



UPND CAN WIN ALONE - ILLUNGA

We don't need Alliance to change our running mate

By Thomas Mulenga

The UPND is still capable of winning the 2021 general election without an alliance, says the opposition party's Northern Province chairperson Nathan Illunga.

In an interview with News Diggers! Illunga argued that the UPND was not ready to change its presidential candidate and running mate because of an alliance.

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Political Party leaders release awareness balloons shortly after the launch of National Dialogue framework at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on January 18, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Hichilema greets Chieftainess Nkomeshya at the Dialogue launch on Friday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Dialogue can't work if the problem wants to be part of the solution - Aka

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
MMD founding member Prince Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika says

the dialogue process cannot be successful if those who are part of the problem also want to be the solution.

And Prince Aka says the two MMD camps which are there are only fighting to eat from the same plate.

In an interview, Aka who is a former presidential advisor for political affairs said the dialogue process could not work if those who were part of the problem wanted to be part of the solution.

Bureaus want \$1,000 forex limit lifted

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UNDP selects Zambia for SDGs acceleration

By Mukosha Funga

The United Nations Development Programme has selected Zambia as one of the 60 pilot countries for Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator Labs, an innovative initiative which is expected to contribute to achievement of the SDGs.

Ministry of National Planning spokesperson Chibaula Silwamba said, Sunday, that this came to light when Minister Alexander Chiteme paid a courtesy call on UNDP's new Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa Ahunna Eziakonwa in Dakar, Senegal.

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It's hard to re-integrate ex-convicts into society - Kampyongo

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Gemcanton welcomes govt probe of Kuznetsov's deportation

By Martin Musunka

Gemcanton Investments Holdings Limited has welcomed the directive by Acting Republican President Inonge Wina to investigate reports of abduction and deportation of its manager Sergey Kuznetsov, whose contract of employment was terminated.

Company spokesperson Davy Phiri, who exonerated company officials from the reported abduction and deportation of Kuznetsov, said the former manager had his employment contract terminated.

Phiri dismissed assertions that Kuznetsov was abducted, stressing that there were no such acts as he was peacefully escorted to Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport in Ndola.

He added that management was happy that government, through Acting President Wina, has directed that investigations be instituted in events surrounding Kuznetsov's departure for his native country, Russia.

"The company has the right to hire and fire employees and this is exactly what happened in the case of Mr Kuznetsov. We are worried that there are incessant reports indicating that Mr Kuznetsov was abducted and forced out of the country. The company wishes to state that Mr Kuznetsov was peacefully escorted to Ndola where he boarded his plane to Russia. We are, however, happy that Madam Inonge Wina, in her capacity as Acting Republican President, directed that the matter be investigated, to establish circumstances that led to the departure of Mr Kuznetsov," Phiri said.

He has further cautioned against issuance of inflammatory statements, while investigations were ongoing, as accusations of abduction of a foreign national have the potential to strain diplomatic relations between Zambia and other countries.

Phiri explained that Gemcanton management officials will cooperate throughout the process of investigations to establish circumstances that led to Kuznetsov leaving the country.

Last week, Kuznetsov filed an official complaint of abduction, false imprisonment and illegal deportation through Mvunga Associates legal firm.

Mvunga Associates, through Counsel Dickson Jere, wrote to the office of the Inspector General of police, asking the command to quickly investigate the matter of abduction, false imprisonment and illegal deportation.

Jere told the Inspector General of Police that his client's deportation was spearheaded by a group of Senegalese who escorted him to the airport.

He added that the Kuznetsov's work permit was taken away before he was forcibly made to board an Ethiopian airline plane to Moscow.

The associates also added that the complainant was an employee of Gemcanton Investment Holdings and was in charge of a strongroom where precious stones were stored. – Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.



Her Royal Highness Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II throws salt on fire as a symbolic action to signify the official launch of National Dialogue framework at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on January 18, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Lungu won't win fight against church, warns Mucheleka

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND Deputy Secretary General Patrick Mucheleka has warned that President Edgar Lungu will not win his fight against the church because more popular leaders in the past also failed to do so.

In an interview, Mucheleka condemned President Lungu for shunning the church-led dialogue process.

"Whether Lungu attends or not, we'll get the results we want from the dialogue process and you must understand that before him there were other presidents who were far more popular and powerful than he is. President [Kenneth] Kaunda tried to fight the Catholic Church in 1991 where did he end up? Is it the Church who lost or it was Kaunda who lost? Didn't [Frederick] Chiluba try it when he attempted to fight the Church when they spoke against his third term bid? Where is Chiluba today now? So what is special about Lungu?" Mucheleka asked.

"He is the weakest of all presidents we have had and feel sorry for him and the PF. If he thinks he will win by staying away, he is making a big mistake and he will leave to regret because the plane has taken off, it's either he gets on board or he stays away."

He said even though President Lungu shunned the dialogue process, he would have to abide by the outcome.

"This country does not belong to Lungu, Lungu is just an individual. This country belongs to all Zambians. And even if he stays away, the church has already started the process and whether Lungu likes it or not it will go on, it is not for him to determine, he will just have to abide by the outcome of the dialogue. And he is just one person, he is not bigger than Zambia. It doesn't matter whether Lungu is here or not, the people will triumph. He can't succeed with his PF surrogates and a few misguided elements from intercity. So if

he thinks that by staying away from the launch, the he has won together with the PF, no! The people of Zambia will triumph. He just has to abide and he is not a person who has respect for anyone, he will eventually have to be named and shamed because he is the one who has stayed away," Mucheleka said. And Mucheleka described the launch of the dialogue process as successful.

"The launch of the dialogue process is already a success. There are representatives from different political parties, the church, diplomats accredited to Zambia from the European Union and African countries, the traditional leaders, everyone is here. The problem president Lungu has is that he thinks he can control literally everything and everyone in the country, including religion, he is overstepping because he thinks he can cause the churches leaders to go and bow before him on the 18th of October, the day himself

declared, whatever he calls it. He thinks that everything should only succeed if he is the one calling the shots. This is where all Christians in this country should open their eyes and start questioning 'who should control issues to do with religion, is it President Lungu or religious leaders? Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. President Lungu's downfall is coming, it is inevitable! This is the time that all those people whom he has been hoodwinking and cheating to see if he is a Christian, if he can snub and cause his surrogates to be insulting the leaders of three Church mother bodies. How then can you say that Lungu has respect for the Church?" Mucheleka asked.

He observed that chief government spokesperson Dora Siliya was making people insult the church mother bodies.

"Dora Siliya is the one who facilitated the downfall of President Rupiah Banda and today she is the one who has started misbehaving, causing the insulting of the Church mother bodies. We were told that president Lungu was receiving treatment in South Africa, the next thing we saw he was flying to Ethiopia to respond to issues in Congo, leaving his own issues at home where the Church mother bodies invited everyone but the PF are finding different excuses to stay away from the dialogue. They even threatened to send thugs from intercity to come and disrupt the dialogue process if Kambwili attended but he stayed away. They used their surrogates in the ZCID to insult the church mother bodies and disregard the dialogue process, even those 31 political parties they are talking about that they have boycotted the dialogue process, no one knows them, because all the sensible political parties are here, except those that are perhaps on the PF payroll," said Mucheleka.

UNDP selects Zambia for SDGs acceleration initiative

By Mukosha Funga

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has selected Zambia as one of the 60 pilot countries for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Accelerator Labs, an innovative initiative which is expected to contribute to achievement of the SDGs.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of National Planning spokesperson Chibaula Silwamba, Sunday, this came to light when the Minister of National Development Planning Alexander Chiteme paid a courtesy on UNDP's new Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) Ahunna Eziakonwa, on the sidelines of the Third International Conference on the Emergence of Africa (ICEA) in

Dakar, Senegal.

"Ms. Eziakonwa assured Hon. Chiteme of UNDP's continued support towards Zambia's development agenda. Ms. Eziakonwa commended Zambia for its political stability in the region, which is an asset in development. In line with the theme of the 2019 International Conference on Emergence of Africa, Ms. Eziakonwa acknowledged that Zambia was among the first few countries to promote local content strategies for private sector development. The UNDP regional chief emphasised the need to grow local entrepreneurs into national champions, including creating an enabling environment for youth participation in private sector development. And Hon. Chiteme congratulated Ms. Eziakonwa

on her appointment and called for continued collaboration between Zambia and UNDP," Chibaula stated.

