



I won't fire innocent Chitotela, let ACC prove in court - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga
President Edgar Lungu says Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela will stay in Cabinet despite being arrested on corruption charges because he is innocent until proven guilty. And President Lungu says he is not willing to lose Chitotela the same way he lost Roan PF member of parliament

Chishimba Kambwili because according to him, the two men are innocent as at now. Speaking to journalists before leaving for Ethiopia, Thursday, the Head of State wondered what Zambian citizens expected him to do after Chitotela's arrest. "A suspect in the eyes of law enforcement agencies can be arrested.

And they have chosen to arrest Honorable Chitotela, so what has that got to do with me? He is a suspect and in their wisdom, they chose to arrest him so what should I do?" President Lungu asked. He said he "lost" Kambwili on similar allegations, a former minister who he now thinks is innocent, and he was not willing to lose Chitotela. *Story page 4*

These ministers are now 50 times richer than me - GBM *Story page 3*

LUSAKA COPS ROB ROBBERS

By Mukosha Funga
Police in Lusaka have arrested about six fellow officers who allegedly robbed robbers in Lusaka West on Monday, and went away with over K250, 000 which the robbers were trying to share. The accused police officers, all from Makeni Police have been detained at Lusaka Central Police for the past three days, while others were released after interrogations. News Diggers managed to interview the police officers who robbed the robbers and they narrated that the bickering that ensued during the sharing of the stolen money caused the whole ordeal to be exposed.

...share over K250, 000 stolen money



L-R: Copperbelt minister Japhen Mwakalombe, Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba, State House spokesperson Amos Chanda, finance minister Margaret Mwanakatwe, Arc Minerals chairman Nick Von Shirnding, newly appointed non-executive director of Arc Minerals and Zamsort chairman Mumena Mushingi and Zamsort Chairman, North Western Province minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu, mines minister Richard Musukwa and Zamsort Business Development director Brian Chisala at the mining Indaba in Cape Town on Wednesday

Zamsort shines at Cape Town Indaba *Story page 4*



Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo addresses the media at a joint press briefing with Information and Broadcasting Minister Dora Siliya in Lusaka on February 6, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Zambia Airways appoints Ethiopian CEO *To page 7*

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba says lecturers will be paid their January salaries by today. Early this week, UNZA professional unions issued a joint statement complaining about delayed

UNZA lecturers to be paid today

payments at the institution and warning of anarchy. But in an interview, Prof Mumba said efficiency in paying lecturers' salaries was dependent upon timely

release of government's grant to the institution. "We have been in touch with them (UNZALARU) to explain but we are doing everything possible to get the

monthly grants because it is from the monthly grants that we get 30 per cent of the salary and then as management we have to find the 70 per cent shortfall and they know this. If

the grant doesn't come, it's a bit difficult for us to pay salaries but the good news is that we should begin paying salaries maybe before the end of the day today, because the grant was released from finance to our ministry yesterday (Wednesday) and then there is just an administrative process for the grant to be disbursed to the university account with Zanaco," Prof Mumba said. "So I think Friday most people should be paid by tomorrow (Friday), we could start today but their concerns are valid. It's very hard for people to go especially in the month of January when they have so many commitments without a salary. But our hands as management are also tied because we do not have extra income, extra reserve or resources to be able to pay salaries when the grant is not available. That is the challenge we have. It (getting of an overdraft from the bank) is still in effect but it falls out when the grant is delayed. For example we last paid salaries in December [and] now to be able to pay salaries for December, we need to have the grant for December on time. So if the grant is not released,

we are not able to liquidate the overdraft. So Zanaco cannot pay us two salaries in roll without us liquidating the previous overdraft." Prof Mumba said he hoped the threats of anarchy from the unions would be put aside. "So now that we have received the grant, we are going to pay the overdraft for December so that they can give us the salary for January. So we are lagging behind in terms of settling that overdraft. So as soon as we receive the grant, we got to pay the overdraft from the previous month [and] then Zanaco advances us another overdraft. But efficiency is dependent upon timely release of the grant because look, if we said we are going to pay salaries by final day of every month, and if we are in good books with Zanaco we were going to be given another overdraft but if we have delayed in remitting the previous overdraft, they cannot give us. So we hope that the threat from the academic union and other members will be put to rest. Come next month, we can get the grant in good time so that there is no disruption in academic activities," said Prof Mumba.



Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe shakes hands with newly-appointed ZCCM-IH acting chief executive officer Mabvuto Chipata at the just-ended 25th South African Mining Indaba in Cape Town

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says whenever a high profile person is implicated in corruption, it is always clear that they do so with the blessings of very senior people. Commenting on the arrest of Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Chipimo said it was likely that Chitotela would not go down alone. He told News Diggers! in an interview that the only challenge in Chitotela's case would be to see whether or not the ACC would have the guts to follow through where the trail of corruption actually leads. "Clearly, something has motivated the President (Edgar Lungu) and his advisors, those that he trusts to allow this action to be taken. There is no doubt that the information that has been used to take this action in arresting Mr Chitotela is as a result of some activities that he may have done that would undermine the chances of whoever the President wants to have on his team. But this is just a tip of the iceberg. There has to be a comprehensive approach in addressing the corruption challenges that this country is going through and this piecemeal attempt appearing to want to fight corruption is welcome only because it's likely that if Mr Chitotela is guilty, he will not go down alone," Chipimo said. "And the question now...and this is standard throughout history [that] whenever a high-profile individual is implicated in corruption, it becomes very clear, very quickly that they never act alone, and usually, they act with the blessing of even more powerful people than themselves." He argued that the ACC's ability to be brave enough to follow-up all the corruption trail in this case remained in doubt.

Chitotela may not go down alone - Chipimo

"So, the important thing about this development is that it should open wide the trail of connections to all sorts of other corruption that may have taken place in the past, and may still be taking place today. The challenge now will be whether the Anti-Corruption Commission really has the guts to follow through where the trail will lead. In my view, they already have ample

information to have proceeded against many individuals and possibly all the way throughout the structure of governance. But the question is: will they be brave enough, now that they seem to have been authorized to proceed against one individual; will they be brave enough to follow the rest of the those leads and take the necessary action to bring to justice those that may have

been guilty of perpetrating very deep and serious corruption in this country?" he wondered. Chipimo feared that if the investigation process was not handled properly, it may end up being a whitewash. He urged those responsible with the case to ensure that they do it diligently so that it did not end up distracting people from the real powers

behind the corrupt practices. "My only concern is that, if this process is not handled properly, it may end up being a whitewash where the action that is taken amounts to a badly executed prosecution, which could end up taking us backward rather than forward. So, those responsible for taking this matter must make sure that they very diligently follow all

the processes and procedures so that this does not need to look like a whitewash and to distract us from the real powers behind the corrupt practices that have been prevailing in this country for a long time. But overall, we welcome this step. But if Mr Chitotela is innocent, may that come out clearly. But I think we all know that he is not the only one that has unexplained wealth. And so, we have to ask: 'is this just the beginning? Is it just a whitewash? Or is this a genuine attempt to address a cancer that goes to the very highest levels of our governance?' Chipimo asked. But Chipimo also argued that Chitotela deserved all the respect and rights during this process because he was still innocent until proven guilty by the courts of law. "That is a normal practice in a normal democracy. If you are suspected of corruption, the very least you can do is to step aside and allow for those investigations to be carried out in a manner that does not jeopardize or undermine the authority of those carrying out the investigations. We would expect that that is something that either Mr Chitotela himself should take up and proceed to do without being prompted or if he fails to do that, for the President to relieve him of his duties even if it's only temporarily assuming that at the end of the day, he will be found not to have been guilty of what he had been charged with. But I think we also have to just keep in mind that, this is not an exercise to encourage people to boast and gloat and feel excited about. This is an individual who has a family, and until he is proven guilty, we have to assume that he has the full rights to be respected as an individual, pending the outcomes of an investigation and prosecution, and recognise that he is an individual; he is a human being, guilty or not, we must maintain our humanity," said Chipimo.

