



# MINISTERS STEALING

## ...we need a lifestyle audit - Kambwili

**By Thomas Mulenga**  
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says if citizens want the opposition alliance to field one presidential candidate in 2021, that is what they will do.

And Kambwili has insisted that Zambia needs a lifestyle audit for ministers. Speaking when he featured on the Catholic Church-run Radio Lutanda, in Kasama, Saturday, Kambwili said there was need for lifestyle audits

for President Lungu and his ministers. "I have challenged them, and I am still challenging them, that we need to conduct a lifestyle audit where all ministers and the President must explain the source of their excess

money. In Kenya and Botswana, the presidents in the two countries have ordered for a lifestyle audit of ministers and themselves; here they have refused despite us making numerous requests," he said. **To page 2**

### I want to keep council police busy by making them clean city – Miles

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Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says council police have become too many and as such, he wants them to be kept busy by joining in the cleaning of the city. And Sampa says the council officers have no right to harass or physically manhandle street vendors. Meanwhile, Sampa, who

is former Matero member of parliament, says he will consider contesting a parliamentary seat again if people say they want him back. In an interview, Sampa said he wanted council police to be cleaning the city as a way of keeping them busy, but noted that he was facing resistance from within the municipality. **To page 4**



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini with Chief Justice Ireen Mambilima during the requiem mass at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus on January 28, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



After the show's second episode aired on Friday, social media went awash with pictures of Mukuni Godfrey Mulundika, alias Kuni, (above centre) who had joined his friends Cleo and Thandi at a spar, clad in an outfit which showed off his thighs.

**IBA bans "Lusaka Hustle" show on Zambezi Magic for promoting homosexuality**  
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### Nawakwi, Wynter, Saki and Mutati should define their alliance - Milupi

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
ADD leader Charles Milupi says by standing on the truth, the Opposition Alliance has

unsettled those who lack integrity. On Sunday, four opposition political parties accused the Opposition Alliance and the church of trying to use the dialogue process as a vehicle for

regime change. At a joint press briefing, Sakwiba Sikota of the United Liberal Party, Felix Mutati, leader of one of the two Movement for Multiparty Democracy factions, Edith Nawakwi of

the Forum for Democracy and Development and Wynter Kabimba of the Rainbow Party, charged that the Opposition Alliance had deliberately been misleading the nation, among other accusations. **To page 4**

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# Kambwili demands lifestyle audits for ministers, says they are thieves

**By Thomas Mulenga**  
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says if citizens want the opposition alliance to field one presidential candidate in 2021, that is what they will do. And Kambwili has insisted

that Zambia needs a lifestyle audit for ministers. Speaking when he featured on the Catholic Church-run Radio Lutanda, in Kasama, Saturday, Kambwili said the opposition alliance would field one candidate, if that's

what Zambians wanted. "On the issue of the alliance, the main reason we have come together as 10 opposition political parties is to ensure that we speak against the abuse of laws by the PF, which they use to

deny the opposition permits to conduct their campaigns and other bad things that the PF has been doing against the people of Zambia. We have not discussed anything on whether we shall support one person or not. What

meaningful alliances do everywhere in the world in fact is that once you decide to support one person as an alliance candidate, you come up with one name for that alliance and put all your ideologies together. The name is not even formed by taking initials from political parties who are alliance members, it's formed based on the ideologies that you have formulated and agreed upon. So, the only time we will think about whether to rally behind one candidate or not, is when Zambians tell us to do so. If Zambians say 'come together and help us to remove these crooks in government,' we shall do that; we have to listen to voters," Kambwili said. And Kambwili said there was need for lifestyle audits for President Lungu and his ministers. "I have challenged them, and I am still challenging them, that we need to conduct a lifestyle audit where all ministers and the President must explain the source of their excess money. In Kenya and Botswana, the presidents in the two countries have ordered for a lifestyle audit of ministers and themselves; here they have refused despite us

making numerous requests," he said.

Meanwhile, Kambwili said corruption levels had swelled in the country because the Head of State had failed to fight the vice. "I am talking about theft; myself I have a company called 'Mwamona', which develops mines before they could start mining copper or any minerals. I started business a long time ago, in 1993. Now, here is a minister who never even had a bicycle before becoming a minister, but today is able to donate colossal sums of money, just know that such a minister is a thief! I don't just want to mention their names, but they know themselves. Before we adopted them, they didn't own even a mere bicycle. Even President Lungu before he became (Republican) President when he was declaring his assets, he declared K2.5 million. After one year of being President, he declared K23 million in 2016, and he never said he had any business. Now, tell me, the President's annual salary is K450,000, how can he have K23 million in one year? This is what I have been asking him, I have asked him to explain where he got that K23 million, but he has never answered! When a President fails to fight corruption in the country, it means it has become open for all," said Kambwili. "The salary for ministers as at now is at K23,000, but a minister can manage to build three fully-furnished churches using that K23,000? Another minister goes and donates K650,000 by purchasing a Marcopolo Bus and donates to his constituency. Where are they getting all this money? If you see the way they are constructing houses in Lusaka, they have gotten all the land! Wherever you go; you will hear people telling you that that's a minister's house. This government is focused on self-enrichment of individuals in offices, through blatant theft of public resources! Hence we are saying in 2021, we must work together and remove the PF from government!"



Sportsmen and Women take part in the Presidency Keep Fit Charity Run at State Lodge in Lusaka on Saturday, February 2, 2019 - Photo by Salim Henry

## Construction firm sues RTSA over K500,000

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**

Mart Speed Construction Limited has sued the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) in the Lusaka High Court for failure to pay over K500,000 for the construction of a motor vehicle concrete slab at Silverest, Chongwe. The company is further seeking an order of payment and reimbursement of the costs and losses incurred after RTSA terminated the agreement for the construction of a Motor Vehicle Inspection Centre in Petauke in the sum of K713,400. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, January 30, Mart Speed stated that in May 2016, it bided for two separate contracts for the construction of Motor Vehicle Inspection Centre in Petauke and Chipata respectively, which bid was successfully awarded to it. It stated that in May 2017, it entered into an agreement with RTSA for the construction of 30 X 30 motor vehicle concrete slab in Silverest, Chongwe for the amount of K337,517.

Mart Speed stated that upon the issuance of the purchase order in June 2017, RTSA unilaterally altered the terms of the construction by changing the specifications of the slab from 30 X 30 metres to 40 metres X 30 metres. It stated that despite the alteration, it proceeded to carry out and complete all the works including the variations under the project at an additional cost of K201,047 in July 2017, which was successfully completed and handled over to RTSA. Mart Speed disclosed that RTSA had to date not paid it for all the works done and was still indebted to it in the total sum of K538,564. It stated that further to the previously mentioned, it also entered into an agreement with RTSA in May 2016 for the construction of a Motor Vehicle Inspection Centre in Petauke. Mart Speed stated that in anticipation of the said works under the project, it incurred expenses amounting to K713,400. It disclosed that despite both

agreements being duly executed, RTSA, after a prolonged period, advised the company that both contracts for the construction of Motor Vehicle Inspection Centres in Chipata and Petauke would be deferred or put off. Mart Speed further disclosed that in a meeting held in September last year, RTSA proceeded to not only defer the said agreements but informed the company that the said agreements were terminated due to unavailability of funds. "Thereafter, RTSA advised Mart Speed that any concerns that it wished to raise after the termination should be submitted in writing and further that on the price validity, any significant material cost fluctuation over the period from tender to the proposed start dates would be accordingly considered and reimbursed," read the statement of claim. Mart Speed stated it proceeded to raise its concerns in writing and requested payment and reimbursement of the

costs and losses incurred as a result of termination of the contracts totaling K713,400, which RTSA had failed to pay. "Despite several demands and reminders, RTSA has willfully neglected and refused to honour its legal obligations under the said agreements. As a result, Speed Mart has suffered grave loss, damages and inconveniences," read the statement of claim further. The company is now seeking for an order of payment of the outstanding balance for the construction of a 40 X 30 metres concrete slab at Silverest in the sum of K538,564, as well as, an order of payment and reimbursement of the costs and losses incurred under the agreement for the construction of a Motor Vehicle Inspection Center in Petauke, in the sum of K713,400. It's further claiming damages for loss of use of funds, damages for breach of contract, damages for loss of chance and opportunity, interest, costs and any other relief.

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# Mining tax hike won't affect investment - Musukwa

By Thomas Mulenga

Mines Minister Richard Musukwa says Zambia remains a stable and attractive investment destination for mining and other economic sectors.

And Musukwa has dismissed assertions that the 2019 mining fiscal changes reflect government policy uncertainty and consistency in the country.

Meanwhile, UPND president Hakainde Hichilema travelled to attend the 25th Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa, in a bid to try and find out what would be a fairer tax regime for Zambia.

In a statement availed by the Zambian High Commission in Pretoria, Musukwa insisted that Zambia still remained an economically viable investment destination, even amidst the hiked 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



Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, Hon Richard Musukwa, speaking to Barbara Lewis of Reuters

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 Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) to downsize its Nchanga Smelter operations due to low availability of concentrates.

But speaking on the side-lines

of the 25th Mining indaba in Cape Town, Musukwa insisted that government had a mandate to adjust taxes and other regulations within the legal framework to promote benefits to the community and the country.

Musukwa argued that the increased taxes slapped on imports of concentrates was meant to encourage mining

companies develop current resources sitting on their licences.

He said that government had no plans to increase its shareholdings in the mines, and invited mining houses to exploit the opportunities that existed, especially for green investment in the sector.

Musukwa, who is leading a high-level delegation

to Africa's largest mining indaba, is accompanied by provincial ministers from Copperbelt and North-Western provinces, Japhen Mwakalombe and Nathaniel Mubukwanu, who will all be joined by Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe.

The Conference, whose theme of the conference is: "Championing Africa's

Sustainable Economic Growth" opened, Monday, at the International Cape Town Convention Centre.

The Conference will also be graced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Ghanaian counterpart Nana Akufo-Addo.

Meanwhile, Hichilema, who also travelled to Cape Town to attend the mining indaba, which attracts governments, business executives and investors, said he would use the indaba as a platform to engage mining firms in dialogue to discuss a fair mining tax regime.

