those who do not want to participate have some guilt and are afraid of own embarrassment. Truth does always come out no matter how long it takes!" - Donald Oscar Phiri

"Bayopa chani? Is discussing and finding common solutions to problems embarrassing? PF at it again, this dialogue will finish PF if not well handled." - Hon Malama CM

"If talking about electoral reforms; application of POA; police brutality; discrimination in public service; respect of law or rule of law, including the Constitution; fair use of public media houses and respect of voters' choices in the dialogue process is not respecting Mr Lungu, then let it be. Zambians will respect any leader at any level who will respect their laws." - Matakala Musialela

"Dialogue is long overdue and can't be delayed any further!" - Chanda Emmanuel

## KCM's decision to cut ops due to new tax regime

Editor,

"We will now see if the President will not tolerate that as he promised. Let's see who is a man between mine owners and the President as Kabimba put it." - Enock Samakupa

"This is the only way investors have managed to arm-twist the government. Government must put its foot down and maintain the new taxation." - Billy Kunda

"I hope government has the resolve to stay course on this standoff. Surprisingly, this is the same KCM that has had all manner of financial problems even before the coming into effect of the new tax regime. Government must not give in to such arm-twisting and blackmail." - Felix Nkonge

"These mines will do anything to defraud us. It's high time government also played tough and repossess mines that are not compliant. There are a lot of other investors looking for business opportunities." - Robert Mwanza

"KCM is the worst mining investor this country has ever had! Why can't our govt take over operations at KCM?" - Harri Sons Oko

"Government please don't change the goal post. If they want to go, let them just go!" - Jala Luke Mujala





*At first glance, life is proceeding as normal in DR Congo's bustling capital -- most schools in Kinshasa are open, while rush hour traffic advances at a typical crawl. AFP*

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed an expected U.S.-North Korea summit in talks in Beijing on Tuesday, Yonhap news agency said, days after Kim warned he may take an alternative path if the United States does not ease sanctions. Kim's visit to China, confirmed by North Korean and Chinese state media, comes amid plans for a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

South Korea's Yonhap, without identifying its sources, said the two leaders held talks for an hour in which they discussed the second U.S.-North Korea summit and strengthening bilateral ties. The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by Xi and his wife, Yonhap said. Kim held three summits last year with Xi, his most important ally, before

## North Korea's Kim discusses expected summit with Trump in talks in China

and after summits with Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Kim and Trump pledged to work towards denuclearization at their landmark June summit in Singapore, but the agreement was short on specifics. Negotiations have made little headway since.

"Kim is eager to remind the Trump administration that he does have diplomatic and economic options besides what Washington and Seoul can offer," Harry J. Kazianis, Director of Defence Studies at the U.S.-based Centre for the National Interest, said in an e-mailed statement. "In fact, during his New

Year's Day speech, Kim's 'new way' that he referred to may well have been a veiled threat to move closer to Beijing. That should make America quite concerned."

Kim left for China on a private train on Monday afternoon accompanied by his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and senior North Korean

officials, including Kim Yong Chol, a key negotiator in talks with the United States, and foreign minister Ri Yong Ho, North Korea's state-run KCNA news agency said. China's official Xinhua news agency confirmed that Kim was visiting from Monday to Thursday at Xi's invitation. **REUTERS**

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## Afghan Taliban cancel peace talks with US officials in Qatar

The Afghan Taliban have cancelled peace talks with officials from the United States in Qatar this week, following disagreements

over the agenda of the meeting, the group confirmed on Tuesday. The two-day talks were scheduled to

begin on Wednesday in capital, Doha. The Taliban had rejected the participation of Afghan government officials in the

deliberations.

Taliban have rejected numerous requests from regional powers to allow Afghan officials to take part in the talks, insisting that the US is their main adversary in the 17-year war and that Kabul is a "puppet" regime.

The Taliban, Afghanistan's largest armed group which was toppled from power by a US-led invasion in 2001, called off their meeting with the US officials in Saudi Arabia this week following Riyadh's insistence on bringing the Western-backed Afghan government to the table.

The talks will be the fourth in a series between Taliban leaders and US special envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad.

"After mutual consultations, we are going to meet US officials in Doha on Wednesday. The meeting will continue for two days - Wednesday and Thursday," said a senior member of the Afghan Taliban on condition of anonymity. Pakistani and Iranian

officials said they were trying to persuade the Taliban to meet Afghan officials.

Another senior Taliban leader confirmed the Qatar meeting and said no other country would be involved. At the request of the US, a Taliban office was established in Doha in 2013 to facilitate peace talks.

