



LUNGU, HH WILL NEVER MEET

By Thomas Mulenga
Minister of Justice Given Lubinda says the Constitution amendment agenda is going ahead even if members of the Opposition Alliance shun the process. And Lubinda says President Edgar Lungu will never meet his UPND counterpart Hakainde Hichilema again, since the latter has accused the Head of State of plotting to assassinate him. *To page 5*

...hold your dialogue, while we amend our Constitution - Lubinda

Mushimba blocks critics on Twitter after failing to justify his SA medical bill

By Mukosha Funga
Minister of Transport and Communications Brian Mushimba has blocked critics on Twitter after they demanded justification for his decision to get his broken arm

treated in South Africa, where he stayed for over a month. Mushimba was involved in a road traffic accident on the night of January 18, 2019 after a Toyota Land Cruiser he was driving overturned on Thabo Mbeki Road in Lusaka. His counterpart at the Ministry of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya, told journalists the following day that Mushimba had sustained injuries to his right forearm, underwent surgery in the early hours of that morning and was stable. He was, however, evacuated to South Africa where he was hospitalised for weeks at Arwyp Medical Centre, an expensive private hospital in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province. *To page 2*

Lungu nullifies expulsion of Jay Jay, Eliboma
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Police officers guard Kambwili at Lusaka Magistrate's Cour where the NDC leader went to take plea in a case where he is accused of expressing hate for a foreign national- Picture courtesy of NDC media team

Nalikosa mukati na kunse, brags Kambwili

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Nalikosa mukati na kunse (I am strong inside and out), bragged NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili yesterday after he was granted K3,000 cash bail by the Lusaka Magistrate's Court. And Kambwili denied the charge of expressing racial remarks on an Indian national. In this matter, Kambwili who is also Roan PF member of parliament, is charged with one count of expressing or showing hatred, ridicule or

contempt for persons because of race contrary to section 70(1) of the penal code chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence allege that Kambwili on February

19, this year, expressed racial remarks on Rajesh Kumar Verma, an Indian national. Kambwili was arrested on Monday and charged with the said offence in relation to

the viral social media video in which he was filmed having an altercation with Kumar, who was operating a road compactor last week. *To page 7*

Choose Zambia over HH, Sunday tells UPND MPs

By Mirriam Chabala
PF media director Sunday Chanda has appealed to UPND members of parliament to choose Zambia over their party leader Hakainde Hichilema by supporting the Constitution amendment process earmarked for presentation this session. *To page 3*

Amos has taken over Lungu's presidency, charges Milupi

By Thomas Mulenga
President Edgar Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda's insulting language shows that he now

thinks of himself as another president of Zambia, says Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) leader Charles Milupi. *To page 7*

Mushimba blocks critics on Twitter after failing to justify SA medical bill

By Mukosha Funga

Minister of Transport and Communications Brian Mushimba has blocked critics on Twitter after they demanded justification for his decision to get his broken arm treated in South Africa, where he stayed for over a month. Mushimba was involved in a road traffic accident on the night of January 18, 2019 after a Toyota Land Cruiser he was driving overturned on Thabo Mbeki Road in Lusaka. His counterpart at the Ministry of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya, told journalists the following day that Mushimba had "sustained injuries to his right forearm, underwent surgery in the early hours of this morning and is stable". He was, however, evacuated to South Africa where he was hospitalised for weeks at Arwyp Medical Centre, an expensive private hospital in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province. The minister was only discharged from hospital on Sunday and immediately took to Twitter to rejoice. "So thankful to be going home today after an extended stay at the hospital repairing my injured right arm. Thank you for best wishes and prayers", he tweeted, along with an image of himself and three medical officers at Arwyp Medical Centre. The tweet immediately invited furious responses from many taxpayers. Civic rights campaigner and Alliance for Community Action Executive Director Laura Miti led the onslaught when she tweeted, "Govt cannot pay for the university education of brilliant underprivileged students but has money to send a Minister abroad for a broken arm for weeks at astronomical cost. He poses for pictures to show us the medical care leaders enjoy. Alright Minister Mushimba, we have seen". Another twitter user Marcos wrote "Everyday we wake up to something shameful by these looters. When will we wake up to hear the working class' lives have been improved, the under privileged have been better placed? #everyMourning4Zambia". Satirical singer Fuma Chamba alias Pilato tweeted "Hey world, this is a cabinet minister in Zambia who broke his arm and rushed to South Africa for treatment. His government runs hospitals in the country but he



couldn't go to any because they are below his standards. His arm deserves better treatment than pipo in local hospitals... It's hard to tell, was he laughing at the poor people with serious illnesses who go to government hospitals where they can't even handle a minister's broken arm?" It was the tweet from political commentator and columnist Sishuwa Sishuwa that first prompted the minister to respond. "An injured arm, you say? Do you have such little trust in the hospitals in our own country that for a minor complaint you were flown to South Africa? Are you mocking Zambians? And who paid for your medical bills, we the taxpayers? Or perhaps you paid out of your own pocket?" Sishuwa asked. In response, Mushimba said, "I will not make my medical file a subject of debate for settling cheap political scores. Good day sir." This reply infuriated Zambian netizens, who returned with more biting tweets. "You are the one who made your 'medical file' public, not me. And you did so from your official Twitter account. Was your treatment paid [for] by taxpayers? If so, then taxpayers have a right to know & to be outraged at the waste of money that could be used to improve healthcare in Zambia", Sishuwa wrote. Economist and academic Dr Grieve Chelwa joined the discussion. "WE paid for this Mr. Mushimba. WE have every right

to know. This stopped being a private matter the moment you used public money for your treatment in South Africa. WE also deserve to know the extent to which this was a waste of public money -- waste in the sense that we could easily have sorted what appears in your own picture to be a simple broken arm back home", he wrote. Others wondered whether Zambian doctors are too incompetent to treat an injured arm. "I know a lot of outstanding orthopedic surgeons in Zambia who could've fixed your arm and discharged you in 2 days. ichalo ichi. Get well soon and travel back safely", tweeted Gloria. "The health of our nation is measured by where our leaders seek health care and die..." wrote Kupela Clarke. Chibozu condemned the minister for "Just wasting taxpayer's money. Unnecessary evacuation should be avoided, does this mean that our home based DOCTORS can't do a

perfect job on your arm. If they can do a perfect surgery on Siamese twins, what is so completed about your arm HON. I can't refrain from debating on this matter, mind you, you are a public servant and this matter is in public domain. We are taxpayers and we are concerned." In an attempt to quell the flood of angry tweets, the minister replied: "Let's not debate when we don't have all the facts. Please refrain from doing that. Surely? Where has our humanity gone to? This is sad." Mushimba's answer only served to invite further outrage from the not receding public. Mrs. B to be replied, "Give us the facts then. What exactly necessitated your evacuation? It's public interest when everyone assumes you used public funds. Even just clarifying whether or not you footed your own bill would stop the questions." Another twitter user who goes by the name 'The African, chipped in, "You brought your 'medical condition' onto a public forum

and now say we shouldn't debate it for lack of information. Are you serious? We mend our limbs in public care but you fly out to SA for yours. When we ask why, you scream 'lack of humanity'. How is the irony lost on you!" Peter Mubanga Cheuka wrote, "You need to avoid using this cheap way of responding to questions raised by the people. People want to know why you were not treated in Zambia. Million other Zambians are being treated in our local hospitals. Don't just expect praise, but questions as well from people you lead." Luke Mulenga followed suit: "Please stop the operatic histrionics. It's a simple inquiry requiring a simple answer. It would be an absolute disgrace if you used taxpayer funds to pay for treatment that would have been done in one of our local hospitals." Wika Kawina agreed: "I agree. I personally feel mocked that people that are in charge of

improving my well-being are in the forefront in getting evacuated to other countries for health care. What does that say about the services we have here in Zambia? Highly disgraceful." Maloza wrote: "Arwyp Hospital charges minimum admission fee K30,000 per day X 30 days = over K1,000,000 for a drunken driver's broken arm. That's excluding tests, emergency call, surgery, medication, relatives escorting etc. Yet PF Govt claims there's no money for student meal allowances. Misplaced priorities. what a wasteful regime. The pipo who keep voting/rigging for this regime need to be detained at Chainama mental Hospital." A few netizens, however, empathized with the minister. "Impressed by the fact that you kept working [while you were in hospital], tweeted Kabwe JMusoonda while Muloongo Muclemba wished the minister well, tweeting "Get well soon Honorable", a message that was echoed by others. David Kabaso offered a conclusion: "Hope you copied all the machines they used so you come and urge your government to buy them to avoid traveling back to other countries for treatment. It's a shame" Meanwhile, those who criticised the Minister later complained that he had blocked them from accessing his account. Sishuwa, posting a screenshot of the blockade, wrote "Last week, I agreed with #Zambia's Minister of Communications Brian Mushimba's tweet on the need to support ZAMTEL. He heaped praise on me. Today, I asked him if his medical treatment in SA was funded by taxpayers, noting that we need to improve our own healthcare. He BLOCKED me." Many others such as Dr Chelwa and Mona Lisa registered similar complaints. "He has blocked me too", tweeted Dr Chelwa.

