



# If we're coming to church with sinister vote-seeking motives...

# LET GOD CONVICT

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says if politicians go to church with sinister, vote-seeking motives, the Church must let God convict them.

Speaking when he attended a service at Healing Word Ministries International in Lusaka yesterday, President Lungu said the Church must pray for politicians who go to the house of the Lord with such sinister motives to get convicted.

"I did not wish to speak for the simple reason that speaking in church by politicians in Zambia is perceived to be politicizing the church. But I want to be free of that accusation. But I have been a God fearing person before I became a President, before a Minister, before I became a Christian, before I became a politician. Even after I stop being a President I will still be a Christian. So my plea, my message is that please help us feel accepted when we come

# US - LUNGU

to church because you make us feel very guilty that we come to solicit for support. This is simply because most politicians don't know God. Allow us to come and feel that we belong to the church also," President Lungu said.

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President Lungu and First Lady Esther joins Pastor Moses Chiluba's Healing Word International Ministries for a service yesterday

## Kabushi Pupils flee after gang attack

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Pupils at Kabushi A Primary School in Ndola abandoned classes in fear of gang-related attacks that occurred, Thursday.

A check at the school found classes empty with teachers gathered outside classrooms in fear of attacks.

An eye witness told News Diggers! that a pupil called his 'gangster' friends after he was disciplined by his teacher.

"What happened is that there is a boy who was beaten by the head teacher. After that,

he went out and reported to a notorious gang. So, the gang came and started beating up teachers. This gang here in Kabushi is notorious," a witness said.

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## Govt lifts ban on maize export

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## Fuel price cut too minimal to impact trade, says ZIPAR

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) senior research fellow Caesar Cheelo says the fuel pump price reduction will have no impact on trade of general commodities because it is "too minimal".

And Capital Buses proprietor Ishmael Kankara says his

company is yet to decide whether or not to slash bus fares owing to the reduction of

K0.86 and K1.22 for petrol and diesel respectively because it is still early.

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## Mwamba rubbishes PF-circulated Mulongoti statement as fake news

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba

has refuted a media statement, attributed to People's Party leader Mike Mulongoti, and circulated

by the PF, purporting that he has pulled out of the Opposition Alliance.

According to the High Commission in South Africa, Mulongoti had been re-admitted into hospital and was not in a condition to issue any press statements, as reported by Smart Eagles.

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**Street vendors must be removed without violence, damage to their goods - Mwale**

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# Govt's new debt outpacing dismantling of arrears – BAZ

By Stuart Lisulo

Government's accumulation of new debt compared to the rate of dismantling its arrears owed to contractors and suppliers is still a concern because the debt pile-up is higher, says the Bankers' Association of Zambia (BAZ). Domestic arrears owed to contractors and suppliers stood at over K14 billion by the end of third quarter of last year, according to Ministry of Finance data. This was after the arrears increased to K13.91 billion from K12.77 billion in the first quarter of 2018 due to a rise in arrears related to roads construction. In an interview, BAZ chief executive officer Leonard Mwanza said while government had been making progress on dismantling the arrears, the accumulation of new debt compared to the rate of dismantling remained a concern because the debt pile-up was higher. External debt stock as at close of the third quarter last year was US\$ 9.51 billion from US \$9.37 billion at end of the second quarter of 2018, while domestic debt, mainly government securities, as at end of third quarter 2018 amounted to K54.6 billion from K51.9 billion at the end of second quarter 2018. "The biggest concern is that their accumulation of debt is surpassing the dismantling process. So, quarter-on-quarter, we get to hear that the arrears owed to local suppliers are increasing, which means

even if they (government) are paying, the level at which their accumulation of debt is going is much higher than what they are able to dismantle," Mwanza said. "Much as they are paying, it is not matching their accumulation of new debt or new arrears. So, the problem is that, much as they are dismantling, it's not matching with the rate at which new arrears are accumulating. So, it becomes a fiscal control issue that needs to be brought under some level of control." And commenting on the slow uptake by commercial banks on the moveable assets registry, Mwanza expressed optimism that financial institutions are embracing the new initiative. The enactment of the Moveable Property (Security Interest) Act number 3 of 2016, aimed at giving lenders the assurance required to

accept personal or movable property as collateral. The Act provides more available options as admissible collateral for financial clients looking for credit facilities from the banks. It further provided for the establishment of a collateral registry whose objective is giving lenders the assurance required to accept personal or movable property as collateral. The Moveable Property Act is being administered by the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), and in collaboration with the Dairy Association of Zambia (DAZ). Banks have started piloting the use of animals as a form of collateral when lending money to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

