



ZULU SUSPENDED

FROM PF - MWILA

...and I have no apologies to Prime TV

By Thomas Mulenga

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says Luangeni PF member of parliament Charles Zulu's suspension stands even though it was executed by the grassroots. And Mwila says all PF members of parliament who are

supporting Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba's presidential bid, are cowards. Meanwhile, Mwila says he will not apologise to Prime TV for chasing away two of its journalists who went to cover his press briefing last Saturday, insisting that his decision was

final. Mwila, who is former Home Affairs Minister, told News Diggers! in an interview, Wednesday, that the ruling Patriotic Front appreciated media houses which cover its activities, even if they were doing so negatively. **To page 5**

ACC nabs L/stone MP, Jere, for corruption

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested Livingstone UPND member of parliament Mathews Jere for abuse of authority of office. ACC spokesperson Timothy Moono revealed in a statement that Jere, between 1st August, 2013 and 31st October, 2014, whilst serving as a councilor, illegally allocated plots to himself and his friends. **To page 7**



THANK YOU CALL AGAIN: A National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) officer leaves his booth to aid a stranded driver push away his truck, which failed to start after he paid toll fees at Kafulafuta Toll Plaza - Picture by Mukosha Funga

Corruption perception index will see donors re-think aid to Zambia - Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala

NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says donors will have to rethink their aid to Zambia, given the country's poor ranking in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2018 Report. **To page 5**

Witness turns against State in Chabi's case

By Zindiwe Mbewe

The key state witness in the case in which Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi is charged with malicious damage to property has

told the Mansa Magistrates' Court that he doesn't want anything to do with the matter, adding that the case should have been closed after he reconciled with the accused. **To page 7**

Public has no confidence in ACC - WK

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Police fight running battles in Zambezi after death of suspect

Story page 6

If anyone looted during privatisation of mines, it's MMD not HH - Belemu

By Mirriam Chabala

Mbabala UPND member of parliament Ephraim Belemu says if anyone looted during the privatization process, it was those who were in the Movement for Multiparty Democracy, and not Hakainde Hichilema. Recently, Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo charged that there were looters in the opposition who were waiting to get into government to steal the way they did during privatization. **To page 2**



PF Secretary General Davies Mwila with Cuban Ambassador to Zambia Francisco Javier Viamontes Correa at the Cuban embassy yesterday when the ruling party CEO paid a courtesy call on him

Konkola Copper Mines won't cut jobs, assures Acting CEO

By Stuart Lisulo

Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) has announced that the 2019 mining fiscal regime will not lead to any job losses at any of its operations. In a statement jointly-issued by Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta and KCM's general manager for corporate affairs Eugene Chungu, Tuesday, KCM announced no job cuts would happen following the 2019 mining fiscal regime. The 2019 mining fiscal regime, which took effect January 1, 2019, has seen an

increase in mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale. It also introduced import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while also hiking export duty on precious stones and gemstones to a rate of 15 per cent, a situation that had prompted mining companies to threaten job cuts, while compelling KCM to downsize its Nchanga Smelter operations due to low availability of concentrates. But KCM acting chief executive officer Venkatesan Giridhar informed a high-level government delegation during a consultative meeting in Lusaka, which included Ministry of Finance, Mines and Labour officials, that the Vedanta-owned mining firm will not be effecting any job cuts at any of its operations on the Copperbelt. "I wish to confirm, therefore, that THERE WILL BE NO LOSS OF JOBS AT OUR SITES as a result of the new tax regime," Giridhar announced, when he presented a paper on the impact of the 2019 mining fiscal regime on KCM mining operations and its future undertakings at the Ministry of Finance in Lusaka. "As KCM, we undertake to constructively engage key stakeholders, such as the government, trade unions, the media, local communities, and our shareholders, in a respectful manner to ensure that we contribute to the growth of the economy

on a sustained basis." And Giridhar emphasised that KCM was renewing its focus on Konkola Deep Mine in Chililabombwe and would ensure further investment in the short to medium-term, according to the statement. "...Our actions are designed to sustain and create jobs, grow the economy, and contribute more to the country's treasury while effectively implementing our asset and liability management programme," read the statement. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe hailed KCM for choosing the path of dialogue and for the proactive approach in reviewing mine operations and sustaining job creation, among others. She also insisted that the impending Sales Tax will soon come into effect as planned. "Let us walk the journey together so that by April 1, 2019, we can implement the Goods and Services Tax (GST)," stated Mwanakatwe, adding that the GST will be a hybrid of Value Added Tax and Sales Tax, with all the attendant incentives and exemptions for manufacturers, exporters, and other eligible sectors of the economy. Other pressing matters covered in the consultative and information exchange meeting were KCM smelter business strategy, the deficit of concentrates in the country, among others.

Government has only paid K23m out of K101m debt to lecturers – UNZALARU

By Thomas Mulenga

University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers Union (UNZALARU) secretary general Dr Kelvin Mambwe says government only paid K23 million out of the K101 million that was budgeted for in the 2018 national budget to settle pension and gratuities debt owed to lecturers and researchers at the institution. In an interview, Dr Mambwe said government was not committed to liquidating the debt that it owed to lecturers. "There is no big problem with salaries at the moment, the main issue is concerning pensions and gratuities. Last year, government had budgeted about K101 million for the University of Zambia, but out of that amount,

only K23 million has been released. And they have not explained where the rest of the money which they budgeted for has gone. That has caused serious anxieties amongst our members and has potential for continued industrial disputes, we will, however, go ahead with work as schools open. We are supposed to meet the Permanent Secretary this coming month in order to understand why government only released K23 million out of the K101 million that was budgeted for in last year's budget," Dr Mambwe said. "Also if you look at this year's (2019) budget, we were told that Cabinet had approved a financing strategy that required that this year's budget reflects about K500 million, but if you look at the actual figures in

the 2019 budget, there is only K69 million, so we don't understand how government is going to liquidate the debt owed to our members." He said this would continue being a recipe for strikes by lecturers. "In fact, I would say that there is no commitment on the part of government. Because if on one hand they say they are going to give K500 million, but what comes in the budget is less than that, then where is the commitment? In fact, that in itself is a recipe for continued strikes at the University of Zambia. So, you will still see some serious challenges as the year begins, such as work stoppages and the like, not until government comes to terms with their commitment," cautioned Dr Mambwe.

By Mirriam Chabala

Mbabala UPND member of parliament Ephraim Belemu says if anyone looted during the privatization process, it was those who were in the Movement for Multiparty Democracy. Recently, Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo charged that there were looters in the opposition who were waiting to get into government to steal the way they did during the privatization process. But in an interview, Belemu said if anyone stole during privatization, it was MMD members because they were in power. "Mr Bowman Lusambo, not too long ago, he was in MMD where he was a 'die hard' and that privatization programme was an MMD programme where Mr Lusambo was 'die hard.' So, if there are people that looted, it must have been them in MMD. Records will show that our president, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, was not anywhere near Cabinet positions or parliamentary positions at the time. He was not in any political office, he was a private citizen who was running a private life with his own private engagements in business. So, as a government then, MMD, where Mr Lusambo came from, if they had a programme of privatization and people ended

Privatisation looting wrongly pinned on HH, ask those who were in MMD - Belemu

up looting, it's them actually who should be accountable. And most of the people who were in MMD are not dead, so it's them to tell us exactly what transpired," Belemu said. He said Lusambo was being mischievous and untruthful, arguing that government would have already taken legal action against the UPND leader if he really stole anything in the 1990s. "Those are just last kicks of a dying horse! I am sure you will recall that not so long ago, Mr Lusambo was crying that the PF elections on the Copperbelt were a sham! So, it tells you exactly who they are as PF and this is something that we as UPND do not want to waste time on. We have a programme and our programme is to liberate this country from the malaise that the PF has led us into. So, those are just time wasting statements and also very strange that a government minister can waste his time to go on radio to go and spend his precious time when he's supposed to be doing government

work, to go on radio just to malign a private citizen and say something, which is not factual," Belemu said. "In a civilized government, when a minister speaks, it's policy and it's also informed by a research and facts. Just misinforming, lying or not telling the truth calls for resignation of a minister or indeed that government. So, they cannot continue to use false statements as government. They have all the institutions of government that can help them, including ZCCM, the police and all the other investigative wings so that when they are talking, it must come out of facts, as opposed to just yapping and talking in the manner that they are doing." Belemu challenged the PF to take the privatization issue to the dialogue table so that it could be resolved rather than making "baseless" statements on radio programmes. "As a party, by now I am sure they know who we are and we have demonstrated time and again that we are above such kind of shallowness and



childish arguments. They have also known who our president is and we continue to tell the Zambian people the truth about who PF is because we have experienced, some of us who are in Parliament with them. We also have experience of being in the UPND and I am sure Zambians by now are able

to make an informed decision of who is who in our political level. Instead of going to a radio station to talk, why didn't they go to the meeting that was organised by the Church? If their contention is about HH having participated in privatization, why didn't they go to the national dialogue

table instead of running away and they want to run to radio stations...real men, real leaders had a platform to go and talk those issues. Is those are the issues that affect them as PF, they had a platform to go and talk about them if they didn't want to go to court or police," said Belemu.