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DEC asks court to dismiss matter in which Chita Lodge sued it over property

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Drug Enforcement Commission has asked the Lusaka High Court to dismiss with costs, the matter in which Chita Lodge Limited sued the commission for allegedly seizing its property in Lusaka's Ibex Hill on the premise that it was owned by former Zambia Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Eric Chimese. In this matter, Chita Lodge Limited through its managing director James Chungu, who is jointly charged with Chimese on charges of concealing

property, had sued the Attorney General as the first respondent and the Drug Enforcement Commission as second, saying the seizure itself was irregular, illegal, unfair and unreasonable because the said premises had never belonged to Chimese. However, DEC Chief Investigations Officer Mukelebai Kwaleyela has raised preliminary issues, stating that the court should determine whether Chungu was in order to bring to court, matters that were subject

of criminal proceedings scheduled for March 11, 2019 before the chief resident magistrate of the Subordinate Court. He further asked the court to determine whether it had jurisdiction to entertain Chungu's application even if it was out of time. Kwaleyela argued that, Chungu through Chita Lodge Limited had devised a ploy to defeat the cause of criminal Justice in the matter where he has been arrested and charged, by abusing court with his application

for leave to apply for judicial review in order to render the criminal proceedings futile. He further stated that Chungu wanted to use the process of judicial review to obtain documentary

evidence and information on how the State wished to proceed when prosecuting his criminal matter at the Subordinate Court. Kwaleyela applied that Chungu's application

be dismissed with costs. "On this premise the respondent will apply that the applicant's application for leave to apply for judicial review be dismissed with costs," Kwaleyela stated.

Choose Zambia over HH, Sunday tells UPND MPs

By Mirriam Chabala
PF media director Sunday Chanda has appealed to UPND members of parliament to choose Zambia over their party leader Hakainde Hichilema by supporting the Constitution amendment process earmarked for presentation to Parliament this session. On Monday, Hichilema instructed his members of parliament to shoot down the motion to amend the Constitution by Justice Minister Given Lubinda saying the process could not go on before dialogue. But in a statement, Chanda advised the UPND members of parliament to "choose right" by representing the interests of Zambians, which is what they were elected to for. "We want to ask the UPND members of parliament to choose Zambia over Mr Hakainde Hichilema. We are asking the UPND members of parliament to choose the

country over Mr Hakainde Hichilema. We are asking very simple questions to the UPND members of parliament, who will you serve between HH and mother Zambia? If it seems right for you to choose HH above Zambia, do it. But posterity will judge you harshly. On Sunday, we learnt that Mr Hakainde Hichilema had asked Maj Kachingwe to choose him over his son's life and yesterday (Monday) HH was telling UPND members of parliament to choose him over national interest. In 2011, HH directed his members of parliament to vote against the Constitution Amendment Bill of that time because he wanted MMD to lose power so that he become President. He never became President, he has not become President, he has continued losing elections since and we can confidently say that it is by God's providence that Mr Hakainde Hichilema is not President

of Zambia," Chanda stated. Chanda stated that Hichilema always campaigned against progressive bills meant to improve the lives of Zambians. "In 2016, Mr Hakainde Hichilema campaigned against the Bill of Rights, denying Zambians far and better rights and today the UPND and Mr Hakainde Hichilema cry the loudest about better rights. Members of parliament have a solemn duty to make laws. They are elected to office to make laws; they are paid allowances to make laws; they receive their gratuities for making laws. And the only body, the only institution created to make laws in this country is Parliament not Mr Hakainde Hichilema's version of dialogue," Chanda stated. "The members of parliament must not abdicate their role of making laws to any other body, grouping or assembly. We are calling on UPND members of parliament to do what is best for Zambia. Choose Zambia, choose national interest over Hakainde Hichilema's greed. We are calling on other stakeholders and members of the general public to take particular interest in this particular process and make progressive recommendations for a better constitution. We are calling on the ordinary Zambians to remind UPND members of parliament that they were elected to parliament in order for them to represent and not misrepresent the people. They were elected to make laws. Let them debate and come up with progressive amendments, that's what progressive opposition political parties do." Chanda stated that whilst PF was ready to go to the 2021 elections under the current constitution, Hichilema would cry the loudest if the constitution was not amended. "For Mr Hakainde Hichilema's comfort, we want to assure him that the Patriotic Front remains ready to go into the 2021 elections under the current constitution and we know who is going to cry the loudest, it will still be Mr Hakainde Hichilema. But we are saying, for the sake of Zambia and for the sake of this country's posterity, we must be a country that continues to improve on our laws and the Patriotic Front under the leadership of President Lungu has demonstrated great political will in that regard," stated Chanda.



UPND chairperson for mobilisation Sylvia Masebo confront police at Lusaka Central where she and other opposition leaders went to show solidarity to incarcerated NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili on Monday

Lungu warns 'get rich quick' accountants

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu says some accountants have now become enemies of the people because they have involved themselves in financial transgressions to quickly amass wealth at the expense of Zambians. Speaking when he officiated at the East and Southern African Association of Accountant Generals (ESAAG) annual General Conference at Avani Hotel in Livingstone, President Lungu said accountants played a cardinal role in the transformation of Africa into a prosperous and fast-growing continent. But he observed that some accountants had now become enemies of the people because they involved themselves in financial transgressions in order to quickly amass wealth at the expense of Zambians. He bemoaned that most accountants failed to serve according to expectation because they focused on personal interest at the expense of serving the public. "The role of accountants is cardinal in transforming Africa into a prosperous and fast-growing continent, the Africa we want. For us to achieve this vision, we need to build and put in place the right systems and perform our functions

with integrity, professionalism and hard work. I wish to note that failure from most of our accountants to serve the people is not due to lack of knowledge, skill or competence. But it's because of tided focus on personal interest at the expense of public interests. It is, indeed, disheartening that some accountants have become enemies of the people by involving themselves in financial transgressions in order to quickly amass wealth at the expense of our citizens. Our citizens want to see the taxes that they give to government to be used in national development, which will positively impact on their quality of life," President Lungu said. "Our citizens demand good schools, good health facilities, good roads, safe water and sanitation and access to electricity; among other basic human needs. As people responsible for public finances, how do you, therefore, become a force for the good of our people? There is no doubt that you need to become accountable and transparent. You need to ensure that public resources are targeted towards delivery of public goods and services to benefit the people in your respective countries. It is not enough for you accountants to produce

financial reports, which our citizens cannot understand. Let us, therefore, endeavour to produce simplified financial reports where citizens can appreciate the link between the taxes paid and the goods and services provided by your respective governments." He said the PF government attached great importance to public finance management. "The theme of the conference if not only appropriate, but also consistent with the public financial management reforms being undertaken in the region. My government attaches great importance to public finance management and the contribution of the East and Southern African Association of Accountants Generals, this is because of its role in enhancing accountability and management of public resources in the region. It is gratifying that Zambia has yet again been privileged to host this very important annual conference after the maiden one that was held in 2010, which was held here at the same venue," he said. The Head of State also implored accountants to raise awareness among citizens to take an interest in financial reports to enable them know

how resources were being utilised. "You need to realise that the manner in which your government uses public resources has an impact on development, job creation and indeed production. The Zambian government attaches great importance to public financial management to support our national agenda which is the Vision 2030, we have been implementing a special financial public management programme, which is aimed at strengthening the planning and budgeting process. As government, we have nothing to conceal, therefore, you can rest assured that our country's parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is very active, hence the Executive arm of government is made to answer to any queries with regard to utilisation of public funds. It is very pleasing to note that these reforms have begun to yield fruits in Zambia such as reduction in the number of audit queries," said President Lungu. The ESAAG Conference, which was held under the theme: "Enhancing the effectiveness of Public Finance Management Systems in developing countries and emerging economies", attracted over 1,500 delegates from 14 countries.

By Thomas Mulenga
UPND Deputy Secretary General Patrick Mucheleka says PF Luapula Provincial chairman Nickson Chilangwa's directive to District Commissioners to be campaigning for the ruling party during elections is an example of how the PF has been disregarding the law. And Mucheleka says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila is not the right person to claim that Bahati constituency is a PF stronghold because he was defeated by an independent candidate in neighbouring Chipili constituency in 2016. In an interview, Monday, Mucheleka condemned Chilangwa's directive. "The PF have reached a stage where they think that they are above the law and you can hear such careless statements from people like Nickson Chilangwa directing civil servants to be partisan in their favour. Those civil servants are paid using tax payers money and the reason the constitution

Chilangwa's directive to DCs to campaign for PF a disregard of law – Mucheleka

doesn't allow them to be actively involved in partisan politics is because they are supposed to work for all citizens regardless of their political affiliation. Now PF want civil servants to be leaving their offices to go and campaign for them or they would fire them, what kind of reasoning is that? How can you continue disregarding the law in such a manner? Chilangwa was abusing his authority to bully civil servants and it's just a matter of time before such people are held to account for their actions. This is the reason you find that they leave well qualified people and employ PF cadres so that they should be puppets and use public resources for party activities. In Sesheke, there were a lot of Civil Servants; District Commissioners and others,

who instead of being in offices to serve people, they were busy campaigning for PF. But despite using civil servants and state resources, they lost terribly because the people now know what they want," Mucheleka said. He wondered how government could fire Sesheke police officers for allegedly being partisan when the ruling party was encouraging civil servants to be involved in politics. "The law is very clear, it does not allow civil servants to actively engage in partisan politics. However, under the PF, there is serious breakdown of the rule of law and we have reached a level where the PF are breaking the law with impunity. What they don't understand is that sooner than later, there will be consequences for

those civil servants who are encouraged to participate in politics. You have seen how they have gone ahead to retire in public interest, national interest, innocent people they perceive to be supporters of the opposition, especially the UPND but themselves are encouraging civil servants to be partisan," Mucheleka said. "But then we have the electoral commission of Zambia which is expected to enforce the electoral code of conduct which is very clear and it completely bars civil servants from participating in active politics, but because we have a useless, a moribund, good for nothing ECZ, it is allowed and we have seen how the PF through minister of home affairs have hijacked the responsibility of running

elections. They have put in the ECZ, commissioners who are PF cadres and some of them are foreigners, how can they enforce the electoral code of conduct?" And Mucheleka said it was laughable for Mwila to claim that Bahati constituency was a PF stronghold. "It is laughable to hear Davies Mwila claiming that Bahati Constituency is a PF stronghold, which stronghold? In case some people don't know, Bahati shares its boundary with Chipili constituency where Davies Mwila lost an election to an independent candidate, honourable Javis Chabi. He was walloped hands down despite having been a serving minister of home affairs. He failed to convince the people to vote for him despite all the resources and influence, how

then can Davies Mwila be the one to claim that Bahati is the PF stronghold when the constituency neighbouring Bahati rejected him? How can he claim that the PF is popular in Luapula when he was rejected himself by the people there, and he is now secretary general of the PF?" asked Mucheleka. "They are claiming that they love Luapula and that it's their stronghold, how can you claim to love a place as a government with such a high poverty rate? Luapula Province is one of the poorest provinces with the poverty rate at about 80%. Look at the performance of pupils at grade 12, Luapula was the worst performing province last year with 53%, they were at the tail end on number ten. Southern Province was the highest at about 75% pass rate. So how can PF claim that they love Luapula and it's their strong hold, without working towards improving the living standards of the people? And if you check, you will observe that most ministers, former high ranking army officers who have been arrested for stealing state resources are from Luapula, they only care about themselves, they forget the suffering of the people."

