



UPND hits back at State House... IT'S AMOS' BOSS WITH RAT'S BRAIN

Story page 5



Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Christopher Mvunga provides security to the Nkosi yama Nkosi Paramount Chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni people on the way to Mtenguleni for the 2019 N'cwala ceremony - Picture courtesy of Zamtel



Transport Minister Brian Mushimba after being discharged from hospital in South Africa

Lift maize export ban – IAPRI

By Stuart Lisulo
Government should urgently lift the maize

export ban because it has negatively affected farmers' incomes and contributed to the loss of assets, says the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI). And IAPRI have warned that government's insistence to implement the controversial Sales Tax on April 1, will only increase the cost of doing business for producers in the agricultural sector.

To page 4

Don't be foolish, start campaigning for PF, Chilangwa tells DCs

By Thomas Mulenga
Luapula Province PF Chairperson Nickson Chilangwa who is also provincial minister has ordered District Commissioners to stop being foolish and start campaigning for the ruling

party, warning that those who will refuse on grounds that they are civil servants will be fought and finished. And PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili is a confused man who has now resorted to driving around in his shorts and insulting random people on the street. Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says he tried to advise former foreign affairs minister Harry Kalaba to stop admiring President Edgar Lungu's throne, but the Democratic Party leader failed to control his envy. The three were speaking in Bahati Constituency when they addressed PF supporters, ahead of the pending parliamentary by-election.

To page 5

CCZ questions govt's plan to regulate clergy

By Mirriam Chabala
The Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) has opposed government's intention to introduce a law that will regulate church leaders saying having such a law will give government authority over the Church. Last Tuesday, when Parliament resuming sitting, National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Godfridah Sumaili informed the House that government was considering putting up minimum standards that would be required for clergy to practice.

To page 2

Sinda student teacher busted after attempting to rape deaf, dumb woman

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda
Pupils at Mwasipi Primary School in Nyanje area of Sinda District last week caught their teacher half naked after he attempted to rape a local deaf and dumb woman at the named school, identified as Rose.

The teacher, identified as Milishi Kasumbi, who has since admitted the charge of attempted rape was caught in the nearby maize fields after he attempted to bolt, leaving his clothes behind.

CCZ questions govt's plan to regulate clergy

By Mirriam Chabala

The Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) has opposed government's intention to introduce a law that will regulate church leaders saying having such a law will give government authority over the Church. Last Tuesday, when Parliament resuming sitting, National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Godfridah Sumaili informed the House that government was considering putting up minimum standards that would be required for people to practice as clergy. Rev Sumaili was responding to Kasama Central PF member of parliament Kelvin Sampa, who wanted to know what measures government was taking to improve the moral standing of church leaders following negative reports in the media about their alleged misconduct by some members of the clergy. "Following the negative reports in the media about the alleged misconduct of the clergy, government is working very closely with the religious Church Mother Bodies to develop a regulatory framework which will among other things lead to the development of



a standard and regulations which will guide their conduct. The framework is helping the ministry to develop a policy and legal framework. It is very important to ensure that people are protected, because these (the clergy) are the ones offering spiritual help and a lot of people look up to them. Our desire is to see that the clergy

change their conduct. We want to see a real turn around among the clergy," said Rev Sumaili. But in an interview, CCZ General Secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya warned that government officials would regret some of the decisions they were making once out of office. "First and foremost, the Churches within the Council of Churches

in Zambia and the ZCCB have systems in place already and so that statement from the Minister implies that the Churches have been operating in a manner that is without any regulation, since the time they have been in existence, which is wrong. The truth is that there are Churches sometimes which are even allowed to thrive

for political expedience. And these are the ones that are loose, they are all over the place, they don't belong to any mother body, they are not operating as an institution, instead they are operating like under the founder of a particular individual, those are the places where you find challenges. Now, who registers those? It's the same government that registered them," Fr Chikoya said. "So there are opportunities to control some of these things because if I share with you the membership or the criteria for CCZ, people complain that it is too strict, for example; a Church must be in existence for minimum 10 years, it must have trained clergy, we need to look at their constitution... there is a scrutiny and the general conference adopts the membership. So we have systems in place. So we are taken aback by that assumption created as though we are operating in a manner that is without any form of systems. In fact, some of the Churches even have the same constitution as the circular code, we have tribunals where the clergy can be tried if found wanting. If people raise issues, a tribunal will be put in place and they will give their side and people will also give their side, with legal guidance and representation. So when these things are being said, for us it really takes us aback" Fr Chikoya insisted that there was no need to introduce another piece of legislation just to regulate misconduct in Churches because there were enough laws already. "We are wondering, what is happening? There are all these mountain ministries and whatever that are there, who allowed them to operate? And if they are operating illegally, do you need to create a law? There are enough laws in Zambia already, you cannot just start a Church or an NGO, you need to be registered. So why are the existing laws not being fully applied? You know this thing of creating laws, people must always remember that history will remember them and I hope history will remember them well. We may be in leadership today [but] others will come in leadership tomorrow and they will use that very law to abuse and manipulate

the Church and they should include themselves because by then they will not be in government. So we should be careful when bringing up certain things Yes we should be able to check the kind of things that are being done in church. But is it really requiring an agency of government to begin to manage the Church? I think there is a gap, we have not utilized the existing laws fully," he said. "So existing laws need to be implemented effectively. Some of these things at the end of the day if you analyse, they are self-created problems. Sometimes you register too many religious entities because they may be favourable to you and then they begin to get out of control. We should be able to make sure at the registrar of societies that the screening is properly done. Then this of entertaining break-aways and registering them, sometimes we are actually doing a deservice to ourselves. So some of these things using existing laws, are supposed to be dealt with. But if we can't effectively use existing laws, I don't see how whatever law we make will ever work because there are sufficient laws that can deal with such problems." Fr Chikoya urged government leaders to be careful about the laws they were introducing, so that they were not on the wrong side of history. "So it's really with a great sense of apprehension that we hear of such kind of a process going on. Otherwise, we always know that we have to work in collaboration with government. But we will always offer critical solidarity and honest advice and in this case, I think, let's not make or bring on board something that will regret one day. Because on the records of Zambia, it will show that it was during the time of so and so that this thing happened. So it's not just a matter of rushing to say 'I am doing this', no, we need to thoroughly engage and never rush on this matter. So the current laws are not just being fully utilized, I mean if I am stealing money from the Church I should be arrested, there shouldn't be a law for the Church and a law for the ordinary people. People have to be dealt with even if they are clergy men. Those abuses fall under criminal law," said Fr Chikoya.

Doctor denies defaming World Vision, accuses it of stealing his concept

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A medical doctor, Dr Beck Banda, has denied defaming World Vision Zambia Limited in the Lusaka High Court and filed a counterclaim, seeking an order of injunction to restrain the organisation from using the "SMAGs model" that he claims is essentially identical to his. This is a matter in which World Vision Zambia has sued Dr Banda, seeking damages for defamation after he accused the organisation of infringing on his copyright in the Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) model. Dr Beck Banda is alleged to have given an interview to the Daily Nation on November 22, 2018 and QTV in December last year, where he alleged that World Vision Zambia had infringed his copyright in the SMAGs Model. World Vision is claiming damages for slander and libel, aggravated damages, an injunction to restrain Dr Banda from further publishing or causing to be published the said or any similar defamatory words, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit. But in a defence filed in court, Dr Banda stated that he was the author and owner of the copyright in the SMAGs model expressed around 2002 and would aver at trial that the words complained of by World Vision were true in substance and fact, adding that he was pleading

the defence of justification. He claimed that despite him being the copyright holder of the SMAGs concept, World Vision had persisted in infringing on his concept by employing it in its programmes which were essentially identical to his model without his licence or express permission. Dr Banda stated that by letters dated April 18, 2018 and May 23, 2018, he and his lawyers sufficiently and clearly explained to World Vision when and how he acquired the copyright in 2002. He however, stated that World Vision had continued to infringe on his concept by publishing on the online media, as well as, Twitter and YouTube social media reports, claiming that they owned the model. "In the circumstances, the plaintiff is not entitled to any of the reliefs," Dr Banda said. And in his counterclaim, Dr Banda stated that around 2002, he innovated SMAGs. He added that he thereafter expressed original artistic work on Post-Drama Community Action Group which produced the first ever SMG model in Chawama township through his Youth Cultural Promotion Association (YOCUPA) Theatre for Community Action with the financial support from JHPIEGO/MNH/USAID and the Zambia Chapter of White Ribbon Alliance

for Safe Motherhood (ZWRASM). Dr Banda stated that among the representatives of the cooperating partners who witnessed the birth of the first ever SMAGs model included Dr Rick Hughes who was the director of JHPIEGO/MNH Zambia and community volunteers. He stated that following the formation of the first SMAGs in Chawama, further SMAGs groups were formed at Chipata health Centre and other places. Dr Banda added that around 2002, the theatre community sensitization strategy by YOCUPA was adopted by the UNFPA as core strategy for SMAGs formation in North Western Province following the rapid rural appraisal results. He stated that around 2008, UNFPA without his express permission introduced SMAGs to the Ministry

of Health who adopted it as part of government policy framework and that between 2009 and 2010, it carried out pilot projects in several districts in Zambia. Dr Banda stated that despite the copyright protection being automatic in December 2012, World Vision formalised his Theatre for Community Action (TCA) with its end products including SMAGs, by registration with the Registrar of Copyright under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. He is now seeking an order of injunction to restrain World Vision whether acting by its respective directors, officers, servants or agents from using or employing SMAGs model that is essentially identical to his or clearly using his model as their basis without his license or express permission.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