"The Minister informed Ms. Eziakonwa that, as a lower middle-income country, Zambia's macroeconomic situation is improving, with the 2018 economic growth estimated at 4 per cent from a low 2.9 per cent in 2015. Inflation has been contained within the 6 per cent to 8 percent target range, closing the year 2018 at 7.9 per cent from the high levels of 22 per cent in February 2016. Hon. Chiteme informed the UNDP Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa that Zambia was implementing its 7th National Development Plan (7NDP). The Hon. Minister underscored the fact that the Plan had mainstreamed the SDGs up

to 86 percent alignment. Hon. Chiteme called on the UNDP for continued support and collaboration in the implementation of the 7NDP, and SDGs, strengthening national capacities in monitoring and reporting systems, including formulation of the Zambia SDG Baseline Report. This Report will inform preparation of the Zambia National Voluntary Review (NVR), planned for presentation at the 2020 High Level Political Forum at the United Nations."

Meanwhile, at the Third International Conference on the Emergence of Africa, Chiteme was the moderator for the Ministerial panel discussion that focused on championing access to finance and strategies to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MMD founding member Prince Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika says the dialogue process cannot succeed if those who are part of the problem also want to be the solution.

And Prince Aka says the two MMD camps which are there are only fighting to eat from the same plate.

In an interview, Aka who is a former presidential advisor for political affairs said the dialogue process could not work if those who were part of the problem wanted to be part of the solution.

"The problem is that all the people trying to solve the problem are part of the problem. How this [dialogue] process has been handled confirms that all the people who are trying to be part of

Dialogue can't work if the problem wants to be part of the solution - Aka

the solution are part of the problem. So if there is to be solution, it has to be initiated by those who are not part of the problem. So all the people who are coming forward to try to solve the problem are part of the problem. And there is no hope that those who are part of the problem can produce a solution," he said.

"And there can never be a genuine dialogue with the participation of the unwilling and the participation of those who are not open minded

and ready for a genuine win-win outcome in a process that demands that put should put in more effort into listening to what others are concerned about and less into what they themselves are concerned about as a start. Right now people are very concerned about themselves, they are concerns in their interests and their preferred outcomes."

Aka noted that the dialogue process was laced with grudges.

"They are concerned into

wina azalila and a dialogue which is concerned on wina azalila (someone will cry) cannot go anywhere. And my other concern is that there is nobody who really wants to dig up where all these problems arise from. Without a full knowledge of history, we cannot save the future. And the other thing is that we must focus less on who to blame and more on what to learn."

And Aka said not everybody who calls themselves MMD espouse the original values,

principles and programmes of the party.

"You see there is MMD which is just a name, just like UNIP which is just a name but MMD is a value system, it is a set of principles or programmes. It doesn't mean that everybody who calls himself MMD are talking about its values and principles. They may be just talking about a name. So the MMD [which] I founded was not just a political party [but] it was values, principles and programmes for democracy and development. And that

programme is a nationalist programme which means that you don't have to be an MMD party member to take up that programme, it was a gift to all Zambians and a gift to all Africans as an example. Those who founded the African national Congress gave a gift to the future to be used or to be abused [but] mostly it has been abused; those who founded UNIP also gave a gift to the future to be used or abused [and] it has mostly been abused; and those of us who founded the MMD gave a gift to the future to be used or abused, it has mostly been abused. And that is actually the problem that needs to be resolved," Lewanika said.

"That is why it is a pity if those trying to solve the problems of Zambia do not take a hard look at history. Those [two MMDs] are just...you see I put more importance to political parties as such, I am speaking about values, principles and programmes. Even the Bible says 'not all those who say Lord, Lord are christians' but a genuine MMD may not even be a member of the MMD just like a genuine freedom fighter may not be a member of UNIP. So political parties are sometimes just vehicles for being elected to power but that is just one of their least important functions. In fact the difficulty is between people fighting to eat from the same plate, so there is a lot of fight which is simply about food rather than values principles and programmes," he said.

Milupi scolds Sunday over foul language; stop hallucinating

By Thomas Mulenga

ADD president Charles Milupi says PF media director Sunday Chanda keeps insulting the opposition alliance because the ruling party feels its heat. In an interview, Milupi said the alliance was made up of mature people who prioritised the interests of Zambians.

Milupi was reacting to Chanda's remarks that the opposition alliance was comprised of UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema's lapdogs and useful idiots.

"Sunday Chanda is getting that from his hallucination and for people like that, the Zambian people must not even look at them because they have lost integrity. Anyone who is involved with the family that swindles the poor out of the social cash transfer in any normal society, should not be listened to. We know that Sunday is playing the role of Goebbels in the Nazi Germany, the propaganda chief and the philosophy of 'if you tell a lie often times, people are going to believe that it's the truth' Sunday Chanda is the Goebbels of this dictatorship government called PF," Milupi said.

"We are getting more calls from people who are expressing interest to join the alliance despite the very manner that Chanda has been speaking about us, he has called us useful idiots, he has called us lapdogs, he has called us hyenas, what person uses such language in a country like Zambia where we say we are a Christian nation? What kind of language is that? What is happening now is that we in the opposition are the one who are exhibiting the maturity that we would ordinarily expect from the party in government. When we were young and you are in a boxing match and you

see your opponents throwing wild punches, you know you have won. If you are in a football match and you see your friends doing what the bembas say 'chipante-pante'you know you are winning that match. When you hear the way Sunday Chanda is talking today, the language he is using, then you know they have lost, but most importantly, you know that they are feeling the effectiveness of the alliance. Because if it was a none issue, they would not have bothered about it but because they can see us gathering the momentum that we have started to gather, they are feeling the heat. As of now, we will not bother very much about him because he is a small piece in the machinery of the governance of this country."

And Milupi said the Alliance was made up of mature people who prioritised the interests of Zambians.

"The opposition alliance is made up of people who are very mature, including president HH himself and the rest of us, we are very mature and our interests lies with the interests of the nation. Our interests do not lie with any particular individual and that is why you have seen that despite the rantings of Sunday Chanda, we have restrained ourselves from engaging him because people say if you argue with a fool people will not know the difference. Why is Sunday so vicious and bitter against people who have come together for the good of this nation? Is there any law that we are breaking? There is no law that we are breaking at all. They themselves the PF are in alliances with other political parties, look at Cosmo Mumba, look at Danny Pule, look at Felix Mutati and his

part of MMD, are they alone?" Milupi questioned.

"We are very specific with issues that we feel are of concern to the Zambians, among them is the lack of political space; just as an example we as an alliance made a notification to the police that we wanted to demonstrate against the wrongs that are going on in our country. We met with Lusaka province Police commissioner Nelson Phiri and he assured us that the following day he was going to give us the date, today is 18th January and we have not been given the date. The fact that we have not gone out to

demonstrate is not a sign of weakness. The constraining of peoples' rights in this country is so rife, look at the corruption and the abuse of public resources that is in this country, it is so endemic and is affecting citizens through higher taxes, through lack of employment, through higher prices of goods and services." Milupi insisted that the alliance had not opted to support one candidate.

"Look at the price of fuel, if you look at Malawi, they have announced that they are reducing fuel because the price of crude oil on the international market has gone down for a considerable

amount. But in Zambia the fuel price is not reducing because we know which company has been given to be buying oil in Zambia and we know the people involved and as long as those people are involved, the prices will not be reduced. Because the higher the price, the more money in their pockets. These are the issues as a responsible group of politicians have come together around, we have not come together to support one candidate. In none of our meetings have we sat and agreed that now we have chose this one as the person to stand on the alliance ticket," said Milupi.



STATE/CHURCH CONTINUE WITH ENGAGEMENT ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS The Government has continued its engagement initiative with key stakeholders on economic affairs. Recently, a Government team comprising State House Spokesperson Amos Chanda, Ministry of Finance Permanent Secretary Mukuli Chikuba and Ministry of Finance Spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta, held an information exchange session with the Catholic Archbishop of Lusaka, Dr. Alick Banda at the Pope Square in Lusaka. Among the topics discussed were the 2019 Budget, Fiscal Discipline, and Debt Management. The Archbishop commended the government team for the initiative and further recommended that the act of engagement should be transformed into a quarterly event.

It's hard to re-integrate ex-cons into society, says Kampyongo

By Geoffrey Zulu

Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo says government is still having challenges in empowering ex-prisoners with start-up capital to help them fully integrate back into society after incarceration.

And lawyer and civil rights activist Francis Kapijimpanga says society has no restorative mechanism to help ex-prisoners get back into being productive, relevant, effective and efficient citizens enjoying full human rights as enshrined in the Republican Constitution. In an interview, Kampyongo explained that the Ministry, through correctional services countrywide, had made a drastic shift from punitive to correctional offender management for convicts.

