



President Edgar Lungu (above) addresses PF supporters in Sesheke, as his rival UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema (left) also solicits for votes. The two leaders were drumming up support for their respective candidates ahead of tomorrow's parliamentary by-elections

# ELA GRANDMASTER OF CORRUPTION

**...he is protecting members of his corruption syndicate - Changala**

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
Governance activist Brebner Changala says President Edgar Lungu cannot fire arrested Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela from his position because he is also a beneficiary of the corruption that the minister has been charged accused of. And Changala has told President Lungu to keep Chitotela in his house if he doesn't want to lose him. In an interview Changala said President Lungu was the grandmaster of corruption and that his public declaration that he could not relieve Chitotela of his duties merely on corruption allegation only confirmed his participation. *To page 2*

**Pick n Pay Kabulonga Mall selling rotten food - Sampa**  
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**Luo has no powers to abolish students' meal allowances - Action Aid**  
*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
Action Aid Zambia Country Director Nalucha Ziba says Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo has got no powers to abolish meal allowances for university students because the allowance is a legal entitlement. *Story page 2*



ZRA seized a consignment of smuggled assorted whykey bottles at Katimamulilo border stashed in the bonnet of the above car as it entered Zambia yesterday

**ACC, UPND conniving to scandalise Lungu's influential ministers - Kamba**  
*Story page 5*

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Sinda Independent member of parliament Masauso Tembo says hunger among his constituents is alarming as people spend several nights without eating anything.

In an interview after distributing mealie meal to some wards in his constituency, Tembo, commonly referred to as 'Kazungula', said he had no option other than buying mealie meal to distribute in some wards though the consignment was

## Sinda MP appeals for relief food to aid hunger-stricken residents

insufficient.

"There is hunger among our communities as people have nothing to eat! And when you see them, you even see that hunger is written on people's faces! Since these are the people who made me who I am, I decided to scout some little coins to buy mealie meal so that even

the little I share can make a difference to the people," Tembo explained.

He distributed about 300 bags of mealie meal to various wards such as Nyamasonkho, Chilongozi and other wards to mitigate residents' suffering.

"So far, I have distributed about 300 bags of mealie meal

to the people as we targeted ward by ward, but to tell you the truth; the 300 bags we managed to distribute was just a drop in the ocean because it's nearly everyone in these communities who is affected with hunger! Even some fields indicate that we still have a challenge as some look promising, while most

fields, it's destruction," he narrated.

Tembo appealed to the PF government to consider providing relief food to his area, saying the last time government, through Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, gave his constituency only 1,000 bags of maize that were

insufficient.

"I know the PF government is working, and as our parent, we still beg and appeal to it to consider our plight such as hunger. We last received about 2,000 bags of maize as a district to which we shared 1,000 each constituency, but the needy people are too many, so we thank our able government of PF under his Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu for the consideration. We still kneel before government to help us with some more bags as a way to cushion the hunger status in these areas," Tembo pleaded.

He further encouraged the electorate in Sinda to remain hopeful in the PF government as it was doing everything possible to help, adding that he would also continue assisting in own capacity to provide more foodstuffs.

"Be patient, our government is doing all to provide help to us. We have to remember that our government has a lot of areas to look at meaning we are not the only ones hit with hunger, but we have to wait a little bit and even myself, I will not rest as I will keep reminding and asking our government to help us," appealed Tembo.

## Nkandu Luo has no powers to abolish students' meal allowances - Action Aid

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Action Aide Zambia Country Director Nalucha Ziba says Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo has got no powers to abolish meal allowances for university students because the allowance is a legal entitlement.

In a statement, Ziba said Luo cannot, by virtue of the powers conferred in Section 37 of the higher education loans and a scholarship, purport to abolish a loan, allowance or scholarship prescribed by law. "The government, through the Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo, has confirmed that all new students in higher learning institutions will now not receive meal allowances. According to Prof Luo, the government wants parents or guardians of these students on bursaries to provide the needed meal allowances. However, meal allowances are a legal entitlement according to Section 24 (1) (b) to (c) of the higher education loans and a scholarship Act number 31 of 2016 which state that; 'a prescribed sum of money per academic year to assist in defraying the cost of books

and other supplies required by the student in the student's faculty or department at the higher education institution; and a living allowance in the prescribed amount per academic year," Ziba stated.

"A meal allowance is therefore captured within a living allowance in the prescribed amount per academic year as per Section 24 (1) (c) of the said Act. Therefore, the Minister and the Higher Education Board have no power to abolish provisions of the meal allowances for public universities. Although Section 37 (1) of the said Act empowers the Minister, by statutory instrument, to make regulations for implementation of the provisions of the Act, the Minister CANNOT, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 37 of the Act, purport to abolish a loan, allowance or scholarship prescribed by the Act as the extent to which those regulations may be spelt out under Section 37 (2) of the Act."

Ziba expressed concern that most students from poor families would fail to sustain their lives while trying to

pursue education.

"With this action, most students from poor families will fail to sustain their lives while pursuing an education, which is a fundamental human right. This will force many of them to divide their limited time between studying and looking for survival mechanisms. This sad reality will, in the end, put the lives

of the young people at risk, especially young women who are the most vulnerable," stated Ziba.

"ActionAid Zambia therefore joins students countrywide in condemning the decision of the Minister of Higher Education to end the provision of a living allowance to students. We consider such an action as a desire by the Minister and

the administration to punish students from poor families, now and in future, who depend on the allowance in their pursuit of higher education. The statutory instrument the Minister is empowered to make is for purpose of enhancing the provisions of the Act and not to abolish anything the parent Act has already made provision for."

## Chitotela defence confirms Lungu is running a corruption syndicate, charges Changala

By Mirriam Chabala

Governance activist Brebner Changala says President Edgar Lungu cannot fire arrested Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela from his position because he is also a beneficiary of the corruption that the minister has been charged accused of.

And Changala has told President Lungu to keep Chitotela in his house if he does not want to lose him.

Changala told News Diggers in an interview that President Lungu was the grandmaster of corruption and that his public declaration that he could not relieve Chitotela of his duties merely on corruption allegation only confirmed his participation.

Last week, President Lungu said he was not going to fire Chitotela, who is also the ruling party's Pambashe member of parliament, saying he was not willing to lose him.

"The real issue now which the people of Zambia must take into account and very seriously is that President Edgar Chagwa Lungu is equally a suspect now that he has refused to drop Chitotela.

There is no way the wings of government that help you to govern a country in a more profound and accountable manner blacks out one of your men, one of your ministers as a suspect and places him under investigation and you refuse to deal with him. What he (President Lungu) was supposed to do if he was serious and he was doing his work on behalf of the people of Zambia and with the interest of the country at heart, was to suspend Bwana Ronald Chitotela so that the man can stay out of authority and does not interfere with the investigations that the ACC have now mounted," Changala said. "The same government suspended a very junior worker in Kalomo because they were going to investigate whatever he did at the hospital and he only went back to work when he was cleared. In this case, the President says he can't surrender Chitotela. In fact, in his own words he says 'I can't lose Chitotela'. Yes he can't lose him; he can keep him at his house but not in government offices, not at all. What the President is telling us is that he's not running a Cabinet that serves the interest of the people of Zambia. I

am getting worried that it looks like the President is running a syndicate. The only problem with this syndicate is that it's on tax payer's cost, it is at our cost."

Changala insisted that Chitotela was a suspected criminal who should not be allowed anywhere near public office.

"The people of Zambia do not want Chitotela, he's of no use, he's a suspected criminal. You cannot allow a suspect to continue presiding on national issues so that he continues doing wrong things that he's suspected of doing. But to protect yourselves as a syndicate, the President who seems to be the boss of this syndicate, he cannot let go of one of his own henchmen. President Edgar Lungu must realise this and the earlier he realises, good for him that he will be made to account one day. He has no muscle to protect himself once the veil of the Presidency is removed from him. He will suffer and suffer consequences. But my take right now as a citizen, President Edgar Lungu is equally a prime suspect in this matter and Anti-Corruption must look in that direction, they will find some smelly stuff.

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# JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ON THE UNPLEASANT STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

## ISSUED ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2019

We, the three (3) Trade Unions at the University of Zambia (University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers' Union, University of Zambia Professional Staff Union; University of Zambia Allied Workers' Union), would like to inform the general public of the current unpleasant state of affairs at the Institution of Higher Learning. It appears mal-administration and incompetence has become part of 'the DNA' of how the institution is being managed by both Management and the Government under the Ministry of Higher Education. The following are among the many issues that we want the public to be aware of before we take our next course of action:

### 1. PERPETUAL DELAY IN RELEASING THE MONTHLY GRANT BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PAYROLL COST

It has become like a 'Constitutional Compliance Act', by the Ministry of Finance through the Ministry of Higher Education to delay releasing the monthly grant which contributes only 30% to the Payroll cost. As of today, 5th February, 2019, the January salaries have not been paid yet due to non-remittance of the grant by the Government and UNZA Management do not know when the salaries will be paid. Surely should the payment of a salary be a myth like any common fairies? We feel that this perpetual delay is a calculated deliberate act meant to cause mental anguish and torture to our members because always the main stream civil service and defense forces get paid before us and yet funding comes from one basket. We would like to remind and warn UNZA Management and the Ministry that failing to pay salaries on the appropriate date as provided for in the Employment Act and domesticated in the Collective agreements is a breach of employment contractual terms and conditions. We are aware that UNZA and the Government are champions of lawlessness as they sometimes do not even obey court rulings and in this respect, we wish to warn that we are also capable of becoming lawless and unreasonable as no one should have monopoly of causing anarchy and inconveniencing others.