Court hears how businesswoman hid 68 tins of ephedrine at KKIA

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) assistance investigations officer has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that she arrested a woman at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) who had 68 tins of ephedrine concealed in two bags labelled rice flour. Rosalin Hameja further told the court that Beatrice Saili lied when she testified that DEC apprehended her with 32 tins of ephedrine and US \$300. This is the matter in which suspended Lusaka-based Magistrate Maggie Tantameni is jointly-charged with Felix Mkandawire, a court interpreter; Francis Mphanza a senior public prosecutor and Didie Kangwa a senior clerk of court, with three counts of abuse of authority, removal of property under lawful seizure and stealing of 34.0 kilogrammes of ephedrine valued at K1,870,000, but they all pleaded not guilty. Saili, a 42 year-old businesswoman, had previously told the court that she was convicted in 2017 after she was apprehended

by some DEC officers at KKIA with two bags containing 34 tins of ephedrine weighing 68Kg. But when the matter came up for continued trial before a Chisamba-based Magistrate sitting in Lusaka, Susan Mangilashi, Wednesday, Hameja told the court that she conducted a search on Saili, who was coming from India and found her in possession of 68 tins of ephedrine in the two bags she was carrying. She added that the ephedrine was concealed in tins labelled rice flour and Saili voluntarily admitted it was ephedrine after asking her. "I searched a small hand bag she had. Afterwards, I asked her if she had any other luggage and she told me she had two bags. We then went to an office with her two bags labelled rice flour and in the presence of my supervisor, we opened the bags, which had tins with white stuff. I asked her what was in the tins, she told me it was ephedrine," Hameja narrated. She said she later administered a warn and caution statement and

obtained a laboratory affidavit confirming that the drug weighed 34Kgs. During cross-examination, Hameja said she only opened four out of the 68 tins of ephedrine at the airport. Thereafter, she said she took all the 68 tins to the public analyst where they were all opened. Hameja further told the court that Saili lied when she testified that DEC apprehended her with 32 tins of ephedrine. Meanwhile, another witness identified as Nelson Phiri, 37, a DEC officer, said he was tasked to take a male suspect before Honourable Tantameni's court with the exhibits and was later told me that the court would be held in a library. He said when he reached the court's library, he met his colleague who brought the female suspect, Beatrice Saili, with the exhibits. He later identified Mkandawire, Mphanza and Tantameni as the people who were in the library during the hearing of Saili's matter. The matter comes up on February 11 for continued trial.

By Mirriam Chabala
UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba says he gets shocked when he sees how some ministers, who had nothing in the Michael Sata-led government, have now become 50 times richer than him. And Mwamba says it will

Ministers had nothing, now they're 50 times richer than me - GBM

be difficult for President Edgar Lungu to punish Housing and Infrastructure

Development Minister Ronald Chitotela because he has done some corrupt deals with the Pambashe PF member of parliament. In an interview, Mwamba said he did not believe that corruption was the reason why Chitotela had been arrested. "Let me tell you, for me, who has actually been in government, I know what goes on. The Anti-Corruption [Commission] reports to the President over the so-called corruption allegations and investigations. The President is the final man to decide to say: 'okay, you investigate him.' But the question is, why hasn't it been done a long time ago against Chitotela when Edgar knew about the corruption? Edgar can't tell me that this is the first time he's hearing about the corrupt activities taking place by Honourable Chitotela; this has been something that has been going on for a long time! That's why President Lungu must cast his net wider; all his ministers cannot

account for what they have amassed today, and I am there to prove it because I worked with them, all of them!" Mwamba said. "Before we formed government, I was the main financier of PF, none of them had even a cent! But today, let me tell you, they are 50 times wealthier than me, and this is something, which is not hidden, it's in public domain and everyone knows about it. But then, the buck stops at Edgar, Edgar can stop this corruption. But unfortunately, he can't stop corruption because he's the grand-master of corruption! How is he going to deal with corrupt ministers if he's also corrupt and he's dealing with them? So, Chitotela's corruption investigations, they will just sit on them. Those investigations will not go anywhere, I don't think it will go anywhere because Chitotela knows a lot of about Edgar, they have done deals together. But if Edgar is man enough, let him prove it to us that he's not

involved, and let Chitotela be prosecuted, fired and be investigated immediately! Lungu should cast his net even wider, let him go to Dr Chilufya also. Who doesn't know that Dr Chilufya has acquired wealth close to Edgar himself? Let all these ministers be investigated!" Mwamba said he believed Chitotela's arrest actually had nothing to do with corruption, but that President Lungu was just threatened by the Minister's growing presidential ambitions. "Chitotela's arrest actually has nothing to do with corruption because Edgar Lungu doesn't fire or arrest or allow the Anti-Corruption to arrest those who are corrupt, unless they do what Chitotela has been doing. Chitotela has been undermining Lungu together with others [in] the so called 'Luapula United ministers.' Basically, that has been the only reason for his arrest; if he wasn't fighting Edgar, politically, or trying to take over the presidency of PF,

even now, he would have been a free man! Mind you, there is no small or big corruption. No matter how little corruption may be, one ought to be arrested and investigated," said Mwamba. "But for Honourable Chitotela, this is not the first time that he has been implicated in corrupt activities. To me, this is the second time and beyond that, Chitotela should have been arrested a long time ago because it has been in public domain for so many years that Chitotela has been corrupt. Chitotela, even if you go to his constituency today, I am told that he flashes money like nobody's business! Just like Honourable Chilufya in Mansa, I was in Mansa a few days ago when his supporters were telling me that they've never seen such kind of expenditure, which Honourable Chilufya is exhibiting. These people have been corrupt and Edgar knows, but he can't do anything about it because he's also involved!"

Kasama police nab man for killing brother over Mangoes

By Mirriam Chabala
Police in Northern Province have arrested a 42-year-old man of Chief Mwamba's Tibi village in Kasama district for axing his younger brother to death for plucking mangoes from his tree. In a statement, police deputy spokesperson Rae Hamoonga disclosed that Chomba Oliver Mulenga axed his 34-year-old brother, Chomba Anthony, who sustained four deep cuts on the neck and right leg. "Police in Kasama have arrested a 42 year old man identified as Chomba Oliver Mulenga of Kasama District for allegedly murdering his young brother identified as Chomba Anthony aged 34. The incident happened on 6th February, 2019 around 16:30 hours in Kasama, Tibi village, Chief Mwamba. The suspect is alleged to have used an axe, the victim sustained four deep cuts on the neck and one on the right leg. Brief facts are that the deceased had plucked some mangoes from the suspect's mango tree," Hamoonga stated. "In a similar incident Police in Lavushimanda have arrested a 25-year-old man identified as Andrew Musukwa of Muchinga Province for allegedly murdering Christopher Chitalu Musonda aged

72 years. The incident happened between on 31st January and 4th 2019 around 16:00 hours and 4th February, 2019 17:00 hours in Lavushimanda District, Ngosa village, Chief Mpumba. The suspect is alleged to have hit the victim with an axe handle on the head and he sustained a deep cut." And in another matter, police in Luapula Province are investigating a reported murder case which occurred on 6th February, in which a female identified as Nyambe Abigail aged 17 was allegedly murdered by unknown people. "Police at Mansa Police Station are investigating a report of murder which occurred on 6th February, 2019 between 06:00 hours and 10:00 hours at Kalikeka Village, Chief Kalasa Lukangaba in Mansa District in which a female identified as Nyambe Abigail aged 17 was allegedly murdered by unknown persons. The deceased was found dead on the road side between the residential areas leading to Muchinka Day Secondary School. We are appealing to residents of Kalikeka Village who may have information leading to the arrest of the person/persons behind this murder to report to the nearest police post/police station," stated Hamoonga.


Lsk man in court for duping woman by promising to multiply her K25,000

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A 30-year-old businessman has been dragged to court for obtaining K25,000 cash from a woman by falsely pretending that he would multiply it when in fact not. In this matter, Raymond Businge is charged with one count of obtaining money by false pretences, contrary to section 309 of the penal code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. It is alleged that on January 12, 2019, in Lusaka, Businge, with intent to deceive or defraud, obtained K25,000 cash from Eneless Mwaba by falsely pretending that he would multiply it when in fact not. The matter has been allocated before Magistrate Kapulo's court. Meanwhile, two juveniles of

Mtendere Township, aged 15 and 17, have pleaded guilty to stealing an aluminium irrigation pipe worth K500, property of the Natural Resources Development College (NRDC). The two are facing one count of theft. Particulars of the offence are that on January 9, this year, the duo stole an aluminium irrigation pipe worth K500, property of NRDC. The matter came up, Wednesday, before Magistrate Ruth Kapulo for facts. Facts in this matter are that on the material day, the complainant, who reported the case on behalf of NRDC, was at work when he received a report from a taxi driver who worked within the institution, informing him that they had apprehended

two juveniles with the said aluminium irrigation pipe. Upon receipt of the information, the complainant took the two juveniles to the NRDC Police Post where he valued the property at K500. The pipe was recovered. Asked whether the facts were correct the, the

two juvenile offenders replied in the affirmative. And the court heard that the 17 year-old juvenile was a second offender whereas the 15 year-old was a first. The matter has since been adjourned to February 18, this year, for a social welfare report and sentencing.



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Zamsort steals limelight at Cape Town Mining Indaba

Zamsort, a Zambian mining company, stole the limelight at the just ended Mining Indaba in Cape Town after its growth story was shared, culminating into the appointment of chairman Mumena Mushinge as non-executive director of London-listed Arc Minerals.

His appointment was announced at the Indaba on Wednesday, an event that brought together mining executives and other stakeholders to discuss the lucrative business which is largely owned by foreign conglomerates.

Zamsort's shareholders recently moved their shares to Arc Minerals to raise finances, leading to the appointment of Mushinge as a non-executive director of the growing mining company, formerly Ortac Resources.

Arc Minerals, according to a statement issued by Zamsort, is engaged in the identification, evaluation, acquisition and development of natural resource projects in Africa.

Zamsort, a company founded in 2002 and operates in North Western Province, currently has an exploration licence and a small-scale mining licence to its name.

Zamsort intends to invest \$100 million in plant expansion soon to produce over 60, 000 tonnes per annum of copper and cobalt concentrates by 2021.