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By Mukosha Funga

Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja says police are still studying the Human Rights Commission report which found that the service is responsible for Vespers Shimunzhila's death. Kanganja told journalists, Wednesday, that the police command would only comment on the HRC report after consultation with appropriate authorities. "We are still studying the report and will respond at an opportune time after consultation with appropriate authorities. As you are aware matter is yet to be subjected to an inquest," said Kanganja. On Tuesday, HRC released an eight-paged summary statement on their findings on the students' protest and the Zambia Police Service operation at the University of Zambia (UNZA) Great East Road Campus which took place on 4th and 5th October 2018. HRC revealed that after interviewing UNZA Security, UNZA Management, UNZA Lecturers and Researchers Union (UNZALARU), UNZA Clinic Management, University Teaching Hospital (UTH)

We're still studying HRC report on Vespers - IG

Management as well as the Zambia Police Service, they concluded that police officers acted in a brutal manner and caused Shimunzhila's death. "The Police were seen driving into UNZA Premises around midnight on 4th October 2018 and officers were seen jumping off a Green Nissan Police Vehicle and two other Land Cruisers, one of them labelled, "Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Police Station". According to witnesses, gunshots were heard in UNZA Campus and police officers were seen throwing suspected hand held-grenades and firing tear gas canisters into students' rooms through windows. A total of six (6) students' rooms where tear gas canisters were fired into

were gutted by fire. The HRC heard that as the fire in October Hostel 2 Room 21 was being quenched by some students, some police officers repeatedly tear gassed the students who were quenching the fire and also rescuing their colleagues that were trapped in the rooms, causing October Hostel 2 Room 3, to also catch fire," HRC stated. "October Hostel 2, Room 25, which was occupied by eight (8) female students, was heavily affected by flames and fumes from Room 21 which was on fire. Some of the eight (8) female students escaped by climbing down through the window while the 23-year-old Evertnyn Choongo, jumped from the room, which is on the third

level of the building and suffered multiple fractures, including a broken lower spine. Another student, Trudie Kalimbwe, who was the last to leave room 25 alive, suffered burns on her hands and hair before escaping through the door. Regrettably, Vespers Shimunzhila, could not escape and was found unconscious by fellow students who braved the reported continued tear gassing. She was rushed to UNZA Clinic where she was pronounced as brought in dead and her body was transferred to Levy Mwanawasa Hospital before being transferred to UTH Mortuary." HRC revealed that tear gas canisters were found in all the rooms that caught fire. HRC concluded that police

officers caused Shimunzhila's death and recommended that they be given criminal charges. "It is therefore beyond any reasonable doubt that Vespers Shimunzhila did not die from a natural cause. Further, from all the evidence submitted by a wide range of witnesses during investigations, it can be concluded that the invasion of the UNZA Campus Premises and subsequent throwing of suspected hand grenades and firing of tear gas canisters into students rooms by the Zambia Police Service, caused the death of Vespers, the injury of other students as well as the loss of, and damage to University and Students' Property. The Commission considers the firing

of tear gas canisters in students' rooms extremely unprofessional, an act of excessive use of force which resulted into a grave violation of the right to life, destruction and loss of property and undermining the right to education of the affected students whose education materials and equipment were either lost or damaged during the police night operation," read the statement. "It is clear from the totality of the evidence obtained that the police acted in an extremely brutal manner depicting a combative warfare situation against unarmed students who at that time no longer posed any real danger or violence to the police officers or to any other member of the public or property... Therefore, appropriate criminal charges should be preferred against all the police officers (including the senior police officers who were in-charge of the operation) for the ensuing loss of life, body injuries to several students and damage to property." HRC also advised Shimunzhila's family to sue the state and secure appropriate compensation for loss of life.

By Mukosha Funga

The Drug Enforcement Commission in Lusaka has arrested three Ministry of General Education officials for money laundering activities involving over K2.7 million. In a statement, DEC public relations officer Theresa Katongo revealed that the three stole K2, 717, 471.50 from the ministry account by raising different cheques in Lawrence Phiri Bwalya's name, which were later cashed over the counter at a named bank. "The three suspects are identified as Lawrence Bwalya Phiri, 46, an accountant of Civic Centre area in Lusaka, Eliya Mwale 41, of house number 238, Chamba Valley and Vengi Sinda, 58, a standards officer residing in Olympia Teachers' Compound. On dates

DEC nabs Ministry of General Education officials for theft of over K2.7million

unknown but between 1st January, 2014 and 31st December, 2016, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, the trio being employees of the Ministry of General Education stole K2,717,471.50 from the Ministry's account by raising nine (9) fraudulent

cheques in favour of Lawrence Bwalya Phiri on different dates and later encashed them over the counter at a named bank in Lusaka," stated Katongo. "The trio has been slapped with five (5) charges namely forgery, uttering false documents, fraudulent false accounting, theft by

public servant and money laundering, contrary to the laws of Zambia. The suspects have since been

released on police bond and are expected to appear before the Lusaka Magistrate Court soon."

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Low number of cases being reported shows loss of confidence in ACC - Wynter Kabimba

By Mirriam Chabala
Rainbow Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba says the confession by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that it does not understand why Zambians have stopped reporting cases before it calls for introspection within the Commission itself. And Kabimba has challenged the ACC to come out in the open and say if the people involved in corruption are those working within government whom they think are too big and cannot be probed. Commenting on the revelation by Acting ACC Director-General Rosemary Khuzwayo during the launch

of the TIZ 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) on Tuesday, Kabimba told News Diggers! in an interview that he was glad that the ACC had finally confessed the loss of confidence in the institution by Zambians. He said Khuzwayo's confession was a great indictment on the ACC as an institution, and that the Commission must find out why Zambians had stopped reporting cases of corruption before it. "Firstly, most of the corruption that Zambian people complain about is corruption, which is taking place in public institutions and in government. Secondly, they have seen

in the past, people from government, from public institutions being charged with corruption and it's either those cases are discontinued under a nolle or people get acquitted because of lack of competence in terms of ACC prosecuting those cases. So, if that confession has come from ACC, it is a great indictment on them as an institution and they must find out why Zambians have stopped going to them to report cases of corruption. One obvious answer is that the Zambian people have lost confidence in the Anti-Corruption Commission. They don't see ACC as an organisation that can help the country fight corruption.

You have heard many times Zambians complaining that ACC is dealing with cases of corruption of the 'small fish,' not the big fish! So, that is the only answer," Kabimba said. "I am glad that that observation is coming from ACC itself and if I were them, I would seriously sit down and interrogate that perception by the public of an institution, which is supposed to win the confidence of the Zambian people. Zambian people no longer believe that it is worth it to go and report cases of corruption. How many times have we heard President (Edgar) Lungu say to them: 'can you investigate the reported cases of

corruption as reflected in the Auditor General's Report?' And yet we have heard nothing in terms of proactive action from ACC in that area. So, if they are failing to investigate glaring reported cases because the cases that are reported by the Auditor General's office, all that they need as evidence is for them to go to the Auditor General's office to go and get the evidence and then they can get to the culprits. But they have failed to do that! So, all those are things that have made the Zambian people lose faith and trust in the ACC." Kabimba, a former Justice Minister, challenged the ACC to tell Zambians if

the people involved in corruption were the very ones within government who were pretending to champion the fight against the scourge. "ACC is a cornerstone of national development, it's supposed to protect public financial resources. But unfortunately, it is not doing that. So, we want to see a competent Anti-Corruption Commission, we want to see an effective Anti-Corruption Commission, especially on matters that are reported by the Auditor General's office. If you've been following the cases that have been going before the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC), you still find glaring cases there; of misappropriation of funds and corruption. But nothing happens. it's two years now, President Lungu has been saying to ACC: 'can you follow up these matters', even about three days ago, I remember him saying that. But if they are not doing their job well because the same politicians that are saying 'investigate these matters' are behind the cases telling them: 'don't investigate', ACC must let us know. If not, then the buck stops at them, they are the ones who are not doing their job," said Kabimba.

ZCCM-IH hopes 2019 fiscal regime won't hurt profitability

By Stuart Lisulo
ZCCM-IH says the uncertainty in the 2019 mining fiscal regime may affect its profitability and dividends payable to government. And ZCCM-IH has increased its shareholding in Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) to 24 per cent from 20 per cent. Speaking during ZCCM-IH's annual report presentation for the year ending March 31, 2018, in Lusaka, ZCCM-IH chief executive officer Dr Pious Kasolo expressed concern on the uncertainty created by the 2019 mining fiscal regime, which had unsettled mining firms on long-term growth prospects. The 2019 mining fiscal regime, which took effect January 1, 2019, has seen an increase in mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale. It also introduced import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while also hiking export duty on precious

stones and gemstones to a rate of 15 per cent, a situation that had prompted mining companies to threaten job cuts, while compelling KCM to downsize its Nchanga Smelter operations due to low availability of concentrates. When asked to what extent the 2019 mining fiscal regime had affected ZCCM-IH's profit projections in view of some mining companies' move to downsize operations on account of the higher taxes, Dr Kasolo said accurate projections were not known at this stage, but expressed concern on ZCCM-IH's long-term profitability and dividends payable to government. "At the moment, we can't say how it's going to affect ZCCM-IH because most of these taxes haven't come to fruition. But by projecting some of our investee companies, what we've looked at and discussed with them...I can give an example

of Lubambe (Copper Mine). The funding to develop that mine has become a bit difficult because the banks have become quite tight with their money because they are not sure about the tax regime in Zambia, when it's going to change. So, Lubambe is finding it difficult to raise capital," Dr. Kasolo told journalists at Southern Sun Hotel, Monday. "So, in hindsight, what will happen is that if this are not mitigated, then ZCCM-IH is going to be affected because we get our dividends from these companies. So, I hope the tax debacle is going to be resolved without affecting production in development of these mines." And Dr Kasolo announced that ZCCM-IH increased its shareholding in Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) to 24 per cent from 20 per cent. "...With CEC, we've increased our shareholding from 20 per cent to 24 per cent and

we hope to go up to about 34.9 per cent, hopefully," disclosed Dr Kasolo. ZCCM-IH posted an increased profit after tax of K975 million during its financial year ending March 31, 2018, from K729 million in the previous corresponding

period, triggered by high copper prices. On the other hand, total dividends paid out last year amounted to K98 million down from K135 million during its financial year ending March 31, 2017, according to company data.