### 2. THE NEW FINANCING STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES HAS NO FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO REALIZE ITS OBJECTIVES

#### Background

Government developed a new finance strategy for public Universities through a Cabinet Memorandum and was approved on 14th August 2017. This Financing strategy has many objectives which among them are:

- To help liquidate Public Universities debt;
- Help avoid possible insolvency of public Universities because of the new Republican constitution which provides that retired employees be retained on the payroll as long as their dues are not paid;

- Improve quality of education;
- To harmonize conditions of service in three Public universities using the concept of the 2012 public pay policy and other tools such as joint negotiations.

In order to attain the objectives of the Financing Strategy, financial resources are required, and to this effect, in 2018 the Ministry of Higher Education through the Ministry of Finance budgeted about 101 million kwacha towards dismantling of debt but shockingly only 23 million kwacha, which in addition to being inadequate, was only released late December 2018.

The University of Zambia owes retirees, deceased and serving employees a total of about 655.9 million kwacha which, according to the Financing strategy, should be settled within a period of three years starting 2018. We are now in 2019 and only 23 million kwacha has been released so far against Government's own commitments and pronouncements.

Furthermore, the same strategy seeks to harmonize conditions of service in the Public Universities within the same period as illustrated above resulting in 33.33% implementation per year. However, during the 2018 financial year, in the case of UNZA, only about 0.12% was committed towards harmonization turning the three-year target into wishful thinking.

From the information above it is clear that the Government and Management are not serious and somehow not committed to this new financing strategy approved by Cabinet and more so to the provision of quality higher education to our people.

### 3. DEVELOPING CANCEROUS DICTATORIAL TENDENCIES BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT

We have observed that the Ministry and UNZA management are beginning to develop and implement a cancerous dictatorial management style whereby they impose decisions and policy changes without consulting major stakeholders. Below are some of these new regrettable phenomena:

- (i) The proposed transition of UNZA from a Unitary system into college system is purely the Ministry's creation and this was normalized by asking UNZA Management to prepare 'a smoke screen' position paper so that it appears as if the request came from UNZA when in fact not. We, as employees, of this institution were not consulted or explained to about this transition and its financial implications. This creation is not different from the failed Health boards system under health reforms at Ministry of Health. We are also aware that this new system has a huge budget due to many high ranking positions to be created in the organizational structure. The creation of new high ranking positions in the University structures is a ploy meant to provide employment corruptly to friends and relatives within the system. If the institution

is currently struggling financially why create more problems by expanding the staff establishment? Besides no budget allocation has been given to UNZA to implement this unnecessary structural change.

(ii) The proposed abolishment of the long standing first in first out (FIFO) method which is being used in UNZA to disburse funds for terminal benefits and gratuities to deceased, retirees and serving employees is yet another terrible decision lacking consultation. This proposed abolishment is a directive from the Ministry purporting that this is part of the new financing strategy when in fact not. At the time of drafting this press statement the 23 million kwacha mentioned above was being disbursed in line with the Ministry's directive which in itself is contrary to UNZA policy.

As stakeholders we made proposals to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of High Education, but our proposal was thrown out. It is now becoming clear that the Ministry thinks they are doing the institution a favour in funding it when in fact it is their legal

responsibility to do so since UNZA is a public owned institution.

### 4. THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN SOME

#### OPERATIONAL MATTERS OF THE INSTITUTION CONTRARY TO GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

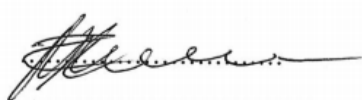
As the public may wish to know the University Act of 2013 prescribes how Universities are supposed to be managed and among other things it provides for the appointment of University Councils (equivalent to a Board in the corporate world) which is a policy making body. The Council in turn appoints Management and the Ministry of Higher Education appoints Council. The relationship of the Ministry and UNZA is similar to a shareholder and a Company.

What is currently happening is that the Ministry is micromanaging public Universities by directly issuing instructions and policy changes to Management as opposed to channel the same through University Council. For example, the Ministry currently dictates and provides negotiations parameters directly to Management without knowledge of Councils.

This breach was brought to their attention but ignored with impunity.

It should be noted that we the trade Unions at the University of Zambia have for the past three years desisted to engage ourselves in activities which could have resulted in major industrial unrest but with the issues highlighted above we are now unable to guarantee any industrial harmony at this institution. It appears Government and Management only understands the language of anarchy and lawlessness which we are willing and capable of speaking.

Issued on behalf of UNZALARU, UNZAPROSU and UNZAAWU executives on this day of 5th February 2019



Dr. Kelvin Mambwe, PhD

General Secretary – UNZALARU



Mr. Nalucha Mayamba

A/General Secretary, UNZAPROSU



Mr. Willa Mulabika

UNZAAWU - General Secretary

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND secretary general Stephen Katuka says Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has no right to order police to arrest their leader, Hakainde Hichilema for simply campaigning. In a statement, Sunday, Katuka reminded Kampyongo that during election campaigns, President Lungu was just as important as other political players. "We wish to take great exception at Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo's reckless statement threatening to arrest our President Hakainde Hichilema for no valid reason. What Kampyongo should know is that a by election is not a state function requiring the Head of State to have Presidential duty in a campaign area. The Constitution of Zambia amendment No.2 of 2016 and the Electoral Process Act 2016 do not regard the President as a state figure on the tour of duty when he goes to campaign; He is as important as other political players. Why would Kampyongo think president Hichilema cannot go to campaign in an area of a by election for as long as Lungu is there, when HH is a leader of a political party?" Katuka asked. "Why is Kampyongo and his President Lungu so uncomfortable to compete with president Hichilema? We do not

# Kampyongo has no right to order HH's arrest - UPND

know which constitution Kampyongo and Lungu believe in. We want to warn that the United Party for National Development (UPND), this time around will not tolerate arbitrary arrests of its president. Is Kampyongo aware of the live ammunitions fired at President Hichilema? Yet we decided not to reiterate? Is he behind this illegal operation? We wish to warn that it is people like Kampyongo who will go to jail if they want to think that they can do anything outside the law." He stated that Hichilema was free to campaign without intimidation. "President Hichilema is free to campaign as provided for in the law. Kampyongo is Home Affairs Minister and not a Patriotic Front Cadre. He should realize that he is presiding over the civil servants who execute their duty within the ambit of the law. Has President Lungu relinquished his powers to Kampyongo? Is Kamyongo telling us he is now the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces for him to command the Police to arrest HH? We have no doubt that Kampyongo and his Lungu are responsible for the live ammunitions fired at

our President in Sesheke. We wish to remind them that what happened in Sesheke where Police fired live ammunitions at innocent citizens who are trying to exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms is crime against humanity and an act of terrorism," Katuka stated. He stated that

Kampyongo would soon be made to account for his reckless acts. "We shall not hesitate to bring individuals like Kampyongo to account for such reckless acts before the court in due course. Kampyongo's utterances also boarder on treason as he has usurped Presidential

powers by assuming the role of a Commander in chief of the Police Service by giving unlawful orders to the Police. We would like to warn Kampyongo that we shall not hesitate to bring legal action against him if he thinks he is above the law. Time will soon come for him to account for his

actions," stated Katuka. "Kampyongo should realize that leaders come and go. Every person has his own day. He is not the first and last Home Affairs Minister. He must allow the people to exercise their right to vote for the leader of their choice without sending Police to terrorize Sesheke residents as a way of keeping them away from voting. We wish to urge all the electorates to ignore Kampyongo's barbaric behavior and turn up in big numbers and vote for a leader of their choice without fear."



Kalumbila Minerals Limited malaria specialist Mulenga Musapa (second right) and the health promotions team display a malaria campaign poster in Kalumbila District, Thursday - Picture by Andrew-Knock Kaniki/SUMA SYSTEMS.

By Milimo Namangala

The kwacha is starting to appreciate partly owing to Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe's regular disclosure of market sensitive information in a timely manner, says economist Chibamba Kanyama. By the end of the first week of February, the kwacha had been bullish against the US dollar, now trading below K11.90 per dollar for the first time this year. The local currency had marginally appreciated against the greenback on account of positive sentiment from news that the government would target an IMF deal by the end of the year, resulting in the local unit gaining to close at K11.84 per dollar on the offer, FNB's daily treasury newsletter stated, Friday. Responding to a press query, Kanyama stated that the timely disclosure of market-sensitive information by Mwanakatwe had noticeably raised optimism in investors, a situation that had begun to stabilise the local currency.