He, however, noted that start-up capital was still lacking for ex-convicts to be fully re-integrated back into society.

"Some of the interventions that are put in place to enhance this programme of correctional aspect is to impart skills. You have seen sometimes our correctional service displaying furniture; most of that furniture you see is made by inmates. The only thing that has been lacking and which we [government] want to address is start-up tools in form of capital," Kampyongo said, adding that out of societal

pressure, former prisoners may lapse into re-offending.

"So, we trying to make sure it's a complete cycle; when they [ex-prisoners] are imparted with skills, they [ex-prisoners] are also assisted with start-up tools for them to use. So, that's what we are doing. We also have school programmes; you will be pleased to note that others are doing secondary school; others starting from basics just to help them [inmates] to be law-abiding citizens...not forgetting farming; some are taught how to be productive through farming."

He said government was currently running a project at Mwembeshi Correctional Centre in conjunction with the

Egyptian government aimed at training inmates in agriculture and various skills.

"We are engaging a number of stakeholders that have come on board to supplement the efforts of the Zambia Correctional Service; one of them is the Prisons Care and Counselling Association (PRISCA), who are doing amazing works," he said.

Kampyongo observed that overcrowding was still a challenge in most correctional facilities across the country as most existing facilities were built before Independence, noting that accommodation for correctional service officers was sub-standard.

"We [government] have not

invested in the infrastructure development in a long time. We still have the old prison facilities built before Independence, but we have started some programmes; we are putting up new facilities at Mwembeshi. We are also looking into the welfare of correctional service officers by also providing them [with] decent accommodation unlike what it used to be in the past," Kampyongo explained.

And in a separate interview, Kapijimpanga observed that the rate of unemployment negatively affected people with a criminal record.

"Before we talk about even consideration for employment for people who come out of

prison, we need to reorganize our prison system, criminal justice system, so that when a person goes into prison, they have access to materials to read, to blow their minds, to challenge their creative function because you don't cease to be a human being when you go into prison," Kapijimpanga said.

"What we need to do is, we say; 'what are the best practices that we can learn from Scandinavian countries?' 'What are the best practices that we can learn from the Western world?' I'm talking about those aspects that are corrective, restorative, and still confer the benefits of the human rights component to this human being [convict]. So,

we need to start from there."

He said there must be will, leadership and deliberate efforts from the political leadership to reorient society's attitude towards ex-convicts.

"The way our prison system is set up, it's a death sentence on you as an individual! It's a killer of your dreams and aspirations! We need to change the whole set-up; the prison system, the judicial system and political system. If that happens, then it's easy for us (society) to receive [those] who are out of prison and make them contribute to economic growth to our GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and can be part of the solution on how we can move this country forward," said Kapijimpanga.

Accountant sues YMCA for interfering in her work

By Zondiwe Mbewe

An accountant at Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) has sued her employer in the Lusaka High Court, seeking damages for allegedly subjecting her to slavery conditions for no apparent reason.

In this matter, Yvonne Kalumbi is seeking an order of injunction, restraining YMCA from interfering with her work or forcing her to go on forced leave.

In a statement of claim filed

in the Lusaka High Court, recently, Kalumbi stated that she had been subjected to servitude conditions by YMCA for no apparent reason. She stated that YMCA, through the Chairperson Human Resource Committee, had been purporting that as an accountant, she had been behind the delayment of the Annual General Meeting taking place when in fact not.

Kalumbi stated that following those allegations, the Chairperson decided that she

goes on forced leave without an apparent reason.

She noted that YMCA's board members tenure of office became obsolete on November 15, last year, according to their Constitution, hence they did not have authority to direct her to go on forced leave.

Kalumbi further stated that the manner in which YMCA had been carrying out the activities had proved to be a source of worry.

She stated that she had on several occasions tried to engage YMCA to find an amicable resolution to the problem but the organisation had been hostile towards such attempts.

"Kalumbi has made attempts at engaging YMCA with a view of finding an amicable resolution to the problem and YMCA has been visibly hostile towards such attempts. Arising from this unbecoming conduct on the part of YMCA, Kalumbi has consequently been subjected to unbearable inconvenience and discomfort," read the statement of claim.

Kalumbi is now seeking an order of injunction, restraining YMCA from interfering with her work or forcing her to go on forced leave.

She is further seeking damages for inconvenience caused by YMCA, costs and any other relief as the court may deem fit.

Meanwhile, four YMCA members have dragged the organisation and its board members to court, seeking an order that the board be dissolved as they allegedly have no authority to hold on to the office.

In this matter, Agrippa Kaputo, Becker Mwewa, Taweni Musa and Wilson Cheeks have sued YMCA, Vincent Chirwa, Ephraim Zulu, Benjamin Sichilumbe, Milk Ndlovu, Patrick Sakala and Prisca Katumbo in the Lusaka High Court.

The plaintiffs stated in a statement of claim filed recently, that the defendants were elected board members of YMCA and were sued in that capacity.

They stated that the defendants were voted into office on November 15, 2015 and sometime on November 21, 2015, the board members had their last Annual General Meeting, which indicated that their tenure of office became obsolete.

The plaintiffs observed that as a result thereof, the current

board members had no authority whatsoever to hold on to the office and operate as board members of YMCA.

They alleged that in disregard of the Constitution, the purported board members had been harassing and threatening the plaintiffs not to interfere with their operations, and had further stopped remitting the allowances to the YMCA members.

The plaintiffs further stated that the said members had gone ahead to lock the accountant's office alleging that she was behind the calling of the AGM meeting.

"The plaintiffs have been trying for a long time now, to have this matter resolved amicably by calling for an AGM wherein the defendants have been visibly hostile towards such attempts," read the statement of claim.

They are now claiming for an order that the board members of YMCA be dissolved and new members be voted into office and an order of interim injunction restraining the purported board members from conducting, holding any meetings or operating as YMCA board members.

3 juveniles die in Samfya mine accident

By Diggers Reporter

Three juveniles have died in a mine accident which occurred in Fipe area, Shinkole village of Samfya District in Luapula Province.

In a statement, Sunday, police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo narrated that the three juveniles were mining manganese.

"Three juveniles have died in a mine accident which happened at Fipe area at Shinkole village in Senior Chief Mwewa's area. The three juveniles are Felix Kalembé aged 11 years of Shinkole village Chief Mwewa, a grade two pupil at Chamalawa primary school, Stainslous Kope aged 15 years of Chamalawa village, and Kelvin Kope aged 13 all pupils at Chamalawa primary school. One person identified as Saviour Kope aged 11 who was in the company of the deceased escaped unhurt. This occurred on 19th January, 2019 at 1400 hours at Shinkole village in Senior Chief Mwewa as the victims were mining Manganese mineral at the mine," stated Katongo.

"The bodies were retrieved by members of the public at 16th hours the same day and are in Samfya District Hospital mortuary."

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Bureaus want US\$1,000 forex limit lifted

By Stuart Lisulo

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) regulations to limit the sale or purchase of foreign exchange to US\$1,000 per person per day must be repealed to allow for larger transactions, says the Bureau de Change Association.

In a press release reviewing the 2018 financial year, Association president Paul Kalumba explained that the central bank's limit of US \$1,000 per person per day was outdated since the real time monitoring mechanism had taken effect to combat money laundering.

"BoZ regulations limit the sale or purchase of forex to US \$1,000 per person per day. This regulation was introduced many years ago. Its intended purpose was to curb money laundering. Now that BoZ has a real time online monitoring system, this regulation should be repealed and the Over-The-Counter (OTC) limits adjusted upwards. Notwithstanding that the real time monitoring system is now over a year old, BoZ has not updated the regulations to give better Over-The-Counter limits," Kalumba stated.

He added that the BoZ's electronic systems have also increased the cost of doing business for bureaus.

"While the electronic system is meant to help BoZ to monitor any anti-money laundering activities in the Bureau de Change sector, BoZ is passing the cost to new bureaus and new branches at K43,000 per new entry. This is over and above the annual K10,800 annual fee and the K5,400 branch application fee. This increases the cost of doing business and it also makes it difficult for Zambians who may want to join the sector," Kalumba explained.

"The new law regarding audit fees has also negatively impacted the sector as the audit fees have now

significantly increased, making it very difficult for small entities to operate profitably."

The BoZ introduced the new real time system over

a year ago, which connects all Bureau de Change in Zambia to BoZ, meaning that all bureau transactions are now monitored in real time, making it a first

for any central bank in southern Africa, according to Kalumba.