"...When you look at the share pricing after the announcement [of Mushinge's appointment], it has slightly gone up," he said.

Chisala disclosed plans to embark on new projects in the company's large-scale prospecting areas never

before discovered even by major conglomerates.

After the announcement of Mushinge's appointment, finance minister Margaret Mwanakatwe and her mines counterpart Richard Musukwa, along with other government officials, congratulated the Zamsort chairman for being recognised as a valuable player in the country's mining industry.

Other government officials who were on hand to congratulate Mushinge include State House spokesperson Amos Chanda, North Western Province minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu and Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba.

During the launch of Arc Minerals in London last year, Musukwa insisted that the company should have Zambians on its board.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 27 year-old man of Lusaka's Zani Muone Compound has been dragged to court for pretending to be a medical doctor at Lusaka's Chipata Level one Hospital.

And a medical doctor at the said hospital has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that the accused person was actually charging and collecting medical fees from patients. This is the matter in which

Lusaka man in court for impersonating a doctor

Collins Mavunga, an unemployed resident, is charged with one count impersonating a public officer contrary to section 102 of the penalty code

chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia.

It is alleged that on March 14, 2018 in Lusaka, Mavunga falsely represented himself at

Chipata Level one Hospital as a person employed by the government of Zambia namely a doctor, when in fact not.

He had pleaded not guilty

before magistrate Beauty Malupenga and was granted bail of K15,000 in his own recognisance, with two working sureties bound in the like sum.

And when the matter came up for trial, Thursday, Dr Elizabeth Mwape, 45, told the court that on the material day, she saw Mavunga getting a medical report to be issued to a patient.

She said Mavunga went on to charge patients medical fees and collected money. She said she asked a fellow doctor on Mavunga's status at the hospital and if anyone knew him, but was told that no one knew him.

"By that time there were rumours that a person at the Chipata hospital was impersonating as a doctor from Levy Mwanawasa Hospital," Dr Mwape narrated.

She narrated that she later asked Mavunga who he was and he told her that he was a medical student at Ridgeway campus studying surgery, in his 7th year.

Dr Mwape said when she made an inquiry from the school to find out if there was a medical student attached to the hospital by the names of Collins Mavunga, she was told that there was no student with such names.

She then asked security personnels to arrest him. Meanwhile, Brenda Ngoma, 42, a security guard at Chipata Level One Hospital told the court that on the material day she saw Mavunga getting a stethoscope and put it around his neck.

Ngoma said Mavunga then went to the cashier desk at the hospital where he introduced himself as a student doctor in his fourth year from Levy Mwanawasa General Hospital.

The matter has been adjourned to February 22, 2019 for continued trial.

I won't fire innocent Chitotela, let ACC prove in court - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela will stay in Cabinet despite being arrested on corruption charges because he is innocent until proven guilty.

And President Lungu says he is not willing to lose Chitotela the same way he lost Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili because according to him, the two men are innocent as at now.

Speaking to journalists before leaving for Ethiopia, Thursday, the Head of State wondered what Zambian citizens expected him to do after Chitotela's arrest.

"A suspect in the eyes of law enforcement agencies can be arrested. And they have chosen to arrest Honorable Chitotela, so what has that got to do with me? He is a suspect and in their wisdom, they chose to arrest him so what should I do?" President Lungu asked.

He said he "lost" Kambwili on similar allegations and he was not willing to lose Chitotela.

"We are fighting corruption... so they have to prove before the courts of law and I hope they give

him a chance to prove himself, if he is corrupt. But you see, what I don't want to do is to politicize the fight against corruption. Remember how I lost Chishimba Kambwili? They came to me, they said he is corrupt. I said 'investigate him', they investigated him, along the way they said 'he is not cooperating, he is insulting us, you know he is very vulgar', I am sorry to say that but he is vulgar, he can be vulgar, they were crying in my office, I said 'what can I do?' In my judgement, I said 'remove him', I removed him. Chishimba, up to now we are waiting for the ACC, the DEC and all those who brought allegations against him to prove their allegations in the courts of law. So you want me to lose Chitotela on that basis again? I am saying no. I will give them leeway to arrest and prosecute, bring to court the culprit but I will not interfere, I will even fund them to do their operations but those who are calling for the removal of honorable Chitotela now, I say 'no, give me space to breathe', but don't interfere with the process, bring your evidence but let him also have his day in court," President Lungu

said.

"That's what justice [entails], and I am a lawyer. And if you look at the Bill of Rights, I think Article 18, it starts with presumption of innocence. So as far as I am concerned, he is innocent. As far as I am concerned, even Chishimba Kambwili is innocent. But look at where Chishimba Kambwili is. 'No Lungu is fighting Chishimba Kambwili, Lungu this', no, I have never fought Chishimba Kambwili. What I had was a report from the law enforcement agencies that 'Chishimba has done one, two, three wrongs, we are investigating him', like many others. And I said 'go ahead'. At a certain point, they said 'we can't get anything, no cooperation from him and I said 'what do I do? In my wisdom I removed him from office, the rest is history. He pledged to work with us, the next thing he was saying I am corrupt, I don't care what has happened but I am just saying I even lost Chishimba Kambwili because of allegations of corruption by the same forces. I don't want to lose Chitotela in the same manner." President said he hoped both Kambwili and Chitotela would find

justice.

"I am saying may Chishimba Kambwili find justice, may Chitotela find justice, may all those who are alleged to be corrupt find justice, that's how the rule of law works. One of the precepts of rule of law is there is no one above the law. When the police feel like investigating you, they will investigate you. When they feel like coming to your home at night to search, they will search. And I can't tell them 'go and search Tom Njobvu's home, go and search that girl's home, it is not in my mandate. So, let us not politicize the fight against corruption. There is a perception that by doing that they are weakening Lungu, they are not weakening me, they are just killing the systems we have set to fight corruption genuinely. So what comment do you want me to make? May justice be done. 'No, I am fighting (protecting) Chitotela because he knows too much about me', what have I done? 'No Chitotela has got money on my behalf', I am not a businessman, I am just a politician mandated to lead Zambia," said President Lungu.

ZANASU vows to fight termination of meal allowances

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia National Students Union (ZANASU) president Misheck Kakonde has vowed to fight Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo's decision to terminate payment of meal allowances to students, even if it means taking the matter to court. In a statement, Thursday, Kakonde wondered why the decision was made without seeking Parliament approval. Kakonde stated that it was shocking how government had no problem spending billions of taxpayers' money to purchase 42 fire trucks or send a delegation 25 member delegation to collect four donated fire trucks in America

yet fail to allocate adequate resources to higher education. "The Zambia National Students Union (ZANASU) regrets the decision announced by Minister of Higher Education, Professor Nkandu Luo, to unilaterally remove provision of meal allowances to students from public universities without seeking the repeal of the law by Parliament. The cost of only 1 fire truck at US\$1 million is all that would have been enough to pay meal allowances for all students from all public universities. The decision by PF Government, a party that was elected into power and continues to masquerade itself as a pro-poor party, has

hurt not only the first year students from poor families but such a decision will continue hurting generations of students from poor families who depend on provision of a living allowance during their time studying at our public universities," Kakonde stated. H stated that the justification given by Luo for abolishing students meal allowances was just an excuse meant to negatively affect students and poor people in the country. "The justification by the Professor Luo for removing meal allowances is an excuse Government will use every time they seek to make decisions that negatively affect students and our people in this country.

When Government began to enforce repayment of loans from former students, they used the same justification. But the nation is also aware that the decision to extend loans to 1000 students to Palabama University, Chalimbana University, Mulungushi University, Mukuba University and NkhameNkurumah University was announced on January 3, 2019 by Ministry of Higher Education Public Relations Officer, Chiselwa Kawanda, who said the extension was necessitated by loan recoveries the ministry had been undertaking from September last year. So it is patently false that the decision to abolish meal

allowances is the one that will make Government to extend provision of loans to other institutions," Kakonde stated. "ZANASU, at the request of students from CBU and UNZA, will be engaging with affected students through their Unions and directly to chat the way forward on the decision which was announced by the Minister yesterday. We do not rule out any course of action, which may include litigation. A Government that values provision of higher education especially to its poor citizenry cannot continue to allocate less money towards education as has been the case with this administration since 2015." Kakonde stated that

government lacked priorities. "The Government is not broke that it can fail to pay meal allowances to students but it's the way our funds are managed which is a challenge as can be seen from the missing K1 million for toll fees. Is it also not ironic that our Government has no problem spending billions of taxpayers' money to either purchase 40 fire trucks or send a delegation 25 member delegation to collect a donation of 4 fire trucks in the US but yet fail to allocate more money towards higher education? We also call upon Zambians and parents - especially those from poor families - to must never forget this decision made by Minister Luo which is meant to punish Zambians from poor families generally," stated Kakonde.