We only import cadres to by-elections when PF starts beating us - Mwaliteta

By Mirriam Chabala
Lusaka Province UPND chairman Obvious Mwaliteta says Stephen Kampyongo should not share the blame for political violence in the country with opposition parties, saying he has powers to stop political violence as Minister of Home Affairs. When he appeared on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Kampyongo observed that importation of cadres to areas where elections were taking place was the root cause of political violence in the country, and that the UPND and PF were both guilty of the vice. But in an interview with News Diggers! Mwaliteta argued that the UPND had never incited violence, and that the party would only ferry its cadres to election areas whenever party members had been attacked by PF cadres. "Honourable Kampyongo should not even talk about the opposition! He should talk about PF and his position as Minister of Home Affairs, he's got all the powers. Honestly, if PF cadres are not being loaded with pangas going to Sesheke, why should UPND go and defend its cadres? They won't go there. But it's because PF cadres already know that their youth chairman is there so they need to go and give solidarity and show him that they can beat! So, this is why it happens. But my appeal to my brother, Hon Kampyongo; the people of Zambia have talked too much about his position; they have condemned him here and there, no one talks good about him. Some of us who are friends with him would want to advise him that for once, let him just look upright. He's got all the powers to stop the violence," Mwaliteta said.

"The violence occurring everywhere in Zambia is traumatising people. When you go to Sesheke today, people there are still traumatised with those teargases that they experienced. So, he (Kampyongo) should not go and start firefighting there. He should prevent it, prevention is better than cure. Right now, we have Bahati by-elections coming up, it's up to him to say 'no cadres from Lusaka, Copperbelt, no jerabos will be found in Bahati and no violence will be tolerated, whether from PF or UPND or from any other political party' and there won't be any violence. But the problem is that the people who are supposed to check that there is no violence, when they are asked to stop violence, they are being fired. So, I don't know which people he's going to direct to stop violence. If the violence comes from PF, then they will not do anything because they will be fired for stopping it, and when they are fired, they are being threatened with arrests. So, it calls for serious self-introspection for him as Minister of Home Affairs to ensure that this country is back to peace again." Mwaliteta regretted that UPND and PF never saw eye-to-eye when it was time for elections. "It's not supposed to be like that, we are brothers and there is a Minister of [Religious Affairs and] National Guidance, this Minister was supposed to condemn violence from the word go; starting from their own cadres and also advise the President that: 'don't fire these innocent police officers.' They were trying to fight the violence there. If violence is prevented from Lusaka, Copperbelt, then

you won't see any violence and truly it may be the political will to stop this violence. But there is no political will, these ministers when they go on TV, they only talk about violence to show the country that this is what they are saying. But deep down their hearts, they don't mean it and we are worried. But Kampyongo has got the powers to stop violence at once as Minister of Home Affairs," he observed. And Mwaliteta, the former Kafue PF member of parliament, said UPND was looking forward to having violence-free elections in Bahati. "We don't want this thing where people are just saying: 'we don't want violence' without action. For us, as UPND, no youth is going to go to Bahati if they don't belong there. Except for senior members who will just go to beef up the campaigns. We are not going to send any youths there. We have youths locally, we have built local structures and that's what we are going to use to do the job. But I want to appeal to Kampyongo to caution his Secretary General. He should tell Davies Mwila to withdraw those words he used that in Bahati they are going to retaliate what happened in Sesheke. In Sesheke, they are the cause of that violence, but again, they want to go and cause the same violence in Bahati? The Minister of Home Affairs should sit down with his Secretary General and the deputy Secretary General who are busy giving hate speech in the country that 'please, enough is enough,'" said Mwaliteta. "Enough of this violence! UPND is not going to Bahati with any youths. We are

not going there with any violence. We are just going to send a message of hope to the Zambian people. So, we are also looking at them (PF) since they are saying that

'nababomba sana' (they have worked so hard), can they go and tell the people of Bahati what development they have taken there? Not to go with pangas there to beat people."

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By Thomas Mulenga

Minister of Justice Given Lubinda says the Constitution amendment agenda is going ahead even if members of the Opposition Alliance shun the process. And Lubinda says President Edgar Lungu will never meet his UPND counterpart Hakainde Hichilema again since the latter has accused the Head of State of plotting to assassinate him. Meanwhile, Lubinda says the International Criminal Court (ICC) has informed his office that there is no case reported against the Zambian government by any one at The Hague. Speaking during a media briefing, Tuesday, Lubinda announced that the Constitution amendment process would still go ahead even without the participation of Opposition Alliance leaders, warning that they will have missed an opportunity to fix the Public Order Act. This follows the 10-member Opposition Alliances' resolve not to be part of the Constitution amendment process without first having the national dialogue. Lubinda insisted that President Lungu would not sit on the same table with Hichilema to dialogue again. "The question I have for

Do your dialogue, but Lungu and HH will never meet again - Lubinda

you, fellow citizens, from the President is: 'Would Mr Hakainde Hichilema sit on one table to dialogue with his assassin? Does he really expect that people will buy the bluff that he is willing to dialogue with President Lungu, one who is attempting to assassinate him? Do the people of Zambia expect that President Edgar Lungu, who has been called an assassin, will be willing to sit with his victim? What will they talk about? Mr Chishimba Kambwili and Mr Milupi are now saying: 'dialogue, dialogue..!' Do they really expect that President Edgar Lungu will simply accept and say: 'thank you for accusing me of attempting to assassinate you, now come, we have a cup of coffee? That is expecting far too much,' explained Lubinda. And the minister warned that if the opposition misses its chance to fix the Public Order Act through the Constitution amendment process, it should not complain to the PF. "The ones who have made the loudest cry about the Public

Order Act as a matter of fact, are the members of the Opposition Alliance. We are giving them an opportunity to make that law more acceptable, to make that law meet the aspirations of Zambians. If they do not want to take part, they must not blame it on anybody. We will proceed with the road map, this is the road map that is not leaving anyone behind. We have decided to approach them as individual political parties because they failed to bring any submissions as a collective body through the ZCID. We are giving them a second chance. Now, when we give them the draft Constitution amendment Bill and we give them the draft Public Order Act Bill, it is entirely up to them. There are many challenges that have been identified in the Constitution, not only by the Executive, but the three wings of government. The Judiciary identified some, the Legislature identified others, opposition political party leaders identified some, and we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to future

generations to make sure that we have a Constitution that is less problematic than the one we have, and government has a duty to do it and we will do it!" Lubinda said. "Let me make it clear that we are not in any way curtailing the so-called national dialogue. We are actually encouraging the political parties to proceed with the national dialogue, which is the dialogue for political parties, not government. I sit here as Minister of Justice, I belong to a political party. It is my political party that will be engaged in that dialogue, not me as Minister of Justice. So, government has no role to play in national dialogue, none whatsoever! President Lungu will go to that national dialogue when it is held, as president of the PF. So, we are not saying because of this road map, the national dialogue will not take place, no! We are not intending to replace one with the other. However, we are concerned with the lack of movement on the national dialogue and we cannot hold

back government programmes because people who want to talk are not able to talk." Meanwhile, Lubinda disclosed that there was no case filed against the Zambian government at the ICC at The Hague. "You heard that in response to these allegations, His Excellency the President directed the Ministry of Justice to look into these issues as a matter of urgency. I wish to update the nation that the Ministry has since engaged with the President and the Ministry is aware that there is not a single complaint against Zambia at the ICC. Not only at the ICC, but even at the African regional court, there is no matter pending there affecting the State of Zambia. But again, you will recall that this is not the first time this is happening. You will recall that soon after the 2016 general elections, we were entertained to some drama that the ICC was coming to Zambia to investigate allegations of violence, allegations of

assassination on the part of President Edgar Lungu. The Minister of Justice again wrote to the ICC and they told us that there was not a single matter before them affecting Zambia," Lubinda revealed. And Lubinda warned that Kambwili would be committing another offence if he stopped any member of parliament from participating in the Constitution amendment process. "Yes, the Opposition Alliance may use the arrogance of the numbers that they have in Parliament; they are aware of the fact that the PF alone will not have the two thirds majority and Mr Chishimba Kambwili was speaking yesterday (Monday) at a press briefing on behalf of UPND that all UPND MPs will not participate. Let me make it clear to Mr Chishimba Kambwili that, he is leading the people wrong because there are, among UPND MPs, there are, among independent MPs, who know their duty to their constituents and to their country. And if Mr Chishimba Kambwili is going to stop any MP from participating in their constitutional duty, he will be committing yet another offence, he must be aware of that," cautioned Lubinda.

