



STOP DIALOGUE NOISE - MUTATI

Let's focus on fixing electoral reforms

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MMD president Felix Mutati addresses journalists at his house on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mwila urges media to demystify nuclear power

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has called on the media fraternity in the country to help demystify nuclear science technology to help correct the misconception that it is usually used for dangerous purposes.

And Mwila says to enhance electricity generation and supply, government has invested in the development of energy infrastructure, which led to the addition of 2,000 MW of hydro and thermal power to the national grid last year.

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Lungu has failed, Wina must takeover - UPND

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND deputy secretary General Patrick Mucheleka says President Edgar Lungu

must be impeached and Vice-President Inonge Wina should finish his term of office because the first family seems

to be on a mission to sabotage Zambia's economy.

In a statement, Mucheleka stated that it did not make sense for the first family to be enjoying luxuries whilst the masses were suffering. "Edgar Lungu and his family must immediately be democratically be impeached and allow the Vice President Inonge Wina to complete Lungu's last term in office. Those who are close to Mr Lungu and love him will agree that stepping down is the most dignified exit he can do for now if he was to enjoy some bit of respect," Mucheleka argued.

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Brace for tougher economy this year, Musokotwane tells Zambians

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Howard spends K1.4m CDF money on grader

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By Thomas Mulenga
UPND deputy secretary General Patrick Mucheleka says President Edgar Lungu must be impeached and Vice-President Inonge Wina should finish his term of office because the first family seems to be on a mission to sabotage Zambia's economy. In a statement, Mucheleka stated that it did not make sense for the first family to be enjoying luxuries whilst the masses were suffering. "Edgar Lungu and his family must immediately be democratically be

Lungu must be impeached - Mucheleka

impeached and allow the Vice President Inonge Wina to complete Lungu's last term in office. Those who are close to Mr Lungu and love him will agree that stepping down is the most dignified exit he can do for now if he was to enjoy some bit of respect," Mucheleka argued. "As UPND, we keep receiving and reading disturbing reports and news items of citizens in

distress situations, while Edgar Lungu and his family are over-enjoying in the luxuries! Farmers in most parts of the country have not been paid their money for last season's crop produce, while [the] majority have also not received fertilizer and other inputs for this farming season, which is almost coming to an end. Council, Zampost, National Housing and other workers are going

months without salaries, retirees are languishing, students in higher learning institutions are going without allowances, schools have opened yet most pupils won't see the classrooms due to economic hardships by parents, plus money other economic problems facing citizens." He noted that the first family seemed to be on a mission to sabotage Zambia's economy.

"On the economic, citizens are losing jobs in the mining sector and other industries due to Edgar Lungu's continued economic sabotage coupled with corruption. These are the same people that have been telling other citizens to implement austerity measures. It is increasingly becoming clear that Mr Lungu and his family are on a sabotaging mission and possibly planning to run

away from Zambia. There is no way a Zambian citizen, especially who claims to be leading such a troubled country, can be acting in this reckless manner of total disregard for fellow citizens," said Mucheleka. And Mucheleka noted that both President Lungu and First Lady Esther Lungu had undertaken foreign trips with huge entourages while the country continued to grapple with economic challenges. "Amidst all these problems, we are reading reports of Edgar Lungu's wife Esther Lungu travelling to the United States of America with a delegation of 25 people just to receive some donated and obviously second-hand firefighting equipment. Our modest calculations indicates that the trip may cost the tax payers as much as K2.5 million (K2.5 billion old currency) in business class, allowances, hotels and other incidental costs associated with the travels by the First Family in Zambia. And all this happening at a time when Edgar Lungu is leading another huge delegation hibernating outside the country receiving first-class medical attention all at tax payers' expense," stated Mucheleka.

Lsk firm plans to invest \$72m in Chibombo

By Thomas Mulenga
Central Province permanent secretary Chanda Kabwe says a Lusaka based company has announced its plans to invest \$72 million in a Paprika production and processing plant. In a statement, Kabwe said investors were been attracted to invest in the area due to the good investment environment created by President Lungu and the investment expo that was held in the province last year. "Green Crop Field Investment Limited has announced plans to invest US\$72 million in the Paprika production and processing in chief Liteta's area in Chibombo District. The private company intends to establish a Paprika plantation as well as a processing plant on a 6,000 hectares land in Kakoma ward. Apart from Paprika, the Lusaka based company would also be involved in the growing of Stevia and Marigold at the site once the project is approved by relevant government ministries and

institutions," Chanda stated. "The investment by the Lusaka based company is a demonstration of his excellence President Edgar Lungu's visionary leadership which has created conducive environment for investment. The project also fit well in the country's 7th national development plan which is promoting private investment for economic development. We are equally glad that Green Field Crop Field Investment Limited is coming in our province following a successful 2018 investment forum and expo which

was aimed at unveiling investment opportunities in different sectors in our region." Chanda disclosed that the \$72 million worth of investment was part of the \$432 million that the company wanted to invest in more than 80,000 hectares of land. "The \$72million is part of the \$432million that the farm wants to invest in more than 80,000 hectares depending on the availability of land across Zambia. The project has been necessitated by the friendly investment environment in the country

coupled by the demand for Paprika on the World market. If approved, the project would also bring electricity to this remote part of the district as well as road infrastructure," stated Chanda. "There is hardly doubt that the plantation and the processing plant would significantly improve the household economies of the local people and contribute to the economic development of the district as a whole. As Provincial Administration, we are inspired and grateful to the president for his guidance

and pledge to continue to attract investment pledges and we would like to assure him that we will remain committed to implementing friendly investment environment as enshrined in the 7thNDP. We have since recommended for a land area of development plan and strategic environment impact assessment as per requirement under section 21 of the urban and regional planning act of 2015. The SEA is inevitable in view of the fact that the proposed land of the local farmers grazing land," Chanda said.

Muchinga Province MP buys grader from CDF

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Muchinga MMD member of parliament Howard Kunda has purchased a K1,440,000 worth grader for his constituency using CDF. And Central Province Permanent Secretary Chanda Kabwe has handed over the machine to the Muchinga District Council for use.

Speaking at the official handover of the machine on Saturday, Kunda, who is also parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson, warned those mandated to run the machine not to misuse it as they risked being cited in the Auditor General's report. "I would like to take this time to thank the good

people of Muchinga constituency for supporting the idea to buy a grader for themselves, which we envisioned since 2014. I would also like to make mention here that coming from the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC), I want to urge the people in charge of running and operating this machine to be responsible

and account for each service given. If the one's in charge use the machine for personal use, they will be quoted in the Auditor General's Report and when you come before us, we won't spare you," Kunda warned. "This machine you are seeing belongs to you. If anyone misuses this machine then they have misused your personal property, thus the need to guard it jealously with a monitoring committee in place. And from now on, we will no longer have to wait for government to send us a grader to do our roads, we shall do it using our own. This will be a relief for government as well, as it supplements its efforts to develop the rural road networks."

can have the much-needed food in the district and, indeed, in the country at large and ensure that food security is guaranteed. As a district of agriculture, we would want to mention that with good roads, our people can access any area without any difficulty and with that I am referring to issues surrounding the health sector in our constituency," said Kunda.

"We would want to see a situation where a hand is given to us [and] the education sector is not forgotten because we know that it starts from education for us to reach where we are and continue on the promise of the people of Muchinga constituency and the people in the district are well-looked after. And we expect that this [grader] will be used as such and whoever would want to work with it would have to come to the Council and pay a little because we have to maintain the machine and also buy fuel and lubricants for it so that it can work for the people of Muchinga and not a situation where it will just park without the people of Muchinga benefiting from it totally." And Chanda congratulated Kunda for utilizing the CDF to better his constituency.

Ministry of Tourism to open game ranches

By Milimo Namangala
Ministry of Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Reverend Howard Sikwela says various chiefdoms will be empowered by the introduction of more than 10 in game ranches this year. Speaking when he concluded his visit to Mpongwe over the weekend, Rev Sikwela announced that the Ministry will embark on introducing at least 10 game ranches across several chiefdoms this year. He explained that the initiative was meant to enhance community development in the relevant chiefdoms. "Tourism and Arts Permanent

Secretary PS Reverend Howard Sikwela says his Ministry targets to open more than 10 community game ranches in various chiefdoms this year. The PS said most of the chiefs believed the initiative is good and should have been introduced a long time ago," read a statement released by Ministry of Tourism and Arts Public Relations Officer Sakabilo Kalembwe, Monday. Rev Sikwela emphasized the importance of the government under President Edgar Lungu in sensitizing and empowering communities. "He said there is need to sensitize and empower as many communities as possible and this would be achieved through the government under

President Edgar Lungu. Rev. Howard Sikwela said the various benefits would include community development in the chiefdoms. The controlling officer has so far met held a meeting with Mumena Chiefdom in the Kalumbila District of North-Western Province; he visited Shimukunami Chiefdom of Lufwanyama; he visited Lumpuma chiefdom in Lufwanyama, he visited Chiwala Chiefdom in Masaiti and he visited Malembeka Chiefdom in Mpongwe," read the statement. "The programme is meant to empower chiefdoms with their own wildlife resources and reduce pressure of demand for special licenses during traditional ceremonies."