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I stole bicycle to buy school shoes, youth tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A 14-year-old boy of Lusaka's Chawama Compound has admitted stealing a mountain bike worth K1,600 in the Magistrates' Court, saying he wanted to buy school shoes for himself after passing to Grade 10. This is the matter in which the 14-year-old juvenile is facing one count of theft. Particulars of the offence allege that the juvenile on January 7, 2019, in Lusaka, stole one mountain bicycle valued at K1,600. And when the matter came up for plea before Magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Tuesday, the juvenile, who is the first

born in the family of five, pleaded guilty. Asked why he stole, the 14-year-old said he wanted to sell the bike so that so that he could buy shoes for school after passing to grade 10. Asked if he had told his mother about his plans of stealing, the juvenile said no. He, however, said after he had told his mother, who was in the business of selling tomatoes that he wanted shoes, she asked him to wait so that she could look for money. "She said 'wait, let me look for money.' I waited. But I stayed for a long time in the compound," the juvenile narrated. The matter comes up on February 5 for facts, sentencing and social welfare report.

By Mirriam Chabala
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says revelations by Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2018 report that Zambia's international ranking has reduced by nine points to 105 from the 96th position in 2017, will stir skepticism in the minds of funders and investors over government's capacity to fight corruption. And Kambwili says President

TI's corruption perception index will make donors re-think aiding Zambia - CK

Edgar Lungu cannot take any action against Chiefs and Traditional Affairs Minister Lawrence Sichalwe for circulating a pornographic video on social media because that action is normal to him. In an interview, with

News Diggers, Kambwili said revelations in the corruption perception index were worrying. "Corruption is a cancer and it has destroyed nations. Corruption has destroyed individuals and families.

Because of the so much corruption in administering the debts that we are getting for projects, where when you get the funding for the projects, they are overpriced and the money is ending up into pockets of individuals,

especially the pockets of those in government and the ministers, State House officials and the President himself. Such in itself is making the issue of doing business in Zambia difficult and it is also taking away valuable funds that can be used for the development of this country and that's making people suffer. Then also because we have over borrowed to the extent that we are not even seeing where the money has been spent, we are meant to repay those debts at very exorbitant interests, taking into account the conditions of the loans plus the exchange rate coupled with the inflation levels," Kambwili said. "I have always said that this is the only government where a minister can go into a constituency and donate over K600,000 when his annual salary is K250,000. This is the only country where a minister can build churches and donate in the constituency, fully furnished, and the President is watching. This is the situation we have in this country and some people take it so lightly when we talk about corruption but the end result is that donors will lose confidence and stop funding our projects...If the status quo

continues, then funders will pull out. Investors will stop coming to Zambia. Those are the indicators in a country where leaders do not want to fight corruption because they see nothing wrong with it." And Kambwili said President Lungu could not fire Sichalwe because circulating porn was normal to him. "For this government, their game is corruption and for them, corruption is very normal. They will go and arrest an official from the Ministry of Education who has stolen K2 million and they will leave a minister who has been mentioned in the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) report that has money in his account and he externalized money which has unexplained sources. Where is the fairness? This is a government where a teacher who forges a certificate is fired but a PS who forges a certificate is kept. This is a government where an ordinary citizen on the street who is found with pornography is sent to court and jailed but when a minister circulates pornography, he's not arrested and he's not questioned. So everybody around the world looks at you as being abnormal. But for President Edgar Lungu, all those things are very normal with him as long as it's committed by people who are close to him, people he does things with, he will not take any action," said Kambwili.



I think caption should read: Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja (c) poses for a picture with some officers in Juba, South Sudan, where he is attending medals parade for Zambian individual police officers

By Thomas Mulenga
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says he will not apologise to Prime TV for chasing away two of its journalists who went to cover his press briefing last Saturday. And Mwila says Luangeni PF member of parliament Charles Zulu's suspension stands even though it was executed by the grassroots. Meanwhile, Mwila says if there are any PF members of parliament supporting Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba's presidential bid, they are cowards. Mwila, who is former Home Affairs Minister, told News Diggers! in an interview, Wednesday, that the ruling Patriotic Front appreciated media houses which covers its activities, even if they were doing so negatively. "Prime Television, I have said I will not apologise!" Mwila said. "That's not an issue. A media institution cannot impose themselves on me, it's not possible." When reminded that Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya issued a statement to the effect that he was eager to meet Prime TV to iron out the 'misunderstanding', Mwila asked, "Meet who?" He said if the station wanted to meet him, they should request to do so the way the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) did. "If they want, not me, me I will not request, but if they want to meet me, they can. MISA requested and they met me." Asked if those saying the PF was being hard on the media were right, Mwila said, "No, where? We have not been hard to you

No apologies to Prime TV, my decision is final, says Mwila

(News Diggers), you have been writing bad things about us, but we appreciate because you cover us, whether bad or good, you cover us. That's why I am even able to respond to you, we appreciate, because whatever we say, whether you twist it, but you have covered us, you get my point? And that's the more reason we appreciate you." He said he had called Prime TV more than 16 times to cover his briefings but they had never covered. "But imagine a situation whereby you call them (Prime TV), I have called them more than 16 times for my press briefing, they have never covered. Ask them if Hakainde Hichilema pays for the programs, he doesn't pay but they ask us to pay. So we are saying that they are biased and I don't need them anyway," Mwila said. And Mwila said Zulu's suspension had the blessings of the party's central committee, even though it was executed by the grassroots. "The Party starts from the grassroots and the decision of the grassroots stands. He was suspended and given time for him to exculpate himself. So he must respond to the Party in the Constituency, so that's the explanation I have. He has been asked to exculpate himself, of which he has not

responded to the letter from the constituency," Mwila said. Meanwhile, the PF chief executive said all PF members of parliament who have been secretly supporting Kalaba's presidential bid are cowards. On Tuesday, Kalaba announced that he would not challenge his expulsion from the ruling

party and boasted that there were a lot of PF members of parliament who are supporting his State House ambitions. "We have welcomed his (Kalaba's) decision and what we have said is that he cannot resign because he is no longer our member so his resignation cannot hold water,

that's what we have said. He should have resigned before that, a long time ago. We also expelled the Councillor who said she resigned the same day. The central committee made a decision based on the recommendation that came from the provincial committee. We have always been ready, we

are the defending champions, so we are ever ready," Mwila said. "If there are MPs who are encouraging Kalaba, they are cowards! Why can't they come out [of the party]? Kalaba has said I am going, he is courageous enough to say I am going, why can't they also go if they are there?"

Court sends juvenile to rehab for stealing 65" TV

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has ordered a 17-year-old boy of Lusaka's Chilenje South to undergo counselling and rehabilitation for six months after stealing a 65-inch Samsung Plasma TV worth K21,000 from his neighbour's house. In this matter, the juvenile was facing one count of house-breaking and theft. It was alleged that on January 15, 2019, the juvenile broke and entered into a dwelling house of Alexander Mwale and stole a Plasma TV valued at K21,000, property of Mwale. He had pleaded guilty, adding that after he stole the TV, he took it to town and sold it at K5,000. The matter came up before Magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Tuesday, for facts and sentencing. Facts of the matter are that on the material day, the complainant, Mwale, left the house in the care of his son. Upon heading back home, they were surprised to see from afar, that the grill door to their home was open.

Once in the house, they discovered that their 65-inch Samsung plasma TV was missing. The complainant further discovered that the box for the TV, which was in the bedroom, was also missing. The matter was then reported at Chilenje Police Station. Asked whether he understood the facts, the juvenile offender replied in the affirmative. In mitigation, the 17-year-old asked for forgiveness from the complainant, his family and the court, saying he would never engage in such acts again. The juvenile also asked for maximum leniency, saying he just got his Grade 12 results and wanted to read law. He said when he was in custody, he went through a lot. "God spoke to me and was trying to tell me that if I don't change my ways, that's the type of life that I would live, in prison," the juvenile said. His father also asked the Court to exercise maximum leniency, saying even though he committed that offence, he was a good boy at home

and had grown up very responsible. In her ruling, Magistrate Chanda noted that the offence that the juvenile had committed was serious, adding that if he was able to steal that big TV, it meant that he was used to stealing. She warned the juvenile to stop his criminal ways. "The circumstances of the crime, where you are able to go and take a big TV like this one, this shows me that you have been stealing! Because if this was the first time, you can't steal a big TV like this one, meaning you are used. So, can you change," Magistrate Chanda said. "Your father is saying that you have been raised as a good child, it takes some courage for someone to enter someone's house and steal a TV and then later, book a taxi. It can't be for the first time. That criminal mind should stop! If he comes back, he has to go and serve." Magistrate Chanda ordered that he goes for counselling and rehabilitation at Prison Care and Counselling Association (PRISCCA) for six months.