# Mwanakatwe's regular data disclosure strengthening kwacha, notes Chibamba

"...There has, however, been one significant positive development on the part of the Zambian economy: The Minister of Finance has lately been much more proactive in information and data disclosure as well as fiscal discipline, a stance the market is beginning to appreciate. Information disclosure is important because at the time the (Euro)bond broke the 13 percent yield rate barrier in May (2018), most investors were reacting to lack of information disclosure; and at the time; the Ministry of Finance website was down raising suspicions the government was concealing data; and that was the same period the investors had expected Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe to be on a road show in London. However, since August, 2018, the Minister has been flooding the market with available data and this can

have some positive impact on subduing negative sentiment and calming the market," Kanyama noted. He explained that investor confidence was slowing returning, helping the kwacha make a come back. "What's likely happening with the Zambian kwacha is that there are investors who believe it cannot continue losing any more and are now cashing in hence its relative super performance," he observed. And commenting on the rise of Zambia's positive Eurobond performance where returns of over 10 percent were seen, Kanyama explained that Zambia's sovereign bond had risen in the bonds market, partly due to foreign investors' speculation and the United States' recent economic activities. According to Bloomberg, Zambia's Eurobonds had a total return of 10.3 percent last December,

more than any other in 75 emerging markets. "The Southern African copper producer's dollar debt has made a total return of 10.3 percent since the end of December, more than any of the other 75 nations in the Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Markets USD Sovereign Bond Index," a Bloomberg report stated. "The super performance of the Zambian sovereign bond on the global exchange for traded funds is in part due to an investment cycle associated with such securities and this may have been exacerbated by the recent developments in the USA where appetite for equities shifted drastically owing to FedRate hike (in December); USA-China tensions and the seeming strengthening of the USA dollar. Fund managers generally do not hold funds in a safe or fixed deposit account when one asset is experiencing volatilities or

uncertainty; they look for other opportunities. When one asset loses, another shows prospects; in other words, asset classes rarely get exposed to similar risks at the same time and this has somewhat induced appetite for the Zambian bond for the most bullish investors," stated Kanyama. "Another investment rule is to track underperforming assets because when it gets worse, it can only get better, hence certain investors sale or buy to maximise on wider spreads but this can only last as long. It works the same way as speculative foreign currency traders who will keep holding on the dollar hoping the local currency will keep losing value, but when they observe the currency may no longer continue losing value, they quickly dump the foreign currency to maximise gains. My assessment is based on the fact that there

have been no underlying or fundamental market developments to induce a sustainable appetite for the Zambian bond except for the subsidizing negative sentiment. All other factors that can affect the quality of the asset have more or less remained as they were at the time the bond was worst performing: the external debt has not reduced to mitigate country risk on possible default though this looks very unlikely; the foreign reserves have remained at below two months of import cover; the IMF programme is still a pipedream; unless I missed it, there has not been latest ratings by the rating agencies (Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch) about Zambian creditworthiness; the fiscal deficit is still above target and the budget for 2019 is still to have a complete approval when the Sales Tax is introduced in April."

# ACC conniving with UPND to scandalise Lungu's influential ministers - Kamba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Aspiring PF Lusaka Province chairman Kennedy Kamba says investigative wings are being used by the opposition UPND to align cabinet ministers to corruption so that when they get fired, President Edgar Lungu can remain alone. Kamba who is also former PF Lusaka provincial youth chairman told News Diggers in an interview that he also had names of senior officers from investigative wings like ACC, DEC and Zambia

Police who are pro-UPND. He saluted President Lungu for refusing to fire arrested Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela. "We want to commend the president for the decision he made not to fire honourable Chitotela. We strongly feel as PF members that it is the right decision and in the right direction. In the same vein as the former provincial youth chairman of Lusaka, we want to air our grievances

against the investigative wings; the ACC, DEC and other investigative wings. We have information that they are being used by the opposition to weaken the government of His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu to bring down the PF and to usher in the UPND. We have got names of very senior officers at these institutions who are pro-UPND," Kamba said. He charged that a list of ministers from PF strongholds like Muchinga, Luapula, and Northern provinces who

were loyal to the president were being targeted by investigative wings. "So in the same vein the PF lost Chishimba Kambwili [and] that is the same formula they want to use even to Chitotela and others. We know that there is a list of members of the party and especially cabinet ministers who are very loyal to the president and who hail from the strongholds of the party which is Muchinga, Luapula, and Northern Provinces are being targeted so that they can pursued them when

they are fired, to join the forces of the UPND like what happened to Mr Chishimba Kambwili. And we strongly believe that up to now, the same investigative wings who were alleging that Chishimba Kambwili is corrupt up to now we strongly believe that they haven't proved him wrong in the courts of law. And by saying so, we are not in anyway trying to persuade the decision of the court knowing very well that the matter is before the court," Kamba charged. "We strongly feel that

Chishimba Kambwili is innocent until proven guilty by the courts of law. So in the same vein this is how they want this issue of Chitotela to happen. They want Chitotela to be made to be the enemy of the president and the enemy of the party by using the investigative wings. We want to tell them that we know that they are working with the opposition and as the party we cannot keep quiet. We know that they have got a list of ministers who are to be given false allegations of corruption so that they can scandalise the Government of His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu [and] the scandalise the PF Government. The ministers who are being targeted are coming from the strongholds of the PF." And Kamba warned that he would not praise investigative wings of government which had been infiltrated by the opposition. "But we want to warn the investigative wings that let them not politicise those institutions. Let them not take politics to ACC, let them not take politics to DEC, police and other investigative wings because we are not going to keep quiet. All they want is to frustrate, arrest [and] scandalise those who are pro PF, those who are loyal to President Edgar Chagwa Lungu so that the president can remain vulnerable, which we are not going to allow as the party," said Kamba.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa has accused Pick n Pay franchise chain store at Lusaka's Kabulonga Central Mall of stocking rotten food, adding that he will not hesitate to name and shame them. And Sampa says he will name and shame anyone else who doesn't keep Lusaka City clean, unless the culprit is President Edgar Lungu and his minister, Vincent Mwale. On Friday during Choppies birthday bonanza draw, Sampa said he was going to name and shame Pick n Pay for stocking rotten food, adding that he had received numerous complaints from consumers. When asked in an interview if his health inspectors had approached Pick n Pay to verify facts that the chain store was stocking rotten food, Sampa said regardless of that, he had received enough complaints, adding that he had launched a campaign called 'name and shame' where he would be exposing anyone who did not keep the city clean. "I have launched a program called 'name and shame' to name anyone who is not keeping Lusaka clean, green and healthy. As mayor, I will expose anybody that is acting in a way that is against the 'keep Lusaka clean, green and healthy' as we have been guided by our President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. I will go flat out to expose, name and shame anyone, regardless of who they are. The only ones I may not name and shame is his Excellency the President because he is the President, and my minister Vincent Mwale because I report to him. Any other person I will shame and name you.

## Pick n Pay Kabulonga Mall is selling rotten food - Sampa

This campaign has worked very well in other countries especially England and London," he stated. "In the same light, anyone who does good things in support of keeping Lusaka clean, green and health, I will name and compliment you. I will expose and say 'this person is doing a good job'. The choice is to the residents of Lusaka." He said among the people who had complained to him about Pick n Pay selling rotten food was former Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda's daughter Bwalya. "I just don't act from nowhere, I have to have a complaint. I had a complaint from a number of Lusaka residents. One of them being Bwalya Chikwanda, the daughter of former finance minister. She called me and complained about the quality of food staff in Pick n Pay, Kabulonga Central Mall. She claimed that the fridges were not working and that they have no backup for power so the food staff there was rotten. She had bought some offals or chicken and when she was cooking at home, there were flies all over because the food was rotten. I ignored her complaint but then another person called and complained. So this is the response to the complaint against Pick n Pay," he said. And Sampa disclosed that after naming and shaming Pick n Pay on Friday, it's entire management went to his office to confront him

for exposing them without verifying fact with them. He added that during his campaign of 'name and shame', he would not call or warn anyone, but would just expose. "Pick n Pay immediately after lunch on Friday after the event, they came to my office, the entire management of Pick n Pay, they were ranting 'how could you say that! You should have called us first'. I told them, 'you are not my girlfriend or wife for me to call you. You are not my bosses or the people who voted for me. My bosses are the voters of Lusaka and when their rights are peddled upon, I stand by them'. In this campaign

of name and shame, I will not call or warn anyone, I will just do it," he said. Asked whether those complaints were from all Pick n Pay outlets, Sampa said the complaint was from one outlet, but remarked that one outlet was affecting the reputation of the rest. "The complaint came from Kabulonga [Central Mall] but what's on the door there is Pick n Pay so it doesn't matter. One bad seed spoils the taste in the mouth. So if all the other Pick n Pay [outlets] are okay but Kabulonga Central Mall is not, then that's a bad seed that is going to spoil their name," he said. "When we had a meeting yesterday, I called my health

inspector, the Council Director of Public Health Mr [Edgar] Mulwanda and the acting Town Clerk, they also confessed that they have visited that particular Pick n Pay Kabulonga [and] it was not the first time that complaints were coming to the council. The acting town clerk who lives somewhere in Ibex Hill, he also told them (management) in their face that he shops from Pick n Pay and he also noticed food staff that was smelling. So there is enough evidence of that." Meanwhile, Sampa warned Pick n Pay that if a similar complaint was reported, the council would close the supermarkets.