Don't give PF chance to manipulate already damaged Constitution - HH

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says government's threats on the opposition will not work, adding that the alliance will push ahead and report President Edgar Lungu, some high ranking PF officials and four PF cadres to the International Criminal Court (ICC). And Hichilema has charged that Zambians should not give a dishonest group of people like the PF another chance to do further damage to the Constitution through the amendment process. Recently, the Opposition Alliance announced that it had decided to report President Edgar Lungu, some high ranking PF officials and four PF cadres to the ICC for various crimes against humanity. Chairperson of the Opposition Alliance Charles Milupi said at the press briefing that the alliance's investigations had revealed that the ruling party had assembled a group of youths whose sole purpose was to perpetrate violence - and went ahead to name the accused. But Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda said President Lungu had instructed Justice Minister Given Lubinda to invite the ICC and Amnesty International to come and examine the Opposition Alliance's criminal allegations against government and PF officials. Speaking to journalists at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court where he went to attend the case in which his supporters are accused of being in possession of offensive weapons during the Chilanga

by-elections, Tuesday, Hichilema charged that government could call whoever they wanted but the process would not stop. He added that the alliance had actually added more names to those who would be reported to the ICC. "The guilty are afraid. Let him call whoever he wants, it does not stop our process. Our process goes on. By the way we have a few more names we have picked from further information who we are

going to include on that list. May I take this opportunity to announce that it will not just be ICC, it will be other bodies that are even quicker that we are going to submit a report of this human rights breaches. For us whether he calls them here or not does not matter. Our process continues," he said. "But threats will not work, how many times have we been threatened? How many times have they attempted to take us out of this

world by eliminating us? But the owner of life is him upstairs. Only God gives life and takes it away." Hichilema further charged that the PF government had already manipulated the Constitution and did not deserve another chance to make things worse. "If you look at the original document or draft of the Constitution that the late President [Micheal] Sata put together, the PF are responsible

for manipulating that draft. They hoodwinked bonafide and genuine members of parliament who took or accepted the PF view on face value. And PF, once they were granted the opportunity to amend the Constitution through a Constitutional amendment bill which requires two-thirds majority, in now making specific changes to clauses, the PF manipulated the Constitution. That's why we have many lacuna

in the Constitution, we have a lot grey areas. They only brought clauses that they believed favoured them as a political party," he said. "The lesson we learn from there is that we should never allow a dishonest group of people like the PF, another chance to do further damage to the Constitution. We will not give the keys. The key is the two-thirds majority to table the Constitutional amendment bill on the floor of the House because the PF does not have the two-thirds majority. The key is shared by us. [Given] Lubinda can do what he wants [but] he will not have the ability to table that motion in the House. They were responsible for the mess [and] they want to do further damage to the Constitution." Meanwhile, Hichilema charged that the PF government was avoiding the dialogue process so that they could use the Constitutional amendment process to deceive citizens. "By the way, the Constitution is not a product of PF or UPND, it should be a product of the people of Zambia. Parliament itself is a creation of the Constitution, a creation of the people's wishes through the Constitution. So Parliament cannot be given the delegated authority to make that decision. Let the people make that decision through the dialogue process. So they are trying to circumvent the dialogue process so that they can now use Constitutional questions to hoodwink journalists, citizens. They will not have that opportunity this time, we are wiser than before," said Hichilema.

Govt calls for increased refugee funding from donors

By Mirriam Chabala

Government, through the Ministry of Home Affairs, has appealed for increased funding from humanitarian and development donor countries to support the refugees operation across the country in 2019. Commissioner for Refugees in the ministry, Abdon Mawere, said in a statement that although there had been no major influx of refugees lately, the number of refugees in Zambia had gone up in the past two years with the number of new arrivals averaging 700 asylum seekers per month, fleeing the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Somalia and other countries. Mawere stated that funding was required by the government, humanitarian and development actors like UNHCR and its partners, who include United Nations (UN) agencies as well as local and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to provide critical humanitarian assistance to the refugees, as well as the host communities.

"Critical needs range from food, shelter, infrastructure, logistics, education, health and livelihoods in the newly established settlement of Mantapala - in Nchelenge, Luapula Province as well as the two old settlements of Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, plus Lusaka which also hosts over 16,000 of refugees and asylum seekers. So far, January, 2019 alone, a total of 1,162 refugees and asylum seekers have been received in Zambia comprising 1,056 from the DRC, 76 Burundi, 28 Somalis and the rest from other countries. In 2018, Zambia received a total 9,371 refugees, with the majority coming from the DRC - 7,978 and 1,036 from Burundi. The rest were from different countries," Mawere explained. "Zambia currently hosts 77,370 persons of concerns (51,371 refugees, 3,173 asylum seekers and 22,826 former refugees). The refugees and former refugees are hosted in Meheba, North-Western Province, Mayukwayukwa, in Western Province and Mantapala, in Luapula Province, as well

as in transit centres in Makeni (Lusaka) and Northern and Luapula Provinces. The 2019 inter-agency Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for all humanitarian actors in Zambia's Congolese response has a budget of US\$77million support up to 72,000 Congolese by the end of the year." Mawere thanked the donors for their support towards refugees in Zambia and called them to increase their funding as he called upon others to come on board. "UNHCR in Zambia has a budget of US\$30.02 million, with US\$1.14 million funded by the European Union (EU) and \$500,000 received from the Government of Japan. The Government is grateful to the two donors and appreciates the continuous support of other traditional humanitarian and development donors, but I wish to call upon them to increase their contribution to assist us to fulfill our international obligation to give asylum to those who need it" appealed Mawere.



Democratic Party

Let's believe again!

Why we deserve your vote



Water - A Resource under-utilized

Global Hydropolitics

It's a notorious fact that even though 70% of the Earth surface is water, less than 1% is drinkable and globally 780 million people have no access to safe drinking water.

In the new millennium many nations face problems ranging from pollution to scarcity, and the politics of water resources have become even more complicated. We should however be prepared for a new dimensions in what is now called the 'impending water crisis' and 'Water wars' also known as the 'New Oil Wars'.

According to the Atlantic Report ; By 2025, scientists predict that one in five humans will live in regions suffering from water scarcity, areas with insufficient resources to meet water usage demands. Many analysts and World leaders have predicted that pressure on water resources will spark wars in the coming years. Back in 1985, Boutros Boutros Ghali said, "The next war in the Middle East will be fought over water, not politics," Kofi Annan said in 2001: "Fierce competition for fresh water may well become a source of conflict and wars in the future." Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said in 2007: "The consequences for humanity are grave. Water scarcity threatens economic and social gains and is a potent fuel for wars and conflict."

As it is today, we are witness to tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia over the US\$4Bn Renaissance Mega Dam on the River Nile. In the Middle East Israel is restricting Palestine's access from the River Jordan. The India and Pakistan dispute over the Indus River system and the water riots in Cape Town-South Africa are all but examples of the 'New Oil Wars'. According to one study carried between the 1950's and the year 2000, it revealed that there were over 1,800 water related international conflicts.

Zambia - Water Resources.

Unlike many other countries in the region Zambia has more than adequate water resources, although during the dry season water resources may be scarce, especially in the southern part of the country. The annual rainfall averages between 1400 mm in the north and gradually declines to 700 mm in the south. The country is rich in rivers, such as the transboundary Zambezi and lakes Tanganyika, Mweru and Kariba. It is estimated that only 1.5% of the annual renewable water resources are being used at present.

The water sector reforms in 1991 prioritized action in water supply and sanitation, which resulted in improved institutional setup, as well as in planning and support from the government and various partners. There is now increasing attention to development of dams and irrigation as government advances efforts to enhance food security and adapt



to the effects of climate change. During 2006-2010, the government invested US\$ 8.95 million (in constant 2010 US\$) on average per year on water-related infrastructure and programmes. Over 80 percent of the government expenditure priority was channeled into water supply and sanitation (57.4 percent) and river development (24.7 percent). During the same period, official development assistance (ODA) gross disbursements amounted to US\$ 47.78 million on average per year, with priority on water supply and sanitation (68.7 percent). Over the period 2006 to 2010, the Government of Zambia's water-related investments accounted for an estimated 0.6 percent of total government expenditures. This is way below the acceptable threshold also considering that we are utilizing as a country less than 1.5% of our renewable water resources.

Zambia's Challenges - Renewable Water Sector

The Democratic Party have realized that our deficiency in developing an Renewable water resource system is as result of ; (i) the country not being able to challenge its scientists to solve some water-related developmental issues, (ii) research not receiving adequate attention and funding, which has led to policy and decision-making remaining uninformed, and (iii) research and development gaps.

We as the Democratic Party have further identified that there is inadequate research being undertaken in the country to:

- * Determine the impact of land use changes in areas of rapidly growing populations on the country's surface- and ground-water resources.
- * Assess capacities of wastewater treatment plants in the country's major cities (environmental audit of the treatment plants).
- * Assess the amount of available water resources in the country, especially groundwater.
- * Assess effects of climate change scenarios

and drivers on the country's surface water and groundwater resources.

* Seek solutions to some existing societal challenges, including those that utilize indigenous knowledge.