By Mukosha Funga

Police in Lusaka have arrested about six fellow officers who allegedly robbed robbers in Lusaka West on Monday, and went away with over K250, 000 which the robbers were trying to share. The accused police officers, all from Makeni Police have been detained at Lusaka Central Police for the past three days, while others were released after interrogations. News Diggers managed to interview the police officers who robbed the robbers and they narrated that the bickering that ensued during the sharing of the stolen money caused the whole ordeal to be exposed. "The incident happened around 02:00 hours on Monday after a robbery was reported from Lusaka West. The robbers

Lsk cops rob robbers, share stolen money

broke into a house of some Chinese and went away with over K250,000, a bag of dollars and some Chinese money. So it seems at some point those robbers parked the car to share the money. Us we were in the area patrolling. So when we saw the suspicious car parked, we surrounded it. After seeing the police vehicle, three of the robbers escaped, but one who was driving was apprehended," narrated the officers.

"But what happened is that the robbers who escaped left the bag of money in the car with two pistols. So we were many of us, maybe like eight or so. Our friends, after discovering that the bag was full of money, they took it and started sharing. It so happened that when sharing the money, some officers got more, others got less and the police reserves who were present got the least. So they started fighting among themselves.

At the police station, we only surrendered the pistols, but the money was not mentioned." The source narrated that after the apprehended robber was put in police custody, he confessed to the other police officers at the station how they conducted the robbery and disclosed that the patrol police officers shared the money. "When the police officers were asked, they denied ever getting the money, but we were there,

we saw exactly what happened. Some officers just became greedy, forgetting that we had apprehended one of the robbers who was going to tell the story," narrated the police officers. And a police source handling the case narrated that part of the money was recovered from the 'police robbers'. "When the police reserves who were part of that night operation were rounded up and interrogated, they

admitted that they all took the money and shared. That's how they went to search their houses and the money was recovered. But the money that was taken by the full time officers has not yet been recovered," narrated the source. "The arrested police officers include Inspector Mwanamwinde who was the shift officer, Sergeant Mali, who was the driver of the patrol car, Constable Madakwa, Constable Mulenga and another Constable Mulenga, there was another Constable identified as Bridget and a reserve officer called Emilio, who is said to have been released." Meanwhile, when called for a comment, Lusaka province police commissioner Nelson Phiri cut the line upon hearing this reporter's query.

South/Africa's rand gains against kwacha

By Stuart Lisulo

The kwacha has depreciated against the South African rand to breach the K0.90 per rand for the first time since November, 2015. And financial market analyst Mambo Hamaundu says the kwacha's depreciation against the rand will lead to further increases in the cost of goods and services in Zambia, given that South Africa is the largest trading partner in the SADC region. Market data reveals that the rand has rapidly gained strength against the local unit having breached the K0.90 per rand mark for the first time in over three years. Since Zambia rebased the local currency on January 1, 2013, the kwacha had consistently maintained its artificial superior value to the South African rand, trading range-bound between K0.58 and K0.80 per rand. But updated market data shows that the SA rand has gained value, rallying against other emerging market currencies, including the kwacha. In January alone, the South African currency strengthened 7.4 per cent against the dollar, spurred

by a more conciliatory US Federal Reserve, who maintained the same interest rate level at 2.5 per cent. The Federal Reserve, the US central bank, held the target range for the federal funds rate at 2.25-2.5 per cent during its first policy meeting of 2019 on January 30. According to local financial market players, the kwacha significantly depreciated against the rand to hit K0.90 per rand by the end of the first week of this month. "The rand has officially crossed ZAR/ZMW0.90. With the rand strongly influenced by global sentiment, the comeback for ZAR/ZMW is far-sighted. The rand continues to rally against the kwacha. If these levels persist, the impact will definitely be felt by consumers in due course," FNB stated in its daily treasury newsletter. And Hamaundu explained that the kwacha's depreciation against the rand will lead to further increases in the cost of goods and services in Zambia given that South Africa is the largest trading partner in the SADC region. "I foresee a price increment, though it might not be very significant in nominal value.

They (retailers) import to sell and make a profit; they will not just import to come and give goods and services to a consumer, they will definitely want to make a profit. If their cost of importing has been going up where the (ZAR-ZMW) rate is near K0.90, it could actually result in an increment in the price of goods and services," Hamaundu explained. He also predicted that given the favourable global economic sentiment, which work in favour of strengthening the rand, the kwacha could even hit the unprecedented psychological barrier of K1 per rand. "We have seen the rand move from K0.65 (per K1) going into the K0.70, into the K0.80 and now into the K0.90...I don't think it's a far-fetched idea that it could actually go as strong as K1:1(rand) because when you look at what is obtaining in South Africa and Zambia comparatively, it will be safe to assume that the South African economy is much stronger and bigger, and has production backing their currency, whereas our currency is not really backed by good production," said Hamaundu.



President Lungu (r) walks Emerald and Precious Stones Mining Association of Zambia (ESMAZ) president Victor Kalesha after they paid a courtesy call on the him at State House yesterday - Photo by Salim Henry



THE POTENTIAL OF A LAND-LINKED ZAMBIA!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

It is generally perceived that due to lack of direct access to the sea, land-locked countries are primarily marginalised from major trade-related networks and hardly benefit from trade opportunities due to their extreme reliance on their neighbours who may have weak or under developed infrastructure. This is what we grew up learning that Zambia is a landlocked country and we have a number of disadvantages compared to countries that are by the sea. This is not true as the so-called landlocked countries can use its geographical locations to their advantage.

Under the PAC government, Zambia will become the economic powerhouse of Central and Southern Africa owing to its land-linked advantage. You must remember that eight countries, namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Tan-zania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana and Angola, providing a combined population of over 200 million people, surround Zambia. In addition to all the natural resources that we are blessed with, our surround-ing population is a huge blessing that can help propel our national interests while we are providing them with quality goods and services.

We have said this and we shall say it again- Zambia needs a leadership that does not only believe in its own potential but believes in the massive potential of the country. Our motivation to form PAC was out of a sheer belief that apart from abuse of resources, the country was and still is under utilising its potential, resources and opportunities. We are a team that believes in the potential of a visionary and well-managed country. Just recently, Volkswagen launched a car assembly plant in Rwanda and this is all due to the well-managed econo-my of Rwanda. This is the kind of potential we are talking about in Zambia. We shall create opportunities for various industries to be set up in Zambia not just for the Zambian market but also the export market. We shall give incentives to various investors who will set up industries to take advantage of the surrounding population. This will be done with the aim of rapidly attracting investors, creating massive jobs and also cushioning the currency.

For example, we shall give incentives to electronic manufacturing companies such as Huawei or Samsung to set up a plant here for the local and export markets. We shall give incentives to companies like Volkswagen to set up plants to manufacture vehicles not just for the local market but also be able to export their vehicles to neighbouring countries in the region. There are a lot of examples we can look at where we shall create incentives for the purpose of exports.

Ghana has what they call the Ghana Free Zones Programme, which is an initia-tive that was designed to promote processing and manufacturing of goods through the establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and encourage the development of commercial and service activities at sea and airport are-as. In essence, the idea is to give potential investors who have the opportunity to use the free zones as a focal point to produce goods



and services for for-foreign markets. All investors who use free zones must export at least 70% of their produce in order for them to be entitled to some tax incentives. As PAC, we believe this idea is the best way of creating sustainable employment and also getting the much needed foreign exchange. Even if incentives are given away by giving tax breaks for companies exporting, the buying power of the people being employed, the support of other local industries by these indus-tries and the Forex coming in will square the incentives given. Even before we get there, we have a potential of exporting agro products even now to our neighbours. Most of our neighbour's agriculture institutions are still way behind in terms of being organised and some of these countries can't produce certain crops due the climate prevailing in there. A PAC gov-ernment will empower a lot of Zambians to venture in various agro products in order to export to our neighbours. This we will touch in detail under the PAC Agriculture Policy. The PAC government will ensure that trade agreements are signed with neighbouring countries to allow for the smooth flow of business be-tween the countries. Many traders in the region travel to China, Dubai (UAE) and even to South Afri-ca to buy certain goods. The PAC will create a trade centre and give incen-tives to merchants to set up trading centres in Zambia. We plan to do this in Central Province of Zambia. This will enable most traders from our neighbour-ing countries to save travel costs and accommodation, thereby supporting the Zambian tourism sector through provision of services such as hotels, lodges and restaurants and also bringing in the much needed Forex. Zambia will use its land-linked advantage to create a trading hub for a lot of products that many business people across the region travel to Asia and the Middle East for. The PAC government will create Zambia as a massive wholesale area of a number of goods such as computers, phones, electronic equipment, accessories, and clothes targeting businesses in the

region. The PAC government will give tax incentives for many businesses from Asia that will be willing to bring forward these goods to the trading hub. There are a lot of ways we can use the geographical location to advantage us if we just think right. For example, we can boost tourism through the popula-tion that surrounds us. Sadly, successive governments have not taken optimum advantage of the market that surrounds this blessed country. Despite various repeated pronouncements about diversifying the economy and venturing into other products for exports outside copper, this has never happened. This pop-ulation presents a great opportunity for Zambia to trade and export many products in the region. This landlocked advantage presents many opportuni-ties for empowerment and attracting of investors if the right policies are put in place. With practical steps taken and trade agreements signed, Zambia can create a lot of jobs to help cushion the unstable currency that is most of the time affected by copper prices. A proactive PAC government will empower many Zambians to focus on busi-nesses with products that will have readily available markets in neighbouring countries. Due to the peaceful nature of this country, Zambia can attract many investors who can setup industries for the purposes of exporting if the right policies are put in place. The PAC government will ensure that trade agreements that will target certain products in these markets are signed and sealed between Zambia and the neighbouring countries. The trade agree-ments will ensure that Zambian businesses are protected.