## Many people test HIV positive in Sinda, but refuse ART, reveals community counsellor

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

A community health counsellor Kennedy Mwanza has complained that the fight against HIV/AIDS is being undermined by people who are living with the virus but refuse to take Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) in Sinda District. Speaking during a meeting organised by the district council at Kapandula Basic School, Mwanza disclosed that many people who tested HIV positive at Nyanje Mission Hospital, among other health facilities, refused to start treatment. He expressed deep concern that despite refusing to take the life-saving drugs, a research showed that they remained sexually active, with recurring cases of sexually transmitted related cases. "I am a counsellor and I test people

nearly every day, but one thing that hurts and disturbs my mind is that among the people who test positive and their viral load is low, they refuse to be put on ART, yet they are sexually active; a symbol and indication that where they go, they infect others. Like this, you find the effort of government to reduce the rate even these we are talking of 5,000 untraced are among the people who refuse. Government is trying, but someone doesn't want to be helped or to be saved," Mwanza complained. And district AIDS coordination advisor Elliot Njobvu said God's desire was for people to remain faithful to each. "If I was a pastor, I wouldn't have promoted condom use because it's against the will of God, but we are made to distribute because people

are stubborn; they first don't respect the word of God; they don't respect their families and they are not faithful to each other. So, in trying to save someone, we advise them to use condoms," Njobvu narrated. He told the community and traditional leaders that the district had about 11,000 people living with HIV, but that only around 6,000 were on drugs, while the remaining 5,000 were not, posing a danger to people not living with the virus. "Let's bear in mind that we have 5,000 people with the virus, who are living in our communities and are not on drugs, to which everyone of us is at risk. That is why we have to remain faithful to each other if we are married or abstain if we are single, but if you fail to be faithful then use a condom," he explained.



# PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote *Leaving no one behind*

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IN SEVEN YEARS (2011 – 2018): A 7NDP AND VISION 2030 PERSPECTIVE

By Hon. Davies Mwila

### Introduction

When we began this series highlighting the achievements of the Patriotic Front government in seven years (2011 – 2018), we established that since the PF formed Government in 2011 under the late President Michael Chilufya Sata (MHSRIP) -and currently under his Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the national development agenda of the Patriotic front has always been guided by three (03) strategic documents, namely; The Patriotic Front Manifesto(s); The National Development Plans (NDP's); and The Vision 2030. In its quest to realize Zambia's Vision 2030 objective of becoming "a Prosperous Middle-Income Nation by 2030", the national development is guided by national development plans (NDPs), in this case, the 7th National Development Plan (7NDP). The 7NDP has 5 strategic areas, one of these is "economic diversification and job creation". Each strategic area has corresponding development outcomes. Having evaluated the performance of the PF Government on the previous 5 development outcomes under "economic diversification and job creation"; the following paragraphs of this article will evaluate Government's performance vis-à-vis development outcome number 6: "Improved Transport Systems and Infrastructure".

### PF ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 6: "IMPROVED TRANSPORT SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE" FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND JOB CREATION

Improved transport systems and infrastructure play a vital role in the sustainable development process of any country. Speaking during the inspection of the roads under the L400 phase II project on 15th September, 2018, His Excellency President Edgar C. Lungu said :

"Government is committed to transforming Zambia as can be evidenced by the massive infrastructure projects being undertaken. We are trying to change the face of the country as can be attested through the construction of roads.

Roads come with economic prosperity as they facilitate activities such as trade and agriculture; for example farmers would be able to trade quickly, sell fresh produce and save on time".

In line with the above economic case for improved transport systems and infrastructure which was made by President Lungu; a former President of the United States of America, the late John F. Kennedy, is quoted as having said:

"It is not our wealth that created these roads. It is our roads that created the wealth".

### CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF RAILWAYS

In order to improve transport systems and infrastructure for economic diversification and job creation, the 7NDP recommends effective implementation of the "construction and rehabilitation of railways" programme. As such, the PF Government is implementing the "construction and rehabilitation of railways" programme aimed at linking rail routes to important exit points, thereby facilitating Zambia's smooth access to the outside world, enhancing trade in the region and making

Zambia a competitive country for doing business. In this regard, the PF Government has prioritized the comprehensive rehabilitation of Zambia Railways Mainline (including inter-mine lines) and revitalizing the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) to increase operational efficiencies, reduce the cost of freight, and increase the tonnage carried across the network.

In addition, the PF Government is also constructing and rehabilitating strategic railways such as: the Chipata-Petauke-Serenje Railway Line (linking the Port of Nacala in Mozambique to the existing Zambian railway lines); the Chingola to Jimbe Border with Angola route; the Kafue to Zawi, Zimbabwe route; TAZARA Nseluka to Mpulungu Port (to facilitate imports/exports from the Great Lakes region); and a railway link between Zambia and Namibia (Livingstone to Sesheke) to connect to the Walvis Bay-Livingstone-Lusaka-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor.

### DEVELOPMENT OF AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Further, the PF Government is also implementing effectively the "development of aviation infrastructure and operations" programme in line with the 7NDP, in order to "improve transport systems and infrastructure" to foster "economic diversification and jobs creation".

The PF Government maintains an "open sky policy" and is currently promoting the establishment of Zambia as an air cargo hub for the Southern African region through, among others, the upgrading and construction of international airports in Lusaka and Ndola; strategic and secondary airports at Livingstone and Mfuwe; and secondary airports at Chipata, Kitwe, Kasama, Mongu, Solwezi, and Mansa. Collectively, these strategic interventions will lower the cost of doing business in Zambia; strengthen intra-Africa connectivity, which is one of the key elements to attracting increased foreign direct investment (FDI) which Zambia needs while also; turning Zambia into the regional aviation hub and an import and export gateway for mining, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors.

As The 7NDP (page 73) states:

"As a way to diversify the economy, establishment of a national airline will be critical to transportation of passengers and cargo. During the Plan period (2017 to 2021), focus will be on acquiring aircraft to serve domestic, regional and inter-continental routes. Further, arrangements will be made to acquire cargo planes that will assist in exporting agricultural produce to markets in the region and beyond."

In line with the 7NDP, the PF Government shall establish a commercially-operated national airline in 2019 aimed at increasing connectivity between Zambia and other African airports; bring down the airfares which few passengers can afford at present; strengthen economic diversification and transportation of passengers and cargo in regional and inter-continental routes, including; assisting in exporting agricultural produce to regional and international markets to actualize economic diversification.

Due to the effective implementation of the "development of aviation infrastructure and operations" programme by the PF Government,

the National Airports Corporation is one of the few parastatals which is profitable.

### CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF ROAD NETWORK

In line with the 7NDP, the PF Government is effectively implementing the "construction and rehabilitation of road network programme" and the "road revenue and safety enhancement programme" to "improve transport systems and infrastructure" for "economic diversification and job creation". As stated in the 7NDP, and as a fiscally prudent government, road infrastructure development under the PF Government is generally funded through the "user-pays principle".

For example, the 7NDP (page 73) guides that: "Government will also (have to) continue to develop tolls and collect road user charges to finance its programmes in the road sub-sector". As such, the PF Government is implementing Toll Gate Construction to ensure sustainable financing of road construction and upgrading programmes. Some of these road construction and upgrading programmes include; the Link Zambia 8000, land-linking Zambia with her neighbours and beyond by restoring over 8,000KM of roads across the country; the Pave Zambia 2000 to pave 2,000KM of urban roads countrywide; the Feeder Road Rehabilitation (a continuous programme for maintaining feeder roads to stimulate market access for agricultural produce); the C400 to improve 400KM of the road network in the Copperbelt Province, and the L400 to improve 400KM of the road network in/around Lusaka Province.

In addition to the above projects, the PF Government initiated and is implementing the construction and rehabilitation of the Ndola-Lusaka Dual Carriageway, which when completed, shall boost economic development and job creation through enhanced domestic and regional trade from Central, East and Southern African economic regions.

The PF Government is also currently implementing the Lusaka Decongestion Project (LDP) aimed at redesigning the major road network for Lusaka city to reduce traffic jams, travel time, travel distances and help motorists to save on fuel as a result of quicker drive times. The LDP Project includes: rehabilitation and upgrading of the 91.4 KM ring road; a new outer ring road from Kafue road (Makeni) to new Mumbwa road; 4 Grade separators or top-deck roads at 4 selected points of the city (Kafue road/Makeni junction, Kafue round about, Kabwe roundabout, and Arcades roundabout), and so on.

### CONCLUSION:

As can be clearly seen from the foregoing as well as previous articles the PF Government has made tremendous progress in terms of diversifying the economy and creating jobs, in line with the 7NDP. In the next article, we will review the performance of the PF Government in diversifying the economy and creating jobs through "improved water resources development and management" as well as the construction and rehabilitation of maritime and inland waterways in line with the 7NDP. Ends...//...

The author is Patriotic Front Secretary General



# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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**Diggers!**  
Ear to the ground

## The real reasons why Lungu won't fire Chitotela

Last week, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Development Ronald Kaoma Chitotela on suspicion of corruption. Chitotela, 47, was subsequently charged with two counts of concealing property suspected of being proceeds of crime, contrary to Section 71 (1) of the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act Number 19 of 2010. The minister was then released on police bond and is set to appear in court soon. Responding to public calls that Chitotela be removed from his ministerial position, President Edgar Lungu argued that he can only dismiss the Pambashe constituency Patriotic Front (PF) lawmaker if he is eventually found guilty. To avoid misrepresenting what Lungu said, it is worth quoting his remarks at length: "A suspect in the eyes of law enforcement agencies can be arrested. And they have chosen to arrest Honorable Chitotela...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...[To] 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. I [have previously] lost Chishimba Kambwili because of allegations of corruption by the same forces. I don't want to lose Chitotela in the same manner."