What the Democratic Party will do:

The importance of managing our water resources can not be overemphasized. The very existence of mankind centers on this very important and nearly irreplaceable resource. International sales for water and ice exports by country amounted to US\$1.3 billion in 2017. The overall value of exported water and ice rose by an average 36.2% for all exporting countries since 2013 when water and ice shipments were valued at \$935.7 million. From 2016 to 2017, the value of globally exported water and ice increased by 18.7%. Among continents, Asian countries generated the highest dollar worth of exported water and ice during 2017 with shipments valued at \$746.1 million or 58.5% of the global total. In second place were European exporters at 20.3% while 12.2% of worldwide water and ice shipments originated from Oceania led by Fiji and New Zealand. North American suppliers accounted for 8%. Smaller percentages came from Latin America excluding Mexico but including the Caribbean (0.7%) then Africa (0.2%). Therein lies the great opportunity for Zambia!

As the Democratic Party, whose main agenda is to see a drastic shift from the Copper Mono-Economy, we see this as the opportunity. The Democratic Party will; (i) support research activities in the acquisition of water data through continuous monitoring, (ii) analyse and assess data and information, (iii) provide relevant feedback to decision makers and stakeholders, and (iv) Invest heavily in Research and development of this resource with a deliberate plan of making it an industry and major forex-earner.

**Let's Believe Again.
DP2021**

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Nalikosa mukati na kuse (I am strong inside and out), bragged NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili yesterday after he was granted K3,000 cash bail by the Lusaka Magistrates' Court. And Kambwili denied the charge of expressing racial remarks on an Indian national.

In this matter, Kambwili who is also Roan PF member of parliament, is charged with one count of expressing or showing hatred, ridicule or contempt for persons because of race contrary to section 70(1) of the penal code chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence allege that Kambwili on February 19, this year, expressed racial remarks on Rajesh Kumar Verma, an Indian national. Kambwili was arrested on Monday and charged with the said offence in relation to the viral social media video in

Kambwili pleads not guilty to racial charge, gets K3,000 bail

which he was filmed having an altercation with Kumar, who was operating a road compactor last week. He is being represented by defence lawyers; Gilbert Phiri, Christopher Mundia, Zevyanji Sinkala and Keith Mweemba. And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Chitalu, Tuesday afternoon, the State comprising of Noah Mwanza and Juvenalis Kamutondoli informed the court that they had consent from the DPP to prosecute the matter. Kambwili pleaded not guilty

when the charge was read to him. But before the matter could be adjourned, one the defence lawyers, Phiri applied for bail pending trial, saying the accused person was of fixed abode and was able to provide sureties, as well as, abiding by the bail conditions. Although the State did not object to the application for bail, it prayed that Kambwili's bail should not be in his own recognisance but cash. "As much as the State is not objecting to the application for bail, the prayer from the State is

that the conditions which this court may impose should be such conditions that is able to secure the attendance of the accused person. Our prayer is that it (bail) shouldn't be on his own recognisance," said Mwanza. In his ruling, magistrate Chitalu granted Kambwili K3,000 cash bail and ordered him to provide two working sureties of fixed abode and residing in Lusaka, who would be bound in the sum of K10,000, in their own recognisance. Addressing reporters and his supporters after satisfying bail

conditions, Kambwili said he was ready to die on behalf of the people of Zambia. All I can say is that they will try to intimidate me but they will never manage. I want to tell them, you can arrest me as so many times as possible, deny [me] bail but you are dealing with the man uwakosa mukati nakunse. Ine nalishimpula mfwaya fye ukwakusha umutwe. For the sake of this country, to save this country from these kabwalas, these crooks, these failed projects, I'm ready to die just like Jesus died for the people. It is up to you the people of Zambia to know. Me, I was merely speaking for you that 'these jobs are for Zambians not for any foreigner'. Then I should be called that I'm being racist?" he wondered. "How can you allow in a country where so many youths roam the streets, you are beating street vendors because they have no jobs, now you are getting the jobs that they are supposed to get, you are giving them to foreigners?"

[And] when someone speaks you say 'go and arrest him', shame on you President Lungu, shame on you Kampyongo! But I can tell you, the positions that you are enjoying are not permanent. Because those are temporal jobs. For me, 'he who laughs last, laughs the loudest'. So this nonsense of arresting people, denying them bail... Chitotela, a known thief, you give him red carpet? You arrest him, two minutes later you give him police bond. Are you not ashamed that you are only showing yourselves that this is selective application of justice. I don't think if I was President Lungu I would even have the guts to even be talking about corruption, or even addressing the people under the circumstances because all that you doing, to me are things that do not fit the office of the President. Anyway I'm out and back to work."

Those who went to offer solidarity to Kambwili at the Lusaka Magistrates' Complex included; his wife Carol and children, UPND president Hakainde Hichilema, NAREP president Elias Chipimo, NDC vice-president Joseph Akafumba, UPND Chairperson for Mobilisation Sylvia Masebo, UPND Lusaka Province Chairperson Obvious Mwaliteta, among others.

Philip van Dalsen becomes MTN Zambia CEO

By Stuart Lisulo

MTN Zambia has appointed Philip van Dalsen as the company's new chief executive officer. In a statement availed by MTN communications manager Lisa Mulozi, Tuesday, van Dalsen took over from South African Charles Molapisi, who had since been appointed as MTN Group Chief Technology and Information Officer (CTIO).

According to the statement, van Dalsen was CEO of MTN Cyprus and is familiar with Zambia having previously been the commercial director of Celpay Zambia for two years. "MTN Zambia is a great company with exceptional local talent and strong relationships with customers and stakeholders. I'm delighted to join the company in the next exciting phase of its journey," van Dalsen stated. He explained that MTN would continue to build on the company's passion for bringing superior customer experience to the market backed by the outstanding performance of a state-of-the-art network countrywide. "Everybody deserves a connected world and we fully support the

Zambian government's drive to increase access to information and technology. MTN will continue to work closely with stakeholders and regulators in our strategic partnerships to foster connectivity, financial inclusion and enterprise across the country among other things," he stated.

He noted the company's support of businesses, saying MTN will continue to innovate with industry-leading solutions and services that empower large corporates and small enterprises to thrive and make a meaningful contribution to the economy. "Our differentiator in the

market is that we are a modern, innovative company that truly cares for our customers and have grown our subscriber base significantly not only in Lusaka and the Copperbelt, but across the country where we remain the preferred network," stated van Dalsen.

Amos has taken over the presidency - Milupi

By Thomas Mulenga

President Edgar Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda's insulting language shows that he now thinks of himself as another president of Zambia, says Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD) leader Charles Milupi. And Milupi says Chanda was threatening to take him to court only because he wanted to shield himself from the acts of violence that occurred in Sesheke. Commenting on Chanda's move to sue Milupi over what he termed as patently false allegations involving the former's alleged involvement in the violence that erupted in Sesheke,

Milupi, who is also chairperson of the Opposition Alliance, said it was unfortunate that a person who was representing the Head of State would insult other citizens in the manner he was doing. Milupi argued that Chanda had now taken over the Presidency and blocked the Head of State from holding regular press conferences. "From 1964, we have had so many people who served as presidential press aid, and they did their job the way it should be done - advise the President on issues relating to the press. But in this case, we have seen a situation where this particular person (Chanda) has taken over the role of President!

The President is even shielded from the media! So, it is him (Amos), who is President. Now, we would expect that people holding such high profile jobs will be civil in their discourse with the public. If someone did not put a name to those things said by Amos, people would think that those words were coming from us in the opposition because maybe because we are not trained in the way we do things, but those people are trained, they are supposed to be trained. He is holding public office and when he speaks, he speaks on behalf of the President of the whole nation and the international community are also listening," Milupi said in an

interview, Monday. "To have a person representing the President with such language is most unfortunate and it shows the level of people we have in public offices and it's up to the people to judge if these people are suitable for those positions. What gives someone the audacity to use such language on fellow citizens? Is it the wealth that they have? Is it the power that they have? And if it's the wealth where is it from? If it's the power, which power are they exercising? Have they hijacked power from the President? Are they now considering themselves as presidents? These are very serious matters." Milupi said contrary to Chanda's insults on the opposition alliance leaders, that they had brains the size of a rat, leaders were actually intelligent and restrained from insulting. "But it's unfortunate, the people that he is saying have got rat brains, they are very intelligent people. If you look at their language in their press statements, it is very civil. We don't insult anybody, you will never hear me insult Mr Lungu or even Mr Chanda himself because we gain nothing from insulting. We shall criticise their policies, we shall criticise their action or lack of action, but in a manner that even a child will listen to us without being offended, that big people are insulting each other,"

Milupi observed. And Milupi said Chanda only threatened to drag him to court because he wanted to shield himself from the acts of violence that occurred in Sesheke. "The courts are there to settle disputes between or among citizens; they are not there to be used to threaten others. So, let Mr Chanda take me to court if he wants to take me alone or if he wants to take the opposition alliance members, because that statement was issued by the alliance. But it's up to him if he wants to take me as an individual, let him go ahead! And for him to react in such a manner and start issuing threats, it means that what happened in Sesheke was not good. So, even if he was not there, where does his statement of distancing himself leave those who were there? Where does it leave the President, the Political Advisor to the President (Kaizer Zulu) and other government officials who were there?" Milupi wondered. Meanwhile, Milupi observed that being in opposition was dangerous in Zambia as the ruling party was in the habit of persecuting opposition leaders, citing the arrest of NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili. "Being in the opposition is a very risky affair in this country. All manner of things will be brought up in trying to cripple the opposition. Because it's not happening to other citizens, whatever you say, whatever you do, they will find a way of pinning you down and that's why we want dialogue so that there is no misapplication of the law. Opposition leaders are arrested for anything, but what happens to themselves when they say or do similar things? Do they get arrested? At the moment, those who are in power make sure that the bad application of the law is not used on them, but for those in opposition," observed Milupi.