N D C
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom
 Why we deserve your vote



TRANSPORT SECTOR

As NDC we believe that economic growth can be enhanced through transport reforms that ensure enhancement of commuters transport network in all towns and cities, Creation of an environment where there is availability of transport both on main and township roads and a Reduction in Transport costs for commuters notwithstanding rising crude oil prices. This includes all forms of transport; road, rail, air and water transports. As such we will undertake the following reforms;

ROAD NETWORK;

Mandate local government authorities to engage in public transport business between intercity and within their districts.

We will give tax rebates on import duties for all local government authorities for the first one year when importing min buses with more than 28 seating capacity.

Improve road network by creating special lanes for bigger busses in towns and developing districts

Proceed from tall gates will remain in their respective districts for maintenance and building of new roads.

Toll gate fees will vary in reduction phase when public roads are being consumed.

We will disband the national road fund agency (NRFA) and road development agency (RDA) and their works will revert back to the ministry of works and supply under the public works department (PWD) and local government authorities

All township roads will be maintained by local government authorities while

Ensure that all feeder roads in townships, rural districts are maintained constantly to support agricultural and value addition.

RAIL NETWORK;

Ensure that all provinces are linked via rail network

Introduce commuter trains within cities that will be run by local government authorities and intercity trains connecting all provincial capitals.

Ensure that heavy cargo is restricted on roads

by limiting tonnage that moves on road to safe guard or roads and improve business for rail transport

We will upgrade all existing rail infrastructure and restore them to high standards.

AIR TRANSPORT

In order to have thriving airline, we will make viable partnerships with other airlines to promote our own air line

Link tourism sector, and export sector to our national airline

Ensure that all provincial capitals, airports are built that can land local planes

Build air strips in all districts and maintain existing ones to good standards. These air strips will be run and maintained by local government authorities.

WATER TRANSPORT

Encourage water transport to be undertaken by local government authorities and private sectors

Ensure that all harbours are maintained and run by the ministry of works and supply

'Saving Wakanda from Creeping Dictatorship'

By Linda Kasonde

Wakanda is a fictional East African paradise made famous by the 2018 blockbuster film 'Black Panther'. It is a well-developed, high-tech, highly functional country inhabited by warriors who possess mystical powers through a special substance only found in Wakanda called vibranium. Wakanda is a powerful and well-governed country. It is a proud nation which has its own official African language. As a result, it has garnered the respect of countries far outside of its borders. Back on the real African continent, one struggles to find a country that matches the description of Wakanda in all respects. If anything, there is a growing instability around the continent that is unsettling. What we see is the spread of populism and authoritarianism and what appears to be contempt for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately, the East African nation of Tanzania, a country which like Wakanda has a proud political, cultural and linguistic heritage, typifies this. Like Zambia, neighbouring Tanzania has long been seen to be a peaceful and stable nation. It has a proud history of having liberated many other nations on the African continent under the great "Mwalimu", Julius Nyerere. Just as in Zambia, this narrative is under threat. The current government of President John Magufuli, once hailed

as the "bulldozer" for his apparent efficiency in dealing with corruption, is fast becoming a dictatorship where fear reigns. It is becoming an inhospitable environment for those who wish to speak truth to power.

A recent example of the changing character of Tanzania's democracy is the victimisation of the Tanzanian organisation 'Twaweza' whose name means 'we can make it happen' in Swahili. Twaweza did the unthinkable by publishing the results of a local poll on 5th July 2018 showing that President Magufuli's popularity was falling. Twaweza's Executive Director, Aidan Eyakuze, has subsequently had his nationality questioned and his passport confiscated. Twaweza recently joined a coalition of civil society groups to campaign against the enactment of a Political Parties Bill which will have the effect of giving the Registrar of Political Parties sweeping discretionary powers to control political parties' activities and statements with little or no recourse. Such legislation might lead the country once more down the path of a one party "democracy". There is trouble in "Wakanda".

Even more worrying are reports by opposition leader and former Law Society of Tanganyika President, Tundu Lissu, of enforced disappearances and unexplained killings. Lissu himself survived an attack in which unknown

assailants shot at his vehicle 38 times hitting his body 16 times. At the time of the attack, Lissu was facing several criminal charges which he says are politically motivated. The office of the lawyers defending him was also mysteriously bombed. Lissu is alive but has had to endure several corrective surgeries.

Zambia is surrounded by eight neighbours including Congo DRC, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Tanzania. It is fair to say that Zambia, experiencing an apparent wave of populism, corruption and impunity, fits into its neighbourhood quite nicely - albeit as the smiley, friendly, neighbour. Looking around this neighbourhood, there are no credible champions of democracy, constitutionalism and the rule of law. So, when the citizens of any of the countries are under siege by their governments, there is nowhere to turn. Regional bodies made up of the Continent's political leaders appear to be toothless and are plagued by cronyism. We citizens have no choice but to save ourselves. That is what makes the work of Twaweza so admirable; it is made up of citizens standing up for their country. We must all do our part to make sure that our countries are places that we want to live in: peaceful, democratic, prosperous and liberating. "Twaweza", we can make it happen.

Police fight running battles in Zambezi after death of suspect

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Police in Zambezi District of North-Western Province on Tuesday fought running battles with residents who ran amok destroying properties and setting ablaze a police vehicle after news broke out that a suspect had died in police custody.

And Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of Administration Eugene Sibote has confirmed that the protests arose after the death of the suspect, who had been in custody for allegedly being in possession of an illegal firearm.

In a statement, Sibote explained that the residents started protesting after they were made to believe that the suspect died in police custody as a result of torture.

"The situation in Zambezi arose from the death of an individual who was detained at a correctional facility as police were following information regarding suspected possession of an illegal firearm. Arising from the death, members of the public suspected that he could have been subjected to torture leading to his death. The people, thereafter, ran amok and consequently damaged several properties, which include the burning of the Zambezi Police Station Toyota Land Cruiser, among other things," Sibote narrated.

He stated that police reinforcements had been sent to Zambezi to calm the situation.

"So far, reinforcement has been sent to Zambezi to ensure there is peace in the district and the situation is currently reported calm. The traditional authority in Zambezi has also been engaged over the matter and we have been assured of cooperation pending investigations. A team of police officers and a pathologist will be sent to conduct a postmortem and an inquiry. We, therefore, appeal to the people of Zambezi to remain calm whilst the matter is being addressed," stated Sibote.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The main complainant and key state witness in the case in which Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi is charged with malicious damage to property has told the Mansa Magistrates' Court that he doesn't want anything to do with the matter, adding that the case should have been closed after he reconciled with the accused. Appearing before Magistrate Mulenga, Tuesday, Kennedy Kombe, an employee of the National Road fund agency who is former PF branch chairperson for Mansa said he did not understand why the case "which should have been closed was still being pursued" even after he had forgiven the alleged offender. It is alleged in this matter that, on December 17, 2017 around 16:00 hours, Chabi damaged property namely; a PF chitenge material and a plunk valued at K250 at Mansa Town Centre without any legal authority. The matter died soon after Chabi's arrest that year, but when it was resurrected last

Witness turns against State in Jewis Chabi's case

December, the lawmaker pleaded not guilty, thereby setting the State in motion to commence prosecution this week. The matter however took an awkward turn after Kombe was called as a witness, but told the court that he did not want anything to do with the case as he had forgiven Chabi. "I do not know why the case which was supposed to be closed is being pursued," Kombe said, putting the prosecutor, a Mr Kapepa in a precarious position. Kapepa tried to press on with examining the witness, but State Counsel Musa Mwenye who is representing Chabi, objected to the line of questions which he said amounted to the prosecutor cross examining his own witness. Magistrate Mulenga upheld the defence's objection on the ground that the prosecutor could not cross

examine his own witness. The matter was then stood down for an hour, and after it was resumed Kapepa asked for an adjournment in order for him to consult the Director of Public Prosecutions on how to proceed, but Mwenye objected to the application. "Under 201 of the CPC, if a complainant withdraws the complaint, the DPP has no role to play and it remains upto this Honourable court to either accept or reject the withdrawal," argued Mwenye. In his ruling Magistrate Mulenga agreed that the complainant had withdrawn the complaint and that the DPP had no role to play. The court, however, ruled that in the interest of justice, the matter would be adjourned to March 28, 2019 for the State to decide how to proceed. Mansa town was flooded with anti riot police as Chabi went to appear in court,

but some of his supporters whom he addressed after the court appearance, waited outside the precincts of the judiciary building. "I think you heard for

yourselves what happened in court. I just want to thank you for showing me this support and resilience. Your support gives me a lot confidence, because these people think Chabi is alone, but we many. And the Bembas say the size of a sweet potato lies in the ground, not it's leaves," said Chabi in Bemba as his supporters ululated in approval.