BoZ is able to monitor all transactions in real time, which makes anti-money

laundering monitoring effective.

Meanwhile, three new bureaus were registered last year, bring the total number of registered Bureau de

Change to 81 in the country.

According to Kalumba, Golden Coin Bureau de Change remains the largest branch network with 18 centres across the country.



NAREP leader Elias Chipimo throws salt on fire as a symbolic action to signify the official launch of National Dialogue framework at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on Friday, January 18, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

It is criminal for government to deny registration officers their dues - Changala

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Civil rights activist Brebner Changala says government must pay officers who conducted the 2015-2016 mobile registration exercise their dues or reduce salaries for senior government officials to prove that there is no money in the Treasury.

Recently, Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship Registrar-General Matthews Nyirongo said the unpaid officers who took part in the 2015-2016 mobile registration exercise would only get their dues when funds were available because the Treasury

was currently stressed.

About 700 officers who took part in phase three of the exercise have still not been paid their balance of K15,000 each, despite Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo promising in Parliament last year that they would be paid at the end of 2018.

But in an interview, Changala charged that the PF government was insensitive to people's suffering.

"We are dealing with a government that is insensitive to the people's plights and suffering. A government that is not ready to sacrifice for this country but very ready to abuse the citizenry. This government has got too much money, but for themselves and not anybody else. Those people performed their duties in 2016, now almost three years along the line they are being told that there is no money. That is treachery and criminal," he charged.

Changala challenged government officials to either cut their salaries or forfeit them to prove that the country was broke.

"They are paying themselves huge allowances. There is no single month when ministers have gone without salaries. They are using VX motor vehicles in the period of austerity measures to drain the treasury. If they were serious, they should be the first people who must go without a salary to justify that the country is broke. They must never draw a salary because they are not doing anything for us. In fact they are an inconvenience

to us. My prayer is, can they pay the suffering people, they worked. And secondly, can these characters in government either cut their salaries or go without a salary to show loyalty to the people of Zambia," he said.

"We have seen in the midst of austerity measures, they are busy spending big. The President travels all over the world unnecessarily for no reason at all, at a huge cost to the treasury. The President must reduce on his foreign trips. Just in the last few days, the wife went to the United States of America with a huge delegation to spend money to go and look at some fire engines. That is hypocrisy."

Meanwhile, Changala urged Zambians to wake up, saying if the PF government was not removed from office, everyone would perish.

"My appeal to Zambians is to stop thinking about 2021, a thing which is becoming boring. This government of Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu must be removed from office before we all die and perish. We as Zambians are equally becoming irresponsible by tolerating this criminality, this nonsense, this incompetence. Zambians must wake up," said Changala.

UPND can win 2021 without alliance, we can't change running mate - Illunga

By Thomas Mulenga

The UPND is still capable of winning the 2021 general election without an alliance, says the opposition party's Northern Province chairperson Nathan Illunga.

In an interview with News Diggers! Illunga argued that the UPND was not ready to change its presidential candidate and running mate because of an alliance. He, however, explained that the 10-member opposition alliance's unity was meant to forge a common front on issues of common interest.

"The essence of the political alliance is to fight these archaic laws together because what affects one political party, affects us all in the opposition, so we have to fight together. But when it comes to going into an election, I don't think we are going into an election as an alliance because for us in the UPND, we have already

adopted president Hakainde Hichilema as our presidential candidate and his running mate is GBM (Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba), and we are not prepared to change! Those are our candidates, and you remember in 2016, we were only beaten by a very small margin by the ruling party and we have already disputed those results; we are saying that was a stolen election! So, we are capable of winning an election in 2021 as UPND alone," Illunga explained.

And he bemoaned the poor quality of roads being constructed in Northern Province by government

"The kind of development that PF is undertaking in Northern Province leaves much to be desired. When you talk about roads, we are being told by the authorities that the contractors who are working on the roads have not yet finished; they have not put up the

drainage, and even the thickness of the roads is so small such that they are even being washed away by the rains; they have even started developing potholes, but when they are queried they are saying the contractor has not yet finished. But we don't know when the contractor will come and finish the road, and as time goes by and the kwacha depreciates, it means we have to pay more," said Illunga "Agriculture here is a flop because even now, people are queuing up at the banks trying to get their money for the crops that they sold to FRA (Food Reserve Agency), most of them have not been paid. And now they can't even cultivate, because for you to cultivate, you need money to give people to help you as well as money to access farming inputs, so I don't even know how the harvest for the 2019-2020 season will be. So, under PF, agriculture is a total flop!"



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote *Leaving no one behind*

BETTERING THE LIVES OF ALL ZAMBIANS: PRESIDENT LUNGU DISCUSSES THE EU AND HIS DRIVE FOR ZAMBIA TO HARNESS THE POSITIVES OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH COOPERATION

Introduction by Hon Davies Mwila

As outlined in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), the Patriotic Front Government under His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, continues to recognise the importance of foreign relations in creating an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic development.

The country's foreign policy emphasises the key role of economic diplomacy in national development with peace and security as indispensable conditions for our country's development. Global integration continues to benefit Zambia by availing opportunities to access global markets through various channels.

The following article was written by President Lungu and it recently featured in "NEW EUROPE".

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/why-eu-africa-cooperation-is-essential-for-global-democracy-and-the-economy/>

The Head of state discusses Africa's economic relationship with the European Union (EU), and he speaks from the heart as he outlines his longing for our nation to harness the positives of global and regional integration in order to better the lives of ALL Zambians.

WHY EU - AFRICA COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR GLOBAL DEMOCRACY AND THE ECONOMY

By His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu

Upon becoming President, I took an oath to better the lives of the people of Zambia. Not just the lives of those that voted for me, but the lives of each and every person who calls our nation their home. In order to achieve this, I knew that Zambia needed to cooperate more than ever with its international partners and international institutions like the EU.

I believe that a better future for Zambia will be a consequence of reaching out the hand of cooperation to our strategic allies and working together in areas of mutual interest.

These relationships must be mutually beneficial and well balanced. It is therefore, encouraging to see that after the 2018 State of the European Union address by President Juncker that the EU seeks to reinvigorate the EU-Africa partnership on a more equal footing and on a broad range of issues. Africa is more than one issue. It is a diverse, thriving, and vibrant continent. It is rich with the ambitions, innovation and determination of our young people.

My hope is that with a renewed focus on creating this equal partnership between the EU and Africa, that Europe will come to see that Africa has as much to offer Europe, as Europe has to offer African nations like my own. We all need to plan for the future. The world's resources are limited, and our effective and efficient use of them must be a priority. Zambia is resource and agriculturally rich, and European cooperation and investment in Zambia will help sustain all of our social, economic, and political



responsibilities of the future.

Only a few years ago, economic and social change in Africa was minimal. In recent years however, the determination and ambitions of Zambia have heralded great progress in health, the standard of living, education and sustainability. There is still much to do, but with strategic international cooperation, Zambia can, and will, become a middle-income country by 2030. High levels of investment from Europe, America and Asia in commodities and trade, as well as investment in our mutual challenges such as climate change, energy security, and democracy building, have built a solid platform for Zambia's growth for a generation.

Globalisation means we are all ever-closer neighbours, and our challenges and opportunities are shared. I believe that countries like my own cannot retreat into an isolated corner of the past, but instead, need to seize this moment and all the opportunities that globalisation has to offer. Globalisation can revitalise our growth, fulfil our potential and transform the lives of all our citizens in the process. My priority has always been to ensure that progress and prosperity are inclusive, and deliver wide reaching benefits for achieving peace, security and stability within both the African continent and the wider world around us. I believe this is something that Europe and African nations have in common.

In a recent visit to Japan, I met with Prime Minister Abe who had just signed the EU-Japan economic partnership agreement. It highlighted that there is still a strong global network of countries with shared values, shared goals, and true cooperation, on the principles of equality and rules-based trade. Looking around the world, it sometimes feels like there is a shrinking space for freedom and democracy, and for the values we hold dear. That is why like-minded countries from every corner of the world must come together to champion the principles of freedom, fairness and democracy within its economic and trading partnerships. This is why Europe should ensure that it does not neglect Africa either economically or politically. The EU is a partner we want to strengthen our relationship with, but in order to achieve this EU must take seriously its new commitment to strengthen our ties. Zambia already cooperates with countries such as Germany and Italy and the United States on issues related to health, mining, the environment, agriculture and technology. I want this network to grow, and I want our shared political agenda to provide solutions to the big challenges we all share. I am proud to stand side by side with partners like the European Union, and I hope that we can continue to work together to shape the world in a positive way.