If Kambwili attends dialogue, PF will send its intercity branch - Sunday

By Thomas Mulenga
 PF media director Sunday Chanda says if NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili attends the dialogue process, the ruling party will send its Intercity branch as representatives. And Chanda says Kambwili must be under the influence of evil spirits which make him insult President Edgar Lungu on a daily basis. Speaking at the PF interactive forum, Sunday Chanda said the dialogue process was being adulterated. "A well-meaning dialogue process is being adulterated right before the eyes of the Church and other stakeholders, by Mr Kambwili and the UPND. And it's not fair, for a lack of a better term, to allow some people to urinate on the intelligence of the Zambian people, that cannot happen, we have no time to waste.

If there is an insistence that he must attend the dialogue process, we will send our intercity branch to represent us, we have no time to waste," Chanda said. And Chanda warned Kambwili of physical reaction from PF over his strong language on President Lungu. "The honest thing that Hon Kambwili has to agree is that his greatest enemy is not the PF, his greatest enemy is not Sunday Chanda, but that his greatest enemy is his own mouth. He has a big mouth, probably to borrow the words of late President Sata, his mouth and his brain do not coordinate. Because had there been proper coordination, he would have been remembering that what I said yesterday is not tallying with what I want to say today. Because he thinks that progressive politics is about insulting the Head of

State, we have made it clear that the rate at which he is going, he must be prepared because for every action, there is a reaction, there is a corresponding reaction. The angle he has taken, the insults that he continues to shower at the head of state, Mr. Kambwili must not be surprised when one of these days he attracts the most appropriate reaction for the kind of politics that he is doing," he said. "In Bemba we say 'uushumfwila kumatwi, omfwila kunkanda,' simple (he who can't listen with ears, can only listen by being beaten). President Lungu has got people that love him, he has got supporters. They are not going to sit idle while Mr Kambwili disparage the President's name, we are not going to allow Mr Kambwili to abuse his freedom of expression, his freedom of speech to



insult President Lungu, that we won't do." Chanda said Kambwili must be under the influence of evil spirits. "We are not going to allow ourselves to be subjected to the circus and the clowning of Hon. Chishimba Kambwili. One thing we find very interesting about him is that when he insulted the good

Tonga speaking people of Southern province, and he later on went to make what was to be an apology, he told the people that he was being used by an evil spirit. We don't know now that he is insulting us, now that he is insulting President Lungu, we don't know what is influencing him, we don't know which evil spirit is using him and we suspect

that he is once more under the influence of the evil spirit," said Chanda. "And it is very difficult for us to engage with such a man who inconsistent with his inconsistencies. Not long ago, he called GBM a 'kapoli' (Pig), not long ago he said unprintables about HH and today he wants us to believe that because he said he was under the influence of evil spirits then we must forget what he said in the past and who he is. He said he cannot be represented by President Lungu because the president has no integrity, what is integrity? Integrity is saying what you mean and meaning what you say, being consistent with your own words. Look at the inconsistencies and the flip flopping, look at President Lungu and look at Mr. Kambwili himself, sadly, he the type that doesn't want to look at the man in the mirror."

We need to fix the electoral system - Mutati

By Tenson Mkhala
 Movement for Multi-Party Democracy faction leader Felix Mutati says quarrelling about who should or shouldn't attend the dialogue meeting is diverting focus from important issues like fixing the electoral system and constitutional reforms. And Mutati said the Church is a critical partner in dialogue as it plays a vital role in making sure that peace prevails in the nation. Addressing journalists at his house in Lusaka, Monday, Mutati said the noise around who should attend the national dialogue was unnecessary. "There should be no quarrelling as to who should attend the national dialogue. If we are going to invest more time and say this one will attend and that one should not attend depending on their political standing then, we are not going to address the substance of the issues which are issues around the Institutional and Constitutional reforms. So

I think we are spending a bit more time dealing with issues around processes and procedures and other noise when indeed we have a lot of work that must be undertaken by all of us," Mutati said. "And for me, the delayed implementation of these reforms is costing this Country. It is costing this Country in terms of diluting investor perception. It is costing the Macroeconomic flame work such as exchange rates. So it is in the interest of us Zambians to make sure that this program succeeds. We need to talk about issues around the civility of our politics,

issues of tolerance which is important and also issues of fixing the electoral system which to me are issues we must spend time on as a nation." He said dialogue should not be an opportunity for political parties to fix each other but be a platform for resolving outstanding issues affecting the nation. "The dialogue as a platform, should not be used as a platform for politicians to fix each other but, it should be there to be able to bring out solutions that will accelerate the implementation of the critical reforms and strengthen the governance institutions as a bases of

improved service delivery," Mutati said. And Mutati said the Church was the critical partner dialogue as it played a vital role in making sure that peace prevailed in the nation. "The Church still remains the critical partner in various social service delivery. It is the critical partner on this journey of dialogue. A number of you will recall that we had a challenge of

debt under HIPIC. We had a debt of more than Eight billion dollars at that time and it was the Church that campaigned vigorously to international to have that debt written off and indeed it was written off. So for us, they play a very critical role. And so, we are saying are confident that there is no absence of capacity of aspiration by all the parties involved to resolve these issues," said Mutati.

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Job Opportunity

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA
 PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS PROGRAMME (PRP)**

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR KAPIRI MPOSHI CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

The National Assembly of Zambia wishes to recruit the following staff for the KAPIRI MPOSHI CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:

- PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT (1)**
 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE POSITION

To facilitate the Parliamentary work of the Member of Parliament in the constituency and to co-ordinate all activities arising thereof.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have a minimum of grade 12 certificate, with a demonstrated capacity at mathematics (a certificate in a business related field would be added advantage).
- Must be a resident of the constituency with good interpersonal skills Proof of residence to be provided.
- Must be familiar with the constituency
- Will be required to perform all duties in a completely non-partisan manner. In this regard, must have no active affiliation with any political parties.
- Driving of Motor bike will be an added advantage.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Employment is on contract basis for an initial period of five (5) years, renewable at the discretion of the Honourable Mr Speaker.

All applications should be submitted to Kapiri Mposhi District Council by 21 January, 2019. The date for interviews will be communicated and therefore applicants should include contact addresses and phone numbers for easy communication.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has called on the media fraternity in the country to help demystify nuclear science technology to help correct the misconception that it is usually used for dangerous purposes.

And Mwila says to enhance electricity generation and supply, government has invested in the development of energy infrastructure, which led to the addition of 2,000 MW of hydro and thermal power to the national grid last year.

In PF's weekly newsletter

Mwila urges media to demystify nuclear power

to News Diggers! Mwila has called on the media fraternity in Zambia to help demystify nuclear science technology to help correct the misconception that it is usually used for dangerous purposes.

He explained government had signed four MoUs

with Russia's ROSATOM for a period of 15 years to transform Zambia into a hub of nuclear science for peaceful purposes with a view to transforming Zambia into a hub of nuclear science. He added that if that undertaking was to succeed, the media had to help

demystify nuclear science because there was a wrong perception that all things nuclear were dangerous

"All the four MoUs are aimed at: training young Zambian nuclear energy engineers; planning for nuclear power plant personnel; developing a nuclear energy regulator

as well as building a nuclear plant, which shall provide medical and agricultural services and energy. However, if this undertaking is to succeed, then the country's media has to help demystify nuclear science because there is a wrong, yet deeply-entrenched perception, that all things nuclear are bad and dangerous," Mwila explained.

He noted that the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) in attaining the Vision 2030 goals had prioritized the implementation of specific strategies to attain core outcomes that would, among other things, lead to improved energy production and distribution for sustainable development.

"The 7NDP has thus diagnosed the weaknesses, which have plagued Zambia's energy sector and hindered economic diversification, namely: inadequate and delayed investments in electricity generation and transmission infrastructure; the failure to diversify energy generation sources for over 30 years; historic inadequate incentives to attract private investment in the energy sector, and climate change challenges," Mwila stated.

And he noted that in order to enhance the generation,

transmission and supply of electricity in Zambia, the PF government had significantly invested in the development of energy infrastructure, which led to the addition of 2,000 MW of hydro and thermal power to the national grid in 2018.

"The PF government through the Ministry of Energy and Water Development has also partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in developing the Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff (REFIT), with a standardized Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The establishment of the REFIT has led to the inclusion of a greater number of newer and diverse private sector partners who specialise in Renewable Energy Generation in order to further diversify the energy sector for Zambia's sustainable development towards the attainment of Vision 2030," Mwila added.

He stated that to promote other alternative energy sources besides hydro-power generation, government was promoting the generation of electricity from Heavy Fuel Oils (HFOs), a by-product from the Indeni Petroleum Refinery.

Meanwhile, Mwila stated that government was currently implementing the Kafue Gorge Lower hydro power project, which would add 750 MW to the national power grid once completed in 2020.

"In addition, the PF government is implementing the Batoka Gorge hydro-power Project. Once fully implemented, the project has a future capacity of adding 2,400 MW shared between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also, four potential hydro-power generation sites have been identified in Northern Zambia and which have the potential capacity of generating 1,100 MW of electricity once the projects are fully implemented," stated Mwila.

"The 7NDP exposed inadequate incentives to attract investment in the energy sector over the past 30 years as one of the major factors that have been responsible for hindering the growth and diversification of the sector in Zambia. In addressing this challenge, the PF government is succeeding in creating adequate incentives to attract investment in the sector. This is evidenced by several new investors in the sector such as Global Lake of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). In this partnership, CDC is an equity partner to develop 247 MW across Kalungwishi River. This hydro-power project is valued at approximately US \$690 million."



Teaching Council of Zambia registrar Dr Envy Mubanga when he paid a courtesy call on Central Province Permanent Secretary Chanda Kabwe yesterday - picture by Joseph Mwenya

AU Commission awards UNZA K9.3 million research grant

By Milimo Namangala

The African Union Commission has awarded the University of Zambia (UNZA) a grant contract worth K9,336,06.94 to research "Diversity of Aspergillus species and aflatoxin contamination along maize and groundnut value chains in Eastern and Southern Africa".