But the office had to be closed after the Taliban came under pressure for hoisting the same flag at their office that the group used during its rule in Afghanistan.

Subsequently, the then Afghan President Hamid Karzai halted all peace efforts, saying the Doha office was presenting itself as an unofficial embassy for a government-in-exile. The flag has since been taken down and the office has remained empty with no official announcements of a possible reopening.

Talks with the Taliban have since been taking place elsewhere in Doha. **NEWS AGENCIES**



*Skin-whitening creams are being removed from shelves in Rwanda as the government enforces a ban on the products. Sales in African countries are worth billions every year. But many fear the ban in Rwanda will encourage women to buy unregulated products which could put their health at risk. AL JAZEERA*





## Stoke sack Rowett

Gary Rowett has been sacked by Stoke City after just eight months as their manager with the club struggling to challenge for an immediate return to the Premier League. The 44-year-old Englishman, who left Championship rivals Derby County to take over Stoke after they were relegated from the Premier League, has overseen just eight wins in 26 league matches leaving them 14th in the table. Stoke are eight points off the play-off places and 14 adrift of Norwich, who occupy the second automatic promotion spot. His final match in charge was the 1-1 draw with third tier Shrewsbury Town in the third round of the FA Cup last Saturday. One of his predecessors, Mark Hughes, was sacked just over a year ago with them struggling in the Premier League and having been knocked out of the FA Cup by fourth tier Coventry. "Stoke City have terminated the contract of manager Gary Rowett," read a club statement. "Members of his immediate coaching staff have also left. "The club would like to thank Gary and his staff for their efforts over the past eight months." AFP

# Rio robber's bloody mistake mugging a female MMA fighter



*Polyana Viana (left), seen here in a bout against JJ Aldrich in August 2018, brought the hapless perp down with two punches and a kick and held him in a "rear-naked choke" before making him sit and wait for the police. AFP*

A robber who tried to steal a cellphone from a young woman in Rio de Janeiro learned the hard way that mugging a mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter who goes by the nickname "the Iron Lady" is not an excellent idea.

Polyana Viana, an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) strawweight, brought the hapless perp down with two punches and a kick and held him in a "rear-naked choke" before making him sit and wait for the police, she told the sports website MMA Junkie.

The attempted crime happened late Saturday as Viana, 27, was waiting for an Uber outside her apartment block. She said the man told her he had a gun but she surmised it probably wasn't real and in any case "he won't have time to draw it" before she went into action.

After subduing the assailant she discovered the weapon was in fact a cardboard replica of a pistol.

Viana posted images of the would-be robber, looking dejected and bruised, with blood on his sleeveless shirt and on a hand, as she kept his arm in a "kimura-like position" until the police arrived.

"Since he took the punches very quickly, I think he was scared," she told the site.

She said that, after the suspect's processing by police and treatment for his injuries, she went home and made dinner. Her hands hurt a bit the next day, but nothing serious and she was otherwise unharmed.

Muggings are a constant risk in Rio and other cities in Brazil. The country's new president, Jair Bolsonaro, was elected on promises to crack down on crime. AFP

# History beckons as Serena shoots for Slam history at Australian Open

Serena Williams is back in Melbourne as hot favourite to repeat her 2017 Australian Open win and claim a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam with rivals, including defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, battling health issues and poor form. Williams won her 23rd title and seventh at Melbourne Park while eight weeks pregnant two years ago, and now attempts to match Margaret Court's mark of 24 singles majors on the Australian's home soil. The 37-year-old enters the tournament ranked 16 in the world but has proved in the past that such numbers mean little to her, despite fresh memories of her meltdown in losing the US Open final to Naomi Osaka in September.



Her 2017 triumph Down Under gave Williams the outright open era record for singles majors ahead of Steffi Graf's 22, leaving only Court's tally of 24 titles -- 13 of which were earned in the amateur era before 1968 -- for Williams to chase.

Williams missed her first chance to match Court when losing last year's Wimbledon final to Angelique Kerber, and said ahead of the Australian Open that she was taking nothing for granted.

"It's something that I clearly want but I have to be able to get there and beat a lot of good players to get it," the American said.

Regarding the controversial final against Osaka at Flushing Meadows -- when she raged against umpire Carlos Ramos who imposed three code violations, the final one resulting in the loss of a game -- Williams said she had put it behind her and intended to "move on to bigger and better things".

Bookmakers in Australia have installed Williams as a short-priced favourite for the title with her US Open conqueror Osaka -- the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam -- next in the betting.