The Author is President of the Republic of Zambia



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

With
Sishuwa Sishuwa

...Only in
News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

He is not Lungu. But what else does Hichilema offer Zambian voters?

Appearing on Radio Christian Voice's Chat Back programme last week, opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) leader Hakainde Hichilema revealed that mining companies in Zambia have told him that they cannot wait for him to ascend to power because they see him as someone who will clean up the mess in the sector. "The mining companies are talking to us; they are saying 'HH we are waiting for you to come, we are waiting for you'", he said. The UPND leader criticised as chaotic the new mining tax changes proposed by the government in this year's budget. He however stopped short of explaining what exactly is wrong with the proposed mining taxes, what his administration would have done differently had he been in power, and why he thinks mining companies, generally seen by many Zambians as not paying their fair share of taxes, want him elected. Before I discuss the meaning and implications of Hichilema's extraordinary disclosure, I would like to go back to an article I wrote in this column on 25 December 2017 under today's title. I seek the reader's indulgence to publish it in full and unchanged because it is important to the point I wish to make next week, when I plan to examine in greater detail Hichilema's jaw-dropping ineptitude on the mining issue.

On 17 December 2017, opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) leader Hakainde Hichilema appeared on Sunday Interview, a Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) television programme hosted by Grevazio Zulu every Sunday evening that typically consists of an in-depth, one-on-one 60-minute interview with a prominent guest. Hichilema's rare appearance on the public broadcaster followed the UPND's successful request to ZNBC that the opposition leader be granted an opportunity to feature on the show in order to "address some key issues affecting the nation". Zambians who had hoped that Hichilema would use the platform to share his vision for the country and explain why anybody deserves to be led by him were left disappointed. The UPND leader failed to reveal any enthusiasm or sense of outrage, gave a series of vague and superficial replies to the interviewer's questions, condescendingly berated his host as an ignorant worker who did not understand this or that, insisted on the legality of the court challenge to Lungu's election without providing any political reason for continuing with the contest, and argued that he is rich because he has worked hard smartly. To be sure, Hichilema did promise to increase maize prices and keep mealie meal prices down but stopped short of explaining how exactly he would pay for these moves. He also mentioned the recently acquired \$42 million fire trucks and the inflated cost of public procurement, but only in passing. Unbelievably, he hardly mentioned anything in relation to Zambia's swelling debt, a very odd position for someone who frequently proclaims himself to be an economist. All in all, Hichilema missed a huge opportunity to talk about the real issues – poverty, inequality, poor services, corruption, unemployment, the erosion of the rule of law, etc. – that affect majority Zambians, to critique the performance of the governing Patriotic Front on these concerns, and to project his own ability to handle them better. Even though he was not asked, any effective politician with skilled advisors knows how to answer a question but shift the answer towards delivering the substantive message. In Hichilema's case, there was no message and throughout the ZNBC interview he seemed to be seriously in need of some ideological, strategic and tactical sense.

Hichilema's unsatisfactory performance on the Sunday Interview underlines two of his major weaknesses as a

political leader seeking Zambia's most coveted elective public office. The first is a longstanding and costly failure to connect with the majority of ordinary Zambians. This is a weakness that his political opponents like Lungu have repeatedly exploited and probably one that arises from the feebleness of Hichilema's political character. Other than having money (the origins of which are open to question), there is absolutely nothing to the man, politically speaking. He has no magnetism or charisma, he lacks a political strategy, he finds it impossible to identify with the majority of Zambians who are poor (by his own admission, he is rich because he has worked hard smartly, and by implication, the majority of Zambians are poor because they are lazy and not smart – so how the hell can he speak and act for them?) and he lacks the rhetorical skills necessary in politics. Perhaps his greatest weakness is that he did not enter politics as an individual with a political axe to grind, but saw an opportunity with the death of UPND founding president Anderson Mazoka and took it.

The second is Hichilema's enduring inability to explain clearly his motivations for seeking public office and power. Why does Hichilema want to be President of Zambia? This is a question he needs to articulate a convincing answer to. What exactly does Hichilema offer Zambians other than the fact that he is not Edgar Lungu? On the evidence he has given so far, it appears that the answer is very little. Hichilema has no distinctive political positions nor any real desire for genuine radical emancipatory politics the country is badly in need of. His politics appear to be entirely anchored on reminding us about the tragic ineptitude, unlimited greed and unscrupulousness of President Lungu, but Lungu's weaknesses must never be allowed to become Hichilema's main strengths. Politics in Zambia is not only the activities and opinions of Lungu. There exist a wide variety of pressing concerns on which Hichilema is silent. For instance, controversial estimates by a High Level Panel Report on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) indicate that Zambia accounts for 65 per cent of Africa's IFFs, largely 'facilitated by a global shadow financial system comprising tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, disguised corporations, anonymous trust accounts, fake foundations, trade mispricing, and money laundering techniques'. What is Hichilema's position on this important issue and how does he plan to curtail this massive flight of capital from Zambia's economy – money that could otherwise be used for poverty alleviation and economic growth?

What would be the approach of a Hichilema presidency towards mining investment? This sector is absolutely not only crucial to Zambia's economy but one that Hichilema was closely associated with. Questions remain about his relationship to the privatisation of the mines and the mining corporations themselves. What does he think about the poor wages and living conditions of black Zambian mineworkers on the Copperbelt and in North-Western Province today, especially when seen against the lavish earnings, housing and social facilities of their white counterparts? How exactly does he intend to ensure that the exploitation of Zambia's natural resources benefits the country as much as investors? Having ascended to the UPND presidency in 2006, Hichilema has had ample opportunity to explain his political vision and tell Zambians why he became a politician, yet he has not done so. The UPND's ten-point plan is, to put it mildly, short on answers. Its formula simply copies PF policies by promising more. How will these policies be enacted and paid for? Zambians deserve clear responses.

Zambia's economic malaise and slide into political authoritarianism require a robust and effective opposition. In many ways, Hichilema's failure to provide such an

opposition makes him a great friend to Lungu because a more competent leader of the opposition would have delivered Zambians from the failed PF experiment a long time ago. In a space of only three years, for instance, Lungu has effectively destroyed the vestiges of autonomy in all state institutions outside the executive arm of government for the purposes of establishing an authoritarian regime and a slide into a fearful dictatorship. The President has carried out this task with considerable ease, impunity and skill (albeit of a criminal variety), employing a line of political rhetoric and well-concealed hypocrisy that went unrecognised until it was far too late. As leader of the opposition, Hichilema was supposed to identify, analyse, reveal and oppose Lungu's project from the outset. In this regard, Lungu has been very competent in revealing Hichilema's incompetence, ineffectiveness and impotence. In some ways, Lungu and Hichilema need each other. Lungu's failures encourage many Zambians to support Hichilema even though he offers little. Hichilema's weaknesses and inability to mobilise voters around wider concerns or shared elements of a national programme enable Lungu to remain in power largely undisturbed. They appear as two mediocrities, each benefiting from the other. Lungu has consistently demonstrated over the last three years that he is not a leader and he only appears to be one because the opposition is extremely weak. Hichilema and the UPND, for instance, have failed to address Lungu's manifold inadequacies, making him seem more competent than he is. In turn, Hichilema benefits from the incompetence of Lungu, doing nothing as he simply waits for Zambians dissatisfied and angered by Lungu's rule turn to him as the default alternative.

Yet if there is anything that Hichilema has demonstrated over the past decade, it is that he is not a leader of the future or a credible opposition figure of the present. He is yesterday's man. However, thanks to the waves of present weaknesses and mediocrity in Zambia's politics, a man whose politics and personal qualities are largely unknown may well become Zambia's next president. He is getting so confident of this prospect that he now comes across as someone who must be President of Zambia simply because it is him. In a recent interview with News Diggers, Hichilema gave the example that when he was at Coopers and Lybrand Zambia (later Grant Thornton), he was several times elected as the firm's chief executive officer for 13 years, and seemed genuinely puzzled that the more than five million voters of Zambia are not looking for the same leadership qualities that so impressed the few shareholders of Coopers and Lybrand.