A senior clinical officer at Chipata Level One Hospital has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that the 27 year-old man accused of impersonating a medical doctor did not have a letter of attachment or Identity Card when he allegedly screened patients at the medical facility. This is the matter in which Collins Mavunga of Lusaka's Zani Muone Compound is charged with impersonating a medical public officer. It is alleged that on March 14, 2018 in Lusaka, Mavunga falsely represented himself at Chipata Level One Hospital

Medical officer narrates how a fake doctor charged, treated patients at Chipata clinic

as a person employed by the Government of Zambia, namely, a doctor when in fact not. And when the matter came up for continuation of trial before magistrate Beauty Malupenga, Friday, a senior clinical officer at the same hospital, Borniface Muzatani, told the court that on the material day, he saw two security guards in the company of Mavunga. He said the two guards approached him and asked if Mavunga had authority to

screen patients and he told them that they did not have students on attachments at that moment. Muzatani said he thereafter referred the two security guards to the matron, a Ms Mwambazi. "In response, I told them that at the moment, we do not have students on attachments and I referred them to the matron, Ms Mwambazi. When Ms Mwambazi asked Mavunga who he was and whether he had authority to screen

patients, the suspect said he was a fourth year medical student at the University of Zambia (UNZA) Ridgeway campus," he said. Muzatani told the court that the accused person had not letter of attachment or Identity Card from Ridgeway campus, the institution where he claimed to be studying from. He said later on, another doctor, Elizabeth Mwape, joined the interrogation. "At this point, Dr Mwape informed Ms Mwambazi

that Mavunga had told her that he was a seventh year student doctor at Ridgeway campus," Muzatani narrated. He said after learning about Mavunga's conflicting statements, he decided to go to Ridge way campus to verify whether indeed Mavunga was a student at the institution. Muzatani said Mavunga gave the dean of students at the institution his alleged computer number to verify if he was registered

student but nothing was found about him. "The dean checked in the system but nothing came out," he said. Muzatani further said the dean of students concluded that the man was not a student at the University and the matter was reported to Chipata Police post. He told the court that the accused was also charging patients. In cross examination, Mavunga asked the witness if he had evidence that he used to charge patients, and in response Muzatani said his name was mentioned. The matter comes up on March 22, for continued trial.

Do not be foolish civil servants, start campaigning for PF, Chilangwa tells DCs

By Thomas Mulenga

Luapula Province PF Chairperson Nickson Chilangwa who is also provincial minister has ordered District Commissioners to stop being foolish and start campaigning for the ruling party, warning that those who will refuse on grounds that they are civil servants will be fought and finished. And PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili is a confused man who has now resorted to driving around in his shorts and insulting random people on the street. Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says he tried to advise former foreign affairs minister Harry Kalaba to stop admiring President Edgar Lungu's throne, but the Democratic Party leader failed to control his envy. The three were speaking in Bahati Constituency when they addressed PF supporters, ahead of the pending parliamentary by election in the area. Chilangwa said it was foolish for some district commissioners to refuse to associate themselves with the party on the basis that they were civil servants. "I welcome our colleagues, the District Commissioners who are here, we are glad you are here. Personally I don't even bit about the bush, you can't be District Commissioner if you are not PF, if PF lost power, you can't remain District Commissioner. So what we hear around by some people that 'me I am a civil servant', that's foolishness. Council Chairman, it's the party that adopted you in order for you to become council chairman, now you hear that the Secretary General is coming, you fail to come, we shall see. Councillors don't forget where you come from, some councillors here in Luapula have become pompous. All of you, we will finish you, respect the party," Chilangwa warned. "There are only two ministers who come to work in Bahati, who knows the challenges of Bahati, who know what people need in Bahati, that's Dr. Chitalu Chilufya

and Nickson Chilangwa, that's all! So you should let Dr. Chitalu Chilufya be the campaign manager, we don't want a campaign manager from outside." And Mwila said Kambwili demonstrated madness when he had an altercation with a foreign road constructor. According to Kambwili, a compactor operator last week blocked the road he was using, almost causing an accident, and when he reversed to go and confront the 'aggressor', he discovered that it was a foreigner "doing a job which Zambians should be doing", hence sparking an altercation. The incident was followed by an announcement from NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge who 'expelled' Kambwili on grounds that he was putting the name of the party into disrepute. Mwila told PF supporters that there was nothing causing Kambwili to behave like that other than madness. "You should welcome people who want to join the party from other political parties, politics is about numbers. NDC has no direction now, Kambwili is confused. He has now started standing on roads and insulting, in a short. When you see someone moving around in a short in public you must know that something is wrong with him, especially an elderly man with grandchildren, you must know that this man's brain is not intact. So you should capitalise on all those people in NDC and let them join the party, even Mwenya Musenge himself. Some people are saying he has been bought by PF, who can buy Mwenya Musenge? Their party has just lost direction. How can you start telling your friend that he wants money for tyres? You know that there is no longer respect," Mwila said "So President Edgar Lungu loves this province, that's the reason he has given us Minister of Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela, Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, minister of Education David Mabumba, Minister of Water

Development and the Secretary General of the Party. You have the whole party in your hands. President Edgar and the Party have their strength in Luapula Province, it is one of those provinces we rely on. So we do't want to neglect Luapula because this is where votes come from." Mwila also said the party wanted a violence free by election in Bahati so that they could show the UPND that the PF was not violent. "We don't want violence during the campaigns for this by election. We want to show the UPND that we are not a violent party. This is our stronghold and we expect this election to be peaceful. We are not going to import anyone from Lusaka and we are going to leave everything in the hands of the police, they will deal with all those who will bring violence here. So for us as PF, our duty is to explain to the people what we have done, what we are doing and what we will do for them. Don't forget that we only have two and half years before the next [general] election. Luapula University should be completed before 2021, let's work on roads before 2021, so that we can point at these projects in 2021. That's why our campaign will be based on issues," Mwila said. And Mwila also cautioned party officials to avoid being corrupted by aspiring candidates seeking adoption on the PF ticket. "If you get money from the aspiring candidates and promise them that they will be adopted, they will just be disappointed because the Central Committee is going to adopt someone who is popular, someone who can make us win the by-election. So if you get the money, don't expect us to do what you want. And no one can bribe us, how can you bribe the SG? Where can you even start from? That's too far. And we don't want people who are unstable, people who move from political party to the other. Loyalty is very important in the party," Mwila said. And Mwila said President Lungu would be the party's candidate for 2021, saying

even in developed countries, it was against national progress to disrupt the programmes of the incumbent President. "Even in advanced democracies like the United States of America and the United Kingdom, an incumbent President is given another chance, they are not disturbed because of the programs that have been puting in place. Obama just left by himself, George Bush just left, Bill Clinton also just left, and even Trump will also just leave. So even us we have said even

us in 2021 we shall continue with President Edgar Lungu. An incumbent President has more advantages because he knows a lot of people and more people know him, but for you to start introducing a new President it takes a lot of time," said Mwila. And Dr Chilufya said Kalaba's desire for the presidency was going to finish him politically. "We went to Lusaka with my brother [Harry] Kalaba, he however got confused and started admiring the highest throne. We told him to slow

down and be humble, we already have a candidate for 2021, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu. But Kalaba refused to listen, hence today I have come back alone, my friend went and got confused. Bahati constituency will now see meaningful development because my friend failed to deliver as he focused on trying to get to the highest throne, thereby neglecting the constituency. This is why we need to elect someone who has respect for the President," said Dr Chilufya.



Ngoni Chiefs flank Mpezeni, the Nkosi yama Nkosi on a drive to Mtenguleni for the 2019 Ncwala traditional ceremony in Chipata.

Govt must urgently lift maize export ban – IAPRI

By Stuart Lisulo
Government should urgently lift the maize export ban because it has negatively affected farmers' incomes and contributed to the loss of assets, says the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI). And IAPRI have warned that government's

insistence to implement the controversial Sales Tax on April 1, will only increase the cost of doing business for producers in the agricultural sector. In its latest policy brief released, February, IAPRI appealed to government to urgently lift the maize export ban it had implemented last November.

IAPRI, the agro-focused think-tank and agricultural policy research and outreach institute, revealed that farmers and grain traders' incomes had dwindled, while the maize export ban had equally contributed to the loss of assets that were used as collateral due to farmers' inability to repay loans

on some credit facilities. "In Zambia, the challenges in the agricultural sector are readily observable among commercial farmers. Close to forty commercial farmers have lost their farms to the banks due to the events and policies of the last 3-4 years, with the print media advertising

bank-repossessed farms. Moreover, poorly-timed rotations of stocks in the maize market from the strategic grain reserves have adversely affected grain sales among private grain traders. This practice, coupled with recurring maize export bans, undermines the ability of agricultural value chain actors to pay back agricultural loans. This results in the repossession of farms by lenders," IAPRI revealed.