"We arrived safely in Cape Town, South Africa, where we will be attending the 25th Mining Indaba. This is the largest mining indaba in the world where governments, investors

and high-profile business leaders meet. This year the indaba will see Presidents Cyril Ramaphosa and his Ghanaian counterpart Nana Akkuffo-Addo give keynote addresses. We will be joining high-ranking government officials and mining executives in this endeavour as we seek solutions for our country and our people," stated Hichilema in a statement released, Monday.

"We are excited with this particular Indaba, which comes at a time when the tax regime in Zambia has been adjusted for the 9th time in 18 years. We shall take this opportunity to engage with the mining houses and have constructive dialogue on what would be a fair taxation system from their point of view and from our point of view. Such dialogue is essential in order to achieve a situation where mining investments benefits Zambia and Zambians as well as investors (win-win situation)."

## World Vision sues doctor for defamation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

World Vision Zambia Limited has dragged a medical doctor to court, seeking damages for defamation after he alleged that the organisation infringed his copyright in the Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) model.

Dr Beck Banda is alleged to have given an interview to Daily Nation newspaper on November 22, 2018, where he alleged that World Vision Zambia had infringed his copyright in the SMAGs Model.

In that interview, Banda allegedly said he had tried his best to engage institutions such as the Ministry of Health, World Vision Zambia and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which were allegedly infringing on his rights, but since they all decided not to cooperate, he was left with no option but to take the matter to court.

"I have now instructed lawyers to initiate legal proceedings against all those who are infringing on SMAGs because I own the copyright and my work cannot be used without prior permission or consent," he had said in an interview with the Daily Nation.

And in an interview with QTV in December 2018, Dr Banda further demanded K13,000,000 from World Vision for the same infringement.

However, in a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, January 25, World Vision stated that the said words in their natural and ordinary meaning were understood to mean that

the organisation was guilty of copyright infringement and violation of the laws of Zambia.

It further stated that the said words were false because Dr Banda was not the copyright holder, adding that the organisation had at no time infringed any copyright in the SMAGs model.

World Vision stated that when Dr Banda made a claim of copyright infringement against the organisation in May last year, it requested

for the allegedly infringed SMAGs Model but he had to date failed or neglected to avail them the said infringed material.

It stated that by reason of the publication of the words complained of, the organisation had been injured in its credit and reputation and had been brought into public scandal, contempt and ridicule.

"Dr Banda published or caused to be published the words complained of knowing

them to be false or recklessly, not caring whether they were true or false or with no honest belief that they were true. In doing so, Dr Banda was actuated by the dominant motive of damaging the organisation and its business," read the statement of claim.

"By reason of the publication of the words complained of, the organisation has been injured in its credit and reputation and had been brought into public scandal, contempt and ridicule. Unless restrained

by this honourable court, the defendant will further publish or cause to be published the words complained of or similar words defamatory of the organisation."

World Vision is now claiming damages for slander and libel, aggravated damages, an injunction to restrain Dr Banda from further publishing or causing to be published the said or any similar defamatory words, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

## Political violence can only end with cultural transformation - SACCORD

By Mirriam Chabala

Zambia's challenge with ongoing political violence is difficult to address because the vice requires a cultural transformation to effectively deal with it, says SACCORD executive director Boniface Chembe.

In an interview, Chembe called for enhanced political will from political leaders towards the fight against political violence.

Asked if the current leadership had exhibited the political will required to fight political violence, Chembe said more needed to be done.

"We believe that the political will is there, like from the example I gave in the lead-up to the Mayoral by-election where leaders committed themselves to desist from engaging in acts of violence and we did not witness much after that commitment. So, there are efforts that are being put in by political parties. But what they need is support, especially in

elections that are too tightly contested because the stake tends to be high. So, constant stakeholder engagement with the political parties would assist in ensuring that issues of political violence are dealt with. So, yes, we believe that to an extent, there is political will and there is evidence to showcase that political will by political leaders to stop acts of violence. But more needs to be done. It's not easy to transform a culture. Cultural transformation is very difficult and in order to basically achieve that objective, you need constant engagement because acts of political violence happen at difference levels. And at all those levels, you require constant engagement and constant action to transform that culture that has characterized our politics for some time," Chembe said. He said the national dialogue served a much bigger purpose beyond just addressing political violence during

election periods. "The national dialogue is a lot bigger than the continued discourses of political violence. Of course, one of the aspects the dialogue is supposed to touch upon is the issue of the prevalence of political violence. But over and above that, the national dialogue is about legislative and institutional reforms so that we create a much more conducive environment where equalling the playing ground are concerned. Suffice to say, issues of violence would have been tackled under the dialogue process. But from our point of view, we believe that occurrences of political violence can be stopped if there is commitment by the political parties to basically stop the incidences of political violence. We are aware, for example, that in the lead up to the Mayoral by-elections in Lusaka, we saw the ruling Patriotic Front and the opposition United Party

for National Development stop the occurrence of political violence and we did see a reduction in that particular regard," said Chembe.

"So, what matters is for stakeholders to continue encouraging all political players to continue as much as they can to endeavour to put an end to occurrences of political violence and, of course, we do trust and believe that the national dialogue process within and outside itself would also compliment as well as supplement to the efforts that stakeholders continue to engage with the two leading political parties and, indeed, all other political parties to make their supporters understand that leaders may differ politically, but that they are not sworn enemies. So, we believe that political violence can be addressed in two ways: one is for political parties themselves working and engaging and the second level is the national dialogue."

By Thomas Mulenga

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has ordered DSTV to suspend a reality show dubbed Lusaka Hustle on Zambezi Magic saying it promotes a lifestyle which is contrary to Zambian values.

In a statement, IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma

# IBA orders DSTV to suspend Lusaka Hustle show

stated that the authority had received too many complaints from members of the public concerning the same.

After the show's second episode aired on Friday, social media was

awash with pictures of Mukuni Godfrey Mulundika, alias Kuni, who had joined his friends Cleo and Thandi at a spar, clad in an outfit which showed off his thighs. Some netizens attacked Kuni for

behaving in a feminine manner and Religious Affairs Minister Reverend Godfridah Sumaili called for the banning of the programme. "The Independent Broadcasting

Authority (IBA) has directed Multi Choice Zambia to, with immediate effect, suspend the Lusaka Hustler reality show on Zambezi Magic on the DSTV Platform. This follows public

outries that the Lusaka Hustle reality show promotes a lifestyle contrary to our Zambian values and culture. Further, the Authority has received several comments from the Public concerning the show in question and as such, has directed Multichoice Zambia to withdraw the Lusaka Hustler reality show in Public interest," Mapoma stated.

"Section 24 (1) of the IBA (Principal) Act, 2002 provides, "All programmes by a Commercial Broadcasting service shall, subject to the conditions of a license and regulations of the Authority –(a) reflect the culture, character, needs and aspirations of the people in the areas that they are licensed to serve."

And Mapoma asked local creators to produce content which reflected Zambian culture.

"The IBA wishes to further urge producers of local content to produce content that reflects the Zambian culture as well as take into consideration Zambian laws. The Authority would also like to urge Television stations acquiring local content to preview all content to ensure that the local content, both film and musical, is in line with the Zambian culture and suits the needs of all content consumers," stated Mapoma.

Kuni and his co-stars are yet to comment on the fracas.

# Nawakwi, Wynter, Saki and Mutati should define their alliance - Milupi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ADD leader Charles Milupi says by standing on the truth, the Opposition Alliance has unsettled those who lack integrity.

On Sunday, four opposition political parties accused the Opposition Alliance and the church of trying to use the dialogue process as a vehicle for regime change.

At a joint press briefing, Sakwiba Sikota of the United Liberal Party, Felix Mutati, leader of one of the two Movement for Multiparty Democracy factions, Edith Nawakwi of the Forum for Democracy and Development and Wynter Kabimba of the Rainbow Party, charged that the Opposition Alliance had deliberately been misleading the nation, among other accusations.

But in an interview, Milupi said Sakwiba, Nawakwi, Mutati and Kabimba should come out in the open and state who they are and what they stand for, before throwing stones at others.

"You know, if you stand on truth, you unsettle those who peddle lies, those who have no integrity," Milupi said.

"So we have heard statements and the idea is to disband the alliance so that they pick one of us like Hakainde Hichilema and then say 'all these are his lapdogs, these are his useful idiots' the idea is to make us angry so that we can walk away but that will not happen. We stand on truth, we think that what we stand on, if it is implemented, it will result in this country moving forward politically, socially and economically. Anyone who finds anything wrong in us, it means they are dishonest and they lack integrity and they don't mean well to this country. And to accuse the church that they are campaigning

for anyone or they want a regime change is wrong."

He said it was wrong to accuse the church of helping with opposition alliance to push for regime change, adding that those attacks on the alliance lacked integrity.

"So those four political parties first of all must tell us who they are? We have come out very clearly as an alliance of opposition political parties. What brings them together? Are they an alliance? Is the alliance just to speak the position of PF such that if PF boycotts they also boycott? When we had a meeting on Tuesday, Mr Hakainde Hichilema stood up and said something, then Davies Mwila stood up and said 'what are we here for?' and then he walked out. ZCID stood up and walked out, those same four political parties also walked out. So when PF walks out and you also walk out, what impression are you creating? So that is the meeting which resulted in all these statements," Milupi said.

Milupi said the fact that the alliance's position on the dialogue position coincides with what the church is saying does not mean that the two are in cahoots.

"So to accuse us because we understand what should be done right and exact that our understanding coincides with what the church is saying does not mean that the church supports us. Anyone who says that the church supports any particular group of people is totally wrong because first of all, in our alliance, we have not even reached a time when we shall be talking about what we are doing for [2021] elections, who stands? Who the running mate? Who does what and so on. We came together to address these issues that we have mentioned,

the political space, the abuse of the police, the abuse of the Public Order Act, the abuse of the Electoral Commission of Zambia, the Violence that we are seeing. We want the political field to be evened out," he said.

Milupi insisted that there was no way the alliance would allow ZCID to chair the dialogue process because the centre was composed.