According to a statement availed by UNZA's public relations manager Damaseke Chibale, the project will address food safety and health issues in communities caused by the fungi species Aspergillus, which produces aflatoxin prevalent in maize and groundnuts.

"This new project will enhance understanding of the prevalence and distribution of aflatoxins, their impact and mitigation strategies along the maize and groundnut value chains in Eastern and Southern Africa. This project will be managed by the School of Agricultural Sciences and Directorate of

Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Zambia," Chibale stated.

"Assistant Director for Research, Directorate of Research and Graduate Studies and Senior Lecturer in the School of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Zambia, Dr Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, says that Aflatoxins are poisons produced by Aspergillus flavus and Aspergillus parasiticus which are certain type of fungi."

The Aflatoxins affect maize grain during their transportation and storage, while groundnuts are equally affected at growing stage through the pods as well as during transportation and storage, according to the statement.

Chibale added that concerns were being raised by communities on the negative health impact Aflatoxins since it is found in animal feeds, maize and groundnuts.

"Due to the poisonous nature of

Aflatoxins, there is growing concern about food safety and public health issues as many communities in the dry lands are at high risk. This is because Aflatoxins can also be found in food products of groundnuts and maize such as oils, peanut butter, groundnut powder, mealie meal and animal feeds from these produce," explained Chibale.

"Currently, there is a knowledge gap in developing countries due to inadequate resources and insufficient capacity for aflatoxin analyses. Consequently, few data are reported from developing countries and those available are usually based on only a limited number of samples from a certain geographical location in a given country.

In March, 2018, a call for proposals was made to which UNZA responded as the lead applicant under the leadership of Principle Investigator, Dr Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, Assistant Director for Research, Directorate

of Research and Graduate Studies and Senior Lecturer in the School of Agricultural Sciences at UNZA. Other members of the consortium include, National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute (Uganda), Haramaya University (Ethiopia), Busitema University (Uganda) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Malawi). Out of 295 applicants, only nine (9) were awarded, among which was the University of Zambia and its partners."

According to the statement, the African Union Research Grants Programme is financed through the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the African Union Commission under the Pan-African Programme based on Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 establishing a financing instrument for the development cooperation (DCI) for the period 2014-2020.

By Mirriam Chabala

Chief Mnukwa of the Ngoni and Chewa-speaking people in Eastern Province says the traditional leadership in his Chiefdom has appointed a Committee of Inquiry on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), teen pregnancies and early marriages.

Chief Mnukwa told News Diggers! in an interview that the appointed committee, which is comprised of headmen and head teachers, would be responsible for ensuring that parents whose children were not in school due to early marriages or pregnancies were reported. He added that head teachers in all schools would ensure that girl children were tested for pregnancies at the beginning of each term and must report in

Chief Mnukwa acts to end child marriage

writing of any child who fell pregnant or was absent from school for more than three days.

Eastern Province recorded a total number of 24,731 teen pregnancies last year, with Chipata ranking first with over 5,000, followed by Lundazi with 4,898 cases, according to official statistics.

"I recently had a meeting with the headmen where we were just planning what we should do this year. We were planning

our development agenda for this year and some of the issues we have concentrated on the issues of GBV, teen pregnancies and early marriages. We want to ensure that we control these vices. So, what we have done as a chiefdom is that firstly, we have to know where we are. When you talk of teen pregnancies and early marriages, we want to know the number of people we have in these villages... how many children are in

school, for example. So, we have said, let's have the details on the number of children who are in school. So, we have lined up situations where we have to know the number of children who are at school, in all the grades, who are boys and who are girls," Chief Mnukwa narrated.

"...and as such, we have set up a committee called 'GBV, Early Marriage and Teen Pregnancy Committee', this will ensure that we know exactly where

we are this year, 2019, in terms of how many girls are in school and how many are not. Then from there onwards, we monitor what goes on. If a certain number of children are in school, we want to ensure by the end of the year how many of them have made it to December being in school? Then we will know how many have fallen out due to pregnancies and other things so that we can help them. So, through this committee, we will

ensure that the next time you ask me to say 'what is the progression in your chiefdom, what have you achieved on GBV, I should be able to give you figures. Because for now, when they say 'Eastern Province or Chipata has got so many teen pregnancies', we do not know exactly where these problems are. So, in the chiefdom, we will tend to tackle that in that manner." He explained that the idea of setting up the committee was in order for the chiefdom to have all the cases of GBV, early marriages and teen pregnancies well documented.

"Headmen will ensure that they report any parent whose child is not in school or is married off. Head teachers will ensure that girl children are tested for pregnancies at the beginning of each term and must report in writing any child who is pregnant or is absent from school for an extended period of more than three days. A GBV and educational centre will be built near the palace to house the secretariat office. The idea is to have all GBV/ early marriages and teen pregnancies cases well documented. We have dedicated three hard working individuals to lead this fight. We have linked our GBV activities to the Chipata main GBV drop-in centre. The fight against GBV is made difficult by stigma, those who are affected either do not report or take long to do so. However, a lot of sensitisation has been done and will continue to be applied," said Chief Mnukwa.

Immigration consultant gets 2 yrs for forgery

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced an Immigration Consultant to two years imprisonment with hard labour for forging a bank statement he wanted to use to acquire an investor's permit for two Indians.

The Court has further fined him K2,000 in another count, in default, serve three months simple imprisonment.

Meanwhile, the Court has acquitted two Indian investors who were jointly charged with the convict.

This is the matter in which Roy Kunda, 41, an Immigration Consultant; Agarwal Kumar, 41 and Chawla Vineet, 41, both directors, were facing five counts of forgery and giving false information to a public officer.

Particulars of the offence in count one were that on March 28, last year, Kunda made a false written statement to the Immigration Department that Kumar and Vineet had in their accounts held at Finance Bank Zambia and Barclays Bank Zambia US\$250,000 financial capital to invest in Zambia, when in fact not.

In the second count, it was alleged that Kumar, on March 26, last year, made a false written statement to the Immigration Department purporting that he had US\$250,000 capital in his account held at Barclays Bank which he wanted to invest in Zambia.

In the third count, it was alleged that on March 26, last year, Vineet made a false written statement to the Immigration Department purporting that he had US\$250,000 capital in his account held at Barclays Bank which he wanted to invest in Zambia.

In the fourth count, between March 1 and 28 last year, Kunda and Kumar allegedly forged a bank statement number from Barclays Bank Zambia.

And in the fifth count, it was alleged that between March 1 and 28 last year, Kunda and Vineet also forged a bank statement number from Finance Bank.

When the matter came up for judgement, Monday, magistrate Nsunge Chanda said the State had proved the case against Kunda beyond reasonable doubt.

Evidence in this matter was that; Kunda was an Immigration Consultant while the two Indians were directors at Prestine Mining Company.

It was also a fact that the trio had a meeting on how to process an investors' permit and that Kunda, who was engaged to offer immigration consultancy services, advised the Indians that they needed an investors' permit for them to start processing manganese in Zambia.

He told the duo that they needed to pay \$250,000 each for them to acquire an investors' permit, but the investors told him that they needed three months to raise the \$500,000, which they were going to pay in installments.

Kunda however, told them that he would borrow the money from his other investors to help acquire a

permit for them and they could later pay him back the money.

In mitigation, Kunda asked for the court's leniency as he was the first offender.

He added that he was a breadwinner and a number of people would suffer if the court did not exercise leniency on him.

Passing the sentence, magistrate Chanda said it was clear that an Immigration Consultancy was supposed to help clients with all documents pertaining to an investor's permit.

She said she had no doubt that the State had proved the case against Kunda, but however acquitted the two Indians saying the State

had exonerated them of the offence.

Magistrate Chanda regretted that Kunda's actions had painted a very bad picture to other investors who would want to come and invest in the country.

She said it was a shame that Kunda who was supposed to follow rules and laid down procedures, aided a crime.

"I have to punish you to deter your friends," she said.

In the first count one, magistrate Chanda fined Kunda K2,000, in default three months simple imprisonment.

In the fourth and fifth counts, she sentenced Kunda to two years imprisonment with hard labour each, but to run concurrently.

Andyford explains PAC's decision to contest 2021 general elections

By Mirriam Chabala

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says PAC will contest the 2021 general election as an independent political party despite being in the opposition coalition.

Banda called in Hot FM's Red Hot Breakfast show, Tuesday, where he clarified the fact that the opposition alliance was not formed for purposes of fielding a sole candidate to defeat President Edgar Lungu in 2021, but only to unite and speak with one voice on issues of common interest.

Banda added that the alliance did not mean the 10 opposition leaders whose parties had come together stopped functioning independently.

"There seems to be a lot of misrepresentations on the reason why the alliance was formed. The alliance was not formed to prepare

for 2021, as far as we are concerned in the People's Alliance for Change. This issue was not tabled when we discussed coming together. We only discussed coming together for the purposes of issues of common interest. Things that affect all of us, such as electoral reforms, the Public Order Act, media reforms, etc. So, that was the first stage of the alliance; these other issues of forming an alliance to challenge the PF in 2021 was something that could have been discussed after we had passed the first stage. Now, we need to understand that as a party, we are not breaking any cords of the alliance; that's the reason why we are participating in the Sesheke by-election. If you asked anyone from the alliance, they won't tell you that we are going against what we agreed," Banda explained.