"With a desire to rationalise the tax system and raise more money for the country, the Zambian government has introduced a new tax regime including EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation) and Cost of Goods Tax. These taxes are likely going to increase the cost of doing business in the agricultural sector. Government announced that the VAT was going to be replaced with a Sales Tax as well as lower the tax credit for interest from 100 per cent to 30 per cent of EBITDA," stated IAPRI.

"While these measures could increase government revenue and save the government from making VAT refunds to many sectors, especially mining, the potential impact on the agricultural sector would be reduced agricultural growth unless the sector is exempted from the changes. This is because the Sales Tax cannot be claimed, unlike previously, where zero-rated VAT allowed businesses to claim back some VAT on designated intermediate inputs. The problems around the cost of doing business appear to be driven by the lack of consultation and the urgent need to mobilise resources for the Treasury from different sectors."

IAPRI's latest policy brief was dubbed: Agricultural Sector in Peril: Is Zambia Killing the Goose That Lays the Golden Egg?

IAPRI have warned that government's insistence to implement the controversial Sales Tax on April 1 will only increase the cost of doing business for producers in the agricultural sector. Government is set to re-introduce Sales Tax as proposed in the 2019 national budget after next month, partly in a bid to avoid paying VAT refunds, especially to mining companies.

Solwezi entrepreneur starts duck rearing to satisfy Chinese demand

By Claver Mutinta in Solwezi
A Solwezi-based entrepreneur has taken up a rare business of rearing ducks to supply Chinese nationals in Zambia who fancy the local delicacy. Edgar Mutanuka, 32, said last June he supplied a number of ducks to Chinese nationals operating at a local firm, with each bird going for K150 and he had made good profit. He said the price of domesticated amphibian birds had gone up to K250, which inspired him to invest in them to satisfy cravings of the Chinese in the district.

Mutanuka explained during a Kansanshi Mining Plc-sponsored mentorship visit by Fortune World Investments (FWI) that the duck-rearing business was very profitable and cost-effective as they fed on their own. "I have a ready market for ducks, which I have been rearing since 2017. I now have 25 ducks and 22 ducklings; by June, they might multiply to 100. I came up with that idea considering the Chinese investment in the country. The Chinese are more interested in ducks," Mutanuka observed. He said most of the other

locals were not interested in rearing ducks. "Culturally, ducks were considered dirty birds that feed on rubbish. Local people say ducks with their shape and broad webbed-feet are not appetising and people avoid them," he said. But Mutanuka said he was taking advantage of that lack of interest from other to explore the business opportunity and become a pioneer in commercial duck rearing. He explained that the Chinese community could consume as many as 1,000 ducks every month because their meat was rich in protein

than broiler chickens. "It's very easy to run poultry business for ducks. It takes five to six months for them to mature and be ready for market. I'm targeting to have about 1,000 ducks per month from August this year," said Mutanuka. And FWI managing director Mukumbi Kafuta said the Zambian population needed to be educated on the varieties of food. He said Mutanuka should conduct market research for his business and create a clean environment for duck-rearing so that people's perception about ducks could be changed.

Kafuta advised him to formalise his business and investigate on the food supplement for ducks so that they could grow bigger and healthier. He said if conducted well the duck business had potential to flourish within a short period because of good profit margins. – Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.

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Lundazi Central MP has no G12 certificate, Nkunika tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Lundazi Central losing independent candidate Bizwayo Nkunika has asked the Constitutional Court to declare the parliamentary seat vacant, alleging that the current Independent member of parliament, Lawrence Nyirenda, does not hold a full Grade 12 certificate. Nkunika has cited Nyirenda and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) as first and second respondents respectively. In a petition filed in the Constitutional Court, Nkunika stated that he was a candidate in the Lundazi Central constituency during 2016 general elections, while Nyirenda was the sitting member of parliament for the constituency. But he alleged that Nyirenda did not meet the minimum academic qualifications as prescribed under article 70 of the Republican

Constitution because he did not hold a Grade 12 certificate. Nkunika claimed that ECZ contravened the said article when it allowed Nyirenda to contest the Lundazi Central seat without meeting the minimum qualifications. He further stated that the ECZ had continued to contravene the said provision by not taking the appropriate actions against Nyirenda, adding that it was aware that he did not submit a Grade 12 certificate as constitutionally required and as per its own provisional clearance. "Arising from this, the petitioner wants the Constitutional Court to order that Nyirenda and ECZ have continued to contravene article 70 and 72 of the Constitution," read the petition. He further wants the court to declare the seat vacant and that the ECZ should hold elections within 90 days.

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Pupils at Mwasipi Primary School in Nyanje area of Sinda District last week caught their teacher half naked after he attempted to rape a local deaf and dumb woman at the named school, identified as Rose. The teacher, identified as Milishi Kasumbi, who has since admitted the charge of attempted rape was caught in the nearby maize fields after he attempted to bolt, leaving his clothes behind. Brother to the victim, Million Zulu, narrated that the named student teacher went to the house twice, and failed to gain access until he broke

Sinda teacher busted after attempting to rape deaf, dumb woman

the on the third attempt and started wrestling with Rose, who sustains bruises in the process. "When I was called I found he was in the hands of the schools boys who are renting the nearby house. Upon asking what happened, they said Kasumbi had entered my sister house by breaking the door and when the boys heard the noise, they came to intervene, but he ran away. The boys were able

to catch him half naked as he had left his clothes behind. This is not the first time, its now the third time all the past days he was refusing but today he can't defend himself" said Zulu. When he was taken before the local court at Nyanje Headquarters, Kasumbi admitted the offence before section chairperson Godfrey Banda, blaming his action on alcohol. "Truly, this afternoon we

had resolved an issue as a committee which happened last night where Mr Kasumbi was found at a certain lady's house without agreement and upon finding out, it was narrated that it was the third time he kept troubling the woman. The victim family have forgiven him but asked

him to pay for the damage of the door he broke and other things which will cost around K700," said Banda. And section vice chairperson Joseph Phiri wondered how Kasumbi would be able to stand in front of the pupils who caught him to teach the following day.

"Now I stand to wonder how you will be teaching since some pupils saw your state and even after completing your teaching practice if you will be conducting yourself in this state, are you not going to abuse pupils? You need to change if things are to move well with you" said Phiri



PF members in Bahati show solidarity as they listen to an address by their Secretary General Davies Mwila yesterday

Sesheke cops were fired for putting Lungu's life in danger - Tourism Minister

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Tourism Minister Charles Banda says the four Sesheke police officers who were fired two weeks ago put the life of President Edgar Lungu in danger. In an interview at Nyamtuma Primary School in Sinda District where he met his Kapoche Constituency officials, Banda said there was a lapse among police officers in the provision

of security for the Head of State when he visited Sesheke during a recent parliamentary election. "In Zambia we respect human life. In other countries people would have been injured (in Sesheke) because they went to threaten the life of the Head of State which is not correct. When there is failure to perform in sections like the police service, actions should follow. Remember

there was failure there to secure the life of the Head of State which means there was a lapse, somebody did not do the job properly and you don't keep such people," Banda said. "There is nothing political in the firing of the police officers, it was regarding the life of the Head of State. If you put the life of the Head of State at risk then you are not fit for that job. Negligence of duty costed those cops."

He advised civil servants against making the job of politicians in government difficult. "Us as politicians we depend on the civil service that is our backbone. The moment they act incompetent even us we shall be inefficient as they are going to show political leadership failure. They are our technocrats, we ride on the advice from them. Let everyone do what they are paid for because it's what they are tasked for. Let them build because civil servants can build or destroy and if they don't build then we will be doomed" said Banda. He accused UPND of provoking PF in the recent local government and parliamentary by-election. "Violence is not in our vocabulary and it's not on our agenda as PF. I will tell you that I was one of the people that participated in the recently held by-election and PF was not at fault. I was in Lundazi in Mkomba ward where I witnessed UPND cadres attack PF cadres who were with me, they beat them in my view and the role I took was to stop them and asked PF cadres not to retaliate. I never ran away because I wanted to see what they could do to a senior citizen like me but they avoided me and followed my cadres" narrated Banda who is also a member of the PF Central Committee.