"Look at the number of police officers whom they brought here, these police officers were supposed to be doing other important jobs, but they have brought them here. Anyway, please return to your homes in peace. We will see you on March 28, when we will hear what else they will bring up because the complainant has already said I don't want to be involved.

ACC nabs Livingstone MP for illegally allocating plots

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested Livingstone UPND member of parliament Mathews Jere for abuse of authority of office. ACC spokesperson Timothy Moono revealed in a statement that Jere, between 1st August, 2013 and 31st October, 2014, whilst serving as a councillor, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, illegally allocated plots to himself and his friends. "Honourable Mathews Jere aged 45, of house number 231 Highlands, Livingstone, has been charged with one count of Abuse of Authority of Office contrary to Section

21 (1)(a) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of the Laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence are that on dates unknown but between 1st August, 2013 and 31st October, 2014, Mathews Jere, whilst he was serving as a Councillor for Mwalibona Ward in the Livingstone City Council, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, did abuse authority of his office by allocating plots of land to themselves on property number LIV/4051 a matter or transaction concerning the Livingstone City Council, a public body," stated Moono. And Moono stated that Jere had since been released on bond and would appear in court on March 25, 2019.

Former vice presidents subjected to poverty after retirement, laments Nevers

By Thomas Mulenga

MMD faction president Nevers Mumba says former Republican vice presidents

are subjected to poverty after leaving office as there is no retirement package for them. In a statement, Tuesday,

Mumba observed that the life that late former vice president Lupando Mwape was subjected to was

heartbreaking and it raised a moral debate as to why government should honour former vice presidents with State funerals after neglecting them when they were still alive. "Without disturbing the spirit of mourning, I wish to raise a pivotal issue, which relates to the plight of former vice presidents in Zambia. Although vice presidents actually act as President and play a significant role in the management of the nation, the occupants of that office have zero sustainable benefits once they leave office. The only sure retirement benefit has been a State funeral at death. Hon. Lupando's death becomes an opportunity to raise this matter in the hope that government can ensure that those who serve the nation faithfully are taken care of after leaving office," Mumba, who is also a former Vice President himself, observed. "Those of us who knew and walked with the late Lupando Mwape remain heartbroken by the life he was subjected to. His case must raise a moral debate as to why a man who did not even have a place to lay his head should be given an expensive State funeral. In life, he suffered from lack, in death, he is treated as a king. This is not to belittle the honour of the State funeral, but to challenge Cabinet Office as to the

morality of this status quo." Mumba bitterly complained that other public office holders and service chiefs had their retirement packages, but that the vice president had none, relegating them to destitution after leaving office.. "Former President, the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Service Chiefs and civil servants have packages once they retire, but a former vice president has none. I, however, need to place a disclaimer that I do not raise this matter to benefit myself-having held this office, but to highlight a matter that has embarrassed Zambia for years, both at home and abroad. In most nations, a vice president leaves office with sustainable benefits. In Zambia, they leave office with debt arising from whatever loan they could have contracted. Everything is withdrawn: the security, staff, vehicles, diplomatic passport and are thrown onto the streets with no monthly stipend to help in paying off the loan they could have contracted while in office," Mumba stated. He said the sidelining of former vice presidents from retirement packages was historical, dating back to the UNIP administration. Mumba, however, hoped that the PF government urgently corrected the situation. "This problem of the nation's

number two comes from the UNIP days. Vice presidents Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, Secretary General of UNIP, Grey Zulu, prime ministers Malimba Masheke, Kebby Musokotwane, Nalumino Munda, Mainza Chona. I believe, as MMD, we failed to secure these freedom fighters financially to give them a dignified life. Some have gone to the grave in great poverty. I am reminded of the immeasurable hardships the late former vice president General Christon Tembo went through in trying to pay for medical bills until we lost him. He was, however, given an elaborate State funeral. As MMD, we approved former Presidents' package, but left out those who laboured side by side with them. I hope the PF can see the value of correcting this national anomaly," he said. Mumba, however, thanked government for having evacuated the late vice president Mwape. "At the height of his public service, he remains as one of the few vice presidents who acted as President for a prolonged period of time when the late President Levy Mwanawasa was hospitalised in London. It was, therefore, befitting for the government to have evacuated him to South Africa for specialised treatment. We commend government for the gesture," said Mumba.



Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja paying a courtesy call on South Sudan's Minister of Interior Lt General Michael Geay in Juba

The Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia says there has been a drop in the number of people reporting corruption cases to the institution. Acting ACC Director-General Rosemary Khuzwayo told a gathering at the launch of the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index that she does not understand why people have stopped reporting corruption cases nowadays.

“There is a drop in the number of reports that we are getting from members of the public. We do not understand why there is a drop, but there is a significant drop in the number of corruption cases that are being reported. People are not really reporting on corruption,” complained madam Rosemary.

“Then evidence also shows that in Zambia, huge amounts of monies are lost through kick-backs compared to other corruption avenues such as abuse of office. Another area of major concern for the ACC includes procurement; the manner in which contracts are awarded for roads and buildings.”

We find this to be the most embarrassing statement to have ever come from the Anti-Corruption Commission. We say this because, to our ears, this is a clear admission of incompetence and declaration of

Reporting corruption is a big risk in Zambia

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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redundancy at the same time. We don't know how the acting Director-General could not see what her remarks implied, because the answer to her question was embedded right in her own statement.

Why is the Anti-Corruption Commission boss shocked with the drop in the number of corruption cases reported to her institution, but she is not surprised with her institution's failure to prosecute those few cases that are reported? How can Madam Rosemary and her management at ACC fail to identify the link between the political influence under which they operate, and the loss in public confidence? Isn't that too obvious?

For example, if we reported a State House

official engaged in corruption today, and take the evidence to the ACC office, who will have the balls at that institution to pick the phone and call the accused person for interrogations? Who, at ACC, can arrest a sitting Cabinet minister for corruption? No one! So, what's the point in reporting corruption if nothing would be done about it at the end of the day? Why should members of the public risk their lives, reporting big criminals and only end up alone facing the wrath of those in power, while the ACC is watching from a safe distance?

When News Diggers! launched its print edition on December 17, 2017, the first lead story we published was from an interview with the Anti-Corruption Commission, in which

we asked how the institution deals with corruption involving State House officials. The ACC spokesperson was frank enough to tell us that regardless of how much evidence one can avail to the Commission, if the corruption is connected to the sitting Head of State, an investigation cannot be done. Those with time can find the verbatim interview on this link: <https://diggers.news/?p=19146>

What that simply means is that any corruption done in the name of the President, even if the President himself is not even aware that his name is being used, cannot be prosecuted. Again we ask; why is the ACC Director-General surprised that people have stopped reporting corruption cases lately? Why should people

go ahead and provide evidence of corruption, which will end up in the trash bin?

Madam Rosemary, reporting corruption is not a hobby that someone is expected to do for their own pleasure. It is a huge risk to report corruption that would never be prosecuted because there is actually a likelihood that the same investigators may report you to the accused.

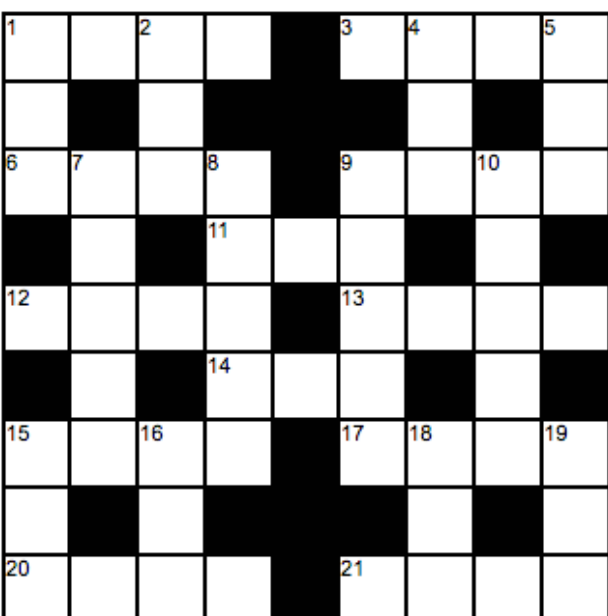
The point is that, those people whom the ACC is afraid of prosecuting are the real culprits of real corruption. Yes, the police traffic department may rank highest in terms of corruption prevalence rates among government institutions, but the fact is that the total amount of monies involved from all traffic corruption cases per year can be equal to

only one corruption deal involving a State House official or the President himself! At Permanent Secretary level, Ministerial level, State House level and presidential level, corruption deals are transacted in millions of dollars – not the K50 that is denting the image of the police.

If those big guys at the top remain untouched, then members of the public have no reason getting involved in the fight against corruption; unless the ACC is waiting for a trader at Chilenje market to report a section chairman for receiving a bribe to allocate a market stand to someone. If that is the corruption that madam Rosemary wants to fight, then she might as well shift her office to a mobile money-like booth, because fighting that type of corruption doesn't deserve the budget, infrastructure magnitude and human resource that ACC has.