"So it (ZCID) is a subordinate body to us the politicians because it is our SGs who sit on that board. And ZCID together with their friends in our view try to weaken the [dialogue] process by superimposing ZCID. In a village when there is a problem in a marriage, you go to seniors and in our case, ZCID is junior because our secretary generals sit on that board. We have said no, we need

the church mother bodies because we are a Christian country, we have respect for the church because they have the moral authority. And at the launch of the dialogue, this time the PF excused that President Lungu needed 48 hours notice but our knowledge very clearly was that the notice to State House well within that time frame. But the strange thing that we noticed was that PF and President Lungu didn't show up, ZCID didn't show up at dawn. We also noticed that the other wings of government like the Speaker who had been invited did not show up, the other arm of government, the judiciary like the Chief Justice did not show up, the retired presidents like President Kaunda and President Banda did not show up," Milupi said.

And Milupi said there was

someone in the background trying to manipulate the dialogue process.

"Someone somewhere in the background is manipulating these things. They don't want dialogue. Following that meeting, Mr Sakwiba Sikota started going on television where he said a lot of things against the church and these other ten political Parties went on television and said 'we are affiliated to PF and we are not ashamed to say that and they said a lot of things against the church mother bodies. We were concerned because you do not throw mad at your parents because if you are a Christian country, the highest people to respect are the elders of the church. We were concerned and our next step was that we were going to pull out of ZCID," said Milupi.

# I want to keep council police busy by making them clean the city - Miles

By Thomas Mulenga

Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says council police have become too many and as such, he wants them to be kept busy by joining in the cleaning of the city.

And Sampa says the council officers have no right to harass or physically manhandle street vendors.

Meanwhile, Sampa, who is former Matero member of parliament, says he will consider contesting a parliamentary seat again if people say they want him back.

In an interview, Sampa said he wanted council police to be cleaning the city as a way of keeping them busy, but noted

that he was facing resistance from within the municipality.

He explained that good progress had been made on cleaning up the city, but bemoaned the poor mindset that inhibited sustained cleanliness.

"I am sure you saw the 'Ubusaka' campaign that I launched recently. But I think the biggest challenge is to change the mindset of not only residents of Lusaka, but also that of employees of the Lusaka City Council. For instance, I was being told that Council police cannot clean the city because their job is not cleaning, but that their job description is just to ensure safety in the city, not cleaning. But I

don't believe in that, I believe that everyone who is available should be able to clean when need arises, and more so now that we have got too many Council police and there has been a public outcry on the issue of them allegedly mishandling street vendors," Sampa said.

"So in the process, I have been thinking of ways of keeping them busy and I thought cleaning would be one way for them to empty garbage and all that. But the mindset in the Council, they tell me that that's not their job description, so progress is not as fast as I want because progress of the employees of the Council and the general public is not very supportive at the moment. There is need for mindset change, even me, I have gone to clean, I have not said I am Mayor, therefore, I can't be cleaning, but some are refusing within the Council that it's not their job!"

Sampa condemned the beating up of street vendors by Lusaka City Council officers.

"What is very true is that street vending is illegal, according to the Local Government Act, and it was identified as one of the major causes of dirty environment in the city, causing cholera in the previous year. It's good that so far so good, we have kept Cholera away from the city. But I must mention that the Council police must deal with street vendors in a humane way, they should not start beating up people and brutalising them," Sampa said.

"Yes, they (Council police) have the right to arrest those who are breaking the law, but they have no right to start brutalising them! They should just arrest them if they have committed

an offence without any physical harassment. If they are found beating up people, I would even be the one to testify against them because I don't support such kind of behaviour. So, we are doing everything possible to ensure that we don't have continued reports of people being harassed by the Council police, because that's not their work"

And Sampa said it was too early for people to judge his performance as he had only been in office for four months.

"I have only been Mayor of Lusaka for four months; it's too early to judge my performance within this short period of time. Even Rome was not built in one day. But I can tell you that looking at my performance right now, I am on the right track and by 2021, if you come and ask me about my performance, I will come and 'sonta' (point) at what I would have done for you. I will do massively well such that some of the critics will be embarrassed, but people who genuinely want development will be impressed," Sampa said.

Meanwhile, Sampa also said would consider re-contesting as MP for his former Matero constituency in the 2021 general election.

"I will discuss that when we reach 2021, for now I want to focus on work of making sure that the city of Lusaka is well taken care of. But maybe when that time comes, I may decide to contest as MP, I may go back to Matero or anywhere else if people tell me that they want me to represent them as MP once more, and contest. However, we shall cross that bridge when we reach there, for now it's time to work," said Sampa.

# DP moves to sue Chifuta for contempt over "misleading press statement"

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lawyers representing Democratic Party national secretary Precious Ntambu have written to Attorney General Likando Kalaluka, advising him to tame Home Affairs Spokesperson Nephas Chifuta against interfering with party operations.

On Saturday, Chifuta had issued a statement ordering the Democratic Party to cease from conducting any political activities on grounds that the State had obtained a stay of execution against the High Court ruling on the existence of the opposition party.

But in a letter representing Ntambu, Mwenye & Mwitwa Advocates stated that even the Attorney General was aware that Chifuta's statement was false and contemptuous.

"Re: Precious Ntambu (Suing as National Secretary for the Democratic Party) v The Attorney General-2018/HP/1113. We refer to the above captioned matter, on the 2nd of February 2019, Mr Nephas Chifuta a Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a statement to the press and the

public in general to the effect that the court of Appeal had issued a stay of execution that had reinstated the Registrar of Societies' decision to cancel the Registration of our client, the Democratic Party. As your office is no doubt aware, this position is false and calculated to deliberately mislead and is therefore contemptuous of the proceedings currently before the courts of law," Mwenye & Mwitwa Advocates stated.

"The correct position is that on 6th of September 2018, the High Court squashed the Registrar's decision that deregistered the Democratic Party. Your client applied for a stay of execution of the judgement, and in its Ruling, of the 29th January 2019, the High Court refused to stay the decision that squashed the Registrar's decision. As a matter of fact, the court stated the following; "Therefore with regard the order of Certiorari, as rightly submitted by Counsel for the Applicant this order cannot be stayed as doing so would be to reverse the said order. On that basis, I decline to grant the stay of execution as

regards the order certiorari."

Mwenye & Mwitwa Advocates urged AG Kalaluka to tame Chifuta or else the party would be forced to commence contempt proceedings against the official.

"The decision of the Registrar that was quashed, remains quashed and there is nothing, at law that prevents our client from continuing its normal day to day activities and operations. It is therefore misleading and contemptuous for your client to intimate that the order of the Registrar of Societies has been reinstated. This is therefore to demand that you prevail upon your client to desist from issuing similar misleading statements or interfering with the operations of our client, failure to which our client will have no option but commencing contempt proceedings and to seek other appropriate orders from the Court. We have every confidence that as the Chief Legal Advisor to the Government and the leader of the Zambian bar, you will prevail upon your client to desist from similar conduct in future," stated Mwenye & Mwitwa Advocates.

# WE HAVE NOT YET BURRIED VESPERS SHIMUNZHILA!

By Eddy Musosa

On the night of 5th October, 2018 Vespers Shimuzhila died in her room October Hostel 2 Room 25, at the University of Zambia Great East Road Campus. According to the latest Human Rights Commission Report, she was choked to death by smoke fumes from fire started by teargas fired by riot police during a student demonstration. I imagine in her final moments, as she grasped for half breaths wheezing in and out of her tightening chest as she painfully experienced the fragility of life; The last sounds in her ear as she lay on the floor must have included that of stomping feet; wailing students, choking and coughing as they washed off the severe teargas effects of itching skin, running nose and teary eyes; she probably wished she could afford those kinds of tears, that kind of pain. Any pain, but the one she felt, the one she would no longer feel. As news of the tragedy, which began as a rumour circulating in UNZA students WhatsApp groups before spilling on Facebook, became reality, the nation woke up and smelled the coffee or rather, stench of police brutality in Zambia. What followed was characteristic of Zambia's reaction to tragedy; The cumulative messages of condolences, the outpouring of weeping and defiant students marching along Great East road; the Hashtags, flip flopping of the government ministers, press briefings by human rights defenders; the solidarity of civil society and the habitual politicization of Vespers death by Members of Parliament on both sides of the house. MPs from the opposition using it as an opportunity to validate their antagonistic positions and the governing MPs were even more ridiculous and insensitive as they blamed Vesper's death on politically sponsored student riots! Days later, both sides of the House shifted their attention to the 2019 National

Budget!

Unlike the late Levy Patrick Mwanawasa (MHRIEP) who held an emergency Press Briefing in 2008 when a student was shot dead during a demonstration; the Head of State did not show any public remorse at the tragic loss of a female student at the hands of state agents as established by the HRC investigation. After all, the Minister of Higher Education had informed him and Parliament that the death was caused by the underhand of Opposition Political parties who have been bankrolling student riots at UNZA! To date, there has been no disciplinary action at any level of the Police, not even on the commanding officer or unit on that fateful night, for police officers work with commands, why is it so difficult to establish who issued the order on that night for police to use excessive force on harmless students who can be silenced by just surrounding their hostels without firing a single shot of teargas into their rooms? It is becoming clear that to the Police, Vespers was probably just collateral damage in a war against academic freedom! Please do not let Ms. Shimuzhila cause of death die a natural death. Because according to the findings of the HRC investigations, her death itself was never natural, it was triggered by a hand; a hand so daring that, even with past incidences of students breaking their bones whilst fleeing the riot cops in their hostels, female students being sexually during arrests, hostels being burned down, apprehension of students seeking refuge inside the campus chapel; No! it wasn't warning enough for our trigger happy riot police, that the worst is yet to happen. And it did. Over 120 days after her death, I doubt that the Shimuzhila need our sympathy, it is too late, the suffering from the pain of their loss is infinite and

maybe its potential remedy is to see that the cop(s) or institution that caused the fire which suffocated their daughter to death is served with an equal amount of justice, even though no amount of redress can bring back their daughter. What Vespers needs from you, reading this, is resolve to make sure that this should never happen again. Her death was not in vain; there was a revelation in her death; that the degree of police brutality is no longer disputable, even to a doubting Thomas sitting on the political hedgerow; Whichever way you look at it we have all lost through Vespers' death; others have lost a daughter; a sister; a course mate; a friend; a church leader; students have lost their courage to speak truth to power; however the greatest loss is that of the confidence in the efficiency of the justice system; this unfortunately, is a miscarriage of democratic institutions, it is worthy any form of resistance by every citizen. Only this resistance and demand for the Police to act on the HRC Report will make Vespers Rest In Peace! The deposit of her mortal remains in a physical grave will not suffice for a befitting burial for our Heroine who lived an exemplary life; an embodiment of love, faith, fear of the lord and kindness. All qualities exhibited by Christ our Lord. Our demand for justice must therefore be revolutionary; we need to bury Vespers! We need to burry our Heroine and only justice will accord her rites of passage! We have not Buried Vespers! The Police need to show up at the 'Isambo Lyamfwa' and explain to her family how Ms. Shimuzhila died! The so called 'ongoing inquest' must not render the long arm of the law as a slippery palm when it comes to bringing the police to book. The Author Lives as an Accountability Advocate and Survives as a Human Rights Activist!