It's Amos, his boss who have rats' brains - UPND

By Mirriam Chabala

UPND Secretary General Stephen Katuka says it is gross indiscipline for State House Spokesperson Amos Chanda to liken the brain of Hakainde Hichilema and his members to those of rats, just because he has been privileged to save in his current position. And Katuka has charged that it is Chanda or his boss who have rats brains, and not the opposition leader. Last week, Chanda addressed a press briefing where he announced that President Edgar Lungu would not go to the dialogue table with people who had brains like those of rats. He further said the opposition alliance was a collection of criminal elements who President Lungu would not dialogue with. But reacting to the President's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, Katuka told News Diggers in an interview that what Chanda was doing was unacceptable and out of his lane as a civil servant. "I think the dialogue process is being spearheaded by the Church, I hear the Church called for a meeting yesterday (Saturday) and they are calling for another one today (Sunday), so they are handling that themselves. So then who is Amos Chanda to talk like that? He's just a

small little rat, he's not even worth responding to. To start with, Amos Chanda is a civil servant, but now, he has turned himself into a politician who is attacking political leaders and talking politics all the time. This is the indiscipline that has come into the country under the Patriotic Front. There is so much indiscipline that people do not know what they are supposed to do. They pick people from all over the streets and give them jobs, in the PF you can be picked from the streets and be made a Permanent Secretary. You can be picked from any where and made a Presidential Spokesman," Katuka charged. "How did Chanda become a Presidential Spokesman? They just picked him because they saw that he was stranded. So that's why he has become so insolent and sarcastic. And I will tell you that is gross indiscipline. How can any sensible adult describe another human being who is even of a higher level than him in status that he has a rat's brain? That's indiscipline and I think it's him Chanda who has a rat's brain or his boss." Katuka said the PF and police were responsible for the ongoing political violence in the country. "The PF are the ones who are in charge of power right now, they are the ones in government but

there is no political will to this dialogue from the Patriotic Front. Not only that, the perpetrators of violence are the Patriotic Front in collusion with the police. When our member was shot at by the police at the High Court, the police officer who shot him was promoted. But when PF cadres were butchered in Sesheke during the by-elections, the police officers were fired, look at the contrast," Katuka lamented. "In Nyanja they say 'Ciwamina galu kuluma mbuzi', mbuzi ikaluma galu ninshi nima loza. This is what is happening now. We have a cadre who is moving around with a bullet in his body up to now, a matter that was reported to the police and a well known PF cadre shot him. The gun was surrendered to the police by myself, but up to now, nothing has happened. When I was on a Radio programme with Mwaata Katongo, she said 'no we didn't know the victim. We are looking for him but we didn't find him', which was nonsense to me. How can police fail to find a person involved in a big incident like that? And they know that he's a party member. Everyone knows that the person who was shot at was a UPND party member. So a party member has an established office, so if you want to find a PF member, you know where

to find him. But they have never come to my office or brought a call out wanting to see the victim but they say they failed to find him. The police is failing us because they are always in collusion with the PF, they have been compromised under Kanganja." Katuka further accused the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) of tolerating violence. "So as we approach the elections, we should expect chaos as usual because the ECZ too enjoys that, why I say is, if you remember before nominations of the Sesheke elections, we stormed the ECZ to tell them that it can't be life as usual where we let people butcher each other and an election happens and we wait for the results without doing anything about it. So it is ECZ who are the referees. They are not doing what they are supposed to do. Even after the Sesheke brutality, I have not heard a comment from ECZ, they have been quiet because for them it's business as usual. They want to announce the next election now and we have already heard threats from the ruling party that there will be bloodshed. The ECZ should have come in, but they are doing nothing, they are just impotent and that's the whole problem, institutions of governance are compromised," said Katuka.



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 PART 13 (THIRTEEN)

By Hon Davies Mwila

Introduction

Zambia's national development agenda is guided by the National Development Plans (NDP). At present, the NDP under implementation is the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP, 2017 to 2021).

There are five (05) strategic areas of the 7NDP, with the first one being: "Economic Diversification and Job Creation". Having already covered the previous 7 development outcomes under this strategic area; this article will highlight the performance of the PF Government vis-à-vis "Development Outcome Number 8: Enhanced Information and Communication Technology", to accelerate "Economic Diversification and Job Creation", and the achievement of Zambia's Vision 2030 objective to be a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030".

PF ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 8: ENHANCED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The 7NDP prioritizes Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and states that:

"Information and communication technology (ICT) has been identified as a catalyst for socio-economic development by promoting competitiveness as well as being an enabler of good governance".

This is also in line with Zambia's ICT Vision 2030 goal: to become an "Information and Knowledge-based Society by 2030".

Emphasizing the critical importance of ICT in accelerating socio-economic development, the founding father and former Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, said during the Global Strategies Conference on 6th June 1990, that:

"There are some fundamental changes in the determinants of economic strength. In the 19th and early 20th century, comparative advantage in land, people and natural resources plus technology, were the key factors in determining the economic power and success of nations. Mining technology was new. There was limited production of coal and steel. Those nations with the technology to extract coal and produce steel were the first to be industrialized. They had a tremendous economic advantage over other nations. The poorer backward countries were easily defeated and conquered because of the technical inferiority of their armaments and economy.... Today, people can gain access to most technology and resources. So, the ownership of natural resources or commodities is of no great economic advantage.... In this stage, technology is widely and rapidly available to those with the capacity to absorb the knowledge. And if they have this capacity, they can take the advances further on their own."

Therefore, based on the 7NDP and Vision 2030, the PF Government is actualising the socio-economic development using ICT, by: increasing connectivity to the fibre optic and similar high capacity transmission networks; increasing access and use of mobile phones; increasing access and use of mobile phones, and increasing access to ICT services such as the internet. The following paragraphs will highlight a few examples out of many, on how the PF Government is achieving this.

STRENGTHENING LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The PF Government is implementing laws, policies and regulations to support the provision of electronic services (e-services), and promote private sector/commercial and citizen security, safety, confidence and effective participation. Collectively, these interventions are safeguarding Zambia's cyber space by, among others, formulating appropriate measures domestically and in collaboration with other governments in Southern Africa for faster protection of the cyber space for the benefit of all. In this regard, the PF Government is working on ratifying and making into laws the E-commerce, Cyber Protection and Data Protection Bills.

IMPROVE ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

There are three main challenges in accessing and utilizing ICT in Zambia. Firstly, there are weak supportive legal and institutional frameworks for the development and utilization of ICT. Secondly, there is poor connectivity due to inadequate and fragmented ICT infrastructure in both the public and private sectors. Thirdly, there is inadequate human resources, especially in the public sector, in the field of computing and information technology.

Against this background, the PF Government is mitigating the challenges described above by "Improving ICT Infrastructure for Service Delivery", in line with the 7NDP, and the SMART Zambia Master Plan which requires investment in, and upgrading of, telecommunications networks, data centres and access to devices.

The PF Government is committed to the enhancement of a Smart Zambia. The SMART Zambia institute (SZI) is the implementing agent. The first phase of SMART Zambia was the establishment of the National Data Centre (ZNDP) to store information safely for both Government and private institutions, and ensure security and continuity of Government services and data. The PF Government is completing phase 2 of this national broadband network and e-government platforms to benefit 17 cities countrywide by laying 9, 050 KM of fibre optic cables across ten provinces; connecting 10,000 businesses and public sector organizations; 200,000 urban houses to the ZNDP; and building one thousand and nine (1,009) more towers over three years, in mostly underserved and unserved areas, for Zambia to achieve 100% network coverage under the PF Government.

These interventions shall stimulate e-commerce, and improve the flow of information within and among Government institutions, private sector enterprises and citizens, thus bringing about socio-economic benefits, economic diversification and job creation. The PF Government is also establishing an ICT innovation park.

With President Lungu backing ICT as a driver of development and, with Government's plans of digitisation and roll out of e-platforms across the country's different Ministries, the ICT sector's businesses will benefit greatly. This provision of e-services by the PF Government typifies the transforming mode of delivering public services by Government, from traditional face-to-face interaction to online channels – thereby allowing all citizens and business entities to access services anywhere and anytime, for broad-based socio-economic development.

The PF Government also undertakes continuous review, enhancement and implementation of: standards, policy, legal, institutional and regulatory framework in the ICT sector, through the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and Zambia Information and Communication Technology (ZICTA). For example, to ensure quality services for citizens, Government through ZICTA fined all three (3) Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) 26th June, 2018, for failing to adhere to the Quality of Service parameters as outlined in the Quality of Service Guidelines during the fourth quarter of 2017 and first quarter of 2018 respectively, in line with section 67(1) of the ICT Act. The set parameters which operators failed to meet include; Call Set Up Success Rate, Mean Opinion Score, Successful SMS Rate, SMS Delivery Time and HTTP Success log-ins, HTTP Success Rate, HTTP Down Rates 2G and 3G. Section 67 (1) of the ICT Act places an obligation on the service providers to meet such minimum standards of Quality of Service (<https://www.zicta.zm/>).

As earlier stated, one of the hindrances to accessing and utilizing ICT in Zambia is "inadequate human resources in the field of computing and information technology". This ICT skills gap prompted the PF Government to "mainstream ICT in the Zambian Education Curricula and Schools, in order to bolster sustainable development and utilization of ICT by all citizens". A 2011 World Bank Report is in support of these interventions, and has stated:

"Growth and development, and poverty reduction, depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom".

Empirical research such as, "Education and Development: Education for All Fast Track Initiative" by Kagia (2007:1) also reveals that:

"Low levels of human capital accumulation in a country lead to technological stagnation and a slow-growing economy which generates little demand for higher-level skills".

Based on the above, low levels of human capital accumulation and technological (ICT) stagnation hinders "economic diversification and job creation", the goal of the 7NDP. In this regard, the PF Government is achieving "Development Outcome Number 8: Enhanced Information and Communication Technology" as demonstrated in this article, for "Economic Diversification and Job Creation" while; enabling Zambia to become an "Information and Knowledge-based Society by 2030", and a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030".