In fact, while madam Rosemary was looking at the amount of money that government wastes through corruption in procurement, road construction and infrastructure building, we could not help but add the ACC to the list. The Anti-Corruption Commission wastes millions of taxpayers' money investigating cases that end up abandoned because it's their employers involved!

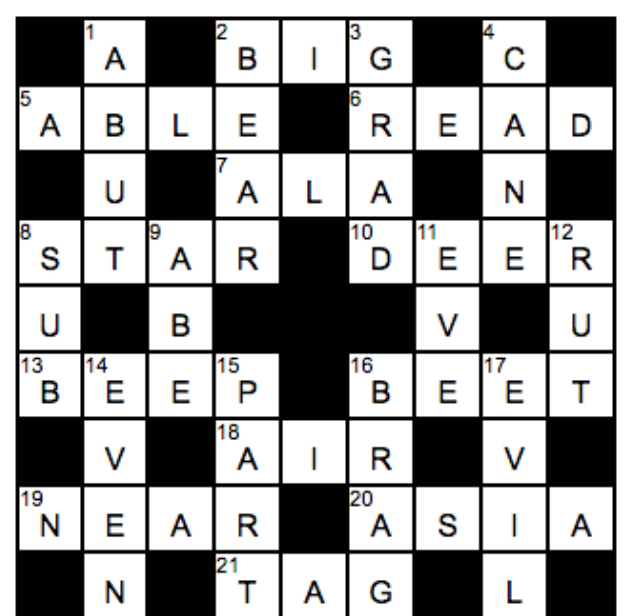
Crossword puzzle 283



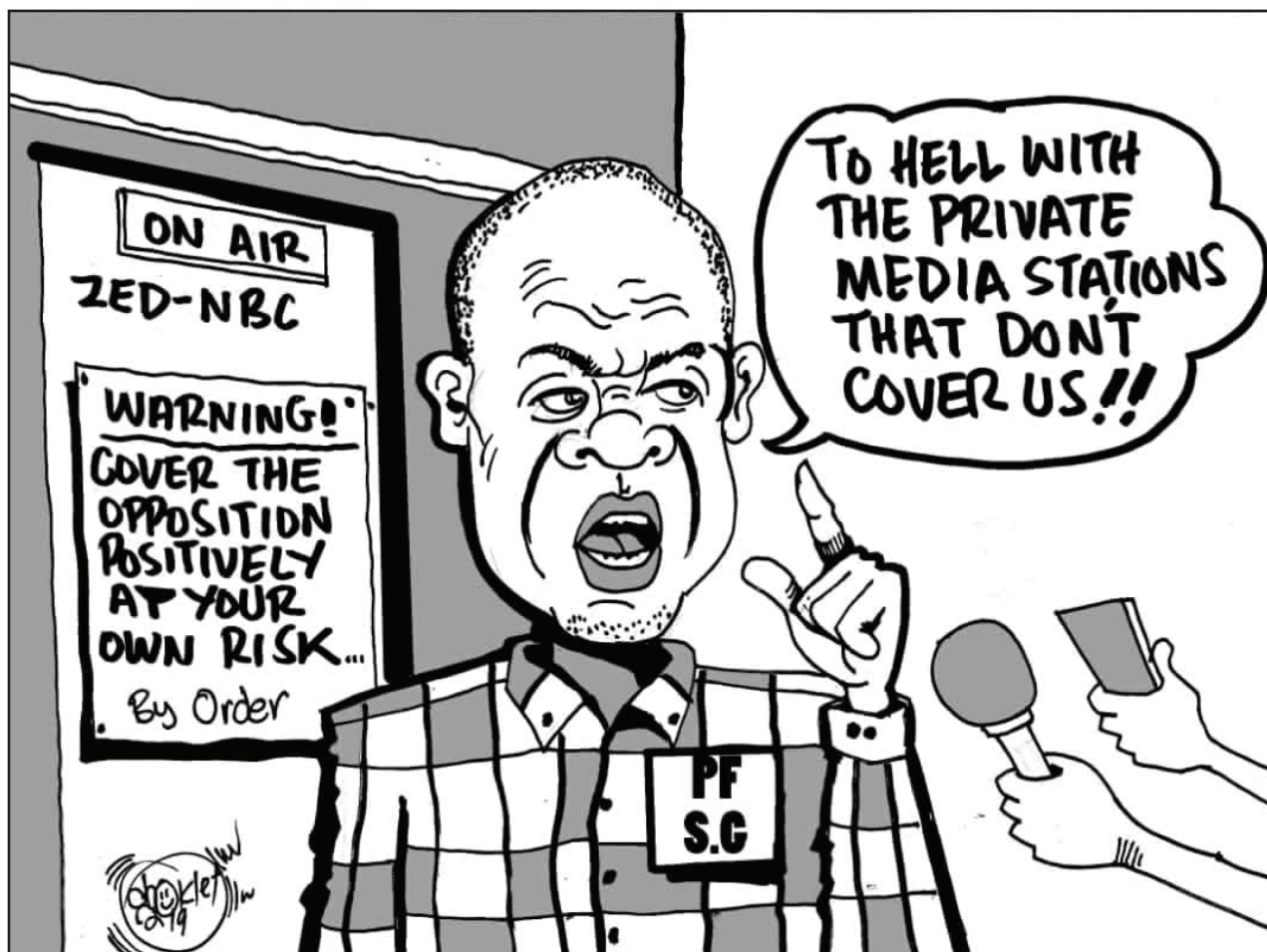
“To live is to be musical, starting with the blood dancing in your veins. Everything living has a rhythm. Do you feel your music?”
- Michael Jackson

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|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scenery 3. Substitute 6. Longest river 9. Bang your toe 11. Faster than walk 12. Blend 13. One time 14. Freudian subject 15. Ruffian 17. Eliot or Frost 20. Gruesome 21. East's opposite | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lg. family vehicle 2. Long fish 4. Drenched 5. Bar 7. Opening remarks 8. Flubbed 9. Be nosy 10. Cry of surrender 15. Warm greeting 16. Yours and mine 18. Rock containing precious metal 19. Egyptian boy king |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 282



Reader's feedback



'Pavyuma's right! Mines must pack and go!

Editor,

"I fully support you Hon. MP! This kind of excuses from mines are UNJUSTIFIABLE. I think all business minds play with the people and governments. Reasonably, when they come to invest, government gives them tax holidays up to five years, while the employees pay their Pay As You Earn (PAYE) without holidays. After the period given finishes, the same will claim that power is expensive; we will reduce human labour and the government bears the burden by subsidising

power for the mines, while ordinary citizens pay the full amounts, thereafter, they quickly inflate figures to claim the tax refunds, while its people are not given back!"

"Yes, they should pack, and go! Copper is on high demand. Time for Zambia to reap. They can't even leave since they are making huge profits!" – Matutu Matutu

"This is no time for that kind of talk, Hon. Pavyuma Kalobo. If the mines pack and go, then what? IMF 'literally speaking' packed and went and we all know where that has left us! We need to be level-headed when dealing with sensitive matters like what is obtaining currently in view of the unpalatable tax regime." – Grace Shankaya

'ECZ shouldn't suspend Sesheke by-election, violent PF must be expelled!'

Editor,

"No need to suspend elections.

This violence won't stop until good people stop being cowards and slay the dragon and cut

off its head! Cadres won't stop harassing us until we teach them a lesson by going out in massive numbers without fear to vote for the right candidate." – Victor Chansa

"ECZ should disqualify the PF as it is the party that is causing this violence!" – Jack Ma
 "The ECZ is mandated to disqualify a candidate whose supporters are abrogating the Electoral Code of Conduct. The ECZ's failure to punish wrongdoers takes away their credibility and integrity, and they have powers to supervise elections." – Mike Phiri

"Whether the by-election is postponed or not, the violence will continue for as long as police tactics don't change. Let the election go ahead, especially that as a country, we have a precedent that violence during campaigns does not warrant a nullification of the result. If postponed, the perpetrators will repeat the violent acts if they are favoured. No postponement!" – Bob Kaima

"This is not electoral violence, but police and PF violence. Instead of cancelling the by-election, why not just disqualify the candidate perpetuating the violence as stipulated in the Electoral Code of Conduct? This is also good for the police so they can do some community work of picking debris from the road." – Teddy Kapobe

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Note that we block facebook users who use abusive language

Dr. Sishuwa's analysis on whether HH a 'lapdog of Zambia's mining companies'

Dear Editor,

"The tragedy of our times as a people is that our intellectuals appear to have been schooled and have perfected the art of problem identification and negative criticism. HH as a presidential aspirant can't bulldoze the policies of a future government under, say, UPND. That responsibility shall fall on the shoulders of the new government and its cabinet. To crucify the man and hang him on the cross now would in my view be extremely unfair." – Kanyata Mubita

"The UPND and HH in particular, are being deliberately misconstrued for political expediency. Unlike promising heaven on earth in 90 days, what HH and the UPND are realistically advocating for is prudence in resource management and policy direction to avoid the nation being a less desired investment destination. The

point being, you can't have any functional government without taxation and other monetary policies. The naivety, if not sheer malice of all commentators on this issue, including the very learned, in attempting to ill-inform the nation on the UPND position is simply sickening!" – Bonny Nyambe Silubanje