"But there are also other issues that we need to look at. We are a

growing political party, we just turned three years about last week and we are full of emerging leaders. So, I think we owe it to a number of Zambian people to present them with a new generation of leaders, and that is the principle of why we..."

At this point, Banda was interrupted by the presenter who asked if PAC had made its decision to contest the elections in 2021 prematurely seeing that the alliance was yet to agree what it was all about with the other political party leaders.

But in response, Banda said the alliance did not mean that the united parties should stop functioning as independent parties. "Well, like I mentioned, the issue of presenting one candidate in 2021 has never been tabled by the alliance. But we cannot stop other alliance members who feel like that to discuss the issue. It's within their

right. Just as much as it is within our right to continue participating in elections and continue mobilising for 2021. So, it will be strategically wrong for the People's Alliance for Change to fold hands and forget about mobilising for 2021, with the hope of fielding one candidate. We are a growing political party; we need to continue working; we need to continue growing. What if the alliance doesn't work? It's not even a guarantee...but once it's works, once the first stage is done, then we can start thinking to say, how do we mobilise individual political parties for 2021? In any event, it is important for members of the alliance to continue mobilising so that come 2021, if we have to come together, we should bring different fruits on the table so that we can have enough people to top the PF. But for now, that issue has not been discussed," replied Banda.



Democratic Party

Let's believe again!

Why we deserve your vote



Changing the Space and the Narrative for a Paradigm Shift-What Zambia needs!

Globalization and Interconnectivity

World over, there is increasing realization of the closely knitted connectivity of the global community through various factors of globalization anchored on technological advancement for unified responses as a common people, across the global ecological landscape, financial terrain, goods and services, capita and culture. Appreciating the close connectivity of nations across regions and far internationally as a whole, the global village has some artificial borders with strategic positioning of countries and leadership according to power and financial strata. However, the sovereignty of each member state and its people is profound in pushing each nation's agenda as an equal participant with full autonomy and authority across the global village platform.

It's not an accident that we witnessed global discord at the recently held G20 summit of 2017 in Hamburg which failed to reach consensus on a number of key issues including climate change, anti-protectionism and over capacities as countries remained stuck to their positions of their interests within the one global village dictates. Clearly, no country can exist outside the one global village. We are dependent on each other for socio-economic growth, political enhancement and to protect the common inheritance of our mother nature the environment, with failure of united action to promote the health of the later, leading to catastrophic consequences for all, and more so for small economies with limited resilience and mitigating capabilities.

A good and visionary Leader always gives a bird's eye view to important issues within the parameters of his nation's purview and endeavors to drive a Pro aris et focus agenda asserting the country and the people's interests at home and abroad.

Globalization and interconnectivity has set countries on a better and improved path for development. Important agreements have been made, for which countries of the South with visionary leadership have catapulted social economic advancement and with global recognition of the leadership efforts.

Zambia on the Global stage

It is not enough for Zambia to be part of the global agenda without presenting any of its socio economic and cultural strength to the global village agenda. Zambia needs to reclaim the position it once held on the world stage with the Leaders and the People espousing two (2) elements;

1. Reconciling the Past and Future:

There's an urgent need to reconcile the Past and the future through its application to the present. English writer and Political activist Stephen Fry wrote; "How can we understand our present or glimpse our future if we cannot understand our past? How can we know who we are if we don't know who we were? History is not the story of strangers, aliens from another realm; it is the story of us had we been born a little earlier."

There's need to have valuable lessons from the past drawing modern analogues on successes and failures of President K.D. Kaunda's era, the Late President FTJ Chiluba's era, the Late President Levy Mwanawasa's era, President Rupiah Banda's era and the Late President Michael C.Sata's Era. The desire to premise the current and future needs on the history of yester years ensures

moving forward without stagnation in one place and ebbing back into socio-economic oblivion as the case is currently.

We have very good examples to draw lessons from: Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia incorporated in 1967 to produce Nitrogen Chemicals and with the first plant commissioned in 1970 as a coal based plant to produce 50,000 tons of Ammonium Nitrate annually. 50 years later, we have not moved in line with the growing demand for fertilizers and the increased number of farmers, but Instead we have opted for perennial importation of fertilizers. Why should we be importing such a key component in Agriculture when we have already demonstrated ability to produce our own 50 years ago.

By 1980, Zambia had 140 companies in the textile industry including ginneries and provided employment for 25000 Zambians. Today, Zambia has little to show for growth of this important industry. The largest producers of cotton are in Mumbwa and Chipata, yet there are no textile industries closer to home to promote the market edge for farmers. Farmers toil and get to give away their hard-earned production to any buyer who manages to show up at their doorstep.

Unemployment continues to escalate. Youth unemployment is at its highest, lets draw on the lessons of the 1970s and 80 and advance the solutions highlighted in the agenda 2063 and the 2030 sustainable development agenda, to find solutions for job creation, socio-economic growth and for improved human development for global competitiveness.

2. The Paradigm Shift: Moving boundaries to shake the comfort zone of tractable doldrums

Zambia is at the crossroads with impending macro-economic instability and vulnerability necessitate by insatiable borrowing for consumption, non-profit making infrastructural development and by large for grand theft. The huge external debt of \$16 Billion dollars borrowed neither with a national roadmap for liquidation nor a bankable and profitable plan for its execution has made the country to slide back to the days of the 1980s when the country was almost insolvent. A paradigm shift of the conceited efforts of the great people of Zambia is therefore eminent. With the urgency, it deserves and positive attitude, we need to collectively correct the facets.

- Ensure Policy direction that promotes the interest of the country and the people at large: Zambia needs a visionary leadership that will promote and protect the interests of the Zambians in all decision making and policy directions. The first right of refusal of national asserts must be for the Zambians and not the foreigners. The exploitation of wasting asserts of the country should benefit the Zambians and not the foreigners and the a few Zambians lining their pockets. Dealing with the mines has been a 'walking on eggshell' experience for Government when copper accounts for 62% of our total export earnings. With this level of mono commodity dependence, price fluctuations, change in production costs/overheads and indeed the proposal of Tax regimes has serious implications on the economy.

There is need for well researched positions to move any discourse with the mines, place patriotic and well qualified Zambians with global competitive competences

in positions of influence and management in the mining sector, including having Zambian owned and operated mines.

Just how far is the government willing to toll the line of tug of war and arm-twisting with the mines? What mitigation measures has the government put in place for any anticipated socio-economic casualties?

How can different mines have different agreements with one Government? How can Government deal objectively with the mines when Government leaders directly and through proxies have contracts to ferry mine produce? How do we expect Government to deal firmly when a mining conglomerate being investigated can invite the Head of State for Golf? How does the politically and economically unstable Congo DR manage to attract the crème-dela-crème of mining and we do the opposite? As precarious as the position is, political rhetoric will not resolve the impasse. We need ensure policy coherency, institute fundamental changes in mining policy and in development agreement negotiations, including stiffer punishment for induced negotiated positions favored by exchanges of money.

- Enhanced Science and Technology Base and Innovation

A country can never grow its socio economic and development potential in the modern day without expanding its science and technological scope across all fields of development.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development identifies Science and Technology and Innovation as key enablers of development for the 21st Century. Countries that have invested in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses have demonstrated economic dominance as the case of the shifting economic balance to Asia. While individuals may have limited capabilities to learning STEM, its application to skills and everyday existence is universal, including in small-scale farming, craftsmanship, bolts fitting among others.

2) Patriotic, Pragmatic Public Service: The Public Service leadership and civil service is important structure for expedited delivery of development projections and for provision of public support services. A civil service should be above aboard in the execution of its functions, drive for results, reward innovation and should be a productive industry that can create jobs and generate resources for government use and for collective posterity. Transformation of the civil service and to make it compulsory to adhere to the core values and principles as enshrined in the constitution is profound. Patriotism to the country and to the people of Zambia should guide the services and work programs of the civil service.

3) Zambian owned, led and Inclusive Private Sector: A robust and national led private sector unlocks the key of sustainable development. The Democratic party and its 2021 Presidential Candidate Harry Kalaba will undertake to institute a transformative agenda that will take Zambia out of its current economic doldrums to a growth trajectory with creation of decent jobs for all.

**Vote the for Democratic Party 2021.
Let's Believe again!**

Congo voting data reveal huge fraud in poll to replace Kabila

By Tom Wilson and David Blood in London and David Pilling in Johannesburg

Martin Fayulu was the clear winner of the Democratic Republic of Congo's presidential elections last month, a Financial Times analysis of two separate collections of voting data shows, contradicting claims from authorities that rival contender Felix Tshisekedi had won the historic vote.

The analysis points to huge fraud in the first change of power since Joseph Kabila took over the presidency of the mineral-rich central African nation almost 18 years ago. It is likely to embolden critics of Mr Kabila who suspect the Congolese leader is seeking to cling on to power through a deal with Mr Tshisekedi.

According to a trove of election data seen by the FT and representing 86 per cent of total votes cast across the country, Mr Fayulu won 59.4 per cent of the vote. Rival opposition candidate Mr Tshisekedi, who was declared the surprise winner last week, finished second with 19 per cent, according to this set of data.

An FT analysis of a separate set of voting results collected manually by the Catholic Church's 40,000 observers and representing 43 per cent of turnout shows that Mr Fayulu secured 62.8 per cent of this sample of votes. The results gathered across 28,733 polling points match almost perfectly the more extensive set of official results seen by the FT.

The larger set of data, a spreadsheet containing more than 49,000 records, contains the true electronically-fed results that authorities have sought to conceal, according to a person with direct knowledge of how the data were obtained. The person, who is close to Mr Fayulu's camp, asked for anonymity because the data contradict the electoral commission's official declaration.