Former president Rupiah Banda reads a statement on behalf of the Electoral Institute of Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) during an election observer mission in Nigeria

Lungu nullifies expulsion of Petauke's Jay Jay, Eliboma

By Mirriam Chabala

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu has nullified the expulsion of the two Patriotic Front (PF) senior members of Petauke District in Eastern Province who were expelled by Provincial Chairperson Andrew Lubusha on Sunday for allegedly breaching the party constitution. Lubusha expelled Emmanuel (Jay Jay) Banda and Elias Daka (Eliboma) in a letter dated February 20, 2019, alleging that the

expulsion was arrived at after a central Committee meeting and instructions by party secretary general Davies Mwila. The PF secretariat however, said Lubusha's actions had no blessing of the top leadership in Lusaka. And PF media director Sunday Chanda confirmed to News Diggers that President Lungu had decided to quash the decision to expel Banda and Daka, on grounds that the two had not been given an opportunity

to be heard. "The two gentlemen have been accused of causing disharmony in the party and the Secretary General directed that disciplinary action be taken against the two and of course the instruction was that they needed to be suspended from the party. But what we saw was that the Provincial Chairperson decided to expel them. Considering the fact that the two colleagues deserve to be heard, the party

decided to quash the expulsion and allow the two gentlemen to exculpate themselves," said Chanda. Meanwhile, Sources close to Daka, who is Lubusha's only challenger in the upcoming intra party elections for Eastern Province told News Diggers that the Chairman had been ordered to make a personal announcement on all local radio stations in the region, regarding the President's directive.

The reasons that are being advanced by Cabinet Ministers as grounds for the removal of four Sesheke police officers from the Service are confusing. Initially, we were told that the Police Service Commission, acting in the name of President Edgar Lungu, found it fit to retire the officers in "national interest". That's all! No reasons were advanced, and under this presidential discretion, there is no requirement for giving any reasons before retiring anyone.

But some Cabinet Ministers, led by Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo, have been leading a campaign aimed and persuading the public into believing that Commanding Officer Shaapa Wakunguma and his three other police officers committed serious prosecutable crimes while on duty in Sesheke. The Minister, who is in charge of the Police Service, wants to convince the public that the four police officers committed disciplinary offences.

Stephen KAMPYONGO: "UPND cadres were arrested, put in police custody, then their colleagues came to rescue them violently, and the police were not doing anything about that. What kind of policing is that?" These are issues that the Police Service Commission focused on and zeroed in, and in their own understanding, they discovered that those officers were ground commanders. Of course, there was one constable who was just undisciplined, and him, I witnessed myself. This is a fellow who, with impunity started flashing the party symbol of the UPND while crossing the road! So, the Commission looked into these things and made a decision to dismiss the officers."

Why is Kampyongo calling Sesheke cops guilty without trial?



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We have been left confused. If this was a disciplinary issue, why weren't the four officers charged and made to appear before the disciplinary panel so that they can be granted an opportunity to exculpate themselves? Surely, Senior Superintendent Shaapa Wakunguma would be glad to be charged for the offence of indiscipline so that he can give his side of the story in front of a fair and competent judge.

The law demands that the Police Service Commission subjects officers who commit offences, especially of disciplinary nature, to a disciplinary hearing. When did that disciplinary hearing take place for Mr Kampyongo to say the officers were punished for the offences they are now accused of? That is tantamount to pronouncing someone guilty without trial! How would Minister Kampyongo feel if

President Lungu was to use his presidential powers to expel him from PF without any reasons stated on the expulsion letter, only to be told later that he was expelled for trying to overthrow the Head of State?

Yes, no one can challenge the President's decision to retire the four officers, but let those in government stop destroying their names to the public in this unfair manner. If these officers are as guilty as we are being told, why did the government choose to retire them instead of firing them? Why reward full retirement packages to such wrong doers? What is 'national interest' about negligence of duty? This is a clear case of abuse of authority and abuse of the rights of the accused officers.

But we know what the PF wants. They are subordinating the police to cadres so that they legislate

anarchy, which seems to be winning them elections. Honourable Kampyongo wants when a PF cadre steps on a police officer, the officer must kneel and apologetically say to the cadre: "I am sorry, sir, I have put my toes under your foot". That is why the Police Service Commission was only able to see something wrong when police beat PF cadres and not when they beat UPND or opposition cadres. This is a shame!

As if that was not enough, we have another Cabinet Minister in the name of Charles Banda, who has been telling people that officer Wakunguma and his men put the life of President Lungu in danger. This Minister, who is in charge of Tourism and Arts, says people who neglect their duty to the extent of endangering the Head of State's life should not be kept in the service.

Charles BANDA: "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 cost those cops. 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. There was failure in Sesheke to secure the life of the Head of State, which means there was a lapse, somebody did not do their job properly and you don't keep such people in the police."

We find this narrative absolutely wrong, prejudiced, vexatious and annoying! It is unfair that Senior Superintendent Wakunguma and his officers must be seen in

the public eye, as State officers who endangered the President's life, when their retirement letters did not have any of those accusations. What is Mr Banda talking about? Does this Minister know that there are close to 50 police officers from State House who travel in advance to comb the area where the Head of State will visit, and even take all the required presidential entourage cars in advance? Does the Tourism Minister know that on the day of travel, the President moves with another set of State police VVIP protectors who are specially trained in that area of security?

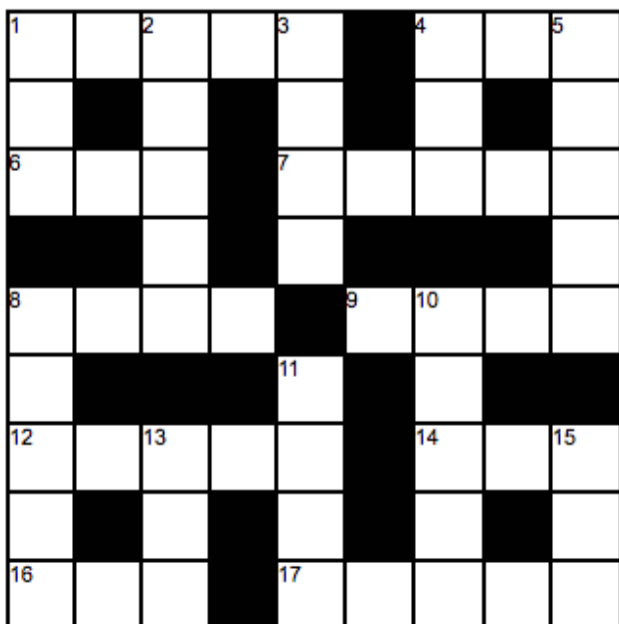
If those are the offences that the four officers committed, arrest them and charge them appropriately so that they can justify their actions in court. But we know the PF government is not going to take that route because they know the four police victims are innocent. They cannot justify any of the accusations they are lumping on officer Wakunguma and his men. It's all lies to satisfy their desire to fix police officers who have 'wrong' surnames. It's tribal, and because of their tribes, these officers were perceived to be supporting the UPND. That is the truth.

But we will not relent in warning President Lungu and his team that you cannot continue to condemn young government employees into poverty like this! This power that is being abused is spilling blood on the hands of the brutal rulers of this regime and they must not think people are too stupid to see what's happening. Like we said, once the system gets fed up with this tyranny, President Lungu and his cohorts will leave government in the most degrading way ever! We are watching.

Crossword puzzle 302 "Love only grows by sharing. Solutions to puzzle 301

"Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others."

- Brian Tracy



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Witch's transport | 1. Four-poster, for one |
| 4. Suffers from | 2. Questionnaire choice |
| 6. Homer Simpson's expression | 3. Lunch or dinner |
| 7. Discuss loudly | 4. Show of affection |
| 8. Take a risk | 5. Kindly |
| 9. Don't aid and ____ a criminal | 8. Woman's garment |
| 12. Pasta shape | 10. Deliver |
| 14. Writing fluid | 11. Graceful bird |
| 16. Male offspring | 13. Hot dog holder |
| 17. Dusk to dawn | 15. Collection of equipment |



Reader's feedback

Reduced money in circulation in Zambian economy

Editor,
"A lot of money is trapped in debt to suppliers of goods and services to government; some is stashed in offshore accounts, while another big chunk is in corruptly-built properties." - PoliCritic Lungu