CONCLUSION

The Patriotic Front Government led by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has recognised ICT as a catalyst for socio-economic development as well as an enabler of good governance; And has consequently set in motion deliberate measures to attain Zambia's ICT Vision 2030 goal: to become an "Information and Knowledge-based Society by 2030".

The next article will deal with "Development Outcome Number 9: Enhanced Decent Job Opportunities in The Economy".
Ends...//...

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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Why Luo is taking hungry students' meals off the table

On 6 February 2019, Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo announced that her ministry had with immediate effect stopped disbursing the stipend, popularly known as 'meal' allowance, paid to government-sponsored students in public universities for their upkeep. Luo said the move was necessitated by the need to extend the government's financial assistance to students in other public universities and to make parents to share the cost of the education of their children. To avoid misrepresenting the reasons that Luo cited for the move, it is worth quoting her remarks at length:

"Given the fact that we have extended support to the other institutions, we are going to strictly restrict our support to tuition fees, accommodation and these will be paid directly to the institutions where the students are going to be studying so that we don't have a situation where people are not able to pay for their tuition and their accommodation. Then the money to do with their books and projects is what will be paid directly to the students. So the new support that is going to start this year will not include pocket money popularly known as BC [meal allowance]. This way, we will have a shared responsibility between us and the parents of these children."

Broadly speaking, there are three points to be said about Luo's decision.

The first is that the Minister of Higher Education was less than truthful in explaining why the government is stopping the payment of students' living allowances. Before examining this point in detail, it is worth noting that the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Act Number 31 of 2016 expects the government to provide for a living allowance to eligible students in educational institutions of higher learning. Section 24 (1c) of this law stipulates that

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a loan or scholarship granted to a student shall not exceed the aggregate of
- (a) the fees payable to the higher education institution per academic year;
 - (b) 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
 - (c) a living allowance in the prescribed amount per academic year.
- (2) The fees or other charges that are payable to a higher education institution by a student granted a loan or scholarship shall be paid by the Board directly to the institution.
- (3) The Board shall, in granting a loan to a student, require repayment of the loan at such times within such periods as the Board may determine.

The Act further defines a 'loan' as "a loan granted to a student by the Board for the purpose of defraying the costs connected with the education at a local higher education institution, including costs connected with the board and lodging of the student for the purposes of attending the higher education institution". Why then is the government taking away willy-nilly what the law expects it to provide as part of the student-financing loan scheme? The simple answer is that the government has run out of money because of its lack of fiscal discipline, careless debt borrowing, loyalty to corruption and excessive extravagance. A lack of priorities in public expenditure, one that has recently seen the government procure needless aircrafts for President Edgar Lungu, a sea of expensive luxury cars for ministers and huge salary

increases for constitutional office holders has, alongside inflated costs in public procurement, left the government on the verge of insolvency. The student meal allowance is simply the earliest casualty of this inexcusable wastefulness, perpetrated by a kleptocratic regime and the basest of us – a coterie of unscrupulous elite scumbags, hypocrites, kakistocrats, and scoundrels of all sorts who somehow find themselves in power.

Luo should have been truthful. There are tough times ahead for Zambia. Our government has accumulated an unsustainable burden of debt with little to show for it, and the consequences are beginning to manifest. Clearly, much of the money borrowed has been wasted or stolen. Nevertheless, it will have to be repaid and I am afraid that government finances will become tighter, as we struggle to dismantle the mountain of debt that has formed since 2012. To illustrate: according to the 2019 national budget, the government is this year alone expected to spend K15 billion (K 15 trillion in old currency) on servicing external debt and K 8 billion on servicing domestic debt. As a result, public investment in social sectors like education and health will decrease considerably, setting in motion a devastating process whose output will be a disease-ridden, impoverished and illiterate national population. Zambians, sadly, are not unfamiliar to these events and the fact that the actions of our government have brought us here again is sheer madness. If Zambia were a company, she would have been long liquidated.

The second point to be said about Luo is that her stated reasons for scrapping the living allowance are not persuasive for various reasons. One, the need for additional scholarship loan schemes in new public universities cannot in itself be a reason for subtracting living allowances from the provisions made available in the present scholarship scheme. On the contrary, if the government establishes additional universities, they have an obligation to increase the number of scholarships proportionally, and not find the money by reducing the number of scholarships for University of Zambia (UNZA) and Copperbelt University (CBU) students and by cancelling meal allowances for all students. Meal allowances should be an essential component of a scholarship, since attending university rests on various essential costs, of which tuition fees, accommodation and food are the most essential. Two, the claim that the move represents an attempt to make parents share the responsibility of educating their children with the government by making them pay food costs is laughably disingenuous, since parents are already contributing considerably by having to pay transport costs, food and accommodation during vacation, and miscellaneous living costs such as clothes and toiletries. In addition, the parents pay the opportunity cost of not having their offspring entering wage employment or assisting in the family farm or other enterprises. It is also worth noting that many children of this generation do not have parents. Those who are lucky have guardians, who have already taken over the government's duty to look after the orphans (social welfare).

Three, if present scholarships are means tested, then it follows that those who receive them have parents who cannot afford to send their children to university. This has the corollary that scholarships should include not only meal allowances but also the other expenses listed above that cannot be afforded by very poor families. Four, it is not even clear that meal allowances are a cost to government, since the present scholarship scheme

is a loan scheme where the recipient is required to pay back the money to the government. But if students are subsequently unable to pay back the loans because they cannot find employment, this is directly the fault of the government, which has always justified expenditure on university education as an investment for future development. This means that government is supposed to control the number of university places to match the needs of the labour market. The current large number of unemployed graduates indicates that the government has overly expanded universities, has spent money it cannot afford, and now seems to be trying to find the money by starving the students. Given the above considerations, it becomes clear that the removal of meal allowances has no rational basis. It is therefore at this point that we need to consider other factors.

The final point is that Luo's decision to take hungry students' meals off the table is also possibly a result of her own entrenched but false belief that living allowances are responsible for student protests at public universities. (The actual cause of student protests is the delayed payment of living allowances and the frequent lack of clear communication between the government and the students when such is the case.) Unrepentant, and guided by this flawed thinking, the minister has had various run-ins with the students, and has previously taken action to unlawfully suspend the students' union activities at UNZA and CBU, and also to divide UNZA into several colleges which would be administratively, academically and even geographically separated, apparently in a strategy of 'divide and rule'. These considerations raise the question of whether the removal of living allowances is yet another step in Luo's irrational and vindictive war against the university students, where the minister's purpose is to physically punish the students and also to show them that she is the boss. The minister's action seems to be a further escalation of the long-standing and intermittent war between UNZA students and the government, which began as far back as 1967, where the government's reaction to student protests takes the form of invasions of campus by militarised police to brutalise students, and also by long closures followed by exclusion of student leaders. The removal of living allowances may therefore be interpreted as a further extension of government terrorism, adding the new strategy of starving the students, presumably to reduce their energy in mounting protests and to force them into compliance or submission. Such a strategy may have exactly the opposite effect, thereby signifying government's further descent into irrationality in dealing with students. The great irony of the situation is that this vindictive war against UNZA, for instance, is being conducted by a minister who is a professor of the same university. As a professor of microbiology, Luo presumably has an expert knowledge of micro-organisms, but seems to have no understanding whatsoever of her fellow humans – not even their need for food.

I make an earnest appeal to the government and the wider public to prevail upon Luo to reverse the decision to withdraw the payment of students' living allowances. Her action is ill-advised and likely to condemn generations of Zambians, especially the poor and mostly those in rural areas, to a subhuman and wretched existence underpinned by poverty, disease, superstition, ignorance, hunger, squalor, want, and ill health. Removing the living allowance that enabled so many Zambians to escape that fate through determination, chance and effort provides a guaranteed way of unleashing more numbers onto the already existing heap of wasted talent.

Last week, a celebrated Zambian singer Mukubesa Mundia, popularly known by his stage name "Peterson Zagaze" made two social media postings which landed him in hot soup with media practitioners. The angry journalists treated what the musician posted as an insult to the Fourth Estate.

In one Facebook posting, Petersen remarked: "With 'most' Zambian journalists, a good story will remain uncovered as long as it doesn't produce or promise transport refund. That's why all hot stories are politician based."

The dancehall star repeated similar sentiments on Twitter, saying: "What is wrong with celebrating Christopher Katongo? The media in England works tirelessly to create a big Harry Kane, Portugal does theirs on Ronaldo, Zimbabwe on Khama Billiat, Messi is Argentina's... and the world follows. Ise kuno all media people want is transport refund."

Media people did not have kind words for the singer. They forcefully added him to a journalists' WhatsApp group where they took turns roasting him. Finally, using the hashtag #BlackoutPetersen, they resolved to never give the celebrated singer any media coverage, as a consequence for his demeaning remarks on scribes.