The figures provided are electronic tallies from 62,716 voting machines across the country and were obtained from the electoral commission's central database before the results were announced last week, the person said.

An FT analysis of the tallies shows a near perfect correlation with the Church's partial results — with a correlation coefficient ranging from 0.976 to 0.991 for each of the three leading candidates (1 representing a perfect match).

The new figures support the Church's assertion last week that the electoral commission published false results.

"It is extremely difficult to believe... that tens of thousands of lines of data could have been fabricated on short notice to produce these results without signs of tampering," said Jason Stearns, director of the Congo Research Group at the Center on International Cooperation, a New York think-tank, who also reviewed the leaked data. "This highlights the need for a full, scrupulous audit of the election tallies."

The electoral commission denied its results were fraudulent. Barnabé Kikaya Bin Karubi, chief diplomatic adviser to Mr Kabila, said it would be up to the constitutional court to decide on the validity of the election and declined to comment on any potential fraud. Gilbert Kankonde Nkashama, a spokesman for Mr Tshisekedi, said it was impossible that Mr Fayulu had won the election and questioned the independence of the Catholic Church.

Mr Fayulu is seeking to overturn the result in the constitutional court, although the court's impartiality has also been questioned.

Congo, a former Belgian colony of 80m people, has held only four elections since independence in 1960 and has never before had a transfer of power through the ballot box. Mr Kabila was due

to step down in 2016 but elections were delayed until street protests and regional pressure forced him to hold the vote.

Mr Kabila's ruling coalition had sought to retain control of the presidency through Emmanuel Shadary, his chosen successor. Mr Fayulu's supporters have alleged that when voters failed to come out for Mr Shadary in sufficient numbers — he finished third — the election commission was told to install Mr Tshisekedi instead.

According to the results seen by the FT, Mr Fayulu received more than 9.3m votes, 3m more than the electoral commission announced, and won in 19 of Congo's 26 provinces, including the capital Kinshasa and the heavily populated eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. In contrast, Mr Tshisekedi scored 3m votes, the data indicate, 4.1m fewer than the electoral commission showed, while Mr Shadary secured 2.9m votes, or 1.5m votes fewer than the published tally.

The data show the results of 15.7m out of the 18.3m votes that were cast on election day, but the missing votes could not have resulted in a different winner. Malfunctions in voting machines meant that not all vote tallies were transmitted to the central database, the person with knowledge of the database said.

The file takes the form of a spreadsheet of comma-separated values, a format used by many software packages to store tabular data, and runs to more than 49,000 rows. Each polling station is identified by a unique six-digit number.

The FT analysis also found no significant evidence that the data deviated from Benford's law, a statistical test commonly used in fields such as forensic accounting to identify fraudulent data. *FINANCIAL TIMES*

By Mirriam Chabala

UPND Economics and Finance Committee Chairman Situmbeko Musokotwane says government's promise that 2019 will be a year of economic prosperity should not be taken seriously because it is not supported by objective facts.

And Musokotwane has predicted that mines will subtract from the country's overall economic performance, in view of disagreements over the new tax regime.

In a statement, Musokotwane said 2019 could hardly be expected to be a prosperous year because of the high risk of the Kwacha losing its value against other currencies, as the government budget indicated that debt servicing in 2019 would require about \$1.5 billion.

Musokotwane, whilst wishing citizens a happy new year, highly doubted that 2019 would be a year of economic prosperity and called on Zambians to brace themselves for more economic hardships.

"The government is painting a rosy economic picture for 2019. This is extremely misleading for the average Zambian and UPND is not alone in being skeptical about a prosperous

Brace for tougher economy this year, Msokotwane tells Zambians

2019. The international media is awash with reports and analyses about the impending economic crisis in Zambia, largely due to the country's excessive national debt. Strangely, it is only in Zambia where there is no active discussion about this crisis. The rosy picture from the government is based on their projection for strong economic growth in 2019. In the Budget Speech, the following was said to be the contribution of mining to economic growth in 2019: "The mining sector will also continue to be important through its linkages with other sectors and the generation of foreign exchange." Unfortunately, the envisaged role of the mining sector in the expected 2019 economic growth has turned out to be the opposite of what was desired," Musokotwane stated.

"As things stand, the mining sector will actually subtract from the overall economic

performance of the country, arising from the disagreements over new mine taxes which the government introduced in the 2019 Budget, some mining operations have been closed. New investments have been suspended and labour force has been reduced. The mining sector is in turmoil. The debt national problem is contributing to this problem. Our government is desperate for cash as it realises that it is unable to deliver services adequately and still pay off its debts. So, it finds itself forced to impose all sorts of taxes and levies to raise some cash. In the fury of doing so, the government has even overlooked the fact that the cow that brings milk must not be overtaxed to the point where its productivity is rendered negative. Contrary to the expectations of the government, these negative developments in mining will

weigh towards reducing the 2019 GDP."

Musokotwane stated that government's promise that 2019 would be a year of economic prosperity was not supported by objective facts and should therefore not be taken seriously.

"Zambia should brace themselves for economic hardships. This is only logical given the fact that Zambia has once again been pushed into a debt crisis. The debt crisis is presently one of Zambia's most urgent economic problems. Unfortunately, our government is choosing to pretend there is no crisis. This will not help because the first step to solving a problem is to acknowledge its existence. To this date there is no sign of any serious effort to address the national debt problem. Surprisingly, some ministries are even thinking of huge new additional borrowings. But UPND will

take a different route once in government. After auditing all debts for authenticity, the plans that have been carefully designed during the past two years will be implemented so that the debt crisis is resolved swiftly. This will unlock the financial resources that are so desperately needed to hire teachers, medical staff, support free education up to tertiary level, support farmers, reintroduce liquidity in the economy and address many other genuine public concerns," Musokotwane stated.

Meanwhile, Musokotwane observed that 2019 would be a bad year for the foreign exchange market, saying the government budget indicated that debt servicing would require about \$1.5 billion.

"2019 can hardly be expected to be a prosperous year because of the very high risk of the Kwacha losing value against other currencies or what is called an

exchange rate depreciation. This risk is very real. The likely cause once again is the high debt burden facing the country. Since 2014, Zambia has consistently been losing foreign exchange reserves which the Bank of Zambia uses to stabilize the exchange rate. Presently, the key driver for the loss of reserves is external debt servicing. In this regard, 2019 is a bad year for the foreign exchange market because the government budget indicated that debt service will require about \$1.5 billion. This is likely to cause destabilizing effects on the exchange rate market given the fact that the national reserves are only \$1.6 billion. In January 2016, reserves were at nearly \$3 billion. So, within this short space of time, reserves have fallen by nearly half and this trend is likely to continue. This is a serious national crisis that is looming," said Musokotwane.

Any critical observer of government actions in Zambia, like ourselves, would wonder why a political statement issued by State House on behalf of President Edgar Lungu, and on behalf of SADC countries, is being tactfully withdrawn. A day after President Lungu's spokesperson Mr Amos Chanda signed and released a statement calling for a Government of National Unity in Congo DR, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Joe Malanji, issued another one in the name of the President, but with a different tone and focus.

In the initial statement, President Lungu (through Mr Chanda) was calling for a recount of votes as demanded by the Catholic Institution in Congo, in order to rule out any doubts among political players. In the next Statement, President Lungu (though Mr Malanji) U-turned on the call for a recount of votes, saying that decision should be left to the sovereignty of the Congolese people.

Why is there a conflicting language coming from the same mouth? Why is Minister Malanji clarifying a statement that no one in Zambia or SADC has branded as ambiguous? Like we stated in the editorial opinion of yesterday, Some top government leaders in Zambia have private interests in the politics of Congo DR. Who emerges leader of this country, matters more to them than it matters to the Congolese who will be led.

The people of Zambia must take very keen interest in the positions that our government leaders are taking on the developing crisis in Congo because if we are not careful, this country will not only import an excess of Congolese refugees, but it will also import Ebola and all the pandemics that the good people of Congo have been trying to contain.

If we mishandle DRC, we will import more refugees plus Ebola

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
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The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo is tense. Its people voted, but the outcome is being contested. Anything short of a reasonable conclusion has the potential to plunge the country into worse chaos than it is already experiencing. The ripple effects of that chaos will be a baby for the Zambian people to nurse. This otherwise rich country shares massive border area with Zambia. Therefore, if the Congo flourishes, Zambia flourishes too. But so far, we have suffered more than enjoyed the benefit of being neighbours.

Congo gained its Independence ahead of Zambia but the amounts of refugees that pour into our country have stretched our limited resources. This is because of the world scramble for mineral-rich Congo, a country overflowing with resources which is sought after by powerful nations, warlords and individual businessmen like some of our

government leaders.

Our point is that, if the Zambian leaders take individual positions in handling this Congo election showdown, we will be abetting a crisis that will not spare the poor ordinary Zambians. We know that our leaders have personal friendships with the contestants of the Congo election, or at least their sponsors, but our cry is that those private relations and interests should not cause Zambia to be drawn into the firing range.

We have a brief summery of what is happening in Congo, for the benefit of those who are struggling to make sense out of the new wave of political differences and bickering in that country. From this, we hope our fellow citizens can draw their on conclusions.

The scenario in the Congo is complex. Opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi has been declared provisional winner beating another opposition leader Martin Fayulu and the ruling

party candidate Emmanuel Shadary is placed third. Even though the ruling party candidate lost miserably, his coalition, which is sponsored by outgoing President Joseph Kabila, has reportedly swept parliamentary seats across the country and retains slightly over two thirds majority.