## DP still exists, we'll sue Chifuta for contempt, insists Kalaba

By Mirriam Chabala

Democratic Party president Harry Kalaba says his party still exists and it will commence contempt proceedings against Ministry of Home Affairs public relations officer Nephas Chifuta for issuing a contrary statement. Barely two days after Kalaba announced that he had officially taken up the DP presidency, Chifuta issued a statement to the effect that the party's political activities had been banned pending the Attorney General's court appeal against the High Court's decision to squash the ministry's decision to deregister the party. Speaking when he featured on Diamond Television's show dubbed Costa, Kalaba said Chifuta's allegations that the Democratic Party was non-existent, was a discouragement to party supporters. "That issue of the Democratic Party being de-registered, that thing is just a fluke. It's fake, it is not the Ministry of Home Affairs that can tell us whether we have been de-registered or not. If we are de-registered, I am aspiring to become President and if we were de-registered, I would be the first one to ensure that our members are told 'keep quiet for now, we are fighting these things in court. This has been the court's decision', so they won't even have to tell us. The Ministry of Home Affairs de-registered us, and we went to court. But here is what happened, there is what they call a writ of certiorari as well as a mandamus. We won both of those on the 6th of September, in June we were deregistered and 6th September, judge Sharon Newa said the de-registration process was not right. So now the entire Ministry of Home Affairs fails to understand what a writ of

certiorari is," Kalaba said.

"Maybe I should help them understand it. That is simply form of judicial review to look at the decision that was taken by the administration of the Registrar of Societies, whether indeed they had made mistakes in their decision or not and the courts found that their de-registering of the Democratic Party was a wrong one and so, the courts quashed the decision of the Registrar of Societies. The second one which was awarded to us was the mandamus thing, compelling the Registrar of Societies to issue a duplicate certificate to the Democratic Party. They appealed and on the 29th of last month, judge Sharon Newa reviewed her decision and said she would not quash the decision of the Democratic Party existing, she said the DP continues to exist. So the writ of certiorari continues to exist. So we won't stop our activities because the DP still exists, that's why I am even here on your programme as president." Kalaba told Chifuta to read and understand things before issuing statements. "DP is a registered political party and if there is an injunction restraining it from operating, you don't just issue a statement. These are serious matters, where is the injunction? Don't just talk! Read! Understand what a certificate of certiorari is, what an appeal of mandamus is. When you understand these things, then you will be speaking with a lot of competence. Don't just talk and issue a statement saying 'we have done this'... anyway, the Democratic Party is proceeding to commence contempt proceeding against that officer who was issuing that statement. Unless he shows us that injunction which he has, because

that is discouraging our members. It is meant to drain the efforts our members, as you know DP is a new kid on the block, watch the space," he said. Meanwhile, Kalaba said the PF leadership was broken and must not be allowed to govern beyond 2021. "The moment we allow the PF to continue beyond 2021, we might as well close this country because it will be free for all. Everything will collapse, right now systems can't even talk to one another. Someone can't get a title deed at Ministry of Lands unless they bribe somebody. Things can't work unless you push, even the term pushing has come in. But why should you push when you've got a civil servant or a politician who is paid for doing the work? The politicians we have are more interested in their own businesses. They are businessmen that we have in the current PF," said Kalaba. "This PF that we have now is a borrowed one, because Michael Sata's PF which I was part of was a PF that was people centered. But this PF which is currently there is a PF that is centered with the businessmen, enhancing business pockets and lining business pockets for themselves as well as for their colleagues. It is true that in 2015 I supported President Lungu because at the time it was the right to do... President Lungu is not a bad man and we have not even differed with him but I have only differed with him on the fact that he has betrayed the very fundamentals that he shouldn't betray. That's why to resign as Foreign Affairs Minister, Lucrative as the position was, was not an easy thing." Kalaba also insisted on a Church-led dialogue process, saying the Church had the technical know-how to handle the process.

## Government shouldn't use SJCCS to violate citizens' rights - Mulonga

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Bloggers of Zambia chief executive officer Richard Mulonga says government must not use the Special Joint Cyber crime Crack Squad (SJCCS) must not be used to clamp down on internet users. Last week, government through the Ministry of Transport and Communication announced the establishment of a Special Joint Cyber crime Crack Squad aimed at mitigating the abuse and illegal use of internet. But in a statement, Mulonga warned against using the squad to infringe on citizen's rights. "We have noted with interest, the formation of the Special Joint Cyber crime Crack Squad as announced last week by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Our appeal is that this crack squad must not be used to violate citizen rights and freedoms as noted in the current trend in some parts of Africa where internet laws, regulations and taxes are being used to curtail the civic space. While we acknowledge the need for laws that would encourage open, safe and accessible use of the internet, we have noted that there has been no inclusion of relevant stakeholders in the process of setting standards for internet governance in Zambia," Mulonga stated. Mulonga urged government to take a human rights approach in developing internet laws and regulations and bring in laws that promote effective use of the internet ecosystem. "It is with this concern that we urge the government to take a human rights approach in developing internet laws and regulations. We are calling for internet laws and regulations that promote effective use of the internet ecosystem in Zambia, unlike invasive and brutal regulations that discourage citizens from harnessing the internet resource for development. The CJCCS must enhance safety, security and access for all, including women, children and girls. The crack, whose composition we are yet to be informed must be not be seen to an affront to free expression and assembly. The internet must be governed in a multi-sectoral way in order to make the resource affordable and neutral for all. We urge the authorities in Zambia to also focus energies on education and sensitization programmes around matters of the internet prior to imposing laws, regulations and taxes that hinder innovation and entrepreneurship online," stated Mulonga.



# UPND AGENDA FOR RESPONSIVE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Part I

The history of Zambia's copper mining industry is one of decline followed by revival. Following the nationalisation and the merging of Anglo American Corporation (AAC) and Rhodesian Selection Trust (RST) into a single giant monopoly, the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM), the company did not adequately re-invest in the mines resulting in the mining conglomerate being completely ruined by the late 1990s. Copper production continuously declined year after year from the highs of 750,000 metric tonnes in 1973. The situation became worse such that by 2000, copper production had reduced to about 230,000 metric tonnes per annum while metal prices were also at the lowest, at below US \$1 per pound (\$2,200/ton) and projected to remain at just about US \$1 per pound over the long term. In order to keep the mines running, the Government through the Treasury was pumping in US \$1 million into ZCCM every day.

It, therefore, became imperative to privatize these mines and save tax payers' money which the Government was giving to ZCCM for continued operations, but more importantly, to save the many jobs, particularly on the Copperbelt, whose livelihoods, direct and indirect, could not be distinguished from mining.

How many times has the Government changed the mining tax regime since 2000, when the mines were privatised?

From 2000, when ZCCM assets were sold to the private sector, the Government has changed the mining tax regime 9 times. Some of these regimes include:

1. The 2000 Regime (April 2000 – March 2006) - This regime provided tax concessions to companies that bought the assets of the former ZCCM assets (KCM and MCM) - Mineral royalty reduced from 2% to 0.6%; CIT reduced from 35% to 25%; and withholding tax on dividends, management fees, royalties removed (0%).

2. The "2008 regime" (April 2008–March 2009) - The 2008 reforms passed as part of the 2008 Mines and Minerals Act ruled that the government should not enter into any special agreements for the development of large-scale mining licenses; the reforms also annulled the development agreements. The Act introduced a new tax regime with a higher tax burden: it set the company income tax rate at 30 percent; it introduced a variable income tax and raised the mineral royalty rate to 3 percent from 0.6 percent; and it set the withholding tax on services at 15 percent and introduced a windfall tax.

3. The "2009 regime" (April 2009–March 2012) - In response to the mining companies' concerns about the revocation of the development agreements, the government reversed the lower capital depreciation allowance and some other 2008 tax measures such as the windfall tax in its 2009 budget.

4. The "2019 Regime" (January 2019 – onward) - Increased the royalty rate by 1.5 percentage points at all levels, introduced 10% mineral royalty when copper prices are above US \$7,500 per metric tonne and make mineral royalties not deductible

How does Zambia's mining taxation compare with our countries?

First Zambia's mineral royalty rates have exceeded the global norm, as major mineral producers charge less than 6 percent, while the highest rate in Zambia is now 10%. Second, Zambia's royalty base is gross value meaning no expenses are allowed to be deducted before calculating mineral royalty. Third, Zambia's mineral royalty is not deductible for income tax purposes, meaning the Zambia Revenue Authority will not recognise the amount paid in mineral royalties as allowable expenditure when

calculating the taxable profit for purposes calculating profit tax. Fourth, Zambia may be the only country with a variable profit tax, which ranges from 0-15% and which is over and above the normal profit tax which is already at 30%.

From the above, it's clear that Zambia's mining tax regime is very punitive and could be the highest in the whole world.

How much additional revenue has the Government projected to get from the new mining tax regime?