Hichilema should, however, be warned that he cannot rely on the passive support of voters. It is even possible, if he is not careful, that an upstart presidential hopeful such as Chishimba Kambwili may reach State House earlier than him. The UPND leader needs to develop an affective political strategy and a clear vision, one that resonates on a very phenomenological level with majority Zambians, especially the common man. Although he almost won in 2016, many of those who supported him were not UPND members; they did so only because they opposed Lungu's continued misrule. There is no guarantee that the same voters will support Hichilema or the UPND in a future election. The fate of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy should be a lesson to the UPND about how quickly political support can evaporate. Zambian voters do not have a history of party loyalty and there is no guarantee that the 47.6 per cent who voted for Hichilema in 2016 would do so again tomorrow.

Feedback: sishuwasishuwa@yahoo.com; @ssishuwa

President Emmerson Mnangagwa was a national hero when he led troops to overthrow Robert Mugabe who had been at the helm of Zimbabwe for nearly four decades. But this man was no stranger to the Zimbabwean voters. He ruled the former Southern Rhodesia alongside Mugabe and agreed to literally everything that old Bob did. He supported every single decision imposed on the people of Zimbabwe, until it became clear that he was not Mugabe's preferred candidate to take over the reigns of power.

That is the moment that Mr Mnangagwa became a 'good man'. Suddenly, he saw the problems that the citizens of that country were facing and the economic doldrum that Zimbabwe had been in for years. Suddenly, his ears opened and he was there promising the citizens to "fix it" if they gave him a fresh mandate to rule.

Historians will tell you that under Mugabe's rule, Mnangagwa and his soldiers were among the best-remunerated government officials, but their loyalty was not with their paymaster, and neither was it with the poor people of Zimbabwe. Strangely, the citizens never realised all this. They never saw it coming until when they have already given a fresh dosage of venom to the new dragon that is now breathing fire over the captured territory.

We wrote and warned the people of Zimbabwe through our editorial

Zimbabwe: Danger of voting for change instead of progress

NEWS Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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opinion published in November 2017, to be wary of their 'saviour'. It was this man who had succeeded to suppress a revolution under Mugabe's detested rule. This is the man who, as a matter of fact, was calling the shots in the defence forces, and that is why it was easy for him to mobilise troops to rise against the hated President. As they rallied behind Mnangagwa in 2017, the people of Zimbabwe had no idea what his true intentions were, in fact they didn't even care whether he was a better replacement to put in State House, all they wanted was a Zimbabwe without Mugabe.

But President Mnangagwa has already forgotten the

list of problems that Zimbabweans wanted him to fix. In fact, he hasn't forgotten those problems, he never even heard them in the first place. President Mnangagwa did not see anything wrong with how Zimbabweans were being governed, he had a problem with who was governing Zimbabwe. That is why the most significant change he has brought to the leadership of that country is the scarf around his neck.

But we cannot blame the people of Zimbabwe, they say when you haven't tasted an orange before, a lemon feels like the real deal. The majority of Zimbabweans who wanted Mugabe out and Mnangagwa in, had never known any other leader before. To

them, anything other than Mugabe was better! Well, they enjoyed their little moment and it is now time to dance as they learn from their mistakes.

Unlike Zimbabweans, Zambians have about the most voting experience in Africa. In the past 12 years, we have gone to the polls to choose a President five times. We have voted for bad Presidents before and we have been governed by the worst. Having tested both lemon and orange, we now know when presidential candidates are pretending to respect press freedom and we know when they are making false promises to the unemployed youths. Because of this voting experience that we possess, it

will be twice more foolish if we Zambians make the mistake that Zimbabweans made to vote for change without paying attention to the change they were voting for.

In saying this, we are not suggesting that Zambians must let the Patriotic Front continue to govern because changing would be risky. Our point is that if the people want to change government, they must not VOTE OUT those in power, but VOTE IN those who deserve to be in power. The danger of VOTING OUT bad leaders is that you don't care what you are replace them with, while VOTING IN good leaders means voting for progress. It means carefully interrogating

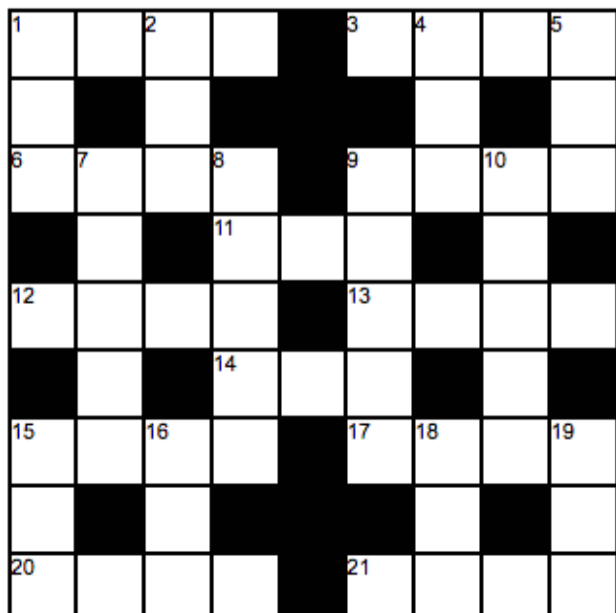
the options and selecting the best without being influenced by the blind wind of change.

It is always very easy for those seeking to take over the leadership of a country to convince a gullible citizenry that once they assume power, all the bad governance practices will be fixed together with the economy. Before they form government, they are the darlings of the people - paying attention to every little public complaint and addressing it at their weekly press briefing. When they get hold of power, the first changes they implement are their diets and phone numbers.

We still have more than two years before the next general election. Our call to the people of Zambia is to watch critically what those who want to form government are offering. Read the reasons why they want your vote, published daily in the News Diggers print edition. Analyse who is lying and who is making sense. Once you vote for them in 2021 and they put the price of fuel at K40 per litter, like President Mnangagwa has done in Zimbabwe, there will be nothing you will do about it.

Just like President Mnangagwa, Many of our political leaders don't genuinely see anything wrong with how Zambians are being governed, their real issue is who is governing Zambia. These are lemons which must not be experimented with any more.

Crossword puzzle 276



"The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane."
- Marcus Aurelius

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not fail 3. Went too fast 6. Snatch 9. Percussion instrument 11. Put to work 12. British submachine gun 13. Command post 14. Negating word 15. Skeletal 17. Quench 20. Big brass instrument 21. Large lot size | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrinkly dog 2. Neptune's realm 4. Better than a bogey 5. Make less bright 7. Fashionably dated 8. Cottontail 9. Owed amounts 10. Distressed 15. Gamble 16. Pen tip 18. Part of a circle 19. Female sheep |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 275



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.

Mucheleka's call for Lungu to be impeached

Editor,

"Comrade Mucheleka is right, there are good grounds to impeach dictator Lungu; but Lungu's puppet PF MPs will block the process.

A dictator can only be ousted by a people's uprising or by the armed forces. Lungu is unfit to rule!" - Chivunda Samusungwa

"How possible is that in a country with unbalanced Parliament?" - Chrispin Chanda

"Impeachment of ECL is long overdue. This man has committed so many atrocities against the people of Zambia. Only the naïve cannot see. Impeachment motion was admitted by the Speaker, but halted by court case. So grounds of impeachment are already there." - Martin Nama

"I agree with you, Patrick. How can the First Lady go to USA with 24 delegates?" - Keith Moono

"The problem with these reactionary statements is that they run out of steam by the next day. It is agreed that President Lungu deserves to be impeached for his abdication of duty. However, you need to properly catalogue his breaching of the law in a palatable manner. Indeed, President Lungu's weak leadership (and by this I refer to how he has let his cabal criminally breach the law to their financial advantage, and he does not bat an eyelid) should not be allowed to continue. A good example needs to be made for what is expected of our presidents." - Kwa Mwamba

"The problem with the opposition is that they lack intelligence; they talk about things that are not applicable! Just tell Zambians what you intend to do for them if you came into power!" - Richard Lipa



'Govt should fix local hospitals to avoid evacuating unhealthy politicians!'