But its uptake by financial institutions has been slow, according to the Bank of Zambia (BoZ). "The principle reason for establishing the Moveable Properties Registry was to broaden the range of collateral that was available to potential lenders so that more people could access credit from the providers of credit. Ultimately, yes, it would probably have an impact on the volume of credit because borrowers who previously did not have the assets to support their credit request would be able to use these assets," BoZ deputy governor for operations Dr Bwalya Ng'andu told journalists following the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) announcement last month. "Unfortunately, although the Registry is up and running and is available, the uptake from financial institutions

has been slow. I think the challenges are that faced are probably the nature of the assets; what to do with the particular are provided. So, in short, the Registry is up and running; the uptake is slow, I think part of the challenge we have to face is that of sensitizing more and more of its users and also encouraging the lenders themselves to become familiar with the assets that will be made available. But it's up and running, and as time passes, it should be able to be able to improve in terms of uptake." However, Mwanza, a former Natsave managing director, explained that the moveable assets Registry is being embraced by lenders who only varied in terms of business models and strategies. "So, from the information I have from PACRA in

terms of usage of the collateral registry, in terms of the searches, there has been an increase from the commercial banking sector's side. In terms of registration on the registry, there's been some element of improvement and a lot of interest from the commercial banking side," said Mwanza. "However, in terms of listings for facilities that have been approved and they're listing the collateral, there are more listings that are coming out from the micro-financial institutions compared to commercial banks. So, it is a reflection of the different business models. For a micro-finance, they might say they are willing to register a laptop; fridge or household good as part of the collateral. Banks may be more inclined to register a showroom motor vehicle, machinery or equipment."

# Street vending ban still in effect, maintains Mwale

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Minister of Local Government Vincent Mwale says the ban on street vending is still in effect and it will not be lifted. And Mwale has warned

vendors not to attempt going back on the streets, saying they will be "fished out". Last week, PF Secretary General Davies Mwila expressed concern over council police's harassment of street vendors. "All of us know what is happening with the vendors. Vendors are being beaten too much by the police. This issue is de-campaigning us so much. Street vending, for those who have been to South Africa, vending is there. How can someone who is selling cooking sticks bring cholera? So you councilors, can you call for an emergency council meeting, you sign and deliberate on this matter on the way you will handle the street vendors. Street vendors are being beaten too much. [Imagine] the police chasing a street vendor who is selling groundnuts and they grab the groundnuts from him and beat him! I think those police officers are from the council and it is you [councillors] who are running the councils," said Mwila who further advised Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa to use his power to protect the welfare of vendors and also called on the local authority to find means of letting the vendors trade. "Tell the mayor, he is the head of the council; he must deal with this matter as quickly as possible... When you are given a position, you have to use your authority. Even you the constituency chairman,

you have the authority, don't look like a branch chairman... You can remove vendors in Cairo road and the next road but in other roads... because jobs are not enough. Whilst we have a programme to create jobs for our people... at the moment, some of our people don't have means. Those are the people who voted for us, there are very few who eat well and vote for us, it is the poor people." But Mwale told News Diggers that the ban on street vending was still in effect and that anyone who would be found vending in undesignated places would be dealt with. "But what I can tell you is that the ban on street vending remains effective, the ban on street vending as imposed through Statutory Instrument No. 12 of 2018 is still effective, we are not backtracking on that. We will actually not allow street vendors to go back to the streets and we will still send the council police to take the out except that we will have to do that in a humane way. And I think that I understand the secretary general advising councillors to speak, I don't think that he was imposing or he was giving a directive to government but he was talking to councillors and telling them 'can you go and deliberate and find more spaces for street vendors,'" Mwale said. "So the ban is still effective, we are not lifting it, we have not lifted it

and we want the vendors to go back to the markets where they can trade from, the markets that are empty in our compounds and the makeshift markets that we have made for them such as the Tokyo one and Burma Road market. So they are not allowed to go back to the streets and they will not go back to the streets and if they go back to the streets, we are actually going to take them out except we will handle them differently. So the ban stands." He equally expressed concern over the harassment of traders by council police. "I understood the secretary general very well. I listened to the recording. I think there are two points that the secretary general made which I actually agree with. [On] the first [point], he was expressing concern over the treatment that is given to these street vendors by the people that control or take them out of the streets through the operations. They are harassed, their merchandise [gets] confiscated at the same time and in some cases beaten, some cases are taken to court while others are taken to the police and they take longer than necessary and so on," Mwale said. "I think the harassment is what the secretary general is mostly concerned with and I agree with the secretary general that we actually have to treat these people