We would like to start by stating that, although Petersen was wrong to a greater extent, he was misunderstood to some extent. We feel the singer was understood to have meant that "ALL MEDIA PEOPLE WANT transport refund", when according to our understanding of grammar, he meant "ALL 'WHAT' MEDIA PEOPLE WANT IS transport refund. He omitted the relative pronoun "what" in his expression, but kept "is". The two expressions carry different interpretations. In

We'll cover Petersen, long live freedom of expression

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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our view, he did not mean "every single journalist", and that can be qualified by his other posting in which he categorically said 'Most Zambian journalists.'

Our readers may be wondering; what is the so-called "transport refund?" This is money that is paid to journalists in the form of transport refund when they go to cover a press briefing or related assignment. It is a fast growing trend in Zambia that if you want to have a good media turn out at your event, you must promise us this transport refund. In Kitwe on the Copperbelt, apparently we journalists even have a fixed rate of how much we must be paid when we cover your event.

Now, we find Petersen wrong for saying that Zambian journalists are not promoting their own talented citizens like Christopher Katongo. This singer is a product of media publicity and he is just one example of many. Without the work of journalists he would not be where he is. But it appears he would like to see journalists sing praises to celebrities even those who do wrong,

for the sake of promoting our own. There he is wrong; Journalists who made Peterson what he is today did not do so because he gave them transport refund, but because he deserved publicity.

However, despite being wrong to a greater extent, we do not think that Petersen deserves to be blacked out. As a Zambian citizen, Petersen has the right to express his opinion, right or wrong. Freedom of expression is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Zambian Constitution under Article 20. The Supreme law of the land gives protection for an individual to hold opinions and communicate those opinions without interference.

It is Petersen's opinion that "most journalists in Zambia" are motivated by transport refund. If he is wrong, those who feel aggrieved are protected by the same Constitution to express their counter opinions in disagreement, and that is how community and national discourse should be embraced. Blacking out Petersen is tantamount to

interfering with his freedom of expression.

As a matter of fact, we feel it is blackmail to tell Petersen that we made you who you are and as such you have no right to criticise us. Journalists are not faultless, we don't have the monopoly of wisdom and we make so many mistakes in the execution of our duties. People have the right to point out a wrong or a bad habit among us journalists and we should not threaten our critics with the power of the pen. The same way that we expect politicians to take the criticism that we publish is the same way that we must embrace the criticism thrown at us, if we have to improve in our conduct.

Petersen is raising a very cardinal issue here, which should not be silenced by the struggles that we journalists go through in our day-to-day jobs. Yes, we get beaten by cadres to tell some stories and there is a long list of painful endeavours that we battle with to stay in the profession. But what Petersen is pointing at is something that cannot be ignored.

We must take self introspection as journalists

and ask ourselves; how did it get this bad? There are bad elements who disguise themselves as journalists and follow events just to eat food and take transport refunds. How do we differentiate ourselves from these bad elements? If we also demand transport refunds like those individuals who don't even report to any institution, is that ethical? How are we better than them? That is the real problem we are facing as journalists from public and private media. That is what we must think about and deal with, not blacking out Petersen.

Today, media institutions have attached reporters to specific political parties for months, and they don't even have to report in the newsroom. They just travel with politicians from town to town, return to Lusaka just to change clothes and head out again for campaigns. What kind of journalism is that? How will that reporter expose anything wrong about that politician? When will that journalist find time to do any investigative work?

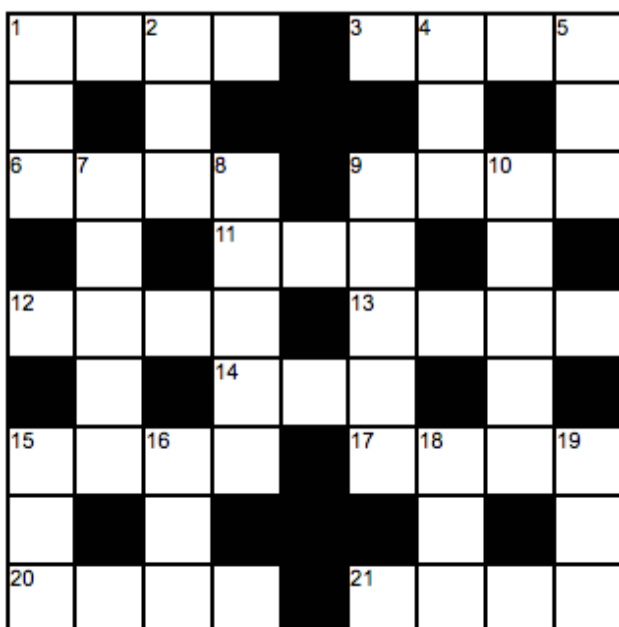
It turns out that politicians actually pay media houses

for this type of coverage, and media owners cannot refuse these offers because the economy is so bad and there are no advertisements. Without such supplementary income, media houses cannot remain in business. If this bad economy is what is causing our institutions to pay journalists little money, and the poorly paid journalists need transport refunds to survive, let's deal with that economic problem. That is the issue we must face, not blacking out Petersen.

Petersen may not understand the environment under which journalists operate, his opinion has merely pointed out what he has observed on the surface. He finds it strange that "most journalists" are motivated by transport refund in Zambia – and indeed it is strange. We can insult him, black him out or even stop listening to his music; but that will not solve the bigger problem that we must face as journalists, and deal with.

We would like to emphasize that journalists who feel offended by Petersen's opinion have the right to react in the manner they deem fit because it is also their right to defend their reputation. But as News Diggers, we have taken note of his valid criticism of our behavior as journalists. We will not black out Petersen for exposing our bad habits. Instead, we will give him all the publicity he deserves in his work, while trying to improve our own work ethics. Long live Freedom of Expression! Long live Press Freedom!

Crossword puzzle 300



"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."
- S.G. Tallentyre

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ache 3. Small discoloration 6. Engrave 9. Weight measurement 11. Yours and mine 12. Singing threesome 13. Gets sick 14. Sign of infection 15. Lawyer's charges 17. Darned 20. Fuse metal 21. Ignore | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prefix meaning before 2. Company name abbr. 4. ___ capita 5. Thomas nickname 7. Succinct 8. Basketball, slangly 9. Park feature 10. Let happen 15. Minimal 16. Long fish 18. Caribou kin 19. Small taste |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 299



Reader's feedback

British envoy's warning on serious trouble in 2021 if parties don't dialogue

Editor,

"Reading the wise counsel of the British envoy, I hereby make an EARNEST appeal to President Edgar Lungu to take up the leadership mantle and foster the national dialogue process himself. Only he can do that as Republican President. And as a rider to that, only he can stop the ugly scenes of electoral violence just with five words: "stop the violence or else." - Mike Phiri

"This man saw what I saw in 2016. And I seriously doubt if that dialogue will happen considering the current developments." - Daniel Chindima

"Timely advice. Let those with ears hear." - Boniface Mwalongo

"Dictator Edgar Lungu is not interested in national dialogue; otherwise, it would have taken place already. Lungu's fear is that a successful dialogue will mean the end of his tyranny! And Lungu is not willing to end corruption. The important thing is for democrats to struggle for regime change." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"What PF supporters don't understand is that what happened in Sesheke is that the opposition and a few good police fought back against the tyranny of PF and their cadres. Half this country did not vote for PF. The PF should not continue to imagine that half to be docile and incapable of resisting PF attacks! 2021 is not going to be a good year until those in power sober up." - Wuselewa See

"One day, everyone will realise that after all this dialogue was very necessary and for their own good." - Noel Siame

Police's summoning of Kambwili over Indian fracas

Editor,

"The Minister of Information is behind this. This is very wicked..." - Nicholas Douglas

"I don't support this! We have so many poor people in this country whose cases are taking decades to be heard and disposed of at the expense of politicians whose cases seem to be a priority when in fact, what speaks is their big pockets." - Michael Siampazanga

"What happened was not right, but the big man is a Zambian, and again, can a Zambian be allowed to do that type of work in India and can an Indian Minister support a Zambian's work?" - Nyambe Akolwa

"Go and face them, CK! They fear because you have been fighting for the poor unemployed youths years back and they know that you never fail to fight!" - Winston Joel Kanengo

"Instead of firing Chitotela, you waste time on baseless issues! PF government, another way of trying to poison him. CK, don't sit on the chair they will provide you with during your interrogations." - Joseph Ntambi

"What about the Minister who was caught with those adult videos? When are you summoning him?" - Mathews W Ks



'IG's order to delete all police social media groups is censorship!'

Editor,

"I now agree with what has been of Esther Mwaata Katongo where she said the service isn't happy at all with the Sesheke incident where four officers were retired! This is a clear confirmation that things aren't okay in there, and that the service is truly shaky..." - Allan Alinew Lungu

"The case of PF cadres & police. They have striped you of all constitutional rights - freedom of assembly, of speech, free & fair elections, right to employment, education, health, yet you think you're free under their rule?" - Chibi Kala

"The beginning of a police state!!!" - Walter Themba Miyoba
NBA's seizure of GMO foods from Food Lovers, Spar

NBA's seizure of GMO foods from Food Lovers, Spar

Dear Editor,

"Ba NBA, spread your tentacles. People have been eating those GMOs for a long time and this is when you are waking up from slumber!!!! Very sad indeed!!!" - Frederick Macha

"Confiscation only is not enough, CLOSE THEM!" - Samuel Mulafulafu

"I miss MMD under Mwanawasa who had intellectuals that did not look at self-first, but nation first. If you can have great nations like Germany banning GMO food products into their country, how about Zambia? It is sad. We are finished!" - Dan Mangwato

"I think they should be indicating on the shelves GMO and non-GMO products so that customers

are aware of what exactly they are buying. We don't want to start developing horns in future after consuming GMO products!" - Uledi Munthali

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

For the first time, a scientific study has identified sedentary behavior as a potential risk factor to explain the sharp rise in colorectal cancer among those under 50.