Editor,
"It would be better to evacuate all UTH patients and close it down!" - Phillip Mwanza

"Why not just fix local hospitals?" - Ruth Kapito

"Just improve the State of UTH. Even where you send patients to, Staff wonder what goes on in Zambia." - Nina Chanda

"You use tax payers' money to evacuate each other in your little circles, while a tax payer will forever be subjected to the poor health system that you continue to provide for him/her. Now, we will be coming to the airport to block all those you try to evacuate, we should all suffer together and

be subjected to the poor health services that you have created!" - Mary Mules

"Why not evacuate the three year old boy with needles in his body? These former leaders are already on pension! These two politicians should be ashamed even to jump on a plane to go to South Africa! Why leave UTH? Who is supposed to receive medical treatment at UTH?" - Mwalimu B Ali

"Does it mean politicians don't invest for them to depend on public resources throughout their entire life, let alone have insurance policy? It's time hospitals are equipped with hi-tech equipment like what South Africans did." - Clifford Siansobanda

Vedanta's appeal to have pollution case heard in Zambia

Editor,

"They want it heard in Zambia because they know they will easily bribe the Zambian government and court judges to do away with the case!" - Chomba Chongo

"...Because those lawyers have studied and heard that in Zambia, justice is for trading. Those with money go scot-free no matter how serious the crime they may have committed." - Kazundulu Wachila

"They know in Zambia they can pay off the horde of corrupt judges in Zambia. Our lower courts like Magistrates and local court are now more credible and reliable than the High Court and Supreme Court." - Musonda Banda

"I am sure they heard about the favourable judgements those with money receive in Zambia." - Robby LM

"They want to manipulate things. We say no!" - Geoffrey Samusungwa

"Why Zambian courts? We want the case to be dealt with just there!" - Kachinga Miyoba

"No! Don't bring it here! Too much corruption!" - Joshua Mwamba

"This is a punch in the face of the Zambian Justice system. A clear message that the judges are easy to influence, corrupt and so on." Erick Dube

'World's oldest man' dies in Japan at 113



"World's oldest man" Masazo Nonaka, who was born just two years after the Wright brothers launched humanity's first powered flight, died on Sunday aged 113, Japanese media said.

Nonaka was born in July 1905, according to Guinness World Records -- just months before Albert Einstein published his special theory of relativity.

Guinness officially recognised Nonaka as the oldest living man after the death of Spaniard Francisco Nunez Olivera last year.

"We feel shocked at the loss of this big figure. He was as usual yesterday and passed away without causing our family any fuss at all," his granddaughter Yuko told Kyodo News.

Nonaka had six brothers and one sister, marrying in 1931 and fathering five children.

He ran a hot spring inn in his hometown and in retirement enjoyed watching sumo wrestling on TV and eating sweets, according to local media.

Japan has one of the world's highest life expectancies and was home to several people recognised as among the oldest humans to have ever lived.

They include Jiroemon Kimura, the longest-living man on record, who died soon after his 116th birthday in June 2013.

The oldest verified person ever -- Jeanne Louise Calment of France -- died in 1997 at the age of 122, according to Guinness. *AFP*



Entire Burkina Faso govt resigns

The Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Paul Kaba Thieba, has resigned from office along with his entire cabinet.

No reason was given for the move, which was announced in a televised statement by the country's president.

Mr Thieba, a former economist, had held the position since January 2016 when he was nominated by President Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

His government has faced growing pressure over a rise in the number of kidnappings and jihadist attacks.

Recent high-profile disappearances of foreign nationals have led to direct calls for Mr Thieba's resignation, as well as that of his defence and security ministers.

In his statement, President Kabore expressed his gratitude for their service. He said he hoped to form a new government soon. A 34-year-old Canadian woman, Edith Blais, and an Italian man, Luca Tacchetto, 30, have been missing in the country since mid-December.

The pair were travelling to Togo to work with an aid group when they disappeared.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland met with the 34-year-old's family on Friday, one day after the announcement another missing Canadian had been found dead.

Kirk Woodman, a geologist, was abducted by gunmen on Tuesday night from a mine exploration camp in the country's north.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for his murder, but groups linked to al-Qaeda are known to operate in the area.

Burkina Faso, a poor land-locked nation in Africa's Sahel region, has seen a surge in Islamist militant activity in recent years.

There have been deadly attacks on a cafe and the French embassy in the country's capital, Ouagadougou.

Several northern provinces in its border regions have been under a state of emergency since 31 December. *BBC*

Zimbabwe protests: Crackdown is just a 'taste of things to come'



The Zimbabwean government says the security forces' response to this week's protests in which a number of people have reportedly died is just "a foretaste of things to come".

News of a violent crackdown has emerged despite the government blocking social media sites.

Local rights groups said at least 12 people had been killed and many more beaten by security forces.

The protests were sparked on Monday by a sharp rise in the price of fuel.

The presidential spokesman George Charamba, speaking to the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper, blamed the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) for the violence that has accompanied the protests.

"The MDC leadership has been consistently pushing out the message that they will use violent street action to overturn the results of [last year's] ballot," he said.

The opposition rejected a court ruling in August that confirmed that President Emmerson Mnangagwa had beaten MDC candidate Nelson Chamisa.

Over the course of the week riot police have clashed with protesters in the capital, Harare, and the southern city of Bulawayo after they lit fires and blocked roads using rocks.

On Thursday, Mr Chamisa tweeted that his thoughts were "with the victims of violence".

"Despite the vitriol," he added, "we maintain a dignified position befitting our role as led by the people."

The UN has called on the government to halt the "excessive use of force" by security forces, amid reports of door-to-door searches and the use of live ammunition.

Why has the fuel price increased?

A week ago, President Mnangagwa announced that the fuel price would more than double.

The price rise was aimed at tackling shortages caused by an increase in fuel use and "rampant" illegal trading, he said.

But many Zimbabweans, worn down by years of economic hardship, suddenly found they could not even afford the bus fare to work.

The new prices mean Zimbabwe now has the most expensive fuel in the world, according to GlobalPetrolPrices.com

They feel that the president, who has been on a tour of Russia and Asian countries, is failing to live up to his promises following his election last year in disputed polls.

He is struggling to revive the economy, which is experiencing high inflation while wages have stagnated.

Access to the internet was intermittent throughout the week, but people found they were unable to use social media and the WhatsApp messaging platform, which has become a common way to share news.

BBC

Defending champion Roger Federer was stunned by fiery Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas who ended his bid for a record seventh Australian Open Sunday on a day of upsets that also saw second seed Angelique Kerber crash out.

The Swiss master caved in under the energy and pressure of a man 17 years his junior to tumble out 6-7 (11/13), 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in the last 16 on Rod Laver Arena.

World number two Kerber was also sensationally bundled out by a woman playing the event for the first time, with American Danielle Collins humiliating the Wimbledon champion 6-0, 6-2 in under an hour.

The man Federer beat in last year's final, sixth seed Marin Cilic, was also sent packing by Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, who now plays Tsitsipas in the

Federer stunned as Nadal powers into Open quarters

quarter-finals.

Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Shaparova was another to fall, but there was no such drama for a rampant Rafael Nadal who powered into the last eight with a straight sets win over Tomas Berdych.

Federer was gunning for a 21st Grand Slam title but had a battle on his hands from off against the 20-year-old, touted among the new generation of young stars as

a future champion.

"I'm the happiest man on Earth right now, I cannot describe it," said the 14th seed, who is the first Greek in history to reach the quarter-finals of a Slam.

"I've been idolising him (Federer) since the age of six. It was a dream come true for me just being on Rod Laver facing him. Winning at the end, I can't describe it."

The Swiss great was gracious in

defeat, saying "I lost to a better player who was playing very well, who hung in there and stayed calm".

Wimbledon winner and 2016 champion Kerber, the 'bookies' favourite along with Serena Williams after defending champion Caroline Wozniacki was ousted early, was no match for Collins, ranked 35 in the world.

Collins is little known after

playing much of her tennis in the US college system and was making her debut in the main draw at Melbourne Park. She had never won a Grand Slam match before this year.

"I may not have won a Grand Slam match before this but I tell you, it's going to keep happening," said the 25-year-old. "I better have many more of these."

- Chipping away -

Men's second seed Nadal, returning from foot surgery, barrelled past former world number four Tomas Berdych 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) as he stays on track for an 18th Grand Slam title.

"I always say the same when I am back for injury," said the Spaniard. "I don't expect negative or positive things. I just try to do my work every day and just be with (the) right attitude every single day." **AFP**

IN DEPTH: How Zesco United countered Kaizer Chiefs

Amakhosi faced off against Zesco United as they looked to overturn a 3-1 deficit from the first leg in Zambia last week

Chiefs have switched shape regularly since Ernst Middendorp took over, and decided against the 3-5-2 of recent weeks to switch to a more adventurous 4-3-3 formation, their usual go-to system when needing to attack and chase a game.

In defence, with Kgotso Moleko ineligible, it was a back four with Daniel Cardoso covering at right back and Godfrey Walusimbi left out in favour of Siphosakhe Ntiya-Ntiya at left back.

The latter has been described a "marvel to watch" and a "fantastic player" by his coach in recent weeks.

In midfield, Lebogang Manyama was missing with injury so George Maluleka returned from an Achilles problem in a midfield three.