Fayulu – a joint opposition candidate – is believed to have won the election, as given by the independent observers like the Catholic Bishops who announced that their PVT showed a different winner other than the one announced by the Electoral Commission of Congo (CENI). It's therefore not surprising to see Fayulu, take to the court to challenge his electoral defeat.

The respected church body is believed to have told diplomats that Fayulu was the clear winner of the election but has not publicly stated so. And Fayulu is now asking for a manual recount of the vote. This is the position that was initially

supported by the Southern African Community (SADC) through President Edgar Lungu, the chair of the Troika organ on Politics and Security.

SADC has gone further to propose a Government of National Unity, so as to pacify the simmering tension. This is the position that we queried in our editorial comment in which we expressed shock at the speed of calling for a coalition government before the petitioners of the election are heard by the courts of law. Although President Lungu's statement was laced with so many other questions, we raised no eyebrows over his call for a recount of votes. That is the most that SADC could ask for.

It was therefore surprising that while President Lungu was seeking what seemed to be a much more reasonable resolution towards a peaceful conclusion, as part of the settlement to the disputed election, his Minister of Foreign Affairs is stoking the fire in a highly inflammable

country like Congo DR.

From all the media and observer reports issued so far, it can't be denied that the election in the Congo was chaotic and its outcome stage-managed by Kabila. We are told that a recount of votes will see second-placed Fayulu carry the day, a situation that would put the outgoing president in danger.

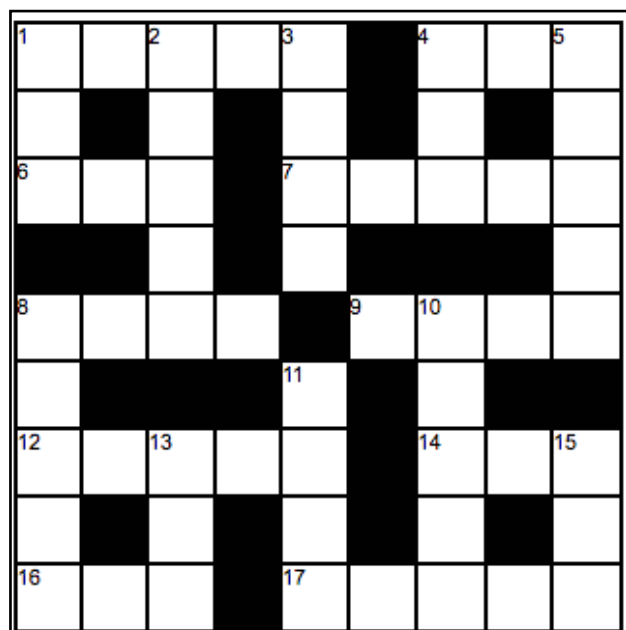
We are further told that president-elect Tshisekedi, has realized by now that his hard to explain victory was sponsored by President Kabila, but his presidency would be useless without any significant number of members of parliament, and can easily be impeached. But this is the man Kabila would rather hand over power to – that way, he would retain control of the government, including Parliament where his brother Zoe and sister Janet, have surprisingly won.

Sadly, President Kabila, who has not yet handed over power, has curtailed internet access and the rest of the happenings in the Congo is now unknown to the outside world, which is what Malanji and his team should be highlighting.

Zambians must be asking questions; on whose side is President Lungu? What is his interest in the Congo election outcome? What results would he like to see at the end of the day and why? What about his minister Malanji? Who is he talking to in Congo? Who asked him to clarify the President's statement that was not being challenged by the SADC member states? Why doesn't he want to support the call for a recount of votes?

Please, for the sake of Zambia, let us be careful with the handling of Congo. We have enough problems and our own general elections to prepare for and perfect. It is only a peaceful Zambia that can lend a shoulder to the troubled Congo. Ndeo yabene siyovulilapo jakete.

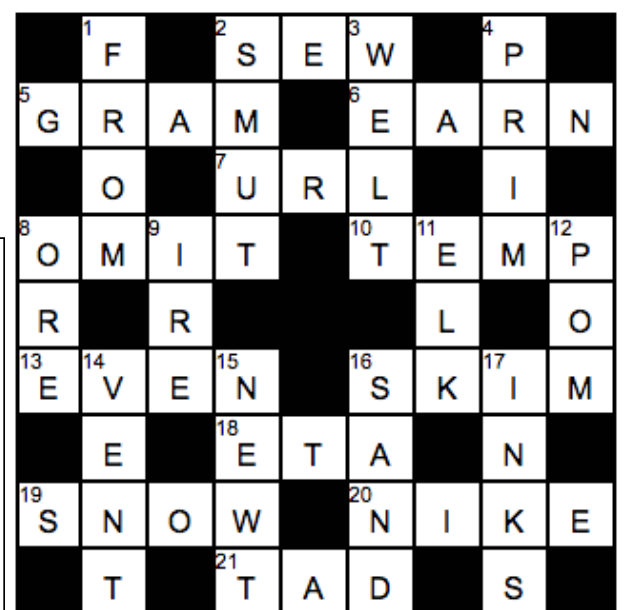
Crossword puzzle 273



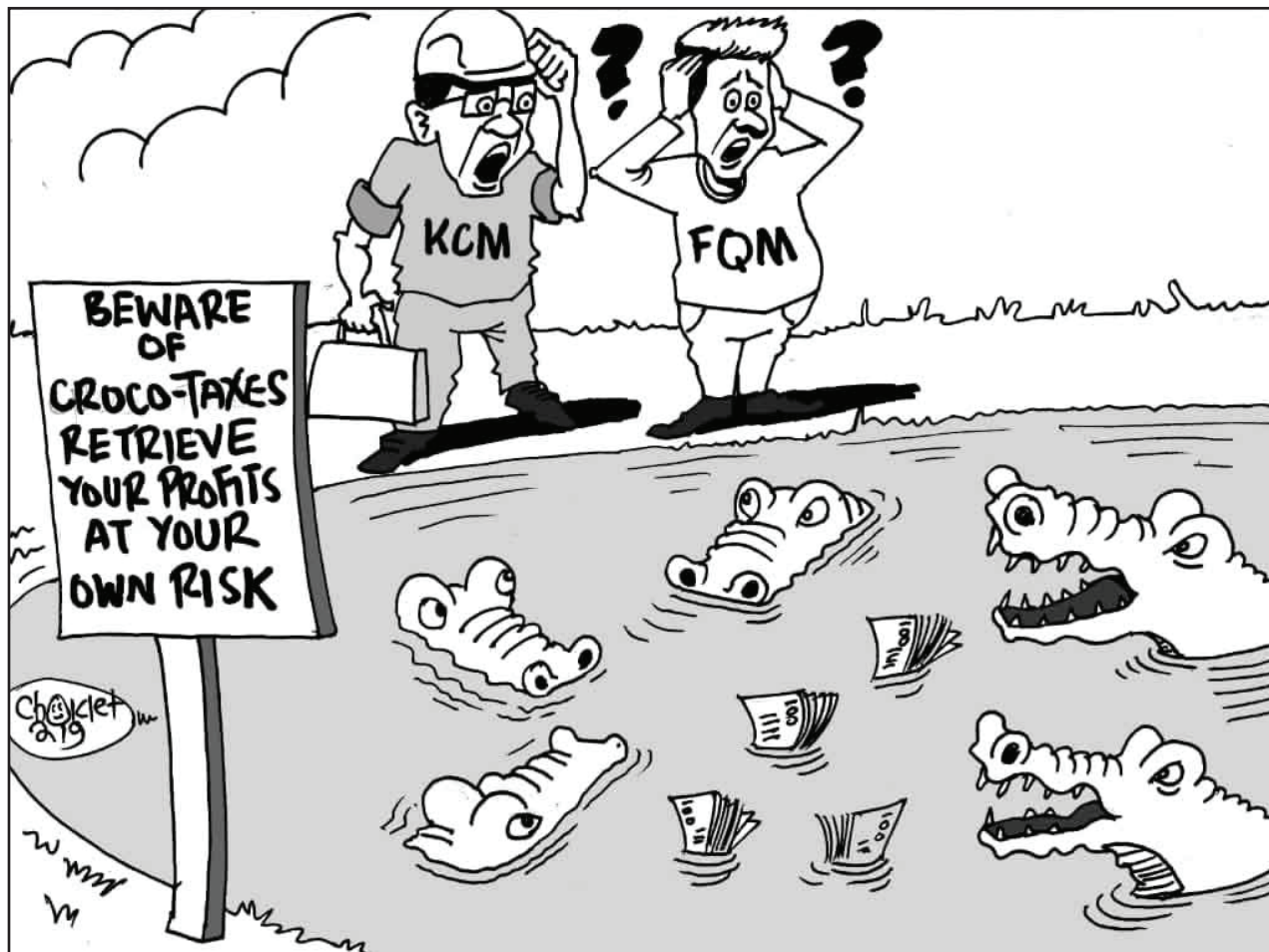
"The difference between those who adapted and those who didn't, Gorton said, was a willingness to totally commit."
- Arnold Schwarzenegger

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skull's organ 4. Rum __ Tugger ("Cat's" character) 6. Small taste 7. Alley cat 8. More than want 9. Aroma 12. Insignia 14. Hi-fi component 16. Bigg__ Loser 17. On edge | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hot dog holder 2. Computer giant character 3. Hatchling's home 4. Black sticky substance 5. City Hall bigwig 8. Virtuous 10. Water outlet 11. Level of hotness 13. Small round mark 15. Baked fruity dessert |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 272