Lungu's claim that his decision to keep Chitotela in his ministerial position has to do with his previously unknown commitment to the principles of natural justice is as unconvincing as it is laughable. Since when did one find Lungu and principles of natural justice in the same sentence except when contrasting the two? Much has been said about the dismissal of former Minister of Community Development and Social Services Emerine Kabanshi as well as Zambia Postal Services Corporation Master General Macpherson Chanda to whom the principle of the presumption of 'innocent until proven guilty' was never applied before they were fired. Lungu has also been callously indifferent to thousands of civil servants who have been retired in his official name or in national interest, many of whom were never given a chance to be heard before they lost their jobs. In any case, both the Ministerial Code of Conduct and Section 47 (1) of the Anti-Corruption Act Number 3 of 2012 provide for the immediate suspension of those charged with corruption. So what explains Lungu's double standards in relation to Chitotela's case? In my view, and broadly speaking, there are three reasons why Lungu is reluctant to drop Chitotela from Cabinet.

First, Lungu's presidency has many centres of power and Chitotela's is one of them. The President fears that firing Chitotela might seriously disrupt the stability of other centres, whose sum makes the whole, and potentially drive him into the welcome arms of the opposition. Were he to be fired, there is no guarantee that a disappointed Chitotela might remain in the governing PF; he may opt to join ranks with the fledgling opposition Democratic Party, led by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba, or even the main opposition United Party for National Development. Such a move, were it to materialise, is likely to embolden Lungu's political opponents ahead of the likely-to-be-competitive 2021 election. The President's reference to his loss of Kambwili should be understood in this context.

When serving as a minister in government, Kambwili was not only one of the many centres of power but also Lungu's most vociferous and fervent defender. There was no action the government and Lungu could take that he would not try to justify. Out of office, he has experienced a conversion like St Paul on the Road to Damascus. To diffuse any potential charge that he was previously close to the levers of power, Kambwili has quite successfully recast himself as the spokesperson for the 'common man', street vendors, university students, the workers and many others who are disillusioned with Lungu's rule. In a context of what appears to be a systematic crackdown on free speech, he has also become one of the PF's most trenchant public critics – exposing corruption in government, highlighting Lungu's manifold inadequacies, denouncing economic exploitation by Chinese investors and refusing to be silenced. Although he is no Michael Sata, Kambwili is an effective grassroots mobiliser who has taken a significant portion of support away from the PF, which could potentially hurt the ruling party's re-election prospects – especially on

the Copperbelt where he is quite popular. This is the kind of political effect that Lungu fears may follow Chitotela's dismissal from Cabinet and prosecution on corruption charges. Whereas Kabanshi was a political nonentity of little financial muscle, the President knows that Chitotela may have amassed sufficient wealth to seriously mount an effective challenge to Lungu's power outside the ruling party. Given his narrow election victory in 2016, his subsequent loss of Kambwili's centre of power, and the impending social unrest that is likely to result from Zambia's worsening economic situation, Lungu may have reasoned that he cannot afford to 'lose' Chitotela. Keeping Chitotela in his ministerial position thus prevents him from leaving the PF to join Lungu's opponents.

Second, Lungu may be reluctant to drop Chitotela from Cabinet probably because he (wrongly) thinks that the ACC has no power under the current legal dispensation to prosecute a serving Cabinet minister for abuse of office. Informed by this thinking, he may have reasoned, especially when the first point is taken into consideration, that the courts are thus likely to dismiss Chitotela's case at its preliminary stage and, given this prospect, the benefit of keeping him in his ministerial post far exceeds the cost of dismissing him. Before demonstrating how flawed this thinking (reportedly espoused by the ACC itself) is, it is important to establish its roots. The view that the ACC presently has no powers to prosecute ministers is predicated on the idea that the earlier cited Anti-Corruption Act, under which the investigative body operates, only empowers it to initiate legal action against any 'public officer'. Zambia's amended 2016 Constitution has however introduced another term, 'state officer', which is separate from 'public officer'. Article 266 defines a public officer as 'a person holding or acting in a public office but does not include a state officer, councillor, constitutional office holder, a judge and a judicial officer'. The clause further defines a 'state officer' as 'a person holding or acting in state office', itself defined as any office that 'includes the office of the President, Vice-President, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Member of Parliament, Minister and Provincial Minister'.

The ACC has read and understood these terminologies to mean that it has no mandate to prosecute State officers. It is this thinking that helps explain why the ACC charged Chitotela using the Penal Code and the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act, under which he can be prosecuted in his individual capacity, rather than the Anti-Corruption Act of 2012. It might also explain why the ACC may have decided against charging Chitotela with abuse of office for his other reported serious offences that emanate from the exercise of his official duties. I acknowledge the need to amend the relevant sections of the Anti-Corruption Act' to formally bring the legislation into line with the changed provisions of the Constitution. However, I am not persuaded by the argument that the ACC cannot prosecute ministers as a result of Article 266, though the provision may have been specifically inserted into Zambia's Constitution by the would-be plunderers based on the thinking that doing so would help cover them from prosecution. There is no law that specifically confers immunity from prosecution on Cabinet ministers. The only public official who enjoys such immunity is the President and even in his or her case, such immunity is not absolute. So, the ACC can still prosecute ministers for abuse of office, notwithstanding the definitions in the amended Constitution. I urge the ACC to bring more serious charges against Chitotela and any minister suspected of involvement in corruption.

I must confess though that I have no faith in the current ACC Acting Director Rosemary Khuzwayo and I am not the only one. I know many Zambians who also think she was put into the position because Lungu regarded her as a pliant individual who, like her counterpart in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, would be less likely to take the requirements of her job seriously, which in Khuzwayo's case means proactively investigating corruption. Khuzwayo and her team should not use the terminologies of who is a public or state officer as the pretext on which they cannot prosecute perpetrators of corruption. They must enforce the law and, if in doubt about the meaning and interpretation of who a public officer is in relation to the Anti-Corruption Act and the

amended Constitution, should seek judicial pronouncement on the same. Maintaining the status quo will only reinforce widespread public perceptions that she was put into her position to do the bidding of the executive. I am aware that there are many forthright and upstanding junior officers in the ACC who are ready to go wherever the evidence leads them, but whose efforts are continuously thwarted by their superiors, who are more susceptible to political influence. If Khuzwayo does not enforce the law, she should prepare for the day when she will leave office and possibly face prosecution for perverting the course of justice.

The final reason why Chitotela is unlikely to lose his ministerial position is that his arrest is arguably a smokescreen designed to undermine growing public criticism of increased levels of corruption in Lungu's administration. Opposition Patriots for Economic Progress (PeP) president Sean Tembo made reference to this point last week. Tembo is right. Hurt by the persistent criticism that he is presiding over a kleptocratic regime and eager to undermine such legitimate charges, Lungu may have sanctioned Chitotela's arrest to intentionally mislead international donors and civil society organisations that he is committed to anti-corruption reform. Corruption has become so synonymous to Zambia under Lungu's rule that outsiders' knowledge of the country extends to little else. Previously, a Zambian could travel abroad in the knowledge that strangers would greet them with predictable remarks: 'Oh, you are from Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda's nation; or Kalusha Bwalya's country'. Nowadays, the country is infamous for its commitment to corruption, especially in relation to public procurement. The \$42 million that the government allegedly spent on buying 42 fire trucks provides a notorious example of this rampant official looting of public resources. It is one that even Zambia's former vice-president Guy Scott could not escape from addressing in his recently released memoirs: "The case of Zambia's forty-two secondhand fire engines became known to everyone who has heard of Zambia – or at least cares about it. It seems so straightforward that it appeals to everyone, especially those who do not want to delve into more complex issues. In December 2015, Inonge Wina – now my successor as vice-president – reportedly announced that government had spent K40 million (perhaps \$4 million, but it is hard to be exact as the Kwacha was wildly fluctuating at the time) on firefighting equipment, including forty-two fire engines. The whole issue then went quiet. Nearly two years later, fire engines were back in the news. Still forty-two of them, but by then costing \$42 million. Even with spare tyres and smart new uniforms, there is simply no fire engine, new or secondhand, big or small, that costs \$1 million."

There are other cases, too numerous to mention, of grand official corruption that have occurred under Lungu's watch. The point is that the tag of corruption has really hurt Lungu and the PF's image. It is one that they had hoped would fade away with time. Unfortunately for them, it has persisted and threatens to undermine the ruling party's electoral prospects in 2021. Lungu's lacklustre response to corruption has also seriously undermined the credibility of state institutions such as the ACC, whose mandate is to fight the scourge. In endorsing Chitotela's arrest, Lungu is seeking to dupe Zambians and donors into thinking that he is committed to fighting corruption and that investigative agencies like the ACC retain the autonomy and support required for them to operate effectively. They can, if such institutions want, institute any charges against his ministers and he will not stand in their way. Lungu however knows that all this is simply a façade. In the nearly impossible instance that Chitotela is convicted, Lungu can then use him as a specimen of his administration's commitment to fighting corruption. By that time, Chitotela would have become so disgraced that any party that welcomes him into its fold risks going down with him. Were he to be ultimately acquitted, Lungu, who has done much to undermine internal opposition to his rule, especially from those with wider political ambitions, would have succeeded in convincing Chitotela to see him as his paternalistic saviour who deserves sycophantic support.