with a lot of care and in a humane way. In fact, I can tell you that in January when I heard these reports of how these people are mistreated, I actually called the mayor and the man who is in charge of the operations to come to my office and we discussed at length with the Lusaka Town Clerk and that we needed to change our approach." He said an alternative temporary trading place for street vendors had already been identified on Simon Mwewa Lane as government was still waiting for the completion of the nearby market. "...the second point that he made is that we can consider finding some streets where we can allow these people to trade because it happens all over the world. I think that on that one as well, we have already made plans, we have discussed with the council that where we are constructing Simon Mwewa market, between the Simons building and the market, that lane, we are actually going to open it up to street vendors. And once we finish the Simon Mwewa market... [it] is going to have more than 62 toilets so that those that will be trading and those that will be coming to buy can use those toilets. So that portion of the lane between Simon Mwewa and Simons building will be opened up [for vending]. I think that we already have a plan for that," said Mwale.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma has threatened to take the conflict between Prime Television and PF Secretary General Davies Mwila to the High Court should the TV station fail to apologize to the complainant within 14 days. This is in a matter where Mwila had written to the Authority complaining about Prime TV's "biased coverage and unethical reporting of political opinions and beliefs disguised as news during a broadcast of the TV's main news on Saturday February 9, 2019". According to the correspondence between Prime TV and IBA, the TV station had requested that the hearing be moved to next week, which the Authority had quashed. "We are in receipt of your letter dated 28th February, 2019, where you propose to defer the meeting to next week. We are not deferring the Hearing.

# IBA threatens to take *Prime TV* to court if doesn't apologize to Mwila

Therefore, we expect you to appear today (Friday) at 14:30 hours as per our earlier correspondence. We urge you to begin preparing your responses for the hearing. Take note that if you do not appear this afternoon, the Board will proceed to resolve this issue based on the report furnished to yourselves," Mapoma cautioned in a letter written to Prime TV. She stated that the Authority would take the matter to the High Court if Prime TV failed to comply with its directive to apologize to Mwila. "We wish to draw your attention to Section 33 to 37 of the Independent Broadcasting Authority

Act (2002), which provides processes for addressing complaints. You will note that Section 34 indicates that an aggrieved person can make a complaint if a station breaks any of the minimum Programme Standards as provided in Section 33 and any other standard that the station may have developed. The station then has 14 days to respond to the complainant. In this case, Prime Television responded to the Secretary General of the Patriotic Front within the prescribed time. Section 34 also provides that if the complainant considers the response inadequate, they may make a complaint to the Authority. In this case at

hand, the Secretary General did escalate the complaint to us. You will further note that Section 35 provides for the Authority to investigate the complaint if satisfied that the complaint is not frivolous or vexatious. The Authority can also investigate the matter if it is satisfied that the complaint is relevant to a Code of Practice and is brought within three months of the broadcast," Mapoma stated. "Take notice, too, of Section 36, which provides that if the Authority is satisfied that the complaint is justified, the Authority should take action to obligate the station to comply with the Code of Practice. The other action

may include broadcasting or otherwise publishing an apology or retraction. You may wish to recall that the Authority directed you to write a letter of apology to the complainant. Having been issued this directive within 14 days, take notice that Section 37 requires you to execute the directive within 14 days. Should you fail to do so, the Authority may by notice in writing require you to make good the default within a specified time. Take note that Section 37 (2) provides that if a station fails to comply with the notice, the Authority shall apply to the High Court for an order compelling the station to remedy the default."

Mapoma stated that IBA would not convene a meeting between Prime TV and Mwila. "Of importance, take note that the process above does not allow for the Authority to convene meetings between the two parties. This means that as a station, currently, you have to make a choice to either comply with the directive or not. Take notice that the Authority will not convene a meeting between yourselves and the Secretary General of the Patriotic Front. However, should other institutions, such as advocacy bodies be willing to organize such a meeting, we would urge you to pursue this option," advised Mapoma.

# Mwamba refutes Mulongoti's 'Opposition Alliance' statement

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba has refuted a media statement, attributed to People's Party leader Mike Mulongoti, which went viral purporting that he has pulled out of the Opposition Alliance. According to a statement issued by Zambia's First Secretary for Press in South Africa Naomi Nyawali, Mulongoti had been made an outpatient for the last two weeks but recent developments necessitated that he be re-

admitted into hospital. Ambassador Mwamba said to his knowledge no press statement had been issued by Mulongoti and advised the media to get in touch with him or his wife, Betty, for clarification. "We urge all stakeholders not politicise Mr Mulongoti's illness and allow him the privacy he requires," said Ambassador Mwamba. Meanwhile, Ambassador Mwamba said Everett Chongo's treatment and review of had gone very well. He said Everett was

in South Africa last week for medical review for doctors to ascertain and observe

the continued healing of her spine and legs. He said after the review, doctors were happy

with the tremendous progress she had made. Everett sustained injuries to her spine and legs

when she jumped from the 3rd floor of her University of Zambia hostel.