The study, which looked at TV viewing as well as other sedentary behavior in nearly 90,000 American women, found that more than one hour of daily TV viewing was associated with a 12 percent increase in risk of colorectal cancer. Among those watching more than two hours per day, there was a striking 70 percent increase in risk. The results of the study were published Jan. 25 in JNCI Cancer Spectrum.

The study looked at 89,278 nurses who were ages 25 to 42 at the beginning of the research, in 1991, and followed them for 22 years. The researchers found 118 cases of early-onset colorectal cancer diagnosed over the two decades of follow-up. Rectal cancers were more commonly found than colon cancers, researchers found.

Early-onset colorectal cancer, defined as occurring under age 50, is increasing in the U.S. and globally, sharply contrasting with a dramatic drop in the disease among older people, largely as a result of cancer screening. To make matters worse, the early-onset version is typically more aggressive and found at more advanced stages than the version found in older patients due to differences in the molecular makeup of the disease.

"Sedentary lifestyle is one of the risks factors that is often overlooked," said Yin Cao, lead author of the study and a cancer epidemiologist at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "This study may help identify those at high risk and who might benefit more from early screening."

The correlation between watching TV and a higher risk of cancer held true regardless of how much the women exercised or what their body mass index measurements were. "We observed no clear increase in risk for other forms of sitting at home, such as mealtime or time spent at a desk," Cao told NBC News.

The colorectal cancer findings come on top of other research

TV watching may increase women's risk of colorectal cancer



showing that obesity-related cancers are also rising among people younger than 50.

The study was limited because it looked only at women. Also, the study authors said sedentary behavior such as watching TV was more commonly seen in earlier-onset colorectal cancer cases, but outside experts cautioned that this was improbable.

"They found an association, but the chance that watching TV is causing the cancer is not likely. People who are more sedentary likely have other risk factors that weren't accounted for," said Dr. Rajesh Keswani, a gastroenterologist and medical director of quality for the Northwestern Medicine Digestive Health Center, who was not involved in the study.

"This is a reminder to be more active throughout the day. For health care providers it really crystallizes how we should advise people on exercise."

For years, evidence has been building that the combination of sitting for too long and a Westernized diet can cause heart disease and diabetes even in people who exercise. The trouble is that it's hard to measure just how inactive people are, and there's not enough evidence yet to show just how much, or how often, you have to exercise to counteract the effects of sitting.

"The realistic message is that we should strive to structure our daily routine to be more active. There isn't a magic number as to how many hours we should be sitting or exercising, but we should strive to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle because obesity has been linked

to a number of cancers such as colon cancer as well as a number of other diseases including diabetes," said Dr. Carlo Contreras, surgical oncologist and associate professor of surgery at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Some of the youngest women

in the study were also post-menopausal, which may have also contributed to their risk.

There's a hypothesis out there that shows that estrogen levels are protective against colon cancer, but as women age estrogen decreases, so the risk of colon cancer may increase over time," said Contreras.

Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in Americans and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. Colon cancer will be diagnosed in more than 100,000 people this year, and rectal cancer in nearly 45,000. Screening tests can help prevent colorectal cancer, but many people have not been screened.

In addition to sedentary lifestyle, genetics, a family history of colon cancer, a diet low in fiber or heavy in red

meat, and heavy smoking or alcohol use can increase one's risk.

Overall, the lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer is 4.49 percent for men and 4.15 percent for women. Experts do not know why the risk is slightly lower in women

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends routine colorectal cancer screening every five years from ages 50 to 75 for those considered to be at average risk, but notes that this is not a strict hard-and-fast rule. "The recommended screening interval actually varies based on the type of screening being used, and is not five years in every case," said a USPSTF spokeswoman via email.

Immediate medical attention should be sought if blood in the stool, unexplained weight loss and fatigue, or bleeding from the rectum is experienced. **NBC News**

Harry and Meghan arrive in Morocco

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have arrived in Morocco for their first official visit to north Africa. The royal couple's three-day trip is aimed at strengthening the UK's links with Morocco - which is one of the few stable countries in the region.

Their visit will also focus on gender equality, with the pair discussing Morocco's attitudes towards women with British ambassador Thomas Reilly. Mr Reilly said the issue is "close to their royal highnesses' hearts". Prince Harry, 34, and Meghan,

37, touched down in Casablanca airport on Saturday evening, although flight delays meant they were two hours late for their welcoming ceremony.

They entered the airport's royal suite where they were offered the traditional welcome of milk and

dates.

During their visit to Morocco - which will be an important market for the UK after Brexit - the pair will visit the famous Atlas Mountains and the country's capital, Rabat.

They will see a girls' education project, meet young social entrepreneurs and visit programmes working with children with disabilities and those with mental health problems

Britain's ambassador to Morocco, Mr Reilly, said: "I'm really excited to showcase the vital roles that girls' education and youth employment are playing in shaping modern Morocco."

"When we began planning for this visit, I had a very clear view in my mind of the story we wanted this visit to tell. It's the same story we've been telling consistently at this embassy for the last 20 months since my arrival here.

"This official visit by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex will highlight Morocco's focus on women's empowerment, girls' education, inclusivity and the encouragement of social entrepreneurship."

A Kensington Palace spokeswoman said the duke and duchess were "very much looking forward to the visit" and were "particularly pleased" they will be able to meet so many young Moroccans.

Last year, the royal couple took their first official tour as a married couple with a 16-day royal trip around Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga.

Meghan is heavily pregnant with the couple's first child.

They announced the pregnancy in October last year. Meeting crowds in Merseyside in January, the duchess revealed that she does not know the sex of the baby and it is due at the end of April or start of May.

She reportedly travelled to New York earlier this month for her luxury baby shower with her friends, including some celebrities. **BBC**



Beale Street wins big ahead of Oscars

If Beale Street Could Talk was the big winner at Saturday's Independent Spirit Awards, winning three major prizes.

It took home best feature - the top award at the ceremony - plus best director for Barry Jenkins and best supporting actress for Regina King.

The Spirits honour low-budget films and are the final major awards season ceremony ahead of the Oscars on Sunday.

Beale Street is Jenkins' first film since Moonlight, which won the best picture Oscar in 2017.

Speaking to BBC News, the director said he was pleased about the steps forward the Academy has made, or tried to make, in recent years.

The body behind the Oscars has diversified its membership, tried to introduce a popular film category and attempted to make the ceremony shorter and more entertaining.

"All this stuff with the popular film, I think all this stuff the Academy is undergoing is a period of extreme evolution, started by [former Academy president] Cheryl Boone Isaacs, there's some growing pains with that," Jenkins said.

"But I think this progress that began 5-10 years ago, if you really dig into it, is ongoing, and I think 5-10 years from now we'll look back and realise the Academy reshaped itself in some really amazing ways."

Awards season reaches its climax on Sunday night,

with the Oscars taking place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Beale Street may not be nominated for best picture there, but its wins at the Spirits give Regina King some extra momentum as the frontrunner to win best supporting actress.

Jenkins said Moonlight winning the top prize at the Oscars two years ago was invaluable in helping his follow-up get made.

"Winning best picture was crazy, but it afforded me a lot of opportunities," he said.

"So getting it funded was quite simple ultimately, but I think adapting such an interior text, that was the challenge."

Jenkins has spoken before about the difficulties of translating non-linear format of the book, where the reader benefits from hearing the interior voices of the characters, to the big screen.

Speaking about the writer of the novel, Jenkins said: "I love James Baldwin, and I've always wanted to adapt my favourite author."

"Black authors haven't been adapted at the same rate as their white peers. Megan Ellison [founder of Annapurna Pictures] said she wanted to support this black literary adaptation, and I was all about it."

Richard E Grant was among the British winners at the Independent Spirits, taking home best supporting actor - a win he said he was "utterly overwhelmed" by.

It's unlikely he will win in the same category at the Oscars, however, as there has been a clear favourite through the rest of awards season.

"It has been carved in stone for the last month that a wonderful brilliant actor called Mahershala Ali has got the award already," he told BBC News of the Green Book star.

"So the other four nominees, we're just enjoying the ride of it."

He added that the number of work offers he receives has drastically increased since his Oscar nomination.

"I have new representation in Los Angeles, and I've been sent a lot of scripts which I've never had in this quantity before in my career. But I'm sure it'll all pumpkin ride before Monday," he laughed.

Glenn Close continued her sweep of awards season at the Spirits, taking home another trophy for best actress for her role in The Wife.