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When President Edgar Lungu announced that he was not going to fire or suspend Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela despite the top government official being arrested and charged for corruption, almost the whole country, including some PF officials could not hide their outrage.

Some people were particularly angry because Section 47 (1) of the Anti Corruption Act states that: "Subject to the applicable legal and administrative procedures relating to the right to justice, and a fair hearing applicable to public officers under their conditions of service, a public officer who is charged with corruption shall be suspended, at half pay, with effect from the date of the charge." Zambians expected that President Lungu, being a lawyer, was going to ask the minister to step aside until he is cleared of these allegations.

We are so surprised that people were that shocked with President Lungu's position on this matter. In fact, we feel those who are disappointed with President Lungu are fairy tale fanatics who fantasize over a Zambia in the hands of patriots, governed by laws. The things they expect from this PF government shock us.

The story of

# Playing Ping-Pong with citizens' lives

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Honourable Chitotela has been told several times before. In December 2013, late President Michael Sata fired Chitotela in a very embarrassing fashion in front of journalists for allegedly involving himself in corrupt activities. It was alleged that he bought a second hand ambulance from Constituency Development Funds and the Auditor General captured the irregularity, forcing the Anti Corruption Commission to drag him into a probe. President Sata said he could not work with a minister who was being investigated for corruption and abuse of office; as such, Chitotela had to go.

The ACC never announced that they

had cleared Honourable Chitotela of the corruption allegations leveled against him. Of all the PF members of parliament, this is the man that President Lungu went to pick into his Cabinet. It is not like Honourable Chitotela's character was unknown to President Lungu, he knew exactly the kind of person he was employing.

Why are people surprised that the President is not firing a minister who is facing corruption charges when he was already under corruption investigations when he was appointed? Corruption has never been a ground for removing anyone from President Lungu's government.

We will say it again. It

is not difficult to find a thief in this government. What is difficult and next to impossible is to find someone who is not a thief. The next most difficult thing is making these thieves accountable because they are all protecting each other. This is what happens in a government of looters. They are stealing in the morning, in the afternoon, and some of them, even in their sleep they are stealing. No one can touch them because they have one another's back.

Unlike those who are shocked with President Lungu's defense of his ally, we find the man astonishingly honest. President Lungu is an honest President. What he said at the Airport about his fear of losing

Chitotela does not have any pretense in it. That was an honest voice from a very honest President telling his citizens how he views corruption.

President Lungu is asking: 'What is wrong with being arrested for corruption? Why should I stigmatize those that are involved in corruption by condemning them? Why should I lose my close friends just because they are arrested and charged for theft? How is a corrupt minister different from me? Those are the questions to answers President Lungu is seeking from critics who want him to fire Honourable Chitotela.

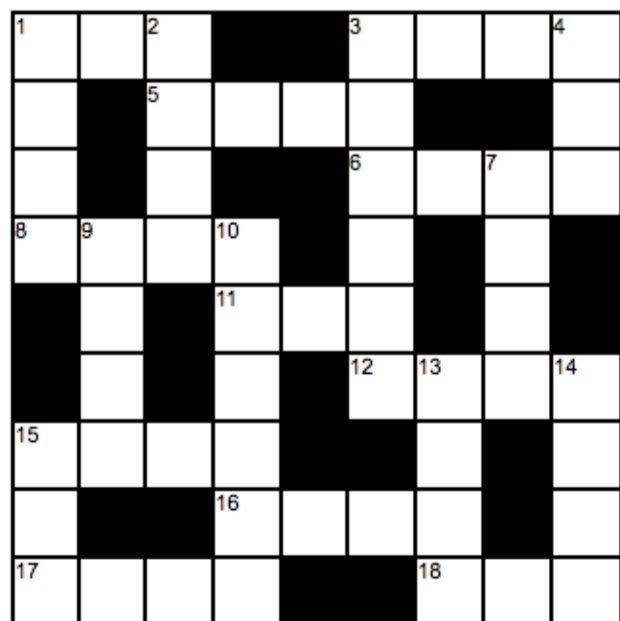
We can't find answers to these questions in a country where

corruption is not a crime for those in top government positions. But because we are alive to the undercurrent taking shape in the ruling Patriotic Front, there is another message that President Lungu was delivering to those that are politically awake.

To our ears, the President was expressing fear of building an opposition block within the ruling party. He was saying, 'I can't afford to face Chishimba Kambwili, Ronald Chitotela, Harry Kalaba and other aggressive northerners in 2021. That would be suicide. We feel, apart from being his accomplices in the corruption syndicate, President Lungu is scared of firing those who have become so rich in this government, knowing they will use that same money to take him out in 2021.

It is now for the people of Zambia to decide whether this is a Zambia they want, where politicians are playing ping-pong with their lives. The journey to 2021 has already started and the scrutiny of candidates is underway. No one should say, 'we didn't know what President Lungu stood for'. He has made it clear for those who were doubting; ubomba mwibala alya mwibala.

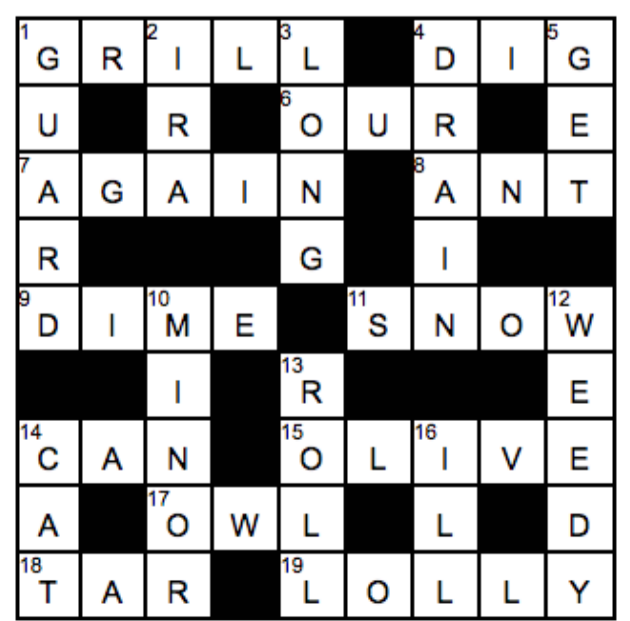
## Crossword puzzle 290



*"There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."*  
- G.K. Chesterton

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First ___ or financial ___</li> <li>3. Graceful bird</li> <li>5. Aid in wrongdoing</li> <li>6. Oxidize</li> <li>8. Lincoln and Vigoda</li> <li>11. Trash holder</li> <li>12. Interruptions</li> <li>15. Painting of ___ Lisa</li> <li>16. ___ legal or ___ medic</li> <li>17. In the buff</li> <li>18. Traveler's aid</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Melody for a single voice</li> <li>2. Appointment</li> <li>3. Kite flying need</li> <li>4. Hard-shelled dried fruit</li> <li>7. Finish</li> <li>9. Swedish toy maker</li> <li>10. Minor injury</li> <li>13. Actor Sandler</li> <li>14. Small cut</li> <li>15. Guy</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Solutions to puzzle 289





# Reader's feedback

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

## Chitotela's matrix of corruption

Dear Editor,

"Why has this guy not resigned or even been fired is unbelievable!" - Japhet Kapanji

"I still believe there are a lot involved in this, but how to get hold of them will be very difficult. Where was the President all

this time for Chitotela to amass all this wealth for himself?" - Peter Ngwira

"I took Kambwili as a joker, I am sorry he has been vindicated. This is an interesting matrix News Diggers! have published." - Happy Chilemba

"Diggers! digging deeper. We are behind you. ACC, do it for mother Zambia. Please, let's take the fire to these guys, ENOUGH!!! There is still so much to unearth out there! We are keenly following." - Mwanamwalye P. Sifuniso

"Kambwili is the man! We thought it was one of those fairy tales..." - Stevo Chisangano

"These guys are in a hurry trying to catch up with HH in terms of wealth! Unfortunately, in so doing, many will end up in jail, and it's not a joke!" - Haggai Mandala

"PF is worse than cancer!" - Mubonda Kalumbilo Pascal

"The full extent of the plunder and looting, if this and other scandals is anything to go by, will only be known once there's a change of government. The looting and plunder of public resources which occurred in Chiluba's MMD will turn out to be a flirting glimpse of the free for all loot of present day. The downfall of many will be corruption aligned to public procurement and tenders. We have our own state capture." - Felix Nkonge

"Fortunately, this was amateur money laundering. How does one create a shell company as a first line subcontractor to a briber and expect not to get caught?" - Michelo Mweetwa

"And here am struggling with my migre salary ..ba Chitotela mwaunfwako luse plz.i will surely use this as an example for my grade 10 class..grand corruption." - Mwila Jere