## It's dry in the opposition - Mutati

By Mukosha Funga

MMD faction leader Felix Mutati has told members to work hard and mobilize resources for the party because "it is dry in the opposition". Mutati, who is on the Copperbelt Province for a series of meetings with party structures, told

members that there was a need to embrace the spirit of sacrifice for the party, saying opposition politics were different from ruling party politics. He said as president, he would do his part by mobilising resources for the smooth operations of the party but asked

members to also sacrifice their time to ensure that they bring more members to the MMD. "We are in opposition, we need to sacrifice and we should also be humble. We should realise that things are different from those days when we were in government. It is dry in the opposition; you also know that. So we want the spirit that we had, the spirit of volunteerism, the spirit of sacrificing to the party MMD. If we work hard, it is only God who knows what the future holds but if we don't work hard, then the party suffers and we achieve nothing," Mutati said, according to an article by the MMD media team. And Mutati said politicians should fight with ideas instead of engaging in political violence which was retrogressive. Mutati said parties should not force citizens to vote for individuals they don't want but allow voters to willfully elect leaders. "What we know as MMD is that leaders are chosen by people and not pangas. Do pangas choose leaders? Let

people have a free will to choose their leaders. Don't force leaders on people with pangas. So we want these by-elections which are coming in Bahati and Roan, let people chose their MPs freely. Let the people of Bahati and Roan choose a person they want. Don't force them using pangas and other weapons," said Mutati. "Let political parties emulate MMD in conducting peaceful campaigns. I was a campaign manager in Roan for a by election and we did not have violence and people willfully chose their MP. We didn't have violence but only debated on our policies as political parties. And you as members of the MMD, help your leaders to tell others that there is no development in punches. We are one people but you can't say One Zambia, One Nation while welding a panga, it is not one Zambia, one panga." Mutati has so far held meetings with MMD district officials from Chililabombwe, Chingola, Chambishi and Kitwe.

## Teacher admits defaming Lungu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 27-year-old teacher of Samfya district in Luapula Province has pleaded guilty to defaming President Edgar Lungu and being possession of pornographic material. In this matter, Enockson Banda is facing four counts of defamation of the President and possession of obscene material. It is alleged that between April 1 and June 30 last year, Banda, with intent to bringing the name of the President into ridicule, published defamatory statements. It is further alleged that on the same dates, Banda had in his possession obscene materials, including pictures tending to corrupt morals. Banda had initially denied all the charges in the matter last year and trial had commenced. However, when the matter came up for continuation of trial before magistrate Sylvia Munyinya, Friday, Banda pleaded guilty after the court read out the charges to him. Asked why he had issued the defamatory

statements against President Lungu, Banda said it was because he was angry. The court then entered a plea of guilty and adjourned that matter to today for reading of facts and sentencing. Meanwhile, a forensic pathologist, Tadjimurat Musakhanov, who conducted a postmortem on Vesper's Shimuzhila, has disclosed that the cause of her death was an obstruction of respiratory tracks due to soot which contained carbon monoxide poison. This is an inquest hearing before the coroner's court at the Subordinate Court, Lusaka, to ascertain how the UNZA student came to her death last year. Vesper, who was a fourth year student at UNZA died in October last year of suffocation after the police allegedly burnt one of the hostels using a tear gas canister during a student riot over delayed payment of meal allowances. And testifying before coroner Sylvia Munyinya, Friday, Dr Musakhanov who

has more than 25 years' experience, said he conducted the postmortem examination on Shimuzhila on October 7, two days after her death. He told the coroner's court that his external examination of Vesper's body showed dark fluids from her nose and mouth. Dr Musakhanov added that Vesper's body and skin were intact with nothing to show that she had been injured. He said there was no evidence to show that Vesper had consumed any toxic substances to cause her death. Dr Musakhanov said although he discovered that the deceased had a concomitant disease, it could not have led to her death. Asked by a lawyer representing Vesper's family, Lastone Mwanaabo, whether he took the dark red soot he found on the deceased to the laboratory, Dr Musakhanov said he did not. Hearing continues on April 3, 4 and 5, 2019.

# Civil service jobs now on basis of one's loyalty to President - VJ

**By Thomas Mulenga**  
Veteran Politician Vernon Mwaanga says the Zambian Civil Service has been over politicised with the appointment of ruling party cadres without qualifications. In a statement, Thursday, Mwaanga stated that it was wrong to appoint people into the civil service not based on their qualifications and ability to perform but their loyalty to the party in power. "The Public service plays a major and indispensable role in any genuine democracy in terms of delivering service to ordinary people. Once upon a time, Zambia had a professional and highly respected Public service, which was not involved in partisan politics. Sadly, over the years, the public service has become too politicised and the appointment

of cadres into the Civil Service, particularly those without the necessary qualifications, has made the situation even worse. Most of these appointments are not made on merit, let alone the ability of particular individuals to diligently perform their duties. The appointments are made on the basis of their personal loyalty to the head of state or the party in power or both. Consequently, service delivery to the people of Zambia has suffered immeasurably," Mwaanga stated. He stated that civil servants must be politically neutral and ready to serve any government that assumes office. "In a democracy, it is the civil service which is supposed to provide continuity because it is supposed to be politically neutral, to serve whatever

new government assumes office. Responsiveness and accountability of the public service to members of the public they serve is central to the process of good governance. Responsiveness and accountability subsume efficient delivery of services to the people they serve. It is extremely important to make the public service accountable to the people they serve, who are their masters," Mwaanga stated. He stated that a professional civil service must be accountable to the people in order to win their trust and confidence. "It is my view that the public service must be accountable to the citizens as it promotes trust and confidence in public officials, it enhances the authority and legitimacy of governments, it encourages openness and transparency

in governments, it enables public officials to be aware of the needs and demands of the people they serve, it makes public officials accountable for their actions and forces public officials to address citizens' complaints and grievances in a timely manner," stated Mwaanga. "Citizens must feel a sense

of ownership, we should not create a situation where citizens begin to fear their public servants, be they in administration, the police, the security forces or other arms of government. It should be the public servants who must fear but preferably respect the people they serve."