"HH is 1000% right, while you and your PF goons are blindsided by Chinese hegemony and criminalization. Zambia makes enough money from the current mining tax regime not to warrant this golden-egg-killing tax proposals. The problem is not due to mining taxes especially, but kleptocracy and lack of prudence management of our resources by the PF regime!" – Joseph Chisenga

"I like this article Dr. Sishuwa; well-balanced even though some people expected him to be biased." – Charles Banda

Lusambo's claim on looters being in opposition waiting to steal when in govt

Nkhoma

Editor,

"Those who waiting to steal are definitely better than those that are already stealing, Ba Lusambo!" – Mwangilwa Bwalya

"I thought the man without a vision is already in State House. For looting, I think you are also doing the same; the only difference is that you will go to jail!" – Moono Twambo

"If opposition wasn't mentioned, one would think he is mentioning what the PF is all about." – Zak Zim

"How can someone not yet in govt start looting? These are words of fear gripping ba Minister of what will happen after 2021..." – Wise Chaisi

"Looters are already in the government looting!" – Aaron Bwalya

"I think the big looters are in government and 'Vasco da Gama' confirmed this when he said: 'ubomba mwibala alya mwibala'" – Dennis Tyson Phiri

"No more fooling Zambians about things you have failed to prove. Every Zambian understands how much your PF is madly stealing from the country's resources, even donated money has not been spared! Now you are even planning to trade Zambian teachers to Madagascar so that you can be eating commission from their earnings. Shame on you!" – Oliver Mpundu

Former deputy prime minister of Zimbabwe, Professor Arthur Mutambara, whose country is in an economic meltdown, has told a British audience that the mooted "ever closer African Union" was "despicable" and instead suggested that a "United States of Africa" would be more beneficial to Africans.

Speaking at the Oxford Union Debate Society, University of Oxford in the UK, Mutambara said: "I stand before you in unequivocal and vicious opposition to the proposition that says: 'This House would embrace an ever closer African Union'.

"For a start, we need the United States of Africa - a country - and not a union of sovereign states. We need to abolish national sovereignty and embrace continental sovereignty.

"We must pull our individual national sovereignties into one indivisible and all-inclusive Pan-African sovereignty. In order to leverage Africa's 1.2 billion people, massive natural resource base and potential \$2.3 trillion GDP we need to operate as one country and not a union of sovereign states."

Mutambara made his remarks amid mounting international criticism of Zimbabwe's government which used the amy to put down protests sparked by astronomical fuel hikes.

At least 12 people were killed in the violent and brutal clampdown that left many others injured. Doctors in that country said they treated 68 people for gunshot wounds.

More than 1 000 people have been arrested in the aftermath of the protests, as the Zimbabwe government moves to silence critical voices.

"We need one government, one head of state and government,

Former Zimbabwe deputy prime minister calls for United States of Africa

one legislature and one Judiciary system. China, India and the US are doing just fine with one national leader (President or PM)," surmised Mutambara.

"We surely do not need 55 Heads of State in Africa. As a minimum, we should have a federation of all the African states with devolved authority but driven by one strong and overarching central government where all sovereignty is reposed, as is the

case with the United States of America."

The robotics professor said even more appealing and effective was the possibility of transforming the entire continent into a unitary state as is the case with China and India. He said an ever closer AU will deliver neither the federated arrangement nor the unitary entity.

"You cannot expect the 55 African leaders to commit political

suicide and legislate themselves out of existence. Each one of them wants to be a President or Prime Minister even it means presiding over starving and disempowered people," argued Mutambara, who was deputy prime minister of Zimbabwe's unity government from 2009 to 2013.

"President Cyril Ramaphosa is not prepared to be a State Governor or Minister of Agriculture of the United

States of Africa. President Paul Kagame is not prepared to be a State Governor or a Minister of Home Affairs for the continent. Neither does President Yoweri Museveni want to be reduced to a State Governor or Minister of Transport," said the professor.

"They all want to be presidents of sovereign nations at the expense of the socio-political and economic advancement of ordinary Africans. An ever closer

African Union will continue to accommodate these perverted and delusional ambitions of our African leaders.

"Under an ever closer AU, African leaders and governments pay lip service to continental economic integration and African unity.

Mutambara concluded by saying: "We must unshackle ourselves from paralysis by analysis. No guts, no glory. As Africans, we reject an ever closer AU and embrace the United States of Africa. Such a framework will enable us to advance our socio-political and economic aspirations across the continent dramatically". *African News Agency*

Screen time 'may harm toddlers'

Letting a toddler spend lots of time using screens may delay their development of skills such as language and sociability, according to a large Canadian study.

The research, which tracked nearly 2,500 two-year-olds, is the latest piece of evidence in the debate about how much screen time is safe for kids.

In Canada and the US, experts say children should not use screens before they are at least 18 months old.

But UK guidelines set no such limit.

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health says there is not enough evidence, even when you include this new study, for a "direct toxic effect".

Mums were surveyed (between 2011 and 2016) about screen use, and filled out questionnaires about their child's skills and development at ages two, three and five.

Screen time included watching

TV programmes, films or videos, gaming, and using a computer, tablet, phone or any other screen-based device.

At the age of two, the children were clocking up around 17 hours of screen time per week.

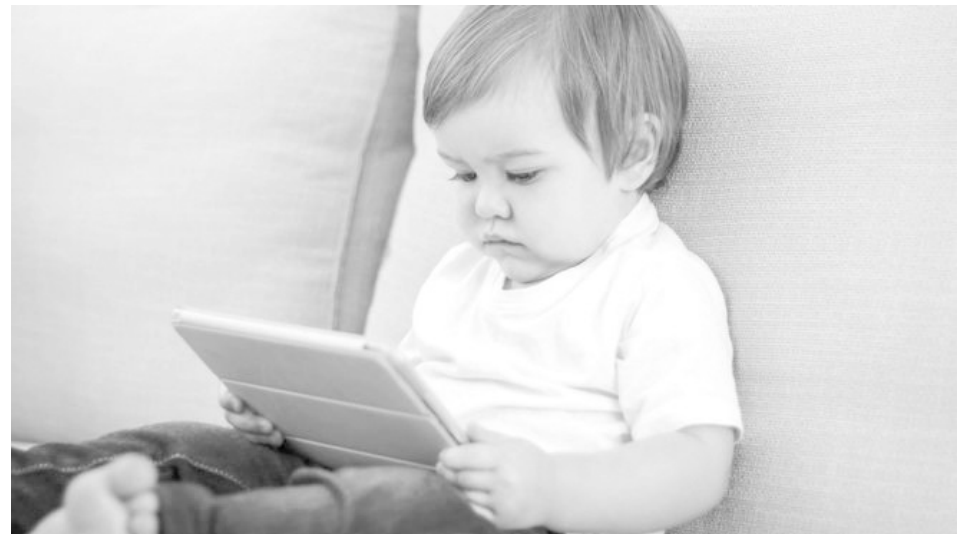
This increased to around 25 hours a week by the age of three but dropped to around 11 hours a week at the age of five, when the children started primary school.

The findings, published in the JAMA Paediatrics, suggest increased viewing begins before any delay in development can be seen, rather than children with poor developmental performance then going on to have more screen time.

But it is not clear whether screen time - including how much or what type - is directly to blame. Screen use might just go hand-in-hand with other things linked to delayed development, such as upbringing and how a child's remaining leisure time is spent.

When young children are observing screens, they may be missing important opportunities to practise and master other important skills.

In theory, it could get in the way of social interactions and may limit how much time



young children spend running, climbing and practising other physical skills - although they may still eventually catch up. Even without solid proof of harm, Dr Sheri Madigan and colleagues say it still makes sense to moderate children's screen time and make sure it doesn't interfere with "face-to-face interactions or family time".

They also said that, with hindsight, perhaps they should have followed the children from an even younger age because it is becoming increasingly common for 12-month-old babies to be watching and using

screens.

The new study does not make any recommendation about how much is too much. Some of the two-year-olds were getting more than four hours a day or 28 hours a week of screen use, according to their mums.

The American Association of Paediatrics' (AAP) guidelines on screen time say:

For children younger than 18 months, avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting

Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality

programming, and watch it with their children to help them understand what they are seeing

For children ages two to five years, limit screen use to one hour per day of high-quality programmes. Again, parents should be watching it with their children.

For children ages six and older, place consistent limits, making sure screen time does not get in the way of sleep and physical activity.

The Canadian Paediatric Society goes further, saying screen time for children younger than two is not recommended. *BBC*

RnB singer James Ingram dies aged 66

US RnB singer and songwriter James Ingram has died in Los Angeles at the age of 66.

The Grammy winner and Oscar nominee had two number one hit songs, in 1983 and 1990.

He also co-wrote Michael Jackson's Pretty Young Things with frequent collaborator Quincy Jones.

Actress and friend Debbie Allen announced his death on her Twitter page, saying she was "blessed to have been so close" to him.

Entertainment news site TMZ reports Ingram had been suffering from brain cancer.

Born in Ohio in 1952, Ingram later moved to Los Angeles and began his career with the band Revelation Funk. He also played keyboards for Ray Charles before his own musical career took off.