As we go, we shall discuss how the PAC government will launch the national airline through taking advantage of the geographical location and agriculture potential.

Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Green Party leader Peter Sinkamba says the current mode of supplying fertilizer to farmers using agro-dealers under the electronic voucher system has proven to be fraudulent because it has provided an opportunity for criminals to thrive. Commenting on a case where a Chinsali based agro-dealer fled with about 600 beneficiaries' deposits under Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), Sinkamba said the E-voucher system should be scrapped off

E-voucher a fraud because it helps criminals thrive, charges Sinkamba

because it was a failed project. "The Farmer Input Support Project, under which there are a lot of strategies that have been developed to try and support the small-scale farmers and peasant farmers, is a fraud project. According to us, it is supposed to be scrapped because it has failed

to yield intended objectives. You know, the liberalisation of the agriculture sector, which started in 1993, which is almost over 10 years gone from the time this project was started, we have failed to support farmers so that they can become self-sustaining. Instead, we have provided space

for crooked entrepreneurs to rip off either government resources or the peasant farmers resources and this thing has been going on for a long time," Sinkamba explained. He suggested reverting to the old system of distributing farming inputs last seen during the UNIP era.

"So, the only way you can deal with this is to reformulate the policy, and we had suggested ourselves that if we had been elected in government, we would have reverted to what used to obtain during the UNIP regime; the districts' cooperatives unions and the provincial cooperatives unions,

which were mandated to distribute fertilizer and other inputs to the peasant farmers and also to be able to buy off from these farmers such that the peasant farmers and small-scale farmers were not at risk of being bound by briefcase entrepreneurs acting in the name of the State. So, unless and until we revert to that kind of programme, year in-year out, the cases of theft or connen stealing from peasant farmers either stealing their maize or stealing their deposits towards fertilizer or failing to deliver the fertilizer, which has been paid for, these things will continue and we shall continue impoverishing our people," Sinkamba said. And Sinkamba argued that the current fertilizer supply system as a whole was fraudulent as it gave an opportunity to criminals to thrive. He noted that another key factor inhibiting the successful delivery of inputs via the electronic voucher was limited access to smart phones by the majority farmers. "The current system is a fraud and it can't deliver, it provides the opportunity for criminals to thrive. The [IFMIS] is part of those bigger programmes, which has failed. You cannot start distributing inputs to peasant farmers and small scale farmers in rural areas using phones. There is this latest strategy where peasant farmers who are people that have not been to school and most of them have those small phones and not smart phones. Now, you expect them to start responding to prompt messages as a way of them participating in the whole programme? I think we need to go back to the basics," advised Sinkamba.

NDC will construct fuel depots in all districts, says Musenge

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge says the NDC government will construct fuel depots in all districts and ensure that the country has adequate stocks so that it is protected from price changes of crude oil on the international market. And Musenge says the NDC government will recapitalize Ndola-based Indeni Petroleum Refinery with new technology to ensure that 80 per cent of petroleum products consumed in Zambia are produced by the company. Meanwhile, Musenge has pledged that an NDC government will cut nepotism, cadres and over-employment of staff at Zesco Limited to ensure an efficient administration. In NDC's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Musenge observed that Zambia had the highest cost of fuel and other petroleum products in the SADC region. He added that the taxation system in Zambia also happened to remain the highest. "Zambia has the uppermost cost of fuel and other petroleum products in the mainland Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional bloc, which result from inadequacy and costly financing arrangement. The taxation system

in Zambia also happens to remain the highest within the mainland SADC member states. Moreover, government levies, duties, and other taxes have been higher in Zambia in comparison with other countries," Musenge noted. He observed that Zambia faced a number of difficulties like poor feed stock cargo formulation, lack of adequate national reserves and underdeveloped infrastructure, among other things. "Zambia is also faced with a number of difficulties which include: poor feed stock cargo formulation, lack of adequate national reserves, inefficient feed stock processing and underdeveloped infrastructure meant for importation of finished products. Research shows that crude oil prices make up 71 per cent of the price of fuel and as such, makes it a major influencer of fuel prices since the remaining 29 per cent comes from distribution, refining, and taxes, which happen to be more stable," he observed. Musenge stated that once elected into office, the NDC would put in place a transparent procurement system for crude oil and comingled petroleum, which would reduce the supply chain costs by cutting out middlemen. He pledged that the NDC would

rationalize the tax regime for both crude and finished products by lowering them, adding that an NDC government would construct fuel depots in all districts around the country. "The NDC when elected will: build suitable national reserves that can last for eight months by constructing fuel depots in all the districts of Zambia and ensure that every part of the country has adequate fuel reserves. This will be done so that our country is safeguarded from being affected by price changes of crude oil on the international market and fluctuations in the currency market and make them uniform," he explained. And Musenge stated that the NDC government would further recapitalize Indeni Refinery with new technology to ensure that 80 per cent

of petroleum products consumed in Zambia were made by the company. "Indeni Refinery has been riddled with inefficient feed stock processing capacity as such, we will recapitalize it with new technology to ensure that 80 per cent of petroleum products consumed in the country are made by Indeni. This will retain jobs and value addition within the country. We also build another refinery plant in Mongu, Western Province. We will implement dynamic hedging strategies to mitigate risk in price movements of crude oil and changes on the currency market such as future buying," he added. Meanwhile, Musenge has pledged that an NDC government will cut nepotism, cadres and over-employment of staff at Zesco Limited to ensure an efficient administration.

"For a long time, Zambia has largely depended on hydroelectricity, which is dependent-season. As NDC, we will undertake serious reforms in the energy sector to ensure that: (i) There is an increase in the affordability of power in the urban and rural areas at the same time ensuring competitiveness on the regional market. (ii) We will un-bundle Zesco into generation, transmission and distribution to ensure effectiveness in service delivery and enable private sector participation. (iii) We will cut nepotism, cadres and over-employment of staff at Zesco to ensure an efficient administration. (iv) Zambia is blessed with many rivers in the rural areas, and as such, we will promote rural electrification by damming these rivers in strategic positions to provide hydro-electric power," stated Musenge, who also added that the NDC would formulate a renewable energy policy that would waver off company tax and bureaucracy for companies that generate and distribute renewable sources of energy in Zambia, among others.

Zambia Airways appoints Ethiopian CEO

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia Airways Limited has appointed Ethiopian national Bruk Endeshaw Abebe as the company's inaugural chief executive officer effective immediately. In a statement availed by acting chairperson of the board of

Zambia Airways Bonaventure Mutale, SC, Thursday, Abebe was appointed as the national carrier's first chief executive officer following a board meeting. "The board of directors of Zambia Airways (2014) Limited held their inaugural Board meeting today, 7th

February, 2019, where decisions relating to the commencement of the Airline were made including the appointment of Mr. Bruk Endeshaw Abebe, as the chief executive officer of Zambia Airways. Mr. Abebe has 24 years' experience in the aviation industry

and is currently regional director sales and services, southern African region for Ethiopian Airlines," the statement read. "Mr Abebe's appointment was made in accordance with the Shareholders Agreement between the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Ethiopia Airlines (ET), which provided that the first CEO would be nominated by ET and that IDC would nominate the subsequent CEO. The board also directed the CEO to target commencement of operations of the airline for the third quarter of 2019. The board further reiterated the shareholders' quest to ensure that the airline operates as a commercial enterprise so as to achieve viability." The rest of the details regarding the processes leading to commencement of operations will from time to time be disclosed by the management of the airline, according to the statement. On August 19, 2018, the IDC and Ethiopian Airlines held a signing ceremony in Lusaka to mark the agreement as shareholders of Zambia Airways. As strategic partners on the national airline project, IDC will hold a 55 per cent equity in the national carrier, with Ethiopian Airlines holding 45 per cent stake. In October, 2018, Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba told Parliament that the date for the launch of the much-hyped national airline had been extended to early this year to allow for the certification and registration processes to be completed. However, the national carrier's operations are now likely to commence during the third quarter following the appointment of the CEO.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

United Voice Radio board chairperson Bishop Mwape Chomba has condemned the conduct by Felix Mutati's MMD youths who stormed the radio station to interrupt a live programme which featured Nevers Mumba. On Wednesday, MMD youths led by their youth coordinator Gerald Chiluba and Prince Ndoyi stormed the station with intent to interrupt the programme and to fish out Mumba whom they branded a masquerader. But in a statement, Thursday, Bishop Chomba observed that the act was an attempt to intimidate radio staff. "The Board of United Voice Radio Station would like express its displeasure at attempts by a group of people claiming to be members of the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) who stormed the radio station to disrupt a weekly program dubbed 'Add your Voice.' The action to storm the radio station by the purported cadres was an attempt to intimidate the radio station by creating fear in the minds of journalists and other staff. The Board wishes to implore players on politicians to exercise restraint when raising complaints which may arise as a result of journalists performing their work as the Fourth Estate," Bishop Chomba stated. Bishop Chomba urged political party leaders to act with maximum restraint when

United Voice Radio condemns Mutati's cadres for attacking Nevers



dealing with their cadres. "The Board further implores individuals or groups of people who may feel aggrieved over any matter to use the laid-down procedure of airing grievances instead of resorting to actions which may promote acts of lawlessness. The Board, however acknowledges the

quick action taken by the police who arrived in time to deal with the situation at hand. The Board further appeals to political party leaders to act with maximum restraint when dealing with their cadres to avoid promoting anarchy and to safeguard lives and property," stated bishop Chomba.