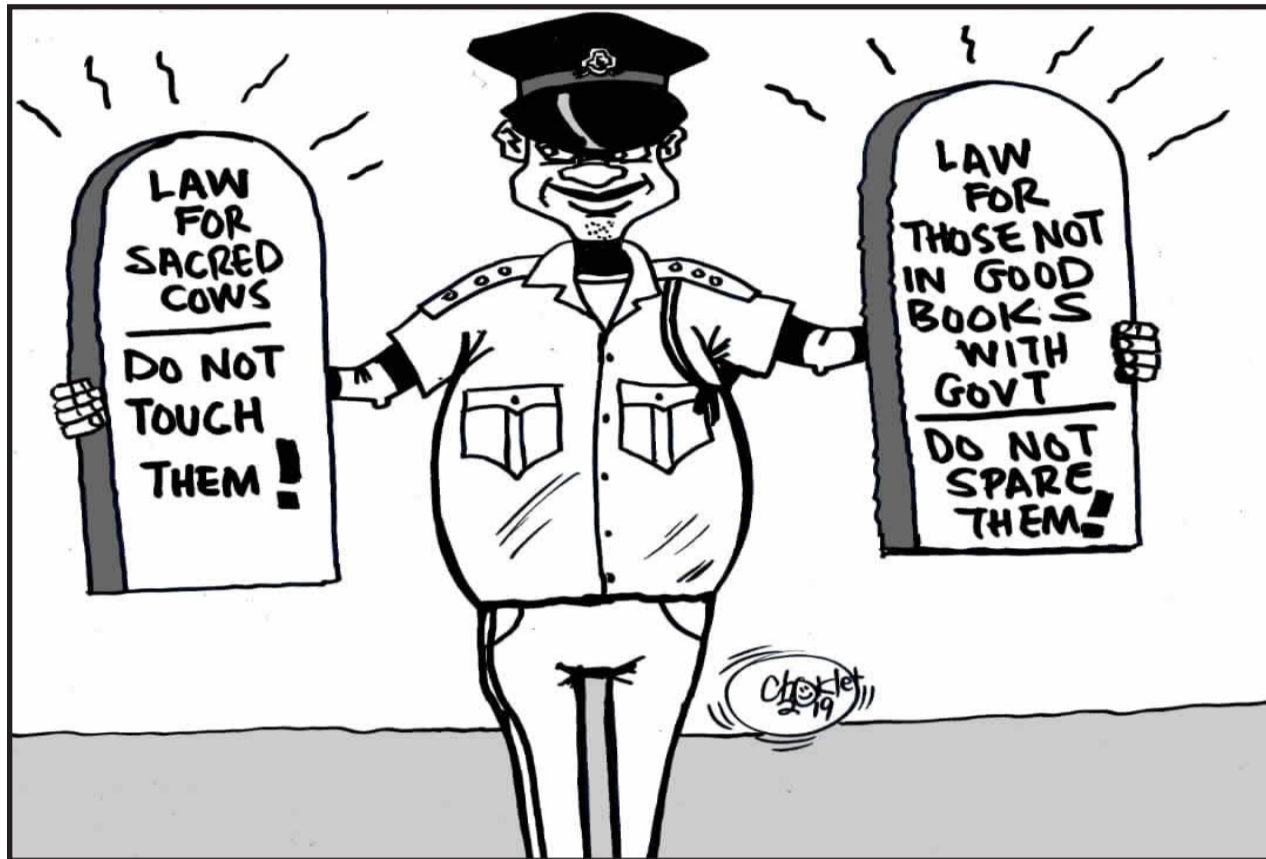
we can have several groups and how many districts do we have in the entire country? So, if we do some mathematics that is a lot of cash! That is my analysis." - Wakung'uma Museta

"BoZ must first reduce the Statutory Reserve Ratio to allow banks to have more liquidity, hence reduced interest rates & more money around." - Shaminda Shimaluwani

"Government must stop mopping up so much of the local credit." - Sue Clayton

"That's why there is very poor business for the ordinary trader. It simply doesn't make sense to do business nowadays!!" - Joseph Maimbolwa Namasiku

"Also most of our monies are kept in homes in the name of village banking, which has become very common in Zambia. This money is only released when it is time for sharing and this normally happens in November/December since people save for the entire year. For example, in some areas, one group can save up K250,000 kept in homes! In one district,



'Luo should excuse herself from Vespers' remembrance vigil'

Editor,
"Let her excuse herself from such until this

case is resolved in a satisfactory manner. Her Home Affairs counterpart, the IG, must not be part of such gatherings, even if allowances are handsome." - Brighton B. Banda

"Hypocrites will gather to shed crocodile tears!" - Wuselewa See

"These are warmongers of humanity. The worst kind of mediocrity and a strong harbinger of evil being displayed by people who call themselves educated and Godly people.

To hell with this nonsense! That's not the way to pay tribute to the deceased. This making merry when we are supposed to be grieving for the departure of an innocent soul. Even the musicians who are to perform at the same event, can tell what kind of event this will be!! It is really sickening to hear this development!" - Josphat Kwakwithu-nkhwakwithu Nyirongo

"And the funding for the event will come from the recently abolished student meal allowances, for which, by the way, Vespers died for. PF really know how to rub it in!! I think Zambians, despite being passive, don't deserve such charlatans for leaders! I hope the students will respond to the presence of the Ministers in the way they welcomed Dora during Vespers' church mass!!" - Hector Ndlovu

"We have not forgotten and we will never forget until Justice is given to her and all those who died without justice at the hands of brutality." - Pastors David Situngu

ND's OPINION: Lawyers facilitating money laundering

Editor,
"100% true! Lawyers have failed Zambians!" - Mungalaba Ngosa Chibesakunda
"When did lawyers protect the innocent? Lawyers live on crime! How can they report it?!!" - Shi Bulimi
"If a lawyer who signed the Constitution has been unable to respect it, how do you expect these lawyers to uphold it? They're just following the leader who's leading by example." - Chisala Nkandu
"The editor is on point; just that as Zambians we are too naïve. I just love wholeheartedly the news by Diggers!" - Moses Mukuka
"Very interesting article!" - Eddie Mushabati

NDC's suspension of Musenge for 21 days

Editor,
"Good move! He's a mercenary sent to propel confusion." - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"This Musenge guy is an embarrassment! He is so desperate! If he was serious these things wouldn't be happening. Some people are desperate in life." - Sydney Devine

"Musenge shows he supports corruption and tolerates nonsense because what Kambwili is being prosecuted of is not a lie. How many Zambians are serving as drivers, accountants, operators or a cashier in India? But you are busy allowing them take such jobs leaving out Zambians? Then where will Zambians work? Leave Kambwili alone with his truth. Mind you, this will affect your children one day that's when you will feel how it feels." - Solo Dumingu

"If ba Musenge wants to go back to PF, let him do so and leave NDC in peace, not in pieces!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Musenge, be careful as the massive defection of NDCs members you promised to PF won't work as all NDC leaders have distanced themselves from your statement. Very soon, Musenge, you will be no longer politically rele-

vant!" - Wachila Kazundulu
"I think Harry Kalaba is our only hope now, not these comedians! Harry Kalaba can make a good leader despite his short comings!" - Akapondo Kansansa

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Cannabis use in teens linked to depression

Parents should not be complacent about the risks of teenagers using cannabis, experts are warning. UK and Canada researchers said they had found "robust" evidence showing using the drug in adolescence increased the risk of developing depression in adulthood by 37%.

They said the findings should act as a warning to families who saw cannabis use as part of the growing-up process. The team added that the developing brain was particularly susceptible.

The researchers - from University of Oxford and Montreal's McGill University - said cannabis use in the young was an "important public health issue", particularly given that cannabis available today tends

to be much stronger than it was previously.

Around one in nine young adults and teenagers use the drug each year in England and Wales.

Report author Prof Andrea Cipriani conceded some parents had a relaxed attitude to the drug, but added the evidence was clear.

"This is important information for parents and teenagers. The risk is modest, but it can have a devastating impact.

How risky is cannabis?

This is the first time the actual risk has been quantified in this way.

The team looked at 11 previous studies, covering more than 23,000 young people, the journal JAMA Psychiatry reported.

Young people who had already

shown signs of depression or had a family history of the condition were excluded.

It found cannabis use before 18 increased the chance of an individual developing depression in young adulthood - defined as before the age of 35 - by 37%.

In terms of numbers that means around one in 14 cases of depression in that age group - around 60,000 in the UK - could be attributed to drug use in the teenage years. The study also looked at whether there was an association with anxiety and suicide attempts.

There was an increased risk of anxiety developing in young adulthood, but it was not considered statistically significant.

Meanwhile, those who used cannabis in their teenage



years were three times more likely to try to kill themselves - although the data on that trend was not considered robust enough to draw a firm conclusion.

So is this proof?

No. The researchers were unable to prove cannabis use was definitively causing depression.

Instead, they could only say it

looked to be a strong link.

This is because of the figures they found, but also what is known about the impact cannabis has on the developing brain.

Evidence has suggested that the drug affects the parts of brain that govern rational and emotional thinking as well as serotonin levels that influence mood.

To prove the link, trials would have to be conducted on young people - something that will never be done because it is unethical.

King's College London psychiatrist Prof Sir Robin Murray said the research could not be considered conclusive, but acknowledged the findings were "probably correct".

He said the risk of developing depression was smaller than what has already been established for schizophrenia-like psychosis.

He also said it was likely that any risk would be also down to the amounts of cannabis consumed and the strength - something this study was unable to unpick.

BBC

President Muhammadu Buhari has taken an early lead as votes are being counted in Nigeria's general election, amid allegations of manipulation.

Mr Buhari has won seven of Nigeria's 36 states, while his rival Atiku Abubakar took four states and the capital Abuja.

As results came in, Mr Abubakar's People's Democratic Party (PDP) alleged that there had been irregularities in the vote.

Party chair Uche Secondus called the count "incorrect and unacceptable".

He said there had been an "attempt by the government and other agencies to manipulate the result", but did not give any evidence.

The EU, US and African Union have all expressed concern about delays and logistical problems with voting on Saturday, but no independent observers have suggested fraud.

Mr Buhari, a member of the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party, is seeking re-election but faces a strong challenge from Mr Abubakar.

Each party says the other is

Muhammadu Buhari takes early lead



working with the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec) to influence the vote, which was initially scheduled for 16 February but delayed at the last minute.

Mr Buhari has promised to build on his accomplishments in office so far, while Mr Abubakar, a business tycoon, has accused the president of wasting his term.

Whoever wins in Africa's most populous nation and largest economy faces a range of problems including power shortages, corruption, security threats, and an economic

slowdown.

Final results are not expected until later in the week. But Mr Secondus has criticised the initial tallies, saying the government was using "impeachments,

manipulation, incarceration" to influence the outcome.

In turn, the federal government accused the PDP of trying to "scuttle the polls" and prompt a constitutional crisis.