While we note that Zambia's mineral royalty rates have exceeded the global norm, as major mineral producers charge less than 6 percent, the expected revenue yield according to the 2019 revenue figures in the Budget Speech is only increasing by 1.5 percentages from 7.2% contribution to total revenues in 2018 to 8.7% in 2019. This is even before accounting for increased output and price. If we account for copper prices and production assumptions as contained in the 2019 – 2021 Green paper, 0.3 percentage points of this increase is accounted for by production increase of 3.74% and copper price increases of 0.4%, meaning only 1.2% percentage point's increase in mineral royalties revenue is being accounted for by the 2019 mineral royalty measures. In absolute terms, the Government will only get additional revenues amount to K1.36 billion.

What are the impacts of these inconsistent measures on the economy?

According to the Chamber of Mines, copper output was expected to hit 1.5 million tonnes by 2017. This has not happened yet. Among new projects that were to come on board to increase production included the expansion of Lumwana Copper Mine; First Quantum's \$2bn greenfield Trident project; China Nonferrous Mining Corporation's \$832m copper project; the Lubambe mine jointly owned by Brazil's Vale, African Rainbow Minerals and ZCCM Investments Holdings; and the sinking of the new Synclinorium Rock Hoisting Shaft in Kitwe by MCM, which should have extended the life span of the mine.

If these projects had come on board and production would have increased to 1.5 million tonnes a year by 2017, export earnings would have increased from the current US \$4.5 - 6.8 billion per year to around US\$8 - 12 billion a year. Government revenues would have correspondingly increased from under US \$1 billion to around US \$2.2 - 4.0 billion a year. In addition, there could have been good quality jobs created as well as greater linkages involving more local suppliers.

As for 2019, the expected additional revenues may not even come through given that some of the mines are planning to scale down on their operations. So in actual fact, these measures may in fact end up reducing the Government revenue yield even below the 2018 measures. The Government will need to rethink the taxation strategy as a way to collect more revenues.

Conclusion

While we agree that the ultimate objective of a mining taxation regime is to maximize the benefits that a country receives from the mineral resources, the tax instruments, their established rates, and the institutional arrangements must not discourage the investment that is necessary to give commercial value to Zambia's mineral resources and that mitigates the environmental, health, and social costs of mining activities. The taxation regime must also enable the government to collect a fair share of the country's mineral wealth to support national development priorities.

Mining is a long-term business that operates in an environment

of uncertainty— uncertainty about the quality of minerals and where they will be found, and uncertainty about the direction of future world prices. Governments can add to this uncertainty where policies change in an unpredictable manner and without consultation. The long-term success of Zambia's copper mining industry will involve high-cost operations with long lead times to extract resources that lie deep underground. Therefore, the Government needs to lay the foundations for future expansion of the industry now by establishing a track record of stable fiscal and regulatory policies that will attract investors who will develop these deep mining projects responsibly. Changing the mining fiscal regime 9 times in the last 18 years and 4 times in the last four years does not send a good signal to these investors.

UPND IN GOVERNMENT

It is in this regard that the UPND in Government shall undertake a major tax policy and administration reform that will bring various stakeholders on board to design a good tax administration system with broad policy consideration that will stand the test of time. These broad policy considerations sometimes referred to as principles of taxation shall include:

- 1) Neutrality: Tax shall must be neutral and equitable between forms of business activities.
- 2) Equity: Tax payers in a similar situation should be taxed similarly. Horizontal equity - taxpayers with equal ability to pay should pay the same amount of taxes
3. Vertical equity - taxpayers with a greater ability to pay should pay more taxes
- 4) Certainty: Tax rules should clearly specify when and how a tax is to be paid and how the amount will be determined.
- 5) Efficiency: Compliance costs to business and administration costs for governments shall hould be minimized as far as possible.
- 6) Effectiveness and fairness: Taxation should produce the right amount of tax at the right time, while avoiding both double taxation and unintentional non-taxation.
- 7) Flexibility: Tax system must be dynamic and flexible enough to meet the current revenue needs of governments while adapting to changing needs on an ongoing basis.
- 8) Simplicity: Taxpayers should be able to understand the rules and comply with them correctly and in a cost-efficient manner.
- 9) Reform: World wide, tax is the most difficult to administer, ZRA shall need to be reformed to ensure that a broader tax base is created.

Working with central Government to formalize the informal economy so that economy comes under the view of ZRA. Clearly, there is more to do with tax administration than policy. But can we have an effective tax administration system when ZRA has been so politicized, when almost all the officers are now being appointed on political expediency rather than professional and expertise? These are some of the policy issues that UPND will immediately address when we form Government, depoliticisation of the Government.

Issued by:

**Percy Chanda**  
Mines and Mineral Development Chairman

**Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama**  
 Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist

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Ear to the ground

# Business Stages of your Business

In 1994, while in South Africa shooting a business documentary for ZNBC Business Review, I received a small booklet by the Management of Standard Bank South Africa. It is a Business Problem Solver and have over the years adapted it for the Zambian business environment. I have since developed a graphic demonstration of the cycle that any business can go through. I am calling these stages as conception, growing up, success, comfort and reality check. Let us see which one you identify with.

**CONCEPTION:** Business is a product of an idea. It is most likely that idea is related to your inner passions and dreams. You later scan the market to ensure your dream will be appreciated by the market. This is a delicate moment because if the idea is completely from the blues, the market may not even tell you they need your product. For example, if you asked people about bottling impwa, people will tell you they have never tasted bottled impwa and will, therefore, not buy it. However, if this thought comes out of conviction, you will still go ahead with this conceived idea on the strong belief that overtime, the market will appreciate your innovation.

**GROWING UP:** This is birth time and the baby has come in this world. You have done your homework about the conditions the baby will grow up. The most delicate stage of any business is when it's launched. Just like a newly born baby, a new business requires maximum care. At times you have to subsidise its operations because it is vulnerable to various diseases

and fevers. It gets serious if that is your first business because you have no experience, no market support and the product itself is not known. It is most likely at this stage you are your own person because critical professionals may not want to join a business just starting. Just like a new mother bringing up a baby, you will find that you need help from volunteers to support the baby. Initially, you may have thought the baby will just be born and start walking. You get concerned when you establish it takes much longer for the baby to wean off from you. In the same way, a business at early stages may take longer than thought in generating the kind of cash flows or profits you expected.

**SUCCESS:** It could take five years for the business to finally stand and generate profits. When you have sustained your business for a period longer than three years, pat yourself at the back. It has more or less survived flu peculiar to infants. Success in business means that you are beginning to break even. You have probably become one of the leading companies in your sector, enjoying a healthy market share. At this stage, you are able to attract competent professionals to help you run the business. Suppliers and banks are now willing to offer you credit facilities. You are beginning to recapitalise your operations and launching new branches and products. That stage always comes if you manage your business well. Managing your business well implies complying with all regulations, paying taxes,

operating on cash basis (with minimum credit extension to clients), paying yourself a salary instead of just extending your fingers for whatever cash is there and also ensuring your business is constantly audited.

**COMFORT:** This is a very dangerous moment for any successful business. When we succeed, we consider ourselves very good businesspeople because we are making money. Our decision making begins to get blurred; we sign wrong contracts thinking we are too big to fail, we embark on business diversification and launching subsidiaries that we do not understand. As you succeed, others realise you are making money in your line of business and they launch competing businesses, eventually eating into your market share. Many people become very careless and inadvisable when they start making money and that signals a downfall. You do not need to get here if you avoid the comfort mentality.

**REALITY CHECK:** This is when you wake up one morning and your accountant tells you that the company has not remitted money to Zambia Revenue Authority and National Pension Scheme Authority for six months. Worse still, suppliers have not been paid for months and you are defaulting on a bank loan. The workforce is blotted and can no longer be accommodated in the current cash flows because clients have not been paying for many months. You are simply in trouble and this is the stage every business seeks to avoid.

By *Miriam Chabala*

Professor Oliver Saasa says Zambia's poor ranking on the 2018 Transparency International corruption perception index makes the country vulnerable to vultures.

And Prof Saasa says acting Anti Corruption Commission Director General Rosemary Khuzwayo's remarks that the commission does not understand why citizens have stopped reporting corruption are a mockery to tax payers. When asked whether the 2018 Transparency International corruption perception index, which indicated that Zambia's international ranking dropped by nine points in 2018, would affect investments in an interview, Prof Saasa said this made the country vulnerable to corrupt elements.

"Yes, it does affect investment because decent investors will not find a country where corruption is high to be a favourite destination for them to come and invest. But then you have to be careful here because there are so many vouchers out there who would actually prey on a corrupt country because they too are an integral part

# Zambia vulnerable to vultures - Saasa

of corruption. So they will come in where they find government officials that are easy to bribe to invest wherever they want, even teaming up with them. These elements, when it comes to a country where the workers are easy to bribe and would be quiet even if they have been paid peanuts, they would come," Prof Saasa said. "So international investment, especially if you looking at quality international investment, corruption will not attract that quality investment because corruption also increases in terms of investment and the cost of doing business is high because it means that if you have to register a company, you have to take so many months to get things done which could have actually taken you less time and that's

where the problem is." He said if Zambia wanted to attract quality investment, government had to address such reports. "So I would prefer if you are looking for really quality investment to start addressing reports of this nature. The tendency of challenging everyone who issues such reports to say 'no you are lying' when you have no alternative figures to show that you can discredit that report should come to end. This is an international parameter and we have to actually be ashamed but also from shame, we should actually take corrective action to make a difference," Prof Saasa said. "You encourage a minister to engage in corrupt practices if you do not raise a warning bell and you allow them

to go away without being named and shamed...So my challenge is that at the level of the President, let's do something about it because you have the powers, you have the ability to make the things happen more than anybody else in this country. Once the President does that, people must respond positively to that effort by the Head of State." And Prof Saasa described Khuzwayo's remarks as a mockery to tax payers. "If you are a whistle blower, you may end up actually being blown up, in a system where reporting a crime is itself considered to be a criminal activity. So what the ACC are saying is comical and it's actually mocking the public, especially if this is a person you have employed to help as tax payers to help

you. These people are stealing their salaries because we all as tax payers contribute. So if they tell us they don't know then they are not helping us and they are not working. So [ACC], are you expecting people to give their answers? If these are same people who are reporting cases and you are not doing anything about them then why should they know that they will not walk away will not walk away with anything even if they come to you? So that's actually a challenge that should be passed onto the lieutenants to deal with. And ACC is actually living in denial, they know the answer but they want to ask the victims," said Prof Saasa. "For me, that's a shame. For someone who is paid by public money to make

such a statement, it's a shame. People at the Anti-Corruption Commission are not only supposed to sit in their offices and wait for cases to be reported. They are supposed to carry out investigations; they should be able, from the battalion of people that they have to monitor what's happening, to interpret what's happening and actually to inform the people. What I wanted to hear from someone in that capacity was to say 'this is happening because of this.' For me, that's positive because I am supposed to ask the ACC, that's why we are paying them. They have to interpret why people are not going there to report cases. Of course many people would immediately tell you why they are not reporting. What's the point of actually coming to the ACC when very serious transgressions have been reported by the ACC themselves, Auditor General's reports are coming out, Financial Intelligence reports are coming out, whistle blowers are coming out. But investigations will take years to conclude and yet you know that corruption is taking place."