"The Board acknowledges that Zambia is a democratic dispensation where individuals have the right to freedom of speech. Further, the board acknowledges that the growth of Zambia's democracy depends much on this freedom where individuals are free to air out views within the

confines of the law. The Board of United Voice Radio wishes to inform its listeners that the station would continue to fulfil its mandate of informing, educating and entertaining without the fear of intimidation while upholding professionalism."

The Fantastic Four and their fantastic agenda

Last Sunday, a parallel clique of opposition leaders called for a press conference to condemn the rival group of opposition leaders that has been working with the church mother bodies to push for the now all-tired dialogue agenda. This parallel clique is composed of the FDD leader Edith Nawakwi, Wynter Kabimba of the Rainbow Party, Felix Mutati of the MMD faction and, returning to the scene, Mr Sakwiba Sikota State Counsel.

According to these 'Fantastic Four super heroes', the church mother bodies has connived with the opposition alliance group to cause regime change through one of its leaders, and they want Zambians to join them in thwarting this despicable agenda.

Edith Nawakwi: "When we met with the Opposition Alliance on 24th January, 2019, we had no idea that they were coming to the meeting as emissaries of the bishops... Members of the press, from the foregoing, it is clear to see and understand that the National Dialogue is only important if it guarantees the United Party for National Development and its Alliance Parties a gateway to state House in 2021. It is a vehicle for regime change and nothing else."

In simpler English, what is irking president Nawakwi and her band is the fact that the opposition alliance

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Ear to the ground

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wants regime change and they are trying to use the church to achieve this. If this fear of regime change was coming from Sunday Chanda, Davies Mwila or even President Edgar Lungu himself, it would make sense. But it is coming from an opposition leader like madam Nawakwi who should be calling for regime change so that her party could have an opportunity to make things better for the people of Zambia.

One would wonder; if they don't want regime change themselves, why are they in opposition? Ordinarily, it would only make sense if these members of the 'Fantastic Four' called for a press conference to highlight the bad governance practices under President Lungu, and looking for strategies to ascend to power. But they are

sounding like they want to take over power from the UPND, rather than from the Patriotic Front.

But there is only one way in which someone can make sense out of this. We wish to remind readers about the Editorial Opinion that we published in 2017 on the whereabouts of president Edith Nawakwi when Zambia desperately needed her voice. In that opinion, we raised an observation that some opposition leaders only show up when elections are drawing nearer, just to make money and fool voters.

"When we say that president Edith Nawakwi of the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) is turning into a political opportunist, we say it with all the respect she deserves considering the achievements she has

made in her political career. Nawakwi's bio cannot be summarised without mentioning the courageous, spirited fight she gave against Frederick Chiluba's third term bid - a debate which actually gave birth to FDD in 2001.

But now, the fact that we are beginning to list her achievements when she is still alive and leading a political party, when she is still seeking to be President of Zambia, tells us that something is amiss. Indeed, something is definitely politically wrong with Ms Edith Nawakwi. If we didn't know what she is capable of achieving, we probably wouldn't be holding this strong opinion against her. But we do, and the fact that Ms Nawakwi will come back to us seeking our votes not long from now, gives us the right to tell her what

she needs to know when it really matters.

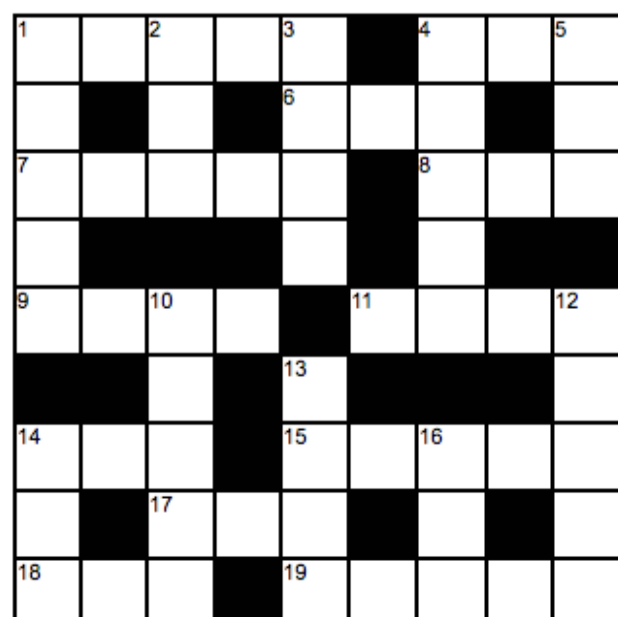
To start with, maybe those in FDD can help us understand; where is Edith Zewelani Nawakwi? Why is the president of the Forum for Democracy and Development hiding when Zambia desperately craves her strong voice...?" The rest of the opinion can be accessed on this link: <https://diggers.news/?p=9855>

Well, the next general elections are coming up in just over 24 months, and here comes madam Edith Nawakwi; her voice sharp as a needle and her energy rejuvenated. This time she has even brought us a surprise from the rabbit hole in the name of Sakwiba Sikota State Counsel with his ULP (whatever the initials mean because it has been so long, we have even forgotten).

So, Mr Charles Milupi is asking a legitimate question to the 'Fantastic Four'. What brings them together if it's not regime change they want? The other opposition alliance has not hidden its intentions; they have said they want a dialogue process that will facilitate for peaceful elections so that they can remove PF from power. They admittedly want regime change at all costs. What about madam Nawakwi and her band, what are they up to? What common agenda brings them together?

Anyway, our caution to the people of Zambia is that they must not be swayed by the hullabaloo in either of the opposition alliances and they must not be fooled by the campaign gifts from the Patriotic Front neither. The period leading to the 2021 elections will be very dramatic. Political parties will merge for convenience; ideologies shall be thrown out of the window! Socialists will go to bed with capitalists and enemies will pretend to be best friends to dupe people, form government and steal.

Crossword puzzle 289



*"Losing is okay, life goes on. Giving up is a death sentence."
- Josef Jami*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parallel bars for broiling 4. Investigate 6. Yours and mine 7. Once more 8. Small insect 9. Small change 11. Winter forecast 14. Trash holder 15. Pizza topping 17. Hedwig, e.g. 18. Sticky black substance 19. Candy on a stick | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect 2. Pension alternative 3. Lengthy 4. Deplete 5. Fetch 10. Trivial 12. Filled with dandelions 13. Hot streak (on a __) 14. House pet 16. Out of sorts |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 288



Reader's feedback

Govt's "special joint cyber-crime crack squad"

Editor,

"Just want to silence the masses." - Cetchwayo Jere

"Squads won't help. Institutions do exist, but they lack power to bite; ZICTA and Zambia Police." - Arizona Kakole

"PF really knows how to waste money!" - John Sonta

"What has happened to ZCTA?" - Felix Alitili

"If they can track down the porno sharing culture circulating on our social media, which has invaded our morals, the squad is welcome to me! We need to restore

our dignity back. Nowadays, you can't be in any Zambian group peacefully without seen some 'sickos' posting rubbish like it's legal, we need to bring back the rule of law!" - Elijah Kaonga



Nawakwi, Saki & co. all 'yesterday's politicians'

Editor,

"It's best to say four 'former politicians' or four 'Zambian nationals' have ganged up. These 4 have no membership apart from their

families!" - Noritah Mwanza

"Washed up politicians seeking relevance and jobs in PF! #verydisgraceful." - Mutinta Mulonda

"Why did Edith Nawakwi stand for President in 2016 if it wasn't for regime change? Does she no longer feel she can serve Zambia better than ECL? I have no question for Felix Mutati as it's clear he considered himself and his party politically 'inferior' to ECL and PF. Bo Saki, understandably, might have a sore history with UPND where he used to be vice-president. But then given his record so far with ULP, how far would he have taken UPND?" - David M Mwanangombe

"Main purpose of the opposition is to take over and rule (regime change - call it what you may). Any others, are just by the way functions." - Phil Muntha

"Ms Nawakwi, your preoccupation with matters UPND, and HH in particular, is clouding your thinking as both an intellectual and a politician. This country needs you as a clear thinker, not a muddled one." - Kanyata Mubita

"If you are not working with your fellow opposition parties, then who are you working with? Definitely, it's Edgar! And you want us to agree with you? Never!" - Chiundule Wansimbi