## Luo's move to officially ban students' meal allowances

Editor,

"Why abolish the meal allowances when the same students will be required to pay back the money spent on them???" - Paulsen Chindumba

"This woman is total failure at Higher Education! I don't even understand how she's survived this long in that portfolio, which, clearly, she has failed to manage!" - Clive Mwiinga

"That's officially introducing prostitution in higher learning institutions..." - Stanley Peace Siwale  
 "It's such a shame that people who themselves where beneficiaries of these

allowances can sit and decide to prohibit our future leaders from enjoying the same benefit!" - Harri Sons Oko

"This is what you get when you vote for people along ethnic or tribal lines and not based on capacity and abilities of people you are putting in offices. In fact, most of the voters are those from the most vulnerable of our people. Now look at what you have brought upon yourselves and your children? You were the ones in forefront campaigning for and dancing to 'dumuna reverse' songs. So, please don't blame anyone. You reap what you sow. Let's hope in 2021 you won't be dancing to more dumuna reverse songs again!" - Legion Mwiinga

## FQM's offer to buy govt's 20% stake in Kansanshi for US \$700m

Editor,

"Actually, as government we should increase our shareholdings in all mines in Zambia! This will facilitate for ownership and control. This suggestion is a big NO for me." - Mushinda Kaumba

"No! Government should have a 50% stake! The minerals are ours and the equipment and expertise is theirs. We can't be borrowing when we have all the resources." - Steven Kasafwa Nsan'ganyi

"Govt should not accept that, I beg. We should have eyes and power to speak in that company. Please, we know some are drunkards in that Cabinet!" - Imbila Yamushi

"This government is broke and those shares are likely to be sold out..." - Katachi Katachi

"This deal might sound lucrative on paper, but believe you me; it's a lousy deal, which does not match how much the 20% shareholding is worth." - Benny Katongo

"They want to buy shares using our money, yet they have failed to build even a single bridge across the Solwezi river. Just look at the road along the fence for golf estate, very bad! A few metres away inside, nicely tarred. You can't sell out!" - Clement Mwansa

"If this deal goes through, we will deal with the government that they will never forget!" - Noel Kalimamukwento

Nigeria's main presidential hopefuls court voters in two key cities on Saturday, as election campaigning reaches its climax with one week to go before the ballot.

The commercial hub of Lagos in the southwest is expected to grind to a halt as President Muhammadu Buhari visits for a rally in front of tens of thousands of supporters.

His main opposition rival, Atiku Abubakar, is also holding a "mega-rally" in the capital, Abuja.

Both events are among the final stops on the campaign trail around Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory before voting begins next Saturday.

Buhari, 76, wants a second, four-year term while Abubakar, 72, is hoping to finally secure the

# Nigerian rivals rally supporters as election campaign peaks

presidency after four previous attempts.

A record 84 004 084 voters are registered this year - up 18% from 2015, when Buhari became the first opposition candidate in Nigerian history to defeat a sitting president. Buhari, of the All Progressives Congress (APC) party, secured just under 54% of the vote, beating Goodluck Jonathan, of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), by 2.6 million votes.

The elections are the sixth to be held since Nigeria returned to civilian rule in 1999 after decades of military government.

Election authorities have given no details on when official results will be announced, but in the 2015 election initial figures were released 48 hours after polls closed, though polling went into a second day.

Close race

The APC is bullish about Buhari's

chances of re-election.

But many predict a tighter race because of dissatisfaction at insecurity, claims of a one-sided fight against corruption and the oil-dependent economy's recovery from recession.

"People are tired after four years of Buhari and even if he's the incumbent, the outcome of the elections is very uncertain," said Cheta Nwanze, of analysts SBM Intelligence.

Two key factors that played a major part in previous votes - ethnicity and religion - have been removed, as both Buhari and Abubakar are Hausa-speaking Muslims of the Fulani ethnicity.

"Buhari is positioning himself as a statist, pro-big government, where government should own most things, while Abubakar on the other side is positioning himself as pro-business, pro-private enterprise," said Nwanze.

"It's unique in our history. We have

never had that before."

Veteran politician Tanko Yakasai said the focus on policy and programmes could be a "good beginning for Nigerian politics", as younger, more ideologically driven politicians emerge.

In all, 73 candidates are running to be president of Africa's most populous nation, including seven women.

Parliamentary elections will be held at the same time, involving 6 483 candidates for 109 seats in the Senate and 360 in the House of Representatives.

A second round of polling takes place on March 2 to elect new governors in 29 states, and new members of state assemblies.

In 2015, voting was delayed by six weeks because of military action against Boko Haram and the government has again warned of possible attempts to disrupt polling.

But the chairperson of the

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Mahmood Yakubu, has said he sees "no reason" to postpone.

"We are good to go," he told Channels television on February 6. Nevertheless, election logistics may prove a headache.

Some 1.8 million people in three northeast states are still homeless because of Boko Haram violence, which has killed more than 27 000 people since 2009.

In Borno, the worst-affected state, INEC has set up 10 special voting centres to allow more than 400 000 displaced people to vote.

Similar challenges are likely in some central states, where there has been renewed violence in a long-running battle for resources between nomadic cattle herders and farmers.

An increase in kidnapping for ransom and cattle rustling in parts of the north may also complicate voting there. *news24*



Prince Harry And Meghan attend Endeavour Fund Awards Meghan, at Drapers' Hall on February 07, 2019 in London, England.  
(Photo by Jeff Spicer/Getty Images)

## Tanzania male MPs 'must be circumcised'

A female MP in Tanzania has called for checks to determine whether or not her male colleagues have undergone circumcision - a procedure known to reduce the risk of HIV transmission.

Jackline Ngonyani said any MPs found not to have been circumcised should be required to undergo the procedure.

Her suggestion divided opinion among her colleagues.

HIV is seen as a major threat to public health in Tanzania. Around 70% of the male population is circumcised.

Around 5% of Tanzania's adult population is believed to have been infected by HIV - giving it the 13th highest rate of infection in the world, according to figures from 2016.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says circumcision reduces the risk of

heterosexual men contracting HIV by around 60%.

Several African countries that are fighting HIV epidemics have launched campaigns to encourage men to undergo the procedure, which involves surgically removing the foreskin from the penis.

Ms Ngonyani made the comments during a debate in parliament about how to curb the spread of HIV in the country.

Her suggestion was backed by MP Joseph Selasini.

In neighbouring Kenya, some top politicians voluntarily submitted to the procedure in 2008 as a way of encouraging men from their communities to do the same.

However, MP Joseph Kasheku opposed Ms Ngonyani's proposal, describing it as uncouth and invasive. *BBC*

## Rastafarians 'god' to get African Union statue

A statue of Ethiopia's last emperor is to be unveiled outside the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The likeness of Haile Selassie is being given pride of place outside the \$200m (£154m) building in recognition for his role in establishing its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

But that might not be the first thing that springs to mind on hearing the name Haile Selassie. The name is perhaps more easily connected with Jamaican singer Bob Marley and Rastafarians. So who exactly is Haile Selassie, and how did he come to be worshipped as a god by people living thousands of miles away?

Haile Selassie was more than 30 years into his reign when he helped establish the OAU. Its first meeting, in May 1963, was held in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia - which has never been colonised although it was subjected to a five-year military occupation by Mussolini's Italy - had served as a symbol of African independence throughout the colonial period.

Now other countries were finally gaining independence, and this was a chance to bring nations together to fight against colonisation and white minority rule while also co-ordinating efforts to raise living standards and defend their sovereignty.

"May this convention of union last 1,000 years," Selassie, who spent a year preparing the city for the meeting, told the gathered delegates.

As it happened, the OAU ceased to exist in its original form in 2002, replaced by the African Union (AU).

But his role in establishing the union has not been forgotten, and the statue is a way for the AU to recognise Selassie's contribution.

It all comes down to his coronation in 1930, and a "prophecy" made by a Jamaican black rights campaigner, Marcus Garvey, a decade earlier.

Garvey had told his followers in 1920 they should "look to Africa, when a black king shall be crowned, for the day of deliverance is at hand".

So, when a black man called Ras Tafari was crowned in Ethiopia, many saw that as a sign the prophecy had come true.

In East Africa, Ras Tafari ("chief" Tafari) became Haile Selassie ("power of the trinity"). Almost 8,000 miles away in the West Indies, Haile Selassie became God (or Jah) incarnate - the redeeming messiah - and Ethiopia, the promised land.

In short, the Rastafari movement was born.

Did Selassie believe it himself? Well, he certainly didn't try to dispel the belief when he visited Jamaica in 1966. The emperor was greeted by

thousands, desperate to get a glimpse of their god. Among the devotees was the wife of a young Reggae musician, Bob Marley, who was away in the US.

Rita Marley would later describe how she saw nail marks on Selassie's palm as he waved at her. It was a moment of religious awakening, and when her husband returned, they embraced the belief.

Three years earlier, Rastafarians had begun to move to Ethiopia and a piece of land Selassie had put aside for black people from the West in 1948. After the visit, the numbers grew larger. Today, the community numbers about 300 people.

But followers were presented with a conundrum after Selassie died in 1975, a year after he was deposed in a Marxist revolution. After all, gods cannot die.

This was resolved after it was argued Selassie's body was just his earthly body.