Two weeks ago Pastor Nevers Mumba was in India on a working vacation where he also addressed foreign investors. We got curious about his trip and we called to ask him if it was a PF government-sponsored trip. He said at the end of every year, he travels out of the country, and this particular programme in India was sponsored by an American friend of his from Pennsylvania. A few things surprised us about this development, but we withheld our opinion at that point because it was not within our space to poke our noses into someone's private life.

But when Pastor Nevers Mumba returned from India, his first public statement was to complain that he, and his friends who have served this country as vice-presidents are languishing because they were not given enough money to sustain their livelihoods after they left their jobs.

"Without disturbing the spirit of mourning [the late Lupando Mwapu], 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," wrote Pastor Mumba, adding that he was speaking on behalf of others and not to benefit himself.

We can't hold back our opinion anymore. We want to agree in order to disagree with Pastor Mumba. We want to thank him for bringing up the topic that will enable us question the justification of certain benefits that some government leaders take home after retirement.

# Pastor Mumba shouldn't complain, he buried his talent



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But first, we would like to weigh in on Pastor Mumba's personal predicament, and it doesn't matter if he was talking for himself or for others.

It's like us at News Diggers suggesting that government must consider paying a percentage of salaries for private media journalists because they also serve the public; then claim that we are not talking for ourselves but for others. People will know that we are fooling them. Why is former vice-president Enock Kavindele not the one complaining? Why is this not coming from former vice-president Godfrey Miyanda? It is because Mr Mumba's colleagues are living within their means.

We recall that when Pastor Mumba was at the peak of building his brand in God's ministry, he was blessed with a huge house in a respected Kitwe suburb

called Riverside. But he doesn't own that House anymore. As far as we know, he sold it. With the grace of God on his side, Pastor Mumba got an opportunity to serve as vice-president of Zambia. He had everything at his disposal, and didn't need to spend his money on anything.

When Pastor Mumba was relieved of his duties as Vice-President of Zambia, he didn't leave with an empty briefcase and a Bible under his armpits; he was paid gratuity like every other appointee of the President who qualifies. This gratuity was calculated equal to his pay, and his pay was calculated equal to his job.

If this money was not given to Pastor Mumba, he had, and still has the right to sue government and demand his dues. Any cheap lawyer can easily win him that matter if that was the case. But the truth is that he got what was

due to him. Pastor Mumba doesn't drink alcohol. He doesn't go to nightclubs to party with girls. So what did he do with his money? As far as we know he used part of his money to buy some property. But does he still own those properties? We do not think so.

When Pastor Mumba was serving as Zambia's High Commissioner to Canada, he was getting a decent salary, plus allowances. When he was recalled, he didn't just return with a fancy gigantic pickup truck that he was shining with around the city; he was paid gratuity for the period he served abroad - like everyone else. What did he do with that money? We don't know, maybe he can tell us.

But what we know for sure is that on his return from Canada, there wasn't a house he could decently return to. Government accommodated him at Fallsway Villas, where

he used to call us for press briefings as he took over the MMD presidency from Mr Rupiah Banda. Later, a house was found for him to rent in Kabulonga.

Today if Pastor Mumba is struggling to sustain himself, the blame shouldn't be on government. Not every Zambian can have the privilege of serving in these government positions, so we can't see why the privileged few should demand that government sustains their livelihoods until they die. This was a service to the people and not an endless reign of a monarch in a kingdom. The Zambian taxpayers did their part to thank Pastor Mumba for serving them as Vice-President, it was up to him to stay afloat by investing wisely.

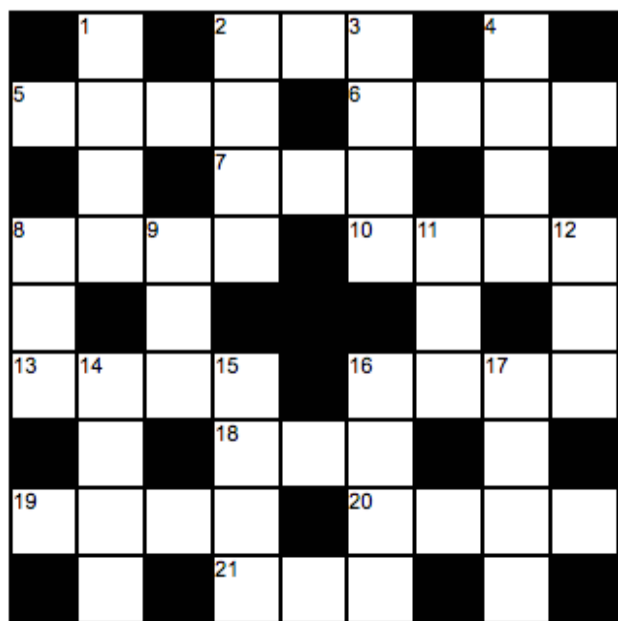
We can't preach to Pastor Mumba about anything that the Lord says because he knows better. But we can

remind him when we think his memory has faltered. The Bible in Mathew 25:14 teaches us about a Master who decided to test the industrious abilities of his servants. Before embarking on a journey, the Master called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one, he gave five talents, to another two, and to the last one he gave just one talent - each according to his ability. The other two went and invested, and they reaped profits which they were able to report back to their returning Master. But the one who got only one talent had gone to bury it underground and he had nothing to point at, claiming it was too little and too risky to invest. This servant was thrown into the darkness, where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Unfortunately, this is the situation that Pastor Nevers Mumba finds himself in. He is weeping and gnashing his teeth from the wilderness because he didn't invest as wisely as his friends. If Pastor Mumba had invested wisely, he would not be relying on his friend to sponsor his end of year vacation. That friend of his has never been a Vice President of his country, how are they able to sponsor the former vice-president of Zambia on vacation? It should be Nevers sending money from his massive investments to his friend.

That said; we are not in a position to suggest that Pastor Mumba is broke. We have no access to his bank records and we don't know what assets he owns. But we are simply trying to illustrate the dependency syndrome that most of us Zambians have. We are quick to blame the system for any misery that we face, even if we are entirely to blame. It's the "boma iyanganepo" mentality that is at play in Pastor Mumba's head.

## Crossword puzzle 286



*"In a democracy, someone who fails to get elected to office can always console himself with the thought that there was something not quite fair about it." - Thucydides*

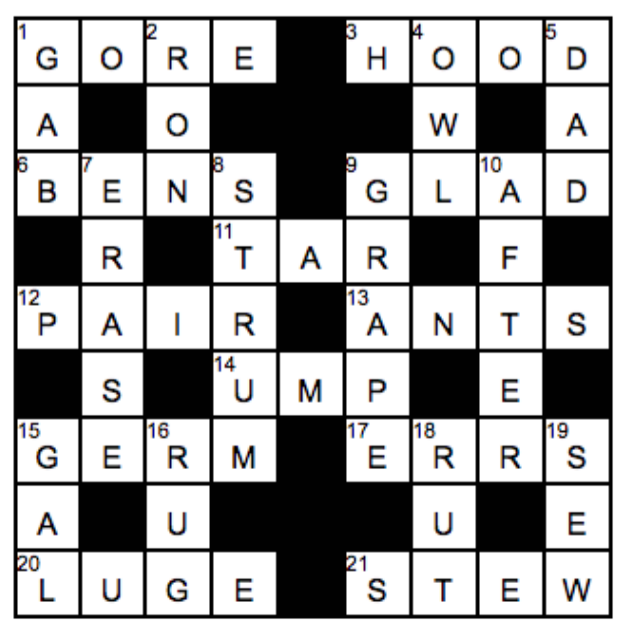
**Across**

- 2. Wetland
- 5. An entreaty
- 6. Ready for picking
- 7. Neptune's realm
- 8. Simians
- 10. Silent performer
- 13. Hoist
- 16. Green or waxed veggie
- 18. Maui music maker
- 19. Make fuzzy
- 20. Told untruths
- 21. Nothing

**Down**

- 1. Envelope feature
- 2. Kind of drum
- 3. Unit of metric weight
- 4. E-junk mail
- 8. Everything
- 9. North pole helper
- 11. \_\_\_ got a secret
- 12. Ages and ages
- 14. Wight or Man, eg.
- 15. Go right or left
- 16. Bike accessory
- 17. Word of agreement

## Solutions to puzzle 285





# 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.

## Nevers on former VEEPs being subjected to poverty after retirement

Editor,

"Ba Nevers, spare us time with your rubbish; when you were

there, everything is almost free, plus plenty of privileges to enjoy and lots of money to dish out! With a three months' salary, you can secure a beautiful piece of land and settle there, just keep quiet!" - David Mandona

"It's not true because Vice Presidents in Zambia are in the first place MPs, who are entitled to gratuity and terminal benefits at the time of leaving office. It's up to the individual Vice President to prudently invest his/her gratuity and terminal benefits and it's not up to GRZ or the people of Zambia to sustain them after leaving office! Moreover, they get a lot of allowances, good salary and other benefits while in office. All they need to do is to know that there is a future after that office and prepare wisely." - Barnabas Chishimba

"But if a civil servant who gets an average of K5,000 per month can manage to plan and live a decent life after retirement, I feel any serious person who can serve as a Vice President for even two years, is enough never to be poor for the rest of their lives." - Victor Mumba Mwanza