Diggers' OPINION: Pastor Mumba shouldn't complain, he buried his talent

Editor,

"Pastor Mumba likes living a highly-luxurious life! Victory Ministries that time used to sustain his expensive lifestyle! He has had no time to seriously invest, but has time to spend. Unfortunately, here we are. A former Veep in serious struggles. Today, a mere teacher invests and what should stop Veep from doing so???" - Edmond Arthur Soko

"We have relatives who were retired in 2000 still waiting for benefits, but here is a man who was paid millions in benefits and has international connections, crying!" - Patrick Nicolas Sambwe

"The bottom line is financial discipline; they are people who take alcohol, but very disciplined, and those who don't, but are indisciplined and always broke." - John Bwalya

"This applies to our families, too, where everyone wants to be assisted, while they live above their means!" - Norma Sialumba Mwambazi

IBA's order to DSTV to suspend Lusaka Hustle show

Editor,

"Whatever happened to the board that ensured quality programming before broadcasting? What a waste of resources for the producers!!! This can be avoided by authorities taking responsibility to check out the synopsis of programmes before public viewing. Even Hollywood etc. has this simple process." - Mercy Khozi

"If this was how quickly the powers that be responded to issues more important than this nonsense, Zambia would have been a better country." - David Mwaya Kabwe

"How different is he from Bob Nkossa aka Dorika?" - B Alice Mweemba

"Even that Minister who posted porno should not be seen anywhere near Parliament." - Eddie Chilufya Kanyanta

"Does Lawrence Chalwe, the porno star, reflect Zambian morals?" - Moses Chuwa

"So, it's okay for our children to watch AJ on E! (Rich kids of

Beverly Hills) but not Kuni on Zambezi Magic?" - Anthony Bwalya

"And which programmes, on DStv, reflect our culture?" - Kaluwe Kelly

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.

The February 24 presidential elections in Senegal will go ahead as planned despite a boycott call by former president and opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade.

The assurance was given on Wednesday by Aly Ngouille Ndiaye, the Senegalese Interior Minister, a response that came barely 24-hours after Wade's call.

Election material has already been sent to various cities across the country, the minister confirmed: "We also transported all the equipment from Dakar. So all the main and sub-districts of Dakar as well as the all the administrations have received the different kits concerning the polling stations in their constituency. Today we are beginning the deployment of the most remote regions."

On Tuesday, former President Abdoulaye Wade called on the population to peacefully oppose a rigged vote in his opinion. He had also alluded to the polls being a threat to security.

Senegal polls to proceed despite Wade's boycott call

"Our action will be peaceful, respectful of the law and regulations," he stressed, explaining that the party he founded, the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), was preparing a programme of action with other opposition parties.

Campaigns for the February 24 presidential election in Senegal began on February 3. Five candidates will contest the vote, including incumbent Macky Sall who is seeking second and final term in office.

The most significant development in the lead up to the vote being the disqualification of two persons seen as major aspirants.

Khalifa Sall, a former mayor of

Dakar (no relation to President Sall,) and Karim Wade, the son of former President Abdoulaye Wade, were jailed for graft and corruption in 2018 and 2015 respectively.

Under Senegalese law, the sentences effectively ended their chances of running for president, a decision confirmed by the Constitutional Council. Attendant protests against the ruling were dispersed by security forces.

The President is running on the platform of his coalition Benno Bokk Yaakar (BBY); his main opponent is seen in former Prime Minister Idrissa Seck of Rewmi and Madické Niang, candidate for Wade's Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS).

The other two candidates are Issa Sall of the Party of Unity and Coming Together (PUIC) and Ousmane Sonko of the Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Brotherhood (Pastef).

On Tuesday, Senegal's former president Abdoulaye Wade called for the cancellation of presidential elections slated for February 24. He also called for peaceful protest against the polls.

According to Wade, 92, the process was rigidly tilted in favour of the incumbent Macky Sall who he accuses of using state apparatus to block the participation of strong opponents.

He particularly bemoaned the

Constitutional Court's rejection of presidential candidacies submitted by Khalifa Sall, a former mayor of Dakar with no relation to President Sall, and his son Karim Wade.

The Senegalese Democratic Party, PDS, the political movement Wade founded, is preparing a programme of action by 23 February along with other political parties.

The former president who is expected in Senegal on Thursday, is asking Macky Sall to set up a national commission for democratic transition.

Wade believes that by seeking re-election alone, Macky Sall had created "serious dangers of destabilizing Senegal." Sall beat

Wade in vote runoff in 2012 to secure his first of two possible seven-year mandates.

Abdoulaye Wade, the third president of democratic Senegal came into office in March 2000 after beating the then incumbent Abdou Diouf. His victory came after 30 years in politics and 19 in the opposition.

The historic feat also meant that for the first time, a candidate of the Socialist Party, that had been in power for 40 years, had been defeated at the polls.

He was re-elected President of the Senegal on February 25, 2007 with 51.84% of the vote. In 2012 despite a controversial change of the laws to allow him seek a third term, Wade failed as an opposition coalition ousted him.

On March 25, 2012, he was defeated by Macky Sall, who became the fourth President of the Republic of Senegal with more than 65% of the vote in a runoff - Wade had won the first round. *African News*

UK will not be 'trapped' in backstop - May

Theresa May is in Brussels to press EU leaders for legally binding changes to the Brexit deal.

The PM will insist the UK will not be "trapped" in the backstop - the plan to avoid the return of Irish border checks whatever UK-EU trade deal is agreed. She will say the plan must change if it is to win the support of MPs who urged her to seek "alternative arrangements" when rejecting the deal last month. However, the EU has repeatedly ruled out changing the withdrawal agreement.

Anti-Brexit protester Mark Johnson jumped in front of Mrs May's car as she she arrived. He was bundled out of the way by security staff and was unhurt.

Once inside the European Commission's headquarters Mrs May was greeted by EC president Jean-Claude Juncker, with the pair shaking hands for the cameras before starting their talks

Mrs May's visit comes after the row over Wednesday's outburst by Donald Tusk, who declared there was a "special place in hell" for those who campaigned for Brexit without a plan to deliver it safely.

MPs who backed Leave in the 2016 referendum reacted with anger to the comments, accusing the European Council president of "arrogance".

David Lidington, the minister seen as Mrs May's second-in-command, said Mr Tusk's comment "wasn't the most brilliant diplomacy in the world".

He told BBC Radio 4's Today: "I think Mr Tusk was

venting yesterday, but I don't think that will detract from what I expect to be a courteous and sensible grown-up discussion between the different EU leaders and the prime minister."

Jeremy Corbyn has written to the prime minister setting out his party's price for supporting a Brexit deal and to offer talks to secure "a sensible agreement that can win the support of Parliament and bring the country together".

The Labour leader's five demands include a "permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union" aligned with the EU's customs rules but with an agreement "that includes a UK say on future EU trade deals".

Mr Corbyn also wants close alignment with the EU single market and "dynamic alignment on rights and protections" for workers so that UK standards do not fall behind those of the EU.

He also proposes participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, and agreements on security and keeping access to the European Arrest Warrant. The letter does not mention previous demands that any deal must deliver the "exact same benefits" that membership of the single market and customs union currently does - effectively scrapping the party's "six tests" that had been its Brexit policy.

BBC



Facebook ordered by Germany to gather less data

Germany's competition authority has told Facebook it can only continue gathering so much data about users from beyond its app and website if it gets individuals' consent.

The watchdog has carried out a probe into the social network following concerns that

members were unaware of the extent of the firm's activities.

It covered data gathered from third-party sources as well as via Facebook's other apps, including Instagram.

The US firm has said it will appeal.

Specifically, the FCO has ruled that:

Facebook's various services can continue to collect data, but they cannot combine it with the user's main Facebook account unless the member gives their voluntary consent

collecting data from third-party websites and assigning it to a Facebook user's account is likewise only allowed if that member has given the firm permission

The watchdog added that an "obligatory tick on the box" to agree to all the company's terms was not a sufficient basis for "such intensive data processing". The ruling only applies to the firm's activities in Germany, but is likely to influence other regulators.

Facebook claims the Federal Cartel Office has overstepped the mark by pursuing a data privacy matter that Facebook says falls under the remit of another regulator.

It has one month to challenge the ruling before it becomes legally effective.

If the order is upheld, the company must develop technical solutions to ensure it

complies within four months.

The FCO's justification for the case is that it believes Facebook abused its market dominance to gather the data.

"In future, Facebook will no longer be allowed to force its users to agree to the practically unrestricted collection and assigning of non-Facebook data to their Facebook user accounts," explained Andreas Mundt, the FCO's president.

"The combination of data sources substantially contributed to the fact that Facebook was able to build a unique database for each individual user and thus to gain market power."

The ruling could affect the firm's use of the Like and Share buttons on external sites, which lets Facebook track each visitor's internet protocol (IP) address, web browser name and version, and other details that can be used to identify them. This is true, even if users never click on the buttons.

Likewise, the Facebook Login, which lets users avoid having to type in a unique username and password for each service, shares similar device-identifying information.

In a blog, it added that the FCO had overlooked steps it had already taken to be compliant with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force last year. *BBC*

Jay-Z hires lawyer for rapper 21 Savage,

American Hip-hop mogul, Jay-Z has reacted to 21 Savage's arrest by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

It had been reported that 21

savage was arrested by U.S. immigration after they discovered he is a British citizen living in the US illegally.