Also, it should be noted, Garvey was never a believer. In fact, he was a critic of Selassie.

Opinion is still split over whether Selassie was good for Ethiopia or not.

A Human Rights Watch report accuses him of acting with "official indifference" to famines in various regions of the country and attempting to conceal the famine of 1972-72, in which an estimated 200,000 people died.

He is also known to have violently cracked down on people who opposed him during his reign.

Marcus Garvey was unimpressed after he fled Ethiopia in 1936 following the invasion of Benito Mussolini's troops a year earlier, describing Selassie as a "coward" and calling him out for "the terrors of slavery". The practice was not outlawed in Ethiopia until 1942.

Academic Dr Yohannes Woldemariam has gone as far as to argue that Selassie should be remembered as a dictator. Indeed, he created a constitution which placed all the power in his hands and those of his descendents.

But his supporters argue he was a great leader and moderniser, who was one of the first African leaders to become a figure on the global stage.

His appeal to the League of Nations after his country was invaded is still remembered today - not least because it forms the basis of Bob Marley's 1976 song, War.

What's more, he was not made emperor through a chance of birth. Although born into a noble family in 1892, he was only named leader after impressing Menelik III with his intelligence.

And - as the AU's statue to him reminds people - he was a great advocate for pan-African cooperation, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to have an effect on millions of people across the continent today. *BBC*



## City hit humiliated Chelsea for six to go top once more

Sergio Aguero grabbed a hat-trick as Manchester City scored four times inside 25 minutes to thrash Chelsea 6-0 and leapfrog Liverpool again to top spot in the Premier League on goal difference on Sunday.

Aguero should have had even more than three as the Argentine missed a glorious early chance and hit the bar in the second-half in a humiliating afternoon for Maurizio Sarri's men.

Raheem Sterling started and ended the scoring and Ilkay Gundogan also netted in the first quarter of the game as City ended what could have been a testing week with a trip to Everton in between the visits of Arsenal and Chelsea with maximum points.

Jurgen Klopp's men maintain the advantage of a game in hand, but handed a reprieve by Liverpool's draws against Leicester and West Ham

in recent weeks, City look determined to become the first side in a decade to retain the Premier League.

Chelsea on the other hand slip to sixth with the scale of the defeat sure to raise further doubts over Sarri's future.

A 4-0 defeat to Bournemouth in their last away game was Chelsea's heaviest league defeat since 1996.

And this was their worst loss in any competition since 1991 after failing to recover from Sterling's fourth-minute opener.

Eden Hazard went to sleep from Kevin de Bruyne's quickly taken free-kick and Bernardo Silva had acres of space to cross for the England international to fire home.

Pep Guardiola had described this match as a "final" for his side given that Chelsea had a week to prepare, while City ground out a 2-0 win at Everton on Wednesday.

Guardiola fell to the floor in exasperation when Aguero somehow side-footed wide with his easiest chance of the game moments later. *AFP*

## Spurs sink Leicester to stay in title hunt

Tottenham kept alive their bid to gate-crash the Premier League title race as Davinson Sanchez's first goal for the club and Hugo Lloris's penalty save inspired a 3-1 win over Leicester on Sunday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side took the lead through Sanchez's first half header, but they were indebted to Lloris for keeping out Jamie Vardy's spot-kick after the interval at Wembley.

Christian Eriksen netted moments later and although Vardy got one back, Son Heung-min's late strike ensured third-placed Tottenham clinched a fifth win in their last six league games.

The north Londoners are five points off the top of the table as they try to catch pace-setters Liverpool and Manchester City.

While Tottenham are still outsiders to win their first English title since 1961, their ability to stay in contention, despite injuries

to key players Harry Kane and Dele Alli suggests they shouldn't be completely written off.

This gritty success was the ideal preparation for hosting Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League last 16 first leg on Wednesday.

Leicester have lost four of their last five league games, increasing the pressure on under-fire boss Claude Puel.

Puel has reportedly lost the support of several

influential players, including England striker Vardy, who was left on the bench for the first 60 minutes before coming on to miss the penalty with his first touch.

With the Dortmund clash looming on Wednesday, Pochettino tweaked his team, leaving out Toby Alderweireld and Lucas Moura and recalling Fernando Llorente.

Llorente was caught napping early on when

Harry Maguire evaded the Spanish striker's marking and met James Maddison's free-kick with a towering header that Hugo Lloris tipped over.

That chance was symptomatic of a disjointed start from Tottenham.

Leicester's Harvey Barnes was allowed too much space in the penalty area as he raced onto Youri Tielemans' pass, but a poor finish wasted a gilt-edged chance.

Finally piecing together an incisive raid, Tottenham were furious when Son's penalty appeal ended in a booking for diving after Maguire stuck out a leg to halt the South Korean.

Pochettino's men channelled their frustration into a sustained assault on the Leicester goal.

Danny Rose's surging run ended with a close-range effort that brought a good save from Kasper Schmeichel. *AFP*

## FAZ splits league 2, 3 into two streams

By Abraham Kalito

The Football Association has split the 2019 Division II and III leagues into two streams in the transitory window.

FAZ has also postponed all matches in the two divisions in a bid to

properly plan for the transitional period in the two lower leagues.

FAZ General Secretary Adrian Kashala announced yesterday that Division II and III league would be split into two streams just like the Super Division

in order to properly transition into a league that commences in August.

Kashala told delegates during the FAZ provincial Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Northern Province that the

decision had also been arrived at due to public outcry from various clubs around the country.

He said various clubs had bemoaned that the number of games during the period were unmanageable

adding that FAZ would as such, use the 2018 league table to divide teams according to odd and even numbers.

Kashala also said league games that were postponed this weekend would follow the Super Division format in the transition

entire period.

The transitory FAZ league will end in June before adopting the new structure in August as per CAF directive.

Meanwhile the FA has embarked on the second phase of the kit and equipment distribution to all teams in the Division II and III.

Division II and III clubs will receive a set of KoPa branded Jerseys and five footballs. FAZ has already distributed the kit in Muchinga, Northern and Lusaka provinces. All the ten provinces are to benefit from the from the kit and equipment distribution exercise.

# I decided to leave FAZ in December - Katongo

By Abraham Kalito and Alex Chilumbwe

Former Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) communications manager Desmond Katongo has told Goal Diggers that he made the decision to resign from the position in December last year.

Katongo resigned from the position on Tuesday last week but only confirmed on Saturday via a Facebook post.

"Good evening friends and family. Today I have been inundated with a series of phone calls concerning my departure from FAZ. I wish to inform you that I officially resigned from my position as FAZ Communications Manager on

Tuesday. I wish to thank the FAZ President Mr Andrew Kamanga and his executive for giving me an opportunity to serve in this position. I will forever be grateful! Thank you very much for your support for the last two years," read his Facebook post.

However, Katongo told Goal Diggers in an interview that following his resignation that he decided to do so last year December.

"Even if somebody offered me the position of a General Secretary, I was still going to leave FAZ," says Desmond Katongo. I made a personal decision to leave the FA in December last year. This

month I clock two years. It was the ideal time for me to go. Even if somebody offered me the GS position, I was still going to leave FAZ. I represented the FA in the most professional manner possible and am thankful for the opportunity," Katongo said.

Katongo further dismissed reports in some sections of the media that allege that he was also a FAZ Club Licensing manager.

"I wish to clarify something, I was never the club licencing Manager of FAZ, I was communications manager even the day I handed in my resignation letter. I don't have a letter with me saying club Licencing Manager. The only letter

I have with me is my appointment letter as communications manager. Please ask your sources whether there is a formal letter they wrote to me. Leaving the Association shouldn't be a matter of life and death. I have done my part and someone else needs to pick it up from there. I need some peace please," said Katongo.

The Kamanga led FAZ has seen high profile resignations like no other including General Secretary Ponga Liwewe a year ago, Technical Director Moses Sichone, Referees Manager Kenneth Chichenga and Club Licensing Manager Erick Mwanza, all in just under two years.



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## Cavani to miss PSG vs Man Utd

Paris Saint-Germain have been dealt a further blow ahead of their Champions League last-16 clash against Manchester United with the news that Edinson Cavani will miss the game.

The Uruguayan striker limped off of PSG's 1-0 win over Bordeaux with a thigh problem after scoring the Ligue 1 encounter's only goal of the game, making him a doubt for Tuesday's first-leg against United.

Coach Thomas Tuchel admitted after the game that he was "afraid it's serious", before providing an update on the Cavani's condition on Sunday. "There is no good news this morning," he told Telefoot. "He has undergone exams and there will be more tests here at the training centre. My feeling is that it will be very difficult for him to feature in Manchester." But the French champions have since assessed the 31-year-old and ruled that he will not be fit to make the trip to Old Trafford for the first leg on Tuesday.

The news comes as a big blow for the runaway Ligue 1 leaders. Tuchel's team are already without Brazilian attacker Neymar, who has been out since January with a broken metatarsal, while Marco Verratti is also out.

Cavani, who has 21 goals from 25 games in all competitions, was replaced by Kylian Mbappe in the Bordeaux match and will return to his place in the starting XI in the Champions League.

With two members of their star trio missing, Tuchel is worried they must change their strategy for the meeting with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team.

Goal.com