Reader's feedback



Sishuwa's 'Class of 2018: Zambians who gravely disappointed last year'

Editor,

"Very thorough and quite refreshing. This satire is quite hilarious!!!" - Ackim Mwanamuzenge Neene

"Great analysis!" - Mthoniswa Banda

"An interesting read for today! Unfortunately, this piece is too long for most PF cadres and they have missed out on the juicer pieces

of writing by Sishuwa Sishuwa." - Chanda Shadreck Nkonde

"Well balanced opinion!" - Abel Katongo

"Nice piece of writing! You forgot one Davies Mwila, the PF Secretary General." - Simon Da Kinsman

"What a brilliant write-up here! Everything is true to the bone!" - Mutinta Mulonda

ND's OPINION: Blocking Kambwili defeats the essence of national dialogue

Editor, "Your opinion is on point, News Diggers! on attempts to block Hon. Kambwili from attending the national dialogue. HE the President ECL and Hakainde met and agreed that

'no preconditions shall be set before the national dialogue'. It is, therefore, mindboggling to see people that are not party to these talks taking it upon themselves to set pre-conditions! Hon. Chishimba Kambwili

must be allowed to attend the national dialogue as a person who has issues he would like ironed out in order for the nation to move forward." - Grace Shankaya

"In agreeing with News Diggers!, this is national dialogue and not inter-party dialogue, therefore, this meeting should be all encompassing and inclusive. I believe Kalaba would be in attendance, too, he was a victim of POA in whatever capacity he calls himself." - Zacharia Zulu

"For those saying Chishimba Kambwili should not attend, please cite the law, which is barring him. If the NDC has chosen him then who are you to say no? We see MPs from opposition political parties being appointed as ministers by the ruling party then what is wrong with the vice-versa? Is there a law to cite to justify the denial? Don't take important issues personally!" - Lloyd Chishimba

"Spot on, Sishuwa!" - Tito Mulwey

"One Dr Sishuwa, good piece of work!" - Victor Miles MV

Govt's recruitment of 2,009 teachers out of 27,000

Editor,

"The serious question is what happens to the remaining 24,991 applicants, 93% of the 27,000 applicants?" - Makosi Mataba

"20000+ still no job!" - Emelda Litana

"The other questions are: How many Ministers? How many PSEs? How many Directors? How many PEOs? How many DEBSes? How many Standards Officers? How many head teachers? How many of these have relatives on the queue? Then add the numbers and divide by the 'recruitees'!" - Sikabenga

Ng'anda

"Unemployment levels in this country is very worrisome...getting employed as a teacher nowadays is very tough!" - Katachi Katachi

"I wonder if its decentralization, indeed. Some districts are having two teachers; so does it mean the DEBS and entourage sat just to recruit 2 people?? And they were paid for that!?" - Mutolwa JW

"I bet the 9 added to that list were imposed by some politicians. This country is rotten to the core!" - Kapangala Masangala

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select the 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

Esther's 25-member delegation in USA to receive fire trucks

Editor,

"The cost of the delegation will surpass the total cost of the fire trucks! I know these chaps." - Benard Jeremiah

"First in what capacity is the delegation listed? Is she a government official or a politician, where and who is Esther representing? What wrong have we done in this nation?" - David Mandona

"Now this seems like stupidity at its most!" - Frank Gwaba

"That's not her business. Let the right people do their jobs, that's why we are corrupt; wrong people doing wrong things!" - Josh Godwin Musuku

"Those things can even be received by the Ambassador there." - Musombwa Mabenga

"At some point this has to stop! Let's bring back normalcy to this country!" - Noah François Fas

"25 delegation to America only to go and receive four fire trucks? Where did we go wrong in Zambia?" - Mutale Mulenga

"Why can't the donor ship the trucks to Walvis Bay so that the delegation receives them from there?" - Mateyo F Muloongo

"I don't understand the mind of an African!" - Thomax Monday Mwimanzi

Former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo acquitted at ICC

Laurent Gbagbo, the former president of the Ivory Coast, has been acquitted of crimes against humanity charges by judges at the international criminal court in The Hague.

In a stunning blow to prosecutors, presiding judge Cuno Tarfusser said they had failed to prove their case and that 73-year-old Gbagbo and co-defendant Charles Blé Goudé, a close ally and former political youth leader, should be set free.

Judge orders immediate release of Gbagbo, who had been charged with crimes against humanity relating to violence in 2010

The charges related to an alleged campaign of violence launched by Gbagbo after his defeat by Alassane Ouattara in elections in 2010. About 3,000 people died in the unrest.

Gbagbo, who had refused to give up power, was eventually run to ground

in a basement after French troops and the UN moved to end the conflict. He was brought to The Hague in November 2011. In 2016 he denied four counts of crimes against humanity, including ordering murder and gang-rape.

Tarfusser said on Tuesday that a majority of the three-judge chamber ruled that "the prosecutor has failed to satisfy the burden of proof" against both men.

Lawyers for Gbagbo and Ble Goude asked judges last year to acquit both men for lack of evidence at the end of the prosecution case in their trial that began just under three years ago.

A former university professor turned activist, Gbagbo spent much of the 1980s in exile in France. After returning, he lost the 1990 presidential vote and spent six months in prison in 1992 for his role in student protests.

He came to power in 2000 in



a flawed vote that he himself described as "calamitous", but he then put off holding another election for a decade. In the 2010 race, Gbagbo came top in the first round with 38% of the vote before losing to Ouattara in

the runoff.

Ouattara, who was re-elected in 2015, has been accused by his opponents of using the ICC to silence opposition.

Gbagbo was the first former president to go on trial at

the global court and his case was seen as a milestone in efforts to bring to justice even the highest-ranking leaders accused of atrocities. More than 3,000 people were killed after Gbagbo refused to accept defeat by

his rival and current Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara.

As Tarfusser announced the acquittals, supporters of Gbagbo and Ble Goude stood up and cheered in the courtroom's gallery. **BBC**

Global fight against killer diseases seeks £11bn

A key fund which finances the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is seeking fresh investment worth £11bn.

The French President Emmanuel Macron is launching the latest round to replenish the Global Fund in Paris.

It is being called "a decisive moment".

The fund says progress has slowed down because of wavering political commitment, and increasing insecticide and drug resistance.

Raising the target amount could help save 16 million lives, it is claimed, as well as halving the death rate from these three significant diseases.

The £11bn (\$14bn) would be spent on medicine which treats and prevents HIV transmission, TB drugs and mosquito nets to protect against malaria.

'Progress has stalled' The fund's executive director Peter Sands told BBC News: "We've made extraordinary progress in reducing these deaths - but that progress has stalled.

"Coming in new to this post, I've been really struck



by the strength of political support for the Global Fund across many different capitals.

"I'm not at all complacent about the challenge of raising the money we need - and obviously the geopolitical environment is complicated.

"But we are confident we have a strong investment case - and a demonstrable level of delivering impact," he said.

The Global Fund has generally been regarded as a success story in how it collects and uses global health funds from governments and other

donors.

But the investment case warns of shortfalls in funding, and it says this could threaten the third Sustainable Development Goal - an internationally agreed target to end disease epidemics, and create resilient health systems for all people.

'New infections threat' Malaria cases are rising, after years of steady declines. Two-thirds of all malaria deaths affect children aged under five.

And although anti-retroviral drugs have stopped millions of people dying from AIDS, the

massive increase in Africa's young population poses a threat of more new infections than at the height of the epidemic at the start of this century.

Tuberculosis kills more people than any other infectious disease - and drug-resistant cases form one-third of all global deaths due to antimicrobial resistance.

The World Health Organization's Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus paid tribute to the Global Fund's "truly impressive growth in impact" during its 17 years. **BBC**

Uganda presidential age limit challenged in court

Uganda's Supreme Court on Tuesday began hearing a petition to challenge a constitutional court decision removing an age limit cap of 75 for presidential candidates.

Critics of the decision argue it would allow President Yoweri Museveni, 74, to seek re-election for a sixth term in 2021.

A bill removing the limit was signed into law in December 2017 after a chaotic passage through parliament that saw MPs engaging in fistcuffs. The constitutional court upheld the amendment in a ruling in July 2018.

Opposition lawmaker Winnie Kiiza and activist Kassim Male Mbirizi of the Uganda Law Society filed the petition challenging the constitutional court decision. They want the court to decide whether the amendment violated the constitution as it "was rushed through parliament amidst violence and chaos, where members of the opposition were either arrested or beaten by police and army", Kiiza's lawyer Ladislaus Rwakafuzi told AFP.

"The other element of our appeal is for court to decide whether the president, who was elected before the constitutional amendment lifting the age limit cap of 75 years, should remain in office after clocking 75 years," he added.

Having seized power at the head of a rebel army in 1986, Museveni is the only president most Ugandans have known in a country where the median age is less than 16.