The initial vote was postponed early on 16 February, five hours before polls were due to open. Voters were also choosing members of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Most of the country was calm but there were reports of attacks by the Boko Haram Islamist militant group in the north, and voter intimidation and attempts to steal ballot boxes, especially in the southern states of Rivers, Lagos, and Anambra.

A coalition of civil society groups reported that a total of 16 people were killed around the country - fewer than in previous elections.

BBC

Ebola treatment center torched in DRC

Attackers set fire to an Ebola treatment center run by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo late on Sunday, forcing staff to evacuate patients, the charity said.

There were no immediate details on the identity or motive of the people who torched the center in the district of Katwa, at the heart of the country's worst outbreak of the deadly disease.

But the World Health Organization has said aid workers face mistrust in some areas, fueled by false rumors about treatments and preference for traditional medicine.

"As a result of the burning of the building, it is no longer possible to care for patients there," MSF said on Twitter on Monday. None of the patients or staff were harmed, it added.

The outbreak has killed 546 people since July, according to the Congolese health ministry.

Most of the cases since the start of the year have been in Katwa, which is close to the border with Uganda.

Three volunteers for the Congolese Red Cross were attacked as they helped with the burial of an Ebola victim in eastern Congo in October. Two months later, political protesters ransacked a nearby Ebola isolation center. *Reuters*

Ariana Grande set to Perform in Manchester 2 Years After the Tragic Attack



Ariana Grande is returning to Manchester, two years after the suicide bomber killed 22 concert-goers and himself.

The "Thank U, Next" singer took to Twitter to share the news with her 61 million followers.

"Manchester babes, I'm so thrilled to be headlining pride," she began her post. "My heart. I can't wait to see u and I love u so so much."

The Manchester Pride Festival is slated for Aug. 25, according to the event's Twitter account. Among Grande, other artists performing include Years & Years, Bananarama, Kim Petras and more.

In response to Grande's news, the festival shared their excitement, writing, "We are beside ourselves to have you performing for us."

Fans of the singer will recall she performed at the One Love Manchester benefit concert in June 2017. She co-organized the event, which helped benefit the survivors of the bombing and families of the victims of the May 2017 attack.

Her performance at the benefit concert was beyond moving. She opened her set with "Be Alright" and "Break Free." At the event, she wore an oversized

sweater that read, "One Love Manchester."

During the May 2017 attack, the 25-year-old star was unharmed physically, however, she revealed that she had symptoms of PTSD after the bombing.

"I hate...yeah...admitting it but it very much is," she told British Vogue after being asked if the dizziness and anxiety she faced were signs of PTSD. "That's what everyone was telling me. It's hard to talk about because so many people have suffered such severe, tremendous loss."

She added, "But, yeah, it's a real thing. I know those families and my fans, and everyone there experienced a tremendous amount of it as well."

The "7 Rings" singer opened up to the publication almost a year after the attack.

Grande also released a four-part docu-series, *Dangerous Woman Diaries*, which gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the One Love Manchester benefit concert and her "Dangerous Woman" tour. The series released last November.

Fans will have to wait until late August to see what music Ariana performs at the festival. *E News*

We're not out to kill Kepa says Sarri

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri said on Tuesday goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga had made a big mistake refusing to be substituted during the League Cup final but he was young and the club's intention was not to "kill him".

Sarri -- speaking on the eve of their Premier League clash with third-placed Tottenham Hotspur -- reiterated the board's ruling that Kepa be fined a week's wages for the episode.

Kepa, the club's record £71 million (\$93 million) signing from Athletic Bilbao, refused to leave the field to be replaced by Willy Caballero.

Sarri then stormed off down the tunnel in anger before returning -- Chelsea eventually lost to City on penalties.

"I spoke with the goalkeeper, with Kepa, of course," he said. "Then we spoke altogether, because he said sorry to the technical staff, but it was not enough.

"Then he said sorry to his team-mates, to the club.

"I think he made a big mistake, but we need to be taller. We don't want to kill him. So there is a position from the club.



"For me the situation is finished. He is a young player (24), he made a mistake, but stop."

Sarri, though, would not confirm that Kepa would be between the goalposts against Spurs.

It is a pivotal match not only for Spurs and their battle for the title but for Sarri's side's three way tussle with Arsenal and Manchester United for the fourth and final Champions League spot.

"I have to decide, maybe yes, maybe not," said the 60-year-old Italian.

"It will be a decision for the group. For all the players."

Sarri denied Kepa's petulance and refusal to obey his orders reflected a greater malaise that

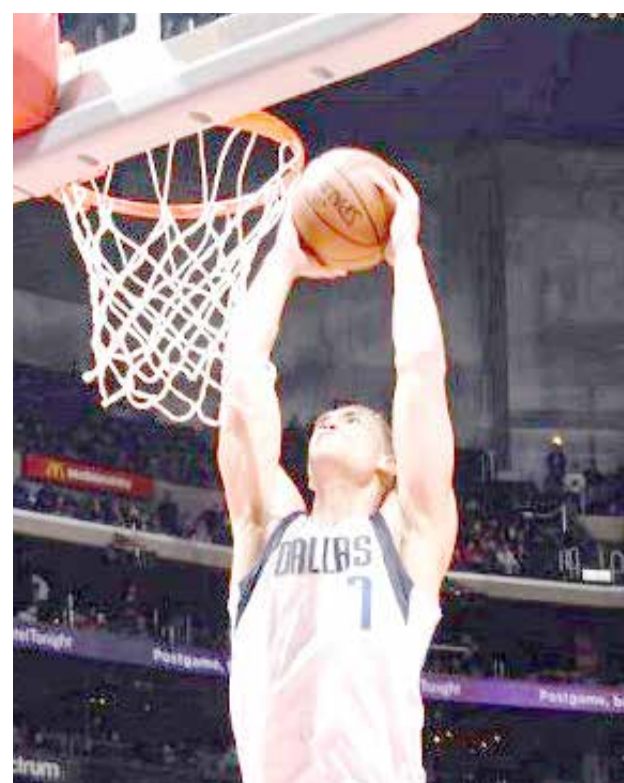
he had lost the dressing-room. "Did you see the match on Sunday? So you have the answer.

"After the game is the same. I think better," said Sarri, whose side improved on their 6-0 league hammering by City

a few weeks ago to only lose on penalties.

Asked if he felt the support of the players was now greater, Sarri said: "Yes."

"I am not under pressure," he added. "For me the pressure is a normal pressure." AFP



Dwight Powell #7 of the Dallas Mavericks dunks the ball against the LA Clippers on February 25, 2019 at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California.

Late penalty earns Kabwe Warriors a point vs Zesco

By Abraham Kalito

Super division champions ZESCO United FC has failed to capitalise on their

mid-week match against Kabwe Warriors to earn three points.

ZESCO in third position of

stream A, however, still has two games in hand and still have a chance of topping the log once they win the matches.

The side however found it difficult to win against Warriors, drawing two all.

Warrior started the scoring in the 20th minute before ZESCO equalised shortly before the interval.

ZESCO scored again slightly

after the hour mark to lead the host 2-1 but Warriors equalised just before the final whistle when they were awarded a penalty.

ZESCO has since flown to Sudan ahead of the confederations cup

encounter against Al Hilal FC of Sudan on Sunday.

The Zambian side drew one all against Al Hilal at home last Sunday.



Montrezl Harrell #5 of the LA Clippers is stripped of the ball by Dwight Powell #7 of the Dallas Mavericks during the first half at Staples Center on February 25, 2019 in Los Angeles, California.

Kaunda determined to guide Nkwazi to continental football

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkwazi coach Chris Kaunda says being underrated by other teams in Stream B of the FAZ/MTN league has contributed to his team's escalation to the top of the table.

Nkwazi are topping Stream B with 12 points and boast of an unbeaten record in three games.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kaunda said he was positive that his side could hold on to the top and consequently book a spot in continental football at the conclusion of the league.

"We were among the most underrated in our group and they are all wondering how we are at the top. We don't even have the buying power of players like other clubs but here I am working with whoever is available and making progress. We will take it one team at a

time and fight to hold on to the top and book a spot in continental football at the end of the season," said Kaunda.

Meanwhile, Zambia Police Sports Director Adrian Kashala hinted at spoiling the footballers should they make a continental football dream come true.

"They are average players and are doing just okay. Management for each club is always looking for good results and if Nkwazi lives the continental dream, they should be sure of being spoilt as a way of appreciating and motivating them," said Kashala.

The continental football target for the police side was set by Kashala during the Zambia Police Sports Annual Awards held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in January.

Nkana leaves for Kumasi ahead of Kotoko clash

By Abraham Kalito

Nkana FC yesterday flew to Ethiopia en-route to Kumasi, Ghana ahead of their group C encounter against Asante Kotoko on Sunday Match 3. Nkana beat Kotoko at home by three goals to one and are currently leading the group at six points.

The 19-man squad left Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia aboard an Ethiopian airline flight and would connect to Kumasi today where they will

begin preparations for the Sunday encounter.

Kotoko are currently at the bottom of the log with just three points from three matches played so far.

Nkana will have a chance to extend their lead further if they win the match.

No team in group C has won an away match in the cup thus far.

Meanwhile Nkana striker Ronald Kampamba alias 'Sate Sate' has been selected into this week CAF

confederations cup team of the week following matches that were played over the weekend.

Kampamba scored a brace in a match against Kotoko with one more goal coming from midfielder Freddy Tshimenga.

Ronald Kampamba alongside Kodjo Fo Doh Laba of RS Berkane and Mouhcine Lajour of Raja Casablanca are the three strikers of the week, according to the list released by CAF on Monday.



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