ICE is reportedly holding 21

Savage in the state of Georgia for being unlawfully present in the US and for being a felon. He was convicted of drugs charges in 2014.

But, Jay-Z reacting to the arrest, said it was "an absolute travesty", explaining that his US Visa application has been pending for years.

Jay-Z was quoted saying: "In addition to being a successful recording artist, 21 deserves to be reunited with his children immediately."

It was also confirmed that Jay-Z's company, Roc Nation has responded to what it calls a "matter of injustice" by hiring attorney Alex Spiro to assist with his case.

Spiro told BBC, "We are not going to stop until he is released, bonded out or in front of a judge."

"What we have here is someone who overstayed their Visa with an application pending for 4 years not a convicted criminal that needs to be detained and removed but, by all accounts a wonderful person, father, and entertainer who has a marijuana offence which was vacated and sealed." *BBC*



By Abraham Kalito
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development Permanent Secretary Joe Kaemba has urged youths to acquire the right sport and governance that will see the development of Africa as a continent. Speaking during the Africa

Kapembwa urges youths to acquire the right sports and governance skills

Youth and Governance general Assembly in Lusaka yesterday, Kapembwa also the need for a paradigm shift among youths to enhance their decision making. "We need to create a youth leadership with a vision

and the right mindset. There is need for our youth to acquire skills for sports and good governance in order to develop our economy. What our youths need to keep in mind is that they should learn to mobilise resources both internally and externally for the development of our continent. As young leaders you need to mobilise other youths to follow suit and become agents of change within their respective communities and countries," he said. "As government we need

to continue invest in quality appropriate education that equips youths with skills and attitude that will make them see the development of Africa as a priority and responsibility. We should stop enying other continents as we can, should and will develop our own continent. This indeed should be the focus of Africa as our homeland. The government is committed to ensuring that the youths are well trained and have the right life skills which include entrepreneurship."

Siwale Sues FAZ, seeks to overturn ban

By Abraham Kalito
Former FAZ executive member Blackwell Siwale has sued the FA demanding compensatory and exemplary damages whilst further demanding that his ban be declared null and void. Siwale also applied for an injunction restraining Kashala and FAZ from enforcing the ban and interfering with his enjoyment and participating in football related activities. "You are commanded in the presidents name that within 21 days after the service of this writ on You, inclusive of the day old such service, you do cause an appearance to be enter on you in an action at the suit of Blackwell Siwale; and take note that in default of your so doing the plaintiff may proceed therein and judgement Mayne given in your absence. Witness the Honourable

Irene Mambilima, the Chief Justice of Zambia," read the summon. "The plaintiff claims for; compensatory damages, Exemplary damages, declaration that the defendants decision to ban the plaintiff from any stadia FAZ affiliate is null and void. An order of injunction restraining the defendant whether by itself, agents or servants, from circulating or publishing the said letter containing the words stated in paragraph four herein, from enforcing the said decision of banning the plaintiff and interfering with the plaintiff enjoyment of participating in football activities and entering in any stadia affiliate of FAZ. Any other relief that the court may seem fit and costs." FAZ banned Siwale from football related activities for his alleged involvement in circulating confidential documents.

According to FAZ communications manager, Desmond Katongo, Siwale was found guilty of uttering statements with potential to scare away FAZ partners, April last year. "The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has with immediate effect banned former expelled FAZ Executive Committee member, Mr Blackwell Siwale from all football related activities," said FAZ in a statement. Following a meeting held by the FAZ Ethics Committee, on Friday April 6, 2018, Chaired by Mr Kephass Katongo, Mr Siwale was found guilty of obtaining and circulating illegally obtained FAZ documents," Katongo said. "He has further been found guilty of uttering statements with potential to scare away FAZ partners and potential partners.

Buffaloes secretary defends under fire Bwale over results

By Alex Chilumbwe
Green Buffaloes club secretary Lt Colonel Mwamba Mundubile has backed under fire coach Charles Bwale who has gone two games in the 2019 FAZ/MTN transitional league without a win. Bwale's first fixture as Buffaloes coach pinned him against CAF Confederations Cup envoys ZESCO United where he lost 1-0 while the second one was against newly promoted side Prison Leopards where he recorded a goalless draw. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Mundubile said that it was too early to judge Bwale based on two games, calling for fans' patience. "It is too soon to judge coach Bwale based on

results from two games. He needs to be given more time and at this point, I would like fans to exercise more patience and see what happens in other fixtures," said Mundubile. But a group of disappointed Buffaloes supporters led by Chintu Belemu and Clinton Mwape called for the sacking of Bwale and accused the club management of wanting to fix what was not broken with former coach Biltone Musonda. "We have not won any game so far while other clubs have straight wins in their two matches. Biltone knew how to work with the same players that Bwale is not utilizing well. We featured in CAF Confederations Cup so we are supposed to show other teams that it was not by lucky. We need to win games instead of hoping to win in the next fixture," said Belemu. "The problem is that Buffaloes management is trying to fix what was not broken with former coach. They did not even tell us why they sacked a winning coach. ZESCO, Nkana, Green Eagles and ZANACO are already recording important wins while we are failing to score against a newly promoted team. Kuzakula mukwenu kulibanga(Luvale for 'Winning a fight requires you hit your opponent first')." said Mwape. Buffaloes are in stream A of the league and with only a point in their confers.



Barcelona's Malcom celebrates scoring his teams equalizer against Real Madrid in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday

Janza backs Mwansa's leave request at Kitwe United

By Alex Chilumbwe
Former Zambia National Team coach Honour Janza has backed Kitwe United football club coach Steven Mwansa's decision of asking for leave days from club executive committee because of a poor working relationship with his assistant, Ernest Koffi. Janza, who tutored Zambia Air Force sponsored side Red Arrows in the first round of the 2018 FAZ/MTN super league before

management sacked him for Chisi Mbewe following a series of losses, said that Mwansa's request for a leave indicated that he had the best interests of Kitwe United at heart. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Janza said that he understood why it was important for coaches to get along in the quest to efficiently serve a team. "I do not see anything wrong with asking for off days from your bosses because you have a poor working

relationship with your assistant. If he was a selfish person, he was just going to suck it up and use his seniority but he has clearly shown that he has the best interests of Kitwe United at heart. That calls for respect for his decision," said Janza. On February 06, Kitwe United boss Gabriel Akayomboka confirmed in an interview that Mwansa asked for off days from the executive committee because he was at loggerheads with his assistant.

Meanwhile, Kitwe United midfielder Haveson Ching'ambo hoped that whatever was causing a poor working relationship between Mwansa and Koffi would quickly be ridden out in order for the team to concentrate on winning games. The Kitwe-based outfit is in Stream A of the 2019 FAZ/MTN transitional league and without a point following their 1 nil loss to Nakambala Leopards, and 2-1 to Kabwe Warriors.

Unopposed Ceferin re-elected as UEFA president

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin was on Thursday re-elected for a four-year term as head of European football's governing body by acclamation.

The 51-year-old Slovenian lawyer was the only candidate going forward for election at the UEFA Congress in Rome.

Ceferin took over two and a half years ago after the corruption scandal that toppled his predecessor, Frenchman Michel Platini.

"I am honoured," said Ceferin, thanking members of UEFA's 55 member associations for re-electing him, saying he was taking over with "fewer doubts and less scepticism than back then".

"The most dangerous thing we can do is rest on our laurels and bask in our current situation," he continued.

"So, what's going to happen

now? That is the question many people were asking when I was elected two and a half years ago," said Ceferin.

"It was a legitimate and pertinent question. A question that I asked myself, to be totally honest with you. It was a bit of a jump into the unknown.

"At that time, football, at both world and European levels, was being rocked by the most serious governance crisis in its history and yet you decided to entrust the keys to the UEFA house to a virtual unknown."

Previously the head of the Slovenian Football Federation, Ceferin's presidency has so far been marked by his discretion and a less charismatic approach than that of Platini.

The Frenchman is still suspended until October this year, when he will



complete a four-year ban from all football-related activities following the

corruption scandal that also brought down then-FIFA chief Sepp Blatter.

Ceferin defended his record since taking over with his most notable

achievement being the introduction of term limits for UEFA presidents, to a maximum of three four-year stints.

"Limited terms of office, the publication of salaries, the creation of a Compensation Committee and the inclusion of independent members in a reinforced Governance and Compliance Committee are just a few of the common-sense reforms we have introduced," he said.

"This is only the start. We will be doing more in this area because there remain weaknesses in our system.

"When crisis hits, it is not the time to suddenly forsake everything that has gone before. I am not the president of a 'new UEFA'. I am the president of UEFA, a UEFA that can be proud of its past and confident about the future."

Ceferin promised to work closely with world football governing body FIFA.

"With our unity restored, we will be a source of constructive ideas for FIFA, rather than one of opposition. And we expect the same attitude from FIFA."

The UEFA chief also promised to work to bring the 2030 FIFA World Cup back to Europe. AFP

SIWALE SUES FAZ

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Barcelona and Real Madrid players battle it out in the Copa del Rey at Camp Nou on Wednesday