In 2005 Museveni scrapped a two-term presidential limit which has allowed him to keep running for office. **AFP**



Alexander-Arnold injury leaves Liverpool short of defensive options

Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold is expected to be sidelined for up to a month with knee damage, leaving the Premier League leaders short of defensive options. The England international sustained a problem in the warm-up before Saturday's 1-0 win at Brighton but played the full 90 minutes. However, he now faces an extended spell on the sidelines, with a knee ligament issue. Joe Gomez is still working his way back to fitness after a broken foot and right-back Nathaniel Clyne was loaned to Bournemouth earlier this month. James Milner appears the likely candidate to start at the back in Saturday's home game

against Crystal Palace, although fellow midfielder Fabinho, who played centre-back at the weekend because Joel Matip, Gomez and Dejan Lovren are not fully fit, could potentially fill in. Matip was an unused substitute against Brighton after recovering from a broken collarbone while Gomez has yet to return to full training. Midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum also sustained a knock to his knee at Brighton. He is being assessed on a day-to-day basis and, while he has not yet been ruled out, he appears a major doubt for the Palace game. Despite their injury concerns, Jurgen Klopp's Premier League leaders still have the best

defensive record and midfielder Milner has singled out goalkeeper Alisson Becker as his player of the season so far. The Brazil international, a summer signing from Roma, has kept 13 clean sheets in 22 appearances, conceding just 10 goals in total. "It's hard to pick out one player because everyone in the squad has done so well, not just the 11 who are starting," Milner told Liverpool's official magazine. "I think maybe one you could select is Alisson. Coming to a new league is never easy." "He's been unbelievable for us this season so far and I believe that he'll be a massive, massive player for us going forward," Milner added. Goal.com

Ominous Serena, Djokovic make Open statements

A focused Serena Williams sent an ominous Australian Open warning with a 49-minute first-round demolition Tuesday as world number one Novak Djokovic destroyed his opponent as he targets a record seventh title. US Open champion Naomi Osaka also stormed through, but world number one Simona Halep was lucky to stay alive, needing to dig deep and claw back from a set down before beating Kaia Kanepi 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 6-2.



American giant Williams is bidding to match Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam crowns on her first return to Melbourne Park since winning in 2017 while eight weeks pregnant. Now 37, she kept a low profile in the lead-up to the opening major of the year and came out of the blocks flying against fellow mum Tatjana Maria, pummeling her German opponent 6-0, 6-2. Sporting a striking jade green jumpsuit and fine mesh stockings on Rod Laver Arena, the 16th seed wasted no time in getting out of the blistering Melbourne heat and said it was good to be back. "The last time I was here I was

pregnant and playing at the same time which is insane," she said. "It's weird walking back on -- by myself this time -- it feels good. I have so many memories from last time I was here." Bidding for an eighth Melbourne Park crown, few are betting against Williams despite her lowly seeding and she next faces Canadian Eugenie Bouchard who eased past China's Peng Shuai. Williams played at the

mixed teams Hopman Cup in Perth this month, but her appearance on Tuesday was her first outing on tour since a meltdown in losing the US Open final to Osaka in September. Japan's Osaka, seeded four, wasted little time in dispatching Poland's Magda Linette 6-4, 6-2 and will next play Tamara Zidasek of Slovakia. Like Williams, Djokovic is also gunning for a slice of

history as he looks to win a seventh title. Fellow six-time champion Roger Federer is aiming for the same. The Serb blasted past American qualifier Mitchell Krueger 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to set up a clash with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who he beat in Melbourne to win the first of his 14 Grand Slam crowns back in 2008. "It feels great to be healthy and back on this court again," he said of Rod Laver Arena. "I had a tremendous success in

the last six months. It got me to a great position. Hopefully I can follow up on this victory tonight with a good performance." - Escape act - Fourth seed Alexander Zverev, who is looking to win his first Slam title and establish himself as a serious threat to Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal, cruised past Aljaz Bedene 6-4, 6-1, 6-4. "I've had about 86 injuries and the ankle is still a bit swollen,"

said the 21-year-old. "But I've done everything right in my preparation. Now I either play well or I don't." But eighth seed Kei Nishikori, who won in Brisbane last week, had a lucky escape. The Japanese star looked down and out against little known qualifier Kamil Majchrzak, losing the first two sets before the Pole began badly cramping. He bravely fought on before calling it a day after winning just two of the next 17 games. Elsewhere, 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka benefited from an opponent pulling out, with Ernests Gulbis calling it quits after hurting his back in the second set.

Chambeshi cautious ahead of San Pedro away match

By Alex Chilumbwe
Nkana coach Bestone Chambeshi says he learnt his lesson in the CAF Champions League when his side gave away an aggregate advantage of 2 goals in the pre-group stage second leg match against Simba SC of Tanzania and consequently got relegated to the CAF Confederations Cup. Speaking to Goal Diggers! Chambeshi said that he will not be carried away by the 3-0 triumph over San Pedro in the

Confederations Cup first leg, and underscored the need to sharpen his squad's psychological aspect as well as his defence in order to absorb and endure the pressure of playing away from home. "I cannot be too excited because San Pedro won't let us have it easy when we visit them in the second leg. I will have to sharpen players' responses to psychological attacks and make sure the defence is solid. We never know maybe their fans will have free entrance to the

stadium to boost their players' morale and the alike. Teams have turned around aggregates bigger than 3-0 and won. I learnt my lesson in the Champions League against Simba anyway," said Chambeshi. And San Pedro coach Jani Tarek was on Tuesday quoted in the Daily Mail vowing to upset Chambeshi's current aggregate advantage saying he would win the second leg match with a bigger scoreline. Meanwhile, Nkana Football Club

Supporters Association President Everisto Kabila expressed happiness in the turnout of fans during the clash on Saturday. He noted that fans had the capacity to escalate the game to a new level through their support. "It was quite not something I expected. The turnout was very encouraging and I think it is part of the reason players did well. I hope the numbers in stadiums keep going up during club games," said Kabila.

Among the women, sixth seed Elina Svitolina easily progressed, as did Williams' sister Venus, who incredibly played her first Grand Slam tournament 22 years ago. But two-time champion Victoria Azarenka was bundled out, along with 10th seed Darya Kasatkina. Seventh seed Karolina Pliskova, who has made the quarter-finals in her last two appearances at Melbourne Park, went through, as did American Madison Keys, who reached the semis at the French and US Open last year. AFP

ISAAC CHANSA JOINS NCHANGA

By Alex Chilumbwe

I want to play football for as long as I can and at whichever club I will end at, I want to be as helpful as possible, says former ZANACO striker and 2012 AfCON winner, Isaac Chansa.

Chansa who disclosed to Goal Diggers! that he would spend a season at his new club Nchanga Rangers showed no signs of slowing down in his football journey, and added that football was a part of his life that took him places and taught him discipline.

"I am going to be Nchanga for a season then I will think of my next move. I don't want to retire any time soon and I try to be as helpful as possible at any club I end up at. Football has taught me a lot of things like discipline and how to live with strangers that end up being your second family. It has also taken me to many parts of the world that's why I love it so much," said Chansa.

Meanwhile, Chansa's former teammate at National team level Hichani Himoonde, applauded his discipline and determination. He described Chansa a friendly person that always strived for excellence on the pitch. "He is still playing very well and I envy his discipline and his efforts to always improve. He is a people's person that's why he always finds his way in this competitive sport. He's always hardworking and am positive he is a good signing for Nchanga Rangers," said Himoonde.

Chansa's two year deal with a Numba Mumamba-tutored side ZANACO FC expired at the end of the 2018 football season and

Nchanga did not hesitate to sign the once Orlando Pirates player that won many hearts of soccer fans in South Africa.

Other new signings for Nchanga ahead of the super league that kicks off on January 27 are Mopani Copper Mines Under-20

star Benson Kolala, former National Assembly striker Peter Mwaangani and Ghanaian striker Zikuru Adams who once left

Nchanga for ZESCO United but could not make a mark and now has returned to Nchanga on a deal with unknown longevity.



Patrick Wienczek (Germany) and Sergey Gorpishin (Russia) during the IHF Men's World Championship 2019, Group A handball match between Russia v Germany on Monday at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin, Germany

Ince: Solskjaer is nothing special, I could have done that job at Man Utd

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer may have revitalised Manchester United, but Paul Ince claims things "couldn't get any worse" after Jose Mourinho and anybody could have overseen an improvement.

After taking the decision to part with a Portuguese coach in December, the Red Devils turned to a familiar face for inspiration.

The club's 1999 Treble-winning hero has enjoyed a dream start to an interim post, with a 1-0 victory over Tottenham last time out stretching a faultless run to six successive wins.

Solskjaer has earned plenty of plaudits for turning things around and bringing the best out of the likes of Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford, but Ince believes he could have done the same job.

The former Red Devils midfielder told Paddy Power: "We can't get too sucked in with what Ole's done.

"Let's be honest, it couldn't get any worse at Manchester United before Jose Mourinho left.

"There was a dark cloud over the entire club, the players, the fans and the staff. It was impacting performances on the

pitch.

"Ole's come in, a friendly face at the club with a calming influence and it seems as though the players have upped their effort as a result.

"The shackles are off, but that doesn't mean that Ole is the right man for the job.

"I could have gone in and done the same thing, so could Steve Bruce.

"Anyone could have gone in and done what he has done, it wasn't a hard thing to do to give those players freedom and improve the mood." *Goal.com*

Petr Cech to retire at end of season

Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech announced on Tuesday that he will retire at the end of the season.

The 36-year-old, who won four Premier League titles with Chelsea, revealed his decision on Twitter.

He wrote: "This is my 20th season as a professional player and it is 20 years since I signed my first professional contract, so it feels like the right time to announce that I will retire at the end of this season."

The Czech, who arrived in the Premier League with Chelsea in 2004 and moved to Arsenal in 2015, added: "Having played 15 years in the Premier League and won every single trophy possible, I feel like I have achieved everything I set out to achieve.

"I will continue to work hard at Arsenal to hopefully win one more trophy this season, then I am looking forward to seeing what life holds for me off the pitch." *AFP*