"As VEEP, just two years is enough to invest. Problem is they want to live an expensive life! Nevers Mumba, for instance..." - Edmond Arthur Soko

"Does Nevers want Zambian tax payers to pay for his existence? Like anyone works in govt he got his benefits and as former VP am sure he didn't have to wait for years like civil servants do. Greedy man!" - Pius Mwanza



## Zambia Police still studying HRC report on Vespers

Dear Editor,

"I don't have respect for the Zambia Police. When it comes to justice, they are selective. The poor will never see justice at all!" - Nda Ba

"There's nothing to study! Just admit the unprofessional conduct exhibited by your officers!" - Chrissy Chuma

"Is this IG serious? I'm shocked that he doesn't have his own report from his officers, unless, of course, they have lied to him." - Mike Phiri

"It's easy to take young lady's death for granted when she is not your daughter Mr IG. We know you're not a just man, under your leadership of the police we have seen a lot of violence by the police force, and

you have done nothing to stop it. Your time will come, you will answer for your crimes soon enough." - Monde Nawa

"This IG should be on the list of those going to ICC when the right time comes!" - Chanda Marcus

"This IG is foolish! What is he still studying when he can study the report in one day, and moreover, this issue long overdue. Please, IG, can you also study the case of Mr. Sichalwe over the porno scandal!" - Hachi Chizyuka

"From studying what the HRC has issued, there will be total silence and when asked how far with it, you will just hear them saying 'not yet concluded'..." - Elvis K Makwangala

## Kalaba on PF MPs supporting his 2021 presidential bid

Editor,

"Harry Kalaba is an astute politician with sufficient diplomatic trappings. He appears to have what it takes for a high political office. I admire his courage for resigning the position of Foreign Affairs, which many politicians earn to be. My worry is that he is racing against time and party organisation requires considerable time. In the history of African politics, no newly-formed political party arrests power in such a short time as he intends to do. Sata was a very formidable force in party mobilisation, but it took him years to wrestle power. HK will equally need time to have all the basic structures throughout the breadth of Zambia and this is not an easy task. All I can say is good luck for him." - Hamwiinde Munamunungu

"True mark of leadership that we have lacked for a long time. I have never seen an MP that turns down gratuity in Zambia!" - Singived Songiso

"He has political intelligence, which most politicians do not have." - King Wisdom Sinkala

"My brother, Kalaba, you are a man! Who in Africa or any other part of the world can take Mr Kalaba's step: when others can steal, lie, do all kinds. But you have decided to serve people!" - Phytric Chitengi

"He resigned his ministerial position; he would have done the honourable thing to vacate the seat instead of waiting for expulsion." - Innocent Daka

Pope Francis, the first leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to visit the Arabian Peninsula, will attend an interfaith meeting in the UAE on Monday as part of his outreach to Muslims.

The pontiff arrived in a modest black Kia at Abu Dhabi's presidential palace, where he was welcomed with a lavish military parade.

Officers fired 21 shots in the air, while jets flew overhead leaving white and yellow trails -- the colours of the Vatican City flag.

The pope's highly publicised 48-hour visit to the United Arab Emirates will also include an open-air mass on Tuesday for 135,000 of the Muslim country's million Catholic residents, set to be the largest public gathering in the country's history.

The pope was expected to raise the issue of Yemen, devastated by a war in which the UAE is a key player, in talks with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

Yemen is the scene of what the UN calls the world's worst

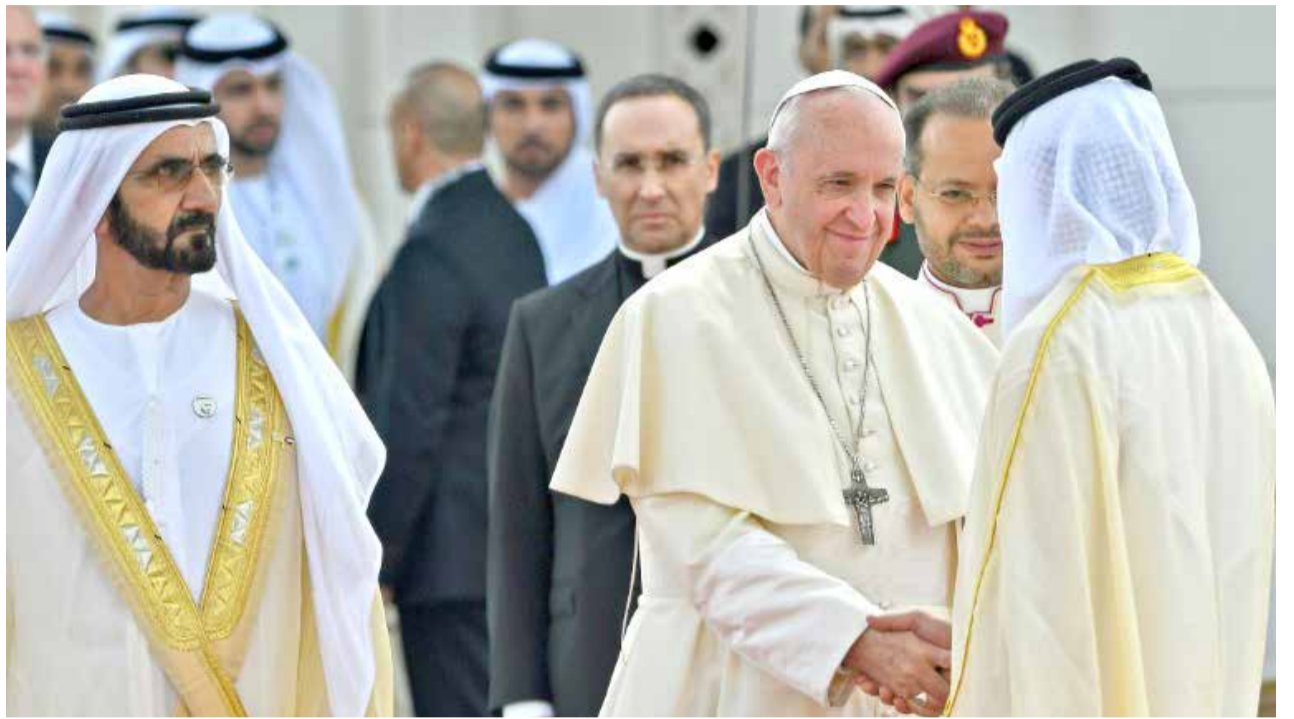
# Pope Francis makes history with Muslim dialogue in UAE

humanitarian crisis, triggered by the intervention of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and their allies in a war between the government and Huthi rebels. More than 10 million Yemenis now risk imminent starvation.

- *'Delighted' to welcome pope* -

Sheikh Mohammed said on Monday that UAE rulers were "delighted" to meet the pontiff "in our homeland of tolerance".

"We discussed enhancing cooperation, consolidating dialogue, tolerance, human coexistence and important initiatives to achieve peace, stability and development for peoples and societies," he tweeted. *AFP*



## The 'godfathers' who pull the strings in Nigeria's election

"Godfathers" in Nigerian politics don't usually run for office themselves, but many believe they are the ones who decide the election winners and losers.

With campaigning well under way for general elections on 16 February, these are the men - and they invariably are men - who pull the strings behind the scenes.

They are political sponsors, who use money and influence to win support for their preferred candidates.

Their "godsons", it is believed, are not always selected for their political acumen, but rather on their ability to repay and enrich their godfather.

These arrangements have spawned the term "godfatherism", says Dr Dele Ashiru, a senior lecturer at the department of political science at the University of Lagos.

"It refers to a situation where there's a big man who wields enormous political power and then anoints a godson, who he adopts as a candidate for the election.

"And the godfather will do all that is reasonably possible to get the godson appointed into political office.

"The godfather must be influential, most often they are, or were, a political office holder."

When 'godfatherism' gets messy

In the southern state of Akwa Ibom, the country's largest oil-producer, many people believe the main godfather is Godswill Akpabio, who holds a senate seat.

A former governor of the state, he still wields

significant power in local politics.

So powerful in fact that his defection just a few months ago to the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) is seen as pivotal to the party's hope of winning its first victory in the state since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999.

A hope reiterated by President Muhammadu Buhari when he chose Akwa Ibom to launch his campaign for re-election in December.

And Mr Akpabio certainly seems to deliver in numbers. During a recent rally I spoke to followers who said he would bring more than 300,000 voters over to the APC.

But Senator Akpabio denies he is a kingmaker: "If anyone wants to say that I am a godfather I want to disagree with them.

"The only time you could say I played a godfather-like role was in 2015. I nominated the current governor [of Akwa Ibom] and when I presented him to the people they supported him," he told the BBC.

Yet a member of his own party says that 2015 victory was marred by violence and irregularities, orchestrated by Mr Akpabio.

Umana Okon Umana, who was aspiring to be governor at the time, has accused Mr Akpabio of using state resources, including security forces, to install his candidate.

He describes it as a situation where a godfather sits down with his wife "and writes down all who will contest the governorship elections... all the way down to the house

of assembly positions.

"He writes these names before the primaries take place. And then if you're not one of those candidates they make sure that you have no access to the venue [of the primaries]."

A Supreme Court ruling from 2015, however, declared the election in the state to be free and fair.

But "godfatherism" can get messy.

Onofioke Luke, now the speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, was one of Mr Akpabio's former godsons.

A deeply religious man, he attributes his success in politics to God, but many would say he owes far more to his former godfather.

Previously a personal assistant to Mr Akpabio, he admits to having received financial support for his wedding and 40th birthday, and that Mr Akpabio "mentored" him through his rise in politics.

However the relationship has soured and the Akwa Ibom parliamentary speaker, who says he was offered \$5.5m (£4.2m) last year and the deputy governorship to switch parties, does not hold back about what he thinks his former boss is capable of. "I have worked with him, and I know that he knows how to use state power."

In a written response from his media team, Mr Akpabio denied all allegations against him, stating: "We understand that this is a season for campaigns and these wild and unsubstantiated allegations will be thrown about by opponents to gain political mileage."