- Osaka shines -  
The 21-year-old Osaka backed up her US Open win by riding a wave of fanatical home support to reach the final of the Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo without dropping a set. She warmed up for

Melbourne by making the semi-finals of the Brisbane International last week, where she blamed a poor attitude for losing to Lesia Tsurenko.

"I feel like last year I did a lot of that," she said. "I'm trying to change it more, and I think I have."

While she is the leading light for the next generation, the world number four's status as second favourite points to a lack of serious rivals for Williams among the more established players.

Wozniacki, ranked three, started last season by winning her first Grand Slam in Melbourne and returning to world number one, but ended it in October with the bombshell announcement that she had been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

The 28-year-old Dane insists she can manage the debilitating auto-immune condition, which sometimes leaves her so exhausted she cannot raise her arms above her head. AFP



# EGYPT TO HOST 2019 AFCON

Egypt will host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations between June 15 and July 13, Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Ahmad Ahmad announced in Dakar Tuesday. The CAF executive committee preferred Egypt to South Africa as replacements for original hosts Cameroon, who were dropped due to delays in preparations and concerns over security.

"I am pleased to announce that Egypt will host CAN (Cup of Nations) 2019," Malagasy Ahmad told reporters.

"I want to thank the two countries -- they came to the rescue of the CAF when we saw that the evolution of the work in Cameroon was not developed."

A CAF official told AFP that Egypt received 16 votes from the executive committee, South Africa one and there was one abstention.

Ahmad made the announcement just hours after CAF said it would not disclose the winner until Wednesday to allow the media to concentrate on the annual awards ceremony in Dakar later Tuesday.

It will be the fifth time Egypt stage the biennial showpiece of African football after 1959, when the country was called the United Arab Republic, 1974, 1986 and 2006.

Egypt only entered the running to host the Cup of Nations when fellow north African country Morocco announced

they would not bid to do so. Morocco were the hot media favourites to replace Cameroon as hosts and Egypt said they "did not want to compete against a fellow Arab nation".

Egypt boast many international-standard venues with the Cairo International Stadium (72,000) and Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria (87,000) boasting the largest capacities.

Ismailia, Port Said and Suez are other possible venues for tournament matches as the Cup of Nations returns to north Africa after a 13-year absence.

- Challenges -

The choice of Egypt will immediately make them favourites to win a record-extending eighth Cup of Nations title this year.

They won three of the four previous tournaments they hosted, failing only in 1974 when they were beaten by Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) in the semi-finals.

The star of the current team, Liverpool attacker Mohamed Salah, is favourite to retain the African Player of the Year award in Dakar.

Security and weather will be two challenges facing Egypt in the first Cup of Nations to feature 24 teams, up from 16 in Gabon two years ago.

Egypt faces a constant terror threat in the volatile Middle East region and the weather during the tournament is expected to be hot and humid. Djamel Belmadi, coach of 2019 qualifiers Algeria, said recently that he would prefer South Africa to host the tournament because of the cooler weather conditions there.

"It is almost impossible to play (in Egypt) given the heat and humidity," he told the Algerian media. "The weather conditions in South Africa are more pleasant."

Egyptian football official Karam Kordi responded: "It would be better if Belmadi said he was afraid of the enthusiastic Egyptian supporters."

Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia and Uganda have qualified for the 2019 tournament.

The other 10 places will be filled after the final qualifiers between March 18 and 26. **AFP**



Vietnam's midfielder Trong Hoang Nguyen (down) tackles Iraq's defender Ali Adnan during the 2019 AFC Asian Cup group D football match between Iraq and Vietnam at Zayed Sports City stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. **AFP**

## Fergie delivers rousing call to arms to United players

Manchester United's legendary former manager Alex Ferguson delivered a rousing call to arms to the players, insisting they could make the club successful again, a source close to the Premier League team told The Sun.

The 77-year-old Scot -- who guided United to numerous trophies including two Champions League titles during his 27-year reign -- has

played an increasingly prominent role since former striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became interim manager following the sacking of Jose Mourinho.

The latest intervention from Ferguson, who has made a remarkable recovery from the brain haemorrhage he suffered last May, came at the behest of Solskjaer and took place at the training ground.

The squad are presently in Dubai for a training camp ahead of Sunday's clash with Tottenham Hotspur which represents a real test for Solskjaer to maintain his perfect record of five wins in five matches.

"He (Ferguson) told the lads that this group will make United dominant and successful again," the source told The Sun.

"He said that he believes in them and he wants them to enjoy themselves and to fight hard for each other and leave everything on the pitch."

Ferguson told the players that in Solskjaer -- who has put a smile back on the players faces since the departure of the volatile Mourinho -- they could look forward to happier times. **AFP**