Last week, PF Luapula Province chairman Nickson Chilangwa, who is also provincial minister, said it was foolish for some district commissioners not to campaign for the party on the basis that they are civil servants, arguing that they were all in their positions because of the party.

## I'm still full time member of PF, says suspended Luangeni MP

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Suspended Luangeni member of parliament Charles Zulu says he is still a serving member of parliament under the PF and has not yet received any letter of suspension from the party. In January this year, PF Secretary General Davies Mwila announced Zulu's suspension from the party, adding that although the decision was made by the grassroots, it had the blessing of the party's Central Committee.

"The party starts from the grassroots and the decision of the grassroots stands. He (Charles Zulu) was suspended and given time to exculpate himself. So he must respond to the party in the constituency, so that's the explanation I have. He has been asked to exculpate himself of which he has not responded to the letter from the constituency," Mwila told News Diggers. The Luangeni constituency PF leadership suspended Zulu

from the party for allegedly secretly supporting Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba. But in an interview, Zulu said he had not yet received any suspension letter. "You ask the secretary general, I don't want to be in the papers mwana, mine is to develop the constituency. I belong to a political party and that party is PF. So if they take disciplinary action against me, I think they are better placed there. You know the senior members of my party, the SG (Secretary General) are better placed to explain that. You find out from the people that suspended me. Like I said, I have not received the letter of suspension and so I am still waiting for that. My game plan... I am a member of parliament right now and I am a full time member of the PF. Mine is to develop my constituency. I came to parliament to talk for the people of Luangeni, to speak for them [and] to represent the people of Luangeni constituency. So I don't do those politics of finger pointing, insults what and what," said Zulu.

## Shoprite posts trading losses of 61.8m Rand

**By Stuart Lisulo**  
Shoprite Holdings Limited have incurred trading losses of nearly 62 million Rand in its non-RSA operations during its financial half-year compared to R552.7 million earned in the prior corresponding period. In a statement announcing its unaudited financial results in the 26-week period up to December 30, 2018, the South African retail giant incurred trading losses of R61.8 million, triggered by a major currency devaluation of 85.1 per cent in the Angolan market. But the Group announced that sales in its Zambian segment showed an improvement in the second quarter of 14.7 per cent. "The Supermarkets Non-RSA segment reported a trading loss of R61.8 million versus a trading profit of R552.7

million in the corresponding period. The decline is mainly attributed to the unprecedented 85.1 per cent currency devaluation (against the USD since January, 2018) in Angola. As a result, gross margin was under pressure with the inability to pass on cost inflation to consumers in the selling prices of goods," Shoprite revealed. "The Angolan economy remains in recession, adversely affecting consumption expenditure in the country, with mostly our price sensitive customers being unable to maintain spending levels. For the six months to December 2018, the economy of Angola was again assessed to be hyperinflationary." Foreign exchange rate losses were equally incurred

by the Group of over R3 million owing to currency depreciation experienced in both Angola and Zambia in the six-month period last year. "The Group recorded an exchange rate loss of R3.4 million for the reporting period mainly due to the currency devaluation in the Angola kwanza and Zambia kwacha since June, 2018. The performance of Supermarkets Non-RSA is dependent on foreign currency availability in Angola and Nigeria together with stable currencies," it stated. While growth within the Group's SA outlets remained robust, its non-RSA operations continued to endure a sluggish performance owing to currency volatility in some markets.

"Trading in 14 countries in the rest of Africa and Indian Ocean Islands, Supermarkets Non-RSA recorded a decline of 13.3 per cent in sales in rand terms and contributed 14.7 per cent to the Group's sales. Non-RSA sales growth remained positive in constant currency terms, although currency devaluations and poor trading conditions in many countries, contributed to a below par

performance," Shoprite stated. But the Group announced that sales in its Zambian segment showed an improvement in the second quarter of 14.7 per cent. "Zambia is now almost self-sufficient in terms of local supply of fresh and perishable lines. Zambia's sales in local currency are showing an improvement in the second quarter of 14.7 per cent," stated Shoprite.