She is almost certain to win the same award at the Oscars - ending her record as the actress with the most nominees without a win.

But she played down the competitive element, telling BBC News: "It's very hard for me to accept a win-lose situation."

"I don't think there are any losers. So to say 'I hope I win', it doesn't sit well with me, because look who's in my category and look at the incredible work that's being done. **BBC**

Ancelotti reveals how 'selfish' Bale sparked Real Madrid 'mess' and subsequent exit

Carlo Ancelotti has revealed how the "selfishness" of Gareth Bale contributed to a "mess" at Real Madrid and his subsequent departure from the club in 2015.

The Italian took the reins at the Santiago Bernabeu in 2013.

In his first season at the helm he delivered La Decima, with Real claiming the Champions League crown for the 10th time in their history.

Ancelotti would last just one more year before being moved on, with club president Florentino Perez claiming that decision was "very difficult".

The former Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain boss has, however, claimed that an exit had been on the cards for some time.

Perez was angered by some of Ancelotti's tactical tweaks, with Wales international Bale at the centre of those disputes.

Madrid bosses were reluctant to see a big-money addition withdrawn for no apparent reason, with 'Galacticos' required to see as many minutes as possible.

Ancelotti, though, stands by his calls when it comes to a player he believes displayed a selfish streak too often and cared more about individual acclaim than collective success.

"If there is something that drives me crazy, it is



selfishness. When a player has to pass the ball and does not pass it," Ancelotti told Il Napolista.

"I paid for that in the first person. At Madrid, I took off Bale in a game against Valencia. He had to pass the ball to [Karim] Benzema, who would have scored into an empty goal, but instead of that, he shot [and missed].

"It was the reason that triggered an argument with Florentino, I took him off and the mess began there."

Ancelotti, who moved to Bayern on the back of his spell in Madrid, is now back in his native Italy with Napoli.

He does, however, still keep a close eye on events in Spain.

Real have endured a testing 2018-19 campaign, with cross-city rivals Atletico

currently sat above them in the table.

Ancelotti is a big fan of the Rojiblancos and their manager Diego Simeone, with an approach found

which makes it difficult for opponents to prosper.

"Atletico don't play badly, they make you play badly," said Ancelotti.

"They are very well

organised and over time they have improved. Now, they play more football, they look for a lot of substance and little aesthetic." *Goal*

Ten-man Nkana defeats Ghana's Asante Kotoko

By Abraham Kalito

Ten-man Nkana FC yesterday beat Ghana's Asante Kotoko three goals to one to stand in a better

position for quarter final qualification.

Fred Tshimenga opened the score from the penalty after striker Walter Bwalya

was brought down in the box in the 12th minute.

Kotoko bounced back quickly with Yocouba Songne curling a delightful free kick which was out of reach for goalkeeper Alan Chibwe.

The 12-time Zambia Champions however did not slow down and were back in the lead with talisman Ronald Kampamba whipping in a curler from outside the box to put the host into the lead again.

Kampamba completed his brace in the 53rd minute to win the match and earn maximum points for the struggling Super division side that recently lost to rivals Power Dynamos.

Meanwhile Speaking after the match Nkana coach Bestone Chambeshi said the team is in good shape and would vie for qualification.

"We are playing very, and we have been playing very well it's only that we lost to Power Dynamos but that doesn't mean that we

haven't been playing well.

The team the suspensions are part of the game we cannot run away from the game. We know it's a setback, but that part of the game and we have to deal with it. We know that from here we have to condinate better and work towards consolidating ourselves," he said.

And Asante Kotoko coach Kwesi Appiah said the Ghanaian side has been under pressure both in the domestic league and the Confederations cup.

He said the loss has made it difficult for the team to qualify to the next round.

"Before this game there was pressure. And of course, there will be pressure when we go back home and the only thing, we really have to do is deal with it. We were hopeful that we were going to pick maximum points, but it did not go as we expected. So, we have to plan again and work towards getting a better result next time," he said.

Siame, Rhoda qualify for 2019 Morocco All-Africa Games

By Alex Chilumbwe

Sprinters Sydney Siame and Rhoda Njovu have become the first Zambian athletes to qualify for the 2019 Morocco All-Africa Games.

A special mention on the Exclusively Zambian Football blog indicated that the two booked their tickets to the continental competition during Saturday's ZAAA All-Comers Meet Championship at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

Siame timed 10:42 seconds in 100 metres to beat the 10:50 qualifying time for men. Njovu clocked 11:76 seconds to surpass the 11:95 seconds qualifying time for the 100 metres women category.

The All-Africa Games are set for August 23 to September 3. However, the two runners failed to make

it for the World Championships scheduled for Qatar in September. The qualifying time for World Championship is 10:15seconds.

"For me, qualifying for the All-Africa Games has never been a problem. I still have a chance to qualify for the World Cup. I am disappointed with my timing, I wanted to do better," said Siame.

Njovu was equally disappointed to miss the World Championship spot.

"This is just the second qualifier, I will work hard in the coming events. I know I still have a chance," said Njovu.

Other national team runners Hazemba Chidamba and Brian Kasinda failed to qualify for the All-Africa Games after finishing second and fourth with 10:58

seconds and 10:95 seconds, respectively, in the 100 metres race.

Upcoming runner Parkson Kalanga settled for third position with 10:81 seconds. In the 100 metres women category, Lumeka Katundu finished second with 11:98 seconds while Niddy Mingilishi settled for third position after clocking 12:02 seconds. Suwilanji Mpondela managed a fourth slot with 12:16 seconds.

Both Mangilishi and Mpondela qualified for the youth Africa Championship billed for Ivory Coast. National team coach Douglas Kalembo was not disappointed with the performance of the runners. Kalembo said the season has just started and most athletes are still trying to regain their form.

SIAME, RHODA QUALIFY FOR ALL-AFRICA GAMES



Lionel Messi who scored a hatrick for Barcelona away to Sevilla on Saturday evening, celebrates one of his goal with Ousmane Dembele



Leicester City sack Puel after torrid run of results

Claude Puel has been sacked by Leicester City, the club announced on Sunday.

The Frenchman, who was appointed in October 2017, had seen his position come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks and a 4-1

battering at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday sealed his fate.

A sizeable portion of the Foxes' fans stayed behind to vent their frustration at the King Power Stadium, with Leicester yet to win at home

in 2019 and having earned just one victory in nine competitive outings.

And Leicester have opted to make the change less than 24 hours the crushing defeat, with a club statement reading: "Leicester City Football Club has parted company with Claude Puel, who leaves his position as First Team Manager with immediate effect.

"The club would like to thank Claude for his efforts in leading the team during his 16 months in the role and wish him well in his future career.

"Assistant Manager Jacky Bonnevay also departs with the club's best wishes.

"First Team Coaches Mike Stowell and Adam Sadler, supported by the club's established backroom staff, will assume responsibility for the senior squad while the club begins the process of appointing a new manager.

"The Board will make no further comment until this process is complete." **Goal**

Brave Man Utd overcome glut of injuries to earn point

If Manchester United fans will never normally settle for a point from any meeting with Liverpool, they will surely have been delighted with their side's character in securing a 0-0 draw on Sunday after losing three players to injury before the half-time whistle.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side showed a great fighting spirit to extend their unbeaten run in domestic games under his stewardship to 13. And while the plethora of injury worries thrown up by this fixture will be a concern, he will be able to take plenty away from the way his players took to their task in the second half against Jurgen Klopp's title-chasers. United had already been hit by the absence of Nemanja Matic, who

picked up a muscle injury in training on Saturday which is likely to keep him out for two to three weeks. Yet what was to unfold in the first 45 minutes at Old Trafford would have disrupted any team and tested any manager.

Marcus Rashford was the first to appear in trouble, taking an early knock which had him doubled over in back play at regular intervals throughout the first half. However, he was able to carry on and it would be Ander Herrera to limp off first with Andreas Pereira coming on in his place.

With Alexis Sanchez warming up in case of the need to replace Rashford, Juan Mata received treatment for an injury picked up deep in the

United half after he had raced back to foil Mohamed Salah. He was soon substituted by Jesse Lingard.

But Lingard himself wouldn't even make it to half-time, having pulled a muscle as he stretched to challenge Alisson Becker after a disguised pass by Romelu Lukaku. On came Sanchez and United were stuck playing the final 47 minutes with no further substitutions and Rashford not at 100 per cent.

One has to worry for what lies ahead for United with so many of their first-team regulars potentially missing out. With Paul Pogba's Champions League suspension to add into the mix, the Reds may find themselves arriving at Paris Saint-Germain on March 6 with none of their usual

midfield trio of Pogba, Herrera and Matic available to them.

With Lingard's curtailed comeback – he lasted only 18 minutes here in his first appearance since the home-leg loss to PSG – there is also a question mark developing over United's forward line with Mata also limping out of the action and Anthony Martial still to return from a groin injury.

They battled well to hold Liverpool in the second half and for lengthy spells even had the ascendancy. But Solskjaer must now come up with a long-term strategy to deal with the current medical malaise - with five games to play in a 17-day period across three competitions before the next international break. **Goal**