Battle of the hats

In a very different part of the country, the political future of the majority Muslim state of Kano in the north may also be defined by a larger-than-life godfather.

Kano has the second-biggest number of registered voters in the country, making it a key state for either of the two main parties to secure victory.

Rabiu Kwankwaso, a former governor, has built a loyal and dedicated following there, partly built through a free education programme implemented during his tenure. Whichever candidate gets his blessing is guaranteed a lot of voters. He even has his own political fan club, known as the Kwankwasiyiyya movement, whose members are easily recognisable in their uniform of red caps and white gowns.

He is backing Abba Kabiru Yusuf, a candidate from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), after falling out with

a former ally.

On many campaign posters, Mr Kwankwaso's image is larger than that of the PDP contender.

"In all the states you go today, especially in northern Nigeria, you'll hardly get a house without a member of Kwankwasiyiyya, either the father or the mother or one of the children, or the worker in the house," Mr Kwankwaso told the BBC.

In the last elections he successfully endorsed Abdullahi Ganduje, his former deputy for governor. But since Mr Ganduje became governor, he has been locked in a bitter dispute with Mr Kwankwaso. The feud is so fierce that for some time Mr Kwankwaso avoided the city of Kano where there has been an attempt to counter his popularity with the so-called Gandujiyya movement, whose members wear blue hats.

'Question of ego'

As godsons become political players in their own right, it is inevitable that they fall out with their godfathers.

Mr Ashiru says this is because in developing societies like Nigeria, the state is the most important source of revenue and wealth accumulation, which both will want to access to.

But it is also a question of

ego, according to Emmanuel Onwubiko, from Human Rights Writers Association Of Nigeria.

"Some of the godfathers are not really out to get money, they just want respect, they want to be venerated if they come into the state; they want to be recognised as the most important person in that society," he says.

For Mr Ashiru this is a key problem with godfatherism: "Godfather culture is more about the individual than the collective.

"Democracy is about the people, but here you have a few individuals across the country who take critical political decisions, particularly that have to do with the recruitment of public officers.

"So it goes without saying that such a system cannot make democracy thrive."

All the politicians I spoke to shied away from the term "godfather" as it has become loaded - associated with bullish tactics and undemocratic practices.

And as godsons gain their confidence, it is not clear how much longer godfathers will be able to keep their hold on power.

For Mr Akpabio and Mr Kwankwaso, it will not be long before they find out if their influence is waning.

*BBC*

## France attack 40 vehicles in Chad airstrikes

France says its air force - working with the army in Chad - has carried out airstrikes against an armed group which had crossed the border from Libya.

A statement by the French military said a fighter jet took off from the capital,

N'Djamena, and targeted a column of 40 vehicles with two airstrikes.

Last year, a fledgling rebel movement seeking to topple the Chadian president, Idriss Deby, carried out attacks in the north of the country.

The Command Council for the

Salvation of the Republic first attacked last August.

Chad has also been under threat from Islamist militant factions.

France is supporting a regional force, known as G5, fighting the jihadists across the Sahel region. *BBC*

By Abraham Kalito

Zambia Football Coaches Association (ZAFCA) president Daniel Kabwe says he cannot comment on national team coach Sven Vandenbroeck's contract extension because it is supposed to be confidential, but added that the association will welcome whatever decision the football association of Zambia (FAZ) will make regarding the matter. FAZ has been hesitant towards renewing

# We're OK with any decision regarding Sven - ZAFCA

Vandenbroeck's contract which expires in less than two months' time. When contacted for a comment on whether the association prefers a local coach, Kabwe said he could

not comment on the subject saying he would nonetheless welcome any decision taken by the FA. "That one I cannot comment on. I know you are News Diggers but whether you

are News Diggers I cannot comment on that. The thing they have entered into between FAZ and Sven is supposed to be confidential. If I comment on a personal and confidential matter I

could be sued. I was not there when they were employing him. So I cannot say whether they shouldn't renew his contract or not. That is between the two of them. There were some targets

they agreed upon and if they feel like he met the target then who am I to say no? *Bakateka balilanda ati* (The [FA] president said that) they want a local [coach]. But the same FAZ and the same Kateka they engaged him. So we don't know. Maybe we can talk about it after the Namibia game," he said. Vandenbroeck's spell as national team coach came under fire after he failed to take the Chipolopolo's to the 2019 AFCON finals slated for Egypt.



## Messi facing further tests as Barca sweat on Clasico fitness

The Catalan side host Real Madrid in the Copa del Rey semi-final on Wednesday but are worried their star player may miss out. Barcelona star Lionel Messi faces further fitness tests ahead of Wednesday's Copa del Rey semi-final first leg against Real Madrid. The Argentine star picked up a thigh injury during his decisive display against Valencia on Saturday after he converted his 50th penalty in La Liga and then pulled his side level with a second-half strike, but needed treatment on the touchline shortly afterward when he pulled up with an apparent thigh injury. Although he returned to see out the 2-2 draw with Los Che at Camp Nou, coach Ernesto Valverde confirmed after the game that Messi had a "small problem" and would face tests to see if he is available to feature against fierce rivals Madrid in midweek. "We will have to wait to see what medical staff say. If he's in good shape,

he'll play on Wednesday [against Madrid]," he said. Goal now understands that the 31-year-old was still struggling with the injury on Monday, however, and did not take part in normal training with his Barca team-mates. The Catalan side will assess their top scorer again on Tuesday to see if he is in good enough shape to feature against

Santiago Solari's side. While the Argentina international could be kept out of the squad altogether if he is not completely fit, Valverde could opt to name him among the substitutes in case he is needed. Messi may be a doubt, but Valverde will welcome Ousmane Dembele back to the team for the midweek encounter. The winger has missed

Barca's last four games with an ankle injury but is back in normal training this week, and the France international will be named as part of the squad and is in contention to start in his second Clasico. Barca are already without goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen, who has been ruled out for six weeks with a calf injury, as well as Samuel Umtiti and Rafinha.

## Body found amid Sala plane wreckage as search continues

Video footage of the wreckage shows one person on board the aircraft, which was spotted at the bottom of the English Channel on Sunday. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) has confirmed one person is visible in the video footage of the wreckage of the plane that was carrying Emiliano Sala. Sala and pilot David Ibbotson were the only people on board the plane that disappeared on its way from Nantes to Cardiff on January 21 after the 28-year-old said farewell to his former team-mates upon completing a £15m (\$19.8m) transfer to Neil Warnock's team. The initial hunt for the aircraft was called off later that week, but it picked up again when thousands of people donated to a GoFundMe page set up to raise over €370,000 to fund an underwater search. After seat cushions from the flight washed up on a beach in France last week, the plane was found in the English Channel on Sunday. And the AAIB confirmed the following day that a body has been spotted in early video footage. "Early in the search, the Morven identified an object of interest on the seabed using its side-scan sonar equipment," a statement read. "It cleared the immediate area for the Geo Ocean III to use its underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to survey the area of the seabed in which the object was located. Based on analysis of ROV video footage, the AAIB investigators on board the vessel concluded that the object is wreckage from the missing Piper Malibu aircraft, registration N264DB. "The ROV carried out a further search of the area overnight, but did not identify any additional pieces of wreckage. "Tragically, in video footage from the ROV, one occupant is visible amidst the wreckage. The AAIB is now considering the next steps, in consultation with the families of the pilot and passenger, and the police. "The image shows the rear left side of the fuselage including part of the aircraft registration. "We intend to publish an interim report within one month of the accident occurring." Tributes have been flowing in for the striker since his disappearance, with Nantes and Cardiff showing their respect during recent matches, while stars like Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero joined the calls for authorities to keep looking for his plane. *Goal.com*

## 'Don't send me to Bahrain': refugee footballer pleads in Bangkok

A refugee footballer fighting an extradition request pleaded for his freedom Monday, saying "please don't send me to Bahrain" as he arrived in shackles at a Bangkok court, which extended his detention by another two months. Hakeem al-Araibi, a Bahraini refugee and Australian resident, fears torture and even death if he is returned to his homeland. Araibi was convicted in absentia on charges of vandalising a police station in Bahrain, but says he was out of the country playing in

a match at the time of the alleged offence. The player has said he believes he is being targeted over his criticism of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, a member of Bahrain's ruling family. Araibi was stopped at Bahrain's request at a Bangkok airport in November when he arrived in Thailand for his honeymoon. He has been held in detention since then as Thai courts decide whether to send him back to the

Gulf state. "Please don't send me to Bahrain," he pleaded as he arrived at the court where former Australian football captain Craig Foster and other campaigners were on hand to lend support to the embattled player. "Your wife sends her love! Hakeem, Australia is with you, mate," Foster shouted. The court said Araibi would be given 60 days to object to the extradition request and would need to present his case in April

when the judges reconvene. Along with the objection papers, the footballer's lawyer Nadthasiri Bergman said they needed to submit evidence "to show the court that Hakeem's extradition to Bahrain will pose danger to his life." Outside the court, Foster, who has been leading a protest in the football community for Araibi's freedom, said the case was politically motivated and represented "retribution from Bahrain to Hakeem". *AFP*



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## No contract extension for Numba

By Abraham Kalito

ZANACO FC coach Mumamba Numba says he has not been offered any contract extension despite his team's Superb start in the Super division league.

Numba was given a three-match ultimatum early this year by the ZANACO board to deliver in accordance with expectations or face the sack.

His team has since gone on to win the first two matches convincingly, by four goals to one against Red Arrows and by Five goals to two against Lusaka Dynamos on Sunday.

However, the former Chipolopolo international told Goal Diggers that there has been no talks with the board yet regarding his contract extension following the perfect start.

In an interview, he said he does not know whether the board would extend his contract or not.

"We haven't signed any new contracts. The contracts that we have are the very old ones and I think, and I know that they are performance-based contracts. We signed them some years back and we have not signed any other yet. So, there is nothing new on the table for us. We haven't signed any contracts, but we know that the ones we signed are performance based. Yeah, so we haven't signed any new contracts apart from the old ones we signed," he said.

Numba was appointed ZANACO coach in January 2015. The club went on to win the Super league in 2016. He was however under fire following his team's poor performance in the 2018 league campaign.