## Govt to start verifying freedom fighters' credentials - Nundwe

**By Daniel Chansa**  
Copperbelt Permanent Secretary Bright Nundwe says there will be screening of freedom fighters' true credentials because it does not make sense to have people claiming to be freedom fighters at 50 years of age. Speaking during a courtesy call paid on him by the Zambia United National Freedom Fighters' Association, Nundwe expressed concern that there were too many people masquerading as freedom fighters. "We are going to do screening of freedom fighters. Imagine; I am 50 and want to claim to be a freedom fighter? Again, we have a lot of associations of freedom fighters! I hope I'm talking to the Association that belongs to Sikota Wina because that is the Association that government knows. Not today, there is this association, again, another one. We need to have

one Association," Nundwe insisted. "We are enjoying this peace because of your efforts. Blood was shed for us to enjoy today. But I'm concerned that we have two associations of freedom fighters. Come up with one group to make the work of government easy. That way, it will be easy for us as government to help." And he announced that the provincial administration would give freedom fighters a stand at the 2019 Copperbelt Investment Expo, noting that the platform was aimed at exposing the potential the province had. This was in response to the Association's Copperbelt Chairperson John Waluka who asked Nundwe to facilitate for freedom fighters be part of the Expo. "Copperbelt needs to change from the current dependence on mining. So, our focus is tourism, agriculture and other sectors that we have on the province," said Nundwe.

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MMD faction leader Felix Mutati dances with party officials in Chililabombwe on Saturday during a mobilization meeting. Mutati is on a one-week tour of the Copperbelt - picture courtesy of MMD media team

## Govt lifts mealie meal export ban

By Thomas Mulenga

Government has lifted the maize and mealie meal export ban, Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo has announced.

In a statement, Sunday, Katambo said the decision was made after wide consultations with stakeholders.

And Katambo said the country had enough Maize stock for local consumption, assuring that mealie meal prices would remain fairly stable.

"I wish to announce to the nation and advise Market players and indeed members of the general public that the government of the Republic of Zambia, under the leadership of H.E President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, has with immediate effect lifted the ban on mealie meal exports," Katambo said.

"This decision was arrive at in close consultation by the ministry of Agriculture with key stakeholders that include the Grain Traders Association of Zambia (GTAZ), the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ), the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU), Zambia Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ZAMCE) as well as the Food Reserve Agency (FRA). Having established that the country currently has in excess of 700,000 metric tonnes of Maize grain stock, government is convinced that the country is food secure and that mealie meal prices will remain fairly stable."

However, Katambo said the government would employ a regulated export regime to ensure the smooth flow of exports.

"To ensure a smooth flow of exports of mealie meal, the ministry will apply a regulated export regime that we have been using to facilitate Maize seed exports through the Eastern and Southern African Region, which so far, has worked well. It should be noted that the millers who have accessed the government subsidized Maize from the FRA, will not be allowed to get import permits for mealie meal. State security agencies will also remain on alert in strategic cross boarder points to ensure that illegal exports are kept in check," Katambo said.

Katambo has since encouraged farmers and traders to take advantage of the lifting of the Maize export ban and strike deals with traders in other countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I wish to urge farmers, Millers and grain traders to take advantage of the Market wind and close deals with importers in cross border markets, particularly those from Congo DR. From the consultations that government has been having with stakeholders in the Agriculture industry, it has become clear that as a country we need to develop a predictable and transparent Agricultural Commodity Marketing System," said Katambo.

## Fuel price cut too minimal to impact trade - ZIPAR

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) senior research fellow Caesar Cheelo says the fuel pump price reduction will have no impact on trade of general commodities because it is "too minimal".

And Capital Buses proprietor Ishmael Kankara says his company is yet to decide whether or not to slash bus fares owing to the reduction of K0.86 and K1.22 for petrol and diesel respectively because it is still early.

Meanwhile, Kankara says the bus company wasn't satisfied with the 22 percent increment on bus fares last year because they wanted them hiked by 40 per cent.

On Thursday, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) announced the reduction of fuel prices from K16.06 to K15.20 for Petrol, K14.65 to K13.34 for Diesel and K16.94 to K15.72 for Low Sulphur Diesel, owing to falling international oil prices and the stable exchange rate between the kwacha and US dollar.

However, Cheelo observed that the fuel price reduction of K1 on average would have very little impact on consumers because price hikes in the past had been relatively higher.

He added the reduction in the fuel prices would have no impact on trade because the price margin between the old and the new cost was very minimal.

"It's a minimal impact because the adjustment upwards in the past has been relatively higher and the transporters and whoever

else is responsible for moving of commodities, when prices [of fuel] went up, they already made upward adjustments. The opposite is not going to be the case here because the change in fuel price is small. You can't expect that transporters will pass on some of that price reduction to their customers by reducing their prices. They will keep their prices where they are. The cost of moving trade across the country [and] out of the country will stay the same despite the reduction in the fuel price... On trade, there won't be any impact but may be on motorists, there will be definitely a small saving because you are talking about a K1 saving per litre," Cheelo said in an interview.

He, however, said it was unlikely that bus operators would reduce the fares, adding that service providers tended to maintain high prices because they enjoyed them.