Khama Billiat and Bernard Parker played as wide forwards either side of Leonardo Castro. For Zesco, it was a disciplined 4-4-2 shape with the massive threat of Lazarous Kambole and Jesse Were in the wide areas.

In defence, the side used a defensive and often narrow back-four with Marcel Kalonda marshalling the backline having served a suspension in the first leg.

With midfielder, Enock Sabamukama still injured, the midfield featured the athletic duo of Kondwani Mtonga and Anthony Akumu. Up front, Rahim Osumanu led the line as a target man, with John Ching'andu in support.

Zesco Man-Mark

In the early stages of this match, the away side visibly used quite aggressive man-marking on Chiefs in certain areas of the pitch.

With Khama Billiat stationed as a left winger, albeit with some freedom to move inside into the left half-space, right back Simon Silwimba had a very narrow role for Zesco, sticking close to his central defenders and not venturing forward on the overlap.

When Chiefs looked to build up from the back, his tight marshalling of Billiat meant that there was no early ball into the Zimbabwean's feet.

In central midfield, with Chiefs



using Maluleka and Hendrick Ekstein in front of Willard Katsande in their triangle, Zesco instructed Mtonga and Akumu to aggressively close down those two creative players, thus making the engine room a very difficult area to play through.

A key component of the strategy by the away side was the defending from the front of Ching'andu, who could drop off to pick up Katsande, or move to the flank to support his wide players and not allow easy switching of play across the backline.

This plan from Zesco bore early fruit - Ekstein came in deep for the ball off Hadebe, but Akumu was very quick to press and dispossessed the Chiefs playmaker.

He continued his driving run and hit a left-footed shot from 30 yards which squeezed past Virgil Vries in goal. This was certainly a shot that should have been saved. At 1-0 up, Zesco now led 4-1 on aggregate and Chiefs would require three unanswered goals to even take the tie to extra time.

Chiefs Go Wide; Zesco Counter

With the counter-attacking pace that Zesco possessed in wide areas, leading 1-0 was the dream start for the away side, knowing Chiefs had no choice but to open up.

This threat was seen immediately as Kambole burst

forward on a break from his own half and forced Katsande to hack him down and take a yellow card. Another counter led by Were saw Osumanu receive the ball in the box, but his touch was rushed and heavy, and a good opening was missed.

Chiefs' response to Zesco's tactics, was to move both fullbacks very high up the pitch to look to push their opposition's wingers back, whilst using the space opened up by Zesco's fullbacks tucking in to watch Parker and Billiat.

One of Chiefs' only real first-half opportunities came when Maluleka made a big switch to play out to Cardoso, whose cross was then headed wide by Castro.

For all of Zesco's excellent threat on the break, it came in the form of direct dribbling from the wingers and not from early, penetrative forward passes.

In fact, George Lwandamina's side looked awkward when trying to keep possession and any attempts to play out from the back invariably ended with long clearances when pressed.

Their midfield duo's excellent energy and pressing were not matched by their passing ability, so Chiefs could take the risk of pushing their fullbacks high, knowing that one pass was unlikely to put a Zesco striker through on goal considering Hadebe's recovery pace.

They could stop some counters by simply fouling the ball-

carrier.

Half-Time: Chiefs Go For Broke

At the break, with Amakhosi needing at least three goals, Ernst Middendorp pulled off Teenage Hadebe and introduced Kabelo Mahlasela.

Also brought into the action was Andriamirado Andrianarimanana, surprisingly replacing Castro. This saw a major restructuring from Chiefs, seemingly switching to a 4-4-2 diamond shape.

Katsande was now in central defence, Maluleka was the deepest midfielder, Dax played as a shuttler on the right of diamond, and Mahlasela was the number ten. Parker and Billiat moved inside to play as a strike pairing.

The thinking behind this was clear - with two strikers, Zesco's central defenders would not be able to use a simple "one gets tight, one covers" policy with a man each to mark, whilst Mtonga and Akumu could no longer aggressively close down Chiefs in midfield without leaving a huge hole between the lines for Mahlasela.

Akumu was immediately seen playing 20 yards deeper, marking Mahlasela, which meant Ekstein and Maluleka now had time and space to dictate affairs.

The shape was a little lopsided with Cardoso very much staying back and often looking

more like he has on the right of a back-three, with Andriamirado moving wider as a sort of narrow wing-back. This hybrid shape meant very little width on the right side but was likely a change to have Cardoso close to Katsande to protect him.

Zesco End The Tie

Soon after Chiefs had their first really good opening as Mahlasela missed a clear opening from Parker's low cross from the left, Zesco ended the tie by making it 2-0.

With Chiefs 5-1 down on aggregate, even scoring four goals would not be enough for Amakhosi.

The goal was very basic in its creation. Silwimba hit a long punt down the field, Kambole robbed Katsande and when the ball broke to Were, he calmly curled home the sealing goal. Katsande's complete lack of recovery pace was clear, making Middendorp's choice to take off the more athletic Hadebe instead of his ageing captain a puzzling choice.

Zesco immediately replaced Ching'andu with an extra defensive midfielder in Misheck Chaila, meaning a switch to 4-3-3.

The middle of the park was now secure again with Ekstein, Mahlasela and Siphelele Ntshangase (on for the injured Maluleka) matched up three versus three.

The Zambians then further solidified things by taking off

striker Osumanu and adding Maybin Kalengo to the action. The latter played on the right to track Ntiya-Ntiya, with Were playing as the frontman.

The rest of the game played out with little real intensity with the result already obvious, but Billiat did pull a consolation goal back in the fourth minute of additional time as he converted Ntshangase's assist.

The strike may have had little bearing on this match, but provided an example of the chemistry and understanding between the duo, who were not used together in Giovanni Solinas' final matches in charge, and have barely been seen on the field together under Middendorp either.

Summary

This was a deserved win for Zesco, who managed to control the middle of the park, whilst still carrying a constant threat in the wide areas.

This is in contrast with Chiefs, who struggled to impose themselves centrally in the first half.

In the second period, Chiefs' changes took a hold of the central battle, but they had little genuine width on the right flank, and this narrow setup was easy for Zesco United to deal with. Much of this is down to the injury to Ramahlwe Mphahlele and Kgotso Moleko not being registered for continental action.

Chiefs came into this game with a mountain to climb after the first leg, and that looked insurmountable after Vries' 10th-minute mistake.

Middendorp rightly complained about his side's lack of freshness having had intense matches against Bidvest Wits and AmaZulu in the week leading up to these Zesco matches.

He argued for a full week for PSL clubs to prepare for these clashes, and he certainly has a point.

However, Zesco travelled from Zambia to South Africa by bus - comparable to a Cape Town to Johannesburg trip - and still looked fit and fresh.

Their physicality in defence and individual quality in attack were highly impressive and their tactical setup, plus coming into the second leg with a healthy lead, allowed these attributes to be maximised. **Goal.com**

HOW ZESCO UNITED COUNTERED CHIEFS

*... a detailed analysis of how the South Africans
were undone by Lwandamina and his charges*



Pacquiao batters Broner in lopsided welterweight bout

Manny Pacquiao put on a master class in elite boxing Saturday with a 12-round demolition of Adrien Broner, defending his welterweight title in his first fight on US soil in two years -- and his first as a 40-year-old.

Pacquiao easily won with an impressive display of superior hand speed and destructive power that landed him a unanimous decision victory over the much younger American at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

The Filipino star almost knocked Broner down twice in the seventh and ninth rounds and showed that he can still be a force in the highly-competitive division despite turning 40 last month.

"I really don't believe my career is over. I proved it in my last fight against (Lucas) Matthysse," Pacquiao said. "And now I prove it again at the age of 40."

In his 70th fight as a professional, Pacquiao retains

the lesser version of the WBA's two welterweight belts and possibly sets the stage for a rematch with Floyd Mayweather, who watched the bout from ringside.

Pacquiao improved to 61-7-2 with 39 knockouts, winning on all three judges' scorecards, including by one tally of 117-111. The other two judges also had it one-sided at 116-112.

Pacquiao started the onslaught in the seventh round by hitting the 29-year-old Broner with a left hook then immediately doubling it up. Broner went into a shell mode, absorbing more blows but managed to hold on to the end of the round.

Pacquiao landed his best punch in the ninth with a blistering left on the chin that sent Broner back peddling towards the ropes. But Broner showed he can take a punch as he stayed on his feet and survived another punishing round. **AFP**



Pacquiao went to work from the opening bell on executing the fight plan he put together after reuniting with his long-time trainer Freddie Roach - AFP