He performed vocals on Quincy Jones' 1981 album The Dude and won the Best Male RnB Vocal Performance Grammy for the song One Hundred Ways the following year, when he was also nominated for Best New Artist.

Jones and he would later co-write Pretty Young Thing, the sixth single from Michael Jackson's album Thriller. Ingram won his second Grammy for the song Yah Mo B There which he sang with Michael McDonald.

His first number one hit was the duet Baby, Come To Me with singer Patti Austin, and he would again top the charts with I Don't Have The Heart.

The singer-songwriter also worked on film soundtracks.

He was nominated for the Best Original Song Oscar Academy Award in 1994 and 1995 for songs from Beethoven's 2nd and Junior, respectively.

More tributes from fans and friends have been posted on social media. *BBC*

Facebook paid teenagers to mine device data

Facebook has been conducting research that gathers highly personal data from paid volunteers, a report has revealed.

TechCrunch said participants - including those aged 13-17 - have been paid up to \$20-a-month to open up their phone to deep analysis.

Facebook is said to have created an app that the report said could be in contradiction of Apple's policies.

TechCrunch reported Facebook used social media ads to target teenagers for the scheme. Facebook denies this.

The social network said everyone involved in the programme had consented, and that market research was standard practice. However, in the hours after TechCrunch's report was published, Facebook said it was now ending the programme on Apple devices.

The research focused on users aged 13-35, and those under 18 were asked to get parental consent, Facebook said.

In a statement, the firm took issue with TechCrunch's characterisation of the programme.

"Key facts about this market research program are being ignored," a spokeswoman said via email.

"Despite early reports, there was nothing 'secret' about this; it was literally called the Facebook Research App. It wasn't 'spying' as all of the people who signed up to participate went through a clear on-boarding process asking for their permission and were paid to participate.

"Finally, less than 5% of the

people who chose to participate in this market research program were teens. All of them with signed parental consent forms." When asked by the BBC how exactly the parental consent was obtained, Facebook said it was handled by a third-party and did not elaborate.

Apple has not yet commented on whether it felt Facebook had broken its rules, and what action it might take as a result. TechCrunch's detailed

report explains Facebook had previously conducted market research using an app called Onavo, which it acquired in 2013.

But in August last year, Facebook removed the app from the App Store after Apple complained about the data it was collecting on users.

There is also an app on Google's mobile operating system, Android. Google is also yet to comment. *BBC*



'If he wants to go, he has to' - Sarri tells Hazard he can leave Chelsea

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri believes Eden Hazard could leave the club to fulfil his potential with the Belgian attracting interest from Real Madrid.

Hazard's contract with the Premier League club expires in 2020 and he has so far refused to extend that deal despite Chelsea's efforts.

The Blues have stood firm in rejecting bids for Callum Hudson-Odoi from German giants Bayern Munich for the 18-year-old.

Hudson-Odoi is also out of contract in 2020, but Sarri intimated the club's stance may be different and they may cash in on Hazard in the summer should he express his desire to leave.

"The situation of Eden is different. Eden is 28. If he wants to go, I think he has to go," said Sarri ahead of Wednesday's trip to Bournemouth.

"Of course, I hope the opposite. I hope he wants to stay here.

"He has the potential to be the

best player in Europe at the moment.

"Sometimes he's happy with something less. It's my job to improve him and put him in a position to do his best."

Sarri branded Hazard "more an individual player than a leader" last week and has routinely called for his star forward to hit the heights he showed early in the season on

a more consistent basis.

However, Hazard's form has also suffered due to Sarri's decision to play him in an unfamiliar centre-forward role in recent months prior to

the loan signing of Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain.

"I don't care. I just play my football," Hazard said of Sarri's criticism after a 2-1 win over Tottenham on Thursday to

progress to the League Cup final on penalties.

"It doesn't matter what the manager said. I just focus on my football and want to do my best for this team." *AFP*

Neymar out for 10 weeks, will miss Man Utd tie



Neymar will miss both legs of Paris Saint-Germain's upcoming Champions League last-16 tie against Manchester United after the French club confirmed on Wednesday that the world's most expensive player would be out for 10 weeks with a metatarsal injury.

However, Neymar will not undergo an operation, with PSG saying the 26-year-old Brazilian had instead agreed on "a conservative treatment" that could see him return in time for the Champions League quarter-finals in April should they qualify.

"After detailed analysis by specialists, a consensus was reached of a conservative treatment of Neymar's injury to the fifth right metatarsal," the French champions said.

"Informed of this recommendation, Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian international striker agreed with this protocol. As a result, Neymar is expected to return to the field within 10 weeks."

Neymar suffered the injury in PSG's 2-0 French Cup win against Strasbourg last week, and his coach Thomas Tuchel had already all but ruled the 222-million-euro forward out of the first leg against United at Old Trafford on February 12.

The second leg of that tie is scheduled for March 6, and the timeline announced by the club means he could just make it back in time for a quarter-final first leg, due to be played on April 9 and 10. The second legs are set for the following week.

"Paris Saint-Germain sends its strongest support and encouragement to Neymar Jr. to overcome this injury, with the courage and determination that the player has always shown," the club added.

While Neymar will now sit out a crucial period in PSG's season, there has also been concern in Brazil, which will host the Copa America in June and July.

An operation would have put Neymar's participation in that tournament at risk, as well as effectively ending his club season. Brazil coach Tite and national team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar have been in Paris this week to visit Neymar, who suffered a fracture to the same right foot at the end of February last year. *AFP*

Aggrey plots to power Eagles over Dynamos

By Alex Chilumbwe

Green Eagles coach Aggrey Chiyengi hopes to fly the eagle above Power Dynamos in week two of the FAZ/MTN league after Nchanga Rangers shot it down in 1-0 victory in week one through Austin Muwowo's 88th minute goal.

Chiyengi in an interview with Goal Diggers! described the loss to the Chingola-based outfit as unfortunate, adding that he would tighten his fullbacks defence and frustrate Dynamos efforts when they host them at Choma's Independence Stadium on Saturday.

"It is unfortunate that we lost our opening game of the season and it was all because of a little defence error by my fullbacks. I won't dwell on the loss but tighten up my

defence so that Power fails to penetrate. We need to collect maximum points because I know how hard it is to pick up when it is almost too late. Power Dynamos cannot be underrated and neither can we be," said Chiyengi.

Meanwhile, Dynamos' coach Kelvin Kaindu described his boys' spirit and morale

as high following their 2-0 win over Maestro United of Zambia (MUZA).

Kaindu also said that his team would settle for nothing but maximum points at Eagles' home in an attempt to cause panic among teams in its stream.

"We are going there for maximum points and that's

an everyday song for any coach. One just has to play their cards right and in my case, I want to keep collecting maximum points and cause a bit of panic among the teams in our stream. We have to send a message and win where there's a chance to do so," said Kaindu.

Kasonde aims to impress Chambeshi

By Alex Chilumbwe

Under-23 National Team provisional squad member Theophilus Kasonde says he feels the pressure of being one of the three call-ups from a Division One side in the squad but stressed that he would work extra hard and prove to super league

players that one's football category does not limit talent.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kasonde, 22, was cognizant of the golden opportunities that would come his way if he performed up to coach Bestone Chambeshi's

expectations while in camp. "There is a bit of pressure for me because I'm one of the three guys from a Division One team but that gives me more reasons to work harder. My friends from lower divisions should learn through me that one's football category does not

limit talent. It can be scary but if I impress the coach, I can find other opportunities like making it to the final squad or being bought by a bigger team in the super league," said Kasonde.

And Nkana's Harrison Chisala, endowed with elite league experience,

rallied behind Kasonde and another Under-23 newbie Sydney Phiri from Gomes football club. He encouraged the duo to stay focused and not be intimidated by elite league players.

"They are good players and one cannot even know that they are from division one.

FAZ shuns PAC, says Kamanga will explain expenditure when he returns

By Abraham Kalito

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Public Relations officer Desmond Katongo explained to Goal Diggers! yesterday that the association could not appear before the parliamentary committee as its president was away on office duty. The association was scheduled to appear before the Parliamentary

committee to account for the financial year ended 2018, but failed to do so.

Katongo however explained that association president Andrew Kamanga had travelled abroad on official duty and that FAZ could not appear before the committee in his absence.

He told Goal Diggers in an interview

that FAZ would still appear before the committee once Kamanga returns back to the country.

"As you maybe aware we usually appear before the parliamentary committee every year. And when we do appear, the president is always there to help in answering the questions. But you maybe aware that there is a CHAN draw

taking place abroad today. So, the president travelled to attend that draw and as a result we could not appear before the committee. When he comes back, we might be called to appear and when that happens we will do so. We will be in touch with the committee and when we are called to present ourselves, we will do so," Katongo said.

Remember when Young Buffaloes reached Barclays finals in 2018. It is one thing they should keep in mind and not be intimidated by super league players," said Chisala.

Theophilus Kasonde (Paramilitary), Sydney Phiri (Gomes) and Bwalya Chellah (Young Buffaloes) are the only Division One players that were summoned by Chambeshi for the Under-23 provisional squad that entered residential camp on Tuesday ahead of an encounter against Malawi in March.

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