"It's unlikely that they [bus

operators] will reduce [the fares]. What happens is that service providers tend to hold on the high prices because they are enjoying the higher price. So if there is any saving to be had, they will try to hold on to that saving themselves as opposed to passing it on to their customers. So it's the same thing for buses and commodity trade. And many people are probably preempting that because prices are moving up and down so quickly, they will probably be thinking that the prices will be changing very soon. So they will say [that] 'there's no way in us revising the prices when the price of fuel is going to go up very soon'. But there is very little impact for consumers," said Cheelo.

And Kankara said transporters still needed to have talks with the Ministry of Transport and Communications because deciding on whether or not to reduce bus fares.

"We have not decided anything

yet. It's so soon. We don't know yet whatever is going to happen. We might only know next week (this week). We still have to have negotiations and talks if they are going to be any," he said.

Kankara disclosed that the company wasn't satisfied with the 22 percent increment on bus fares last year.

"But then, we were still in negotiations with the Ministry [of Transport and Communications] the last time [of the] increment. If you remember, we had a meeting with the honourable minister [Brian Mushimba] and he requested that we increase by 22 percent. Then we had follow up meetings because we wanted 40 percent because that was adequate for us to run on 40 percent..." said Kankara.

"We were anxious for the last six months since the last fuel increment but nobody listened to our anxiousness. We were crying that we can't make our ends meet but nobody was listening to us."

## If we come to church with vote-seeking sinister motives, let God convict us - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says if politicians go to church with sinister motives of seeking support, the Church must let God convict them.

Speaking when he attended a service at Healing Word Ministries International in Lusaka yesterday, President Lungu said the Church must pray for politicians who go to the house of the Lord with such sinister motives to get convicted instead.

"I did not wish to speak for the simple reason that speaking in church by politicians in Zambia is perceived to be politicizing the church. But I want to be free of that accusation. But I have been a God fearing person before I became a President, before a Minister, before I became a Christian, before I became a politician. Even after I stop being a President I will still be a Christian. So my plea, my message is that please help us feel accepted when we come to church because you make us feel very guilty that we come to solicit for support. This is simply because most politicians don't know God. Allow us to come and feel that we belong to the church also," President Lungu said.

"I saying this very mindful of how the church has played

a very critical role in our political affairs in this country. And I think the church must bring us together, whether you belong to the opposition or the ruling party so that ministry should not be lost sight of. So when we come, whether the intention is soliciting for support, let God convict us. Keep praying for us in politics so that at the end of the day, those of us who come to church with a sinister motive of trying to win support for the church get convicted to support the Lord."

He said praying for politicians to get convicted by the word of God was the only thing that could end political violence.

"When you do so, you will bring Christianity to the political arena. The violence that you're seeing now will be a thing of the past. And on that score, I feel very very strengthened when I come to church and I am left alone because I know that I will concentrate on the word. By the time I come out of church, I will be a different, richer person even when I am talking politics. I am very mindful of

the influence that you have over all of us. The church has influence over all of us in this country especially those of us who are politicians. Don't underrate your influence. Continue praying for us, visit us in our homes, visit us in our offices, and talk to us with the love of Christ so that the love of Christ fills the political arena so that this violence we are seeing will be a thing of the past. Nothing will heal Zambia from the violence which is emerging in the political arena unless Christ fills the hearts of politicians, nothing at all!" President Lungu said.

Because where there is Christ, there is love, where there is Christ, there is understanding. Where there is Christ there is tolerance, where there is Christ, there is a desire not to harm your friend." He said the Church was free to choose whether or not to allow politicians to speak during services.

"So for you in the church, if you feel like giving us a chance to speak, please do so. If you don't feel like giving us

a chance to speak, do not feel guilty at all because it is your choice. The most effective way you feel will reach out to us, please use that avenue," said President Lungu.

"I am saying this because I'm some church they will say 'don't allow politicians to speak from the pulpit, don't allow politicians to even greet people, it is your choice like I said. But if you think that by talking to the church through politicians, probably other politicians will listen, especially ba PF na papata, listen to me. I don't think anyone who belongs to PF and believes in what we stand for as PF will take pride in injuring another person simply to overcome that person's position in his quest to pursue his political agenda. So PF, I am appealing to you, please be the carrier of the message of peace and love in the political arena. I have already spoken too much and I hope you won't be fed up with me he next time I come, allow me to greet you. I greet you in the name of Christ our lord, amen."

## Pupils flee after gang attack at Kabushi Primary

By Daniel Chansa in Ndola

Pupils at Kabushi A Primary School in Ndola abandoned classes in fear of gang-related attacks that occurred, Thursday.

A check at the school found classes empty with teachers gathered outside classrooms in fear of attacks.

An eye witness told News Diggers! that a pupil called his 'gangster' friends after he was disciplined by his teacher.

"What happened is that there is a boy who was beaten by the head teacher. After that, he went out and reported to a notorious gang. So, the gang came and started beating up teachers. This gang here in Kabushi is notorious," a witness identified as Felix, said.

It took the police time to quell the confusion after firing teargas. The head teacher was not available for a comment despite being within the school.

Efforts to get the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) and police proved futile by press time.



# PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote *Leaving no one behind*

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

Cooperating partners commend Zambia under President Edgar Chagwa Lungu as an outstanding stable, democratic peaceful country in the region; and several UN Agencies show confidence in the Head Of State by appointing him to their boards

By Hon Davies Mwila

### INTRODUCTION

The Patriotic Front (PF) Government has remained steadfast in bringing about and galvanising exponential development in our nation in line with the PF Manifesto through the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP).

We stand unwavering in our endeavour to improve the lives of ordinary citizens even in the face of the ill will and malevolence of our heckling detractors, who are consumed with painting a distorted image of our nation to the international community.

While these cynics have deliberately pretended not to see and benefit from these efforts, the majority of Zambian citizens and stake holders, including the international community, have taken notice of Zambia's progress and the achievements in the seven years (2011 – 2018) the Patriotic Front Government has been in office.

### DFID

Zambia recently hosted United Kingdom (UK) Department for International Development (DFID) Director General Lindy Cameron.

DFID is the official development agency of the UK managing overseas development assistance, and has for decades been one of Zambia's development partners.

During her visit, the DFID Director General said Zambia: "stands out as a stable, democratic and peaceful country in the region". She further commended the Zambian Government for the tough stance taken in protecting public resources and further stated that the effort is a huge signal to the local and the international community that the leadership is resolved to stem the wastage of public resources and advance public service delivery.

### UN BOARDS

And as the British development agency was commending Zambia, several United Nations (UN) agencies demonstrated their confidence in the Zambian Head of State. Inspired by President Lungu's national development agenda and his illustrious local track record, a number of UN agencies have by appointed President Lungu to their to their boards to pioneer agendas aimed at improving the welfare of people at a global level as follows:

1. Board member of the UN- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) centre for Africa (in readiness for Zambia hosting the Southern Africa regional centre).
2. Focal Person for the implementation of the UN-agenda-2030 which deals with the achievement of SDGs.
3. President Lungu has also been appointed as an IDDA- three champion - the third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and it deals with industrialization of African countries and how this can be achieved.

WORLD BANK INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDA)

The World Bank also demonstrated its confidence in Zambia when our nation hosted the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) Mid-Term Review Meeting in Livingstone a few months ago (November 2018).

IDA complements the World Bank's original lending arm, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and it is overseen by 173 shareholder nations – including Zambia. This organisation aims to reduce poverty by providing credit and grants for programmes that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.

In his opening speech President Edgar Chagwa Lungu recognised the global financial institution as a strategic partner "The World Bank Group is a hugely important global development partner that has played a significant role in Zambia's development agenda since the 1950's".

"As one of our long term partners, the world bank group has financed 250 projects through concessional IDA credits and grants with a cumulative value of us\$ 4.6 billion over the years". The Head of State reflected.

Among the many projects being financed by IDA include the rehabilitation of the Kariba Dam and Lisitu project in Siavonga, as well as the Lusakisi dam project on the Copper belt.

That the organisation chose to hold its Mid-Term Review Meeting in our country, is an indication of the World Bank's confidence in the investor-inspiring policies that the Zambian government is implementing, which are informed by the Patriotic Front Manifesto through the 7NDP.

### BEST STATE STRATEGY IN AFRICA AWARD- AFRICA INVESTMENT FORUM

Africa Investments Forum and Awards were initiated in 2017 with the support of the French captains of Industry including: The Council of French Investments in Africa (CIAN); the French Private Equity Association (AFIC); Paris Euro place; Agency Française de Development (AFD); Syndicate des Energies Renouvelables, among others.

The award of Best State Strategy in Africa is dedicated to business opportunities on the African continent in various fields such as Energy, Infrastructure and City Planning, Mergers and Acquisitions, Growth Strategies and Real Estate Industries.

Zambia last year won the award of "Best State Strategy in Africa" in recognition of the PF Government's efforts in improving the business environment and attracting domestic and foreign direct investment, under the leadership of President Lungu.

### DOING BUSINESS REPORT 2018- ZAMBIA ONE OF TOP 10 PERFORMERS IN THE WORLD

The "Best State Strategy in Africa" award spoke volumes about Government efforts in creating a favourable climate for investment and economic development in line with the PF Manifesto and the 7NDP.

This further asserted Zambia's position as one of Africa's prime investment destinations as a result of the positive investment climate promoted by the PF Government as highlighted by the World Bank's 2018 edition of Doing Business Report which named Zambia as one of the best 10 performers in the world, ranking 85 out of 180 and fourth in sub-Saharan region in business reforms and efforts to reduce the cost of doing business.

Zambia under the PF Government of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu continues to grow in stature as business destination of choice, attracting over 2.5 billion United States Dollars of foreign direct investment per year on average as compared to a merger 100 million United States Dollars per year a decade ago, thanks to the implementation of positive growth oriented policies of the PF Government.

### ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA

It is not just international partners that have recognised the positive performance of the country over the last seven years.

The Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) a non-partisan body respectable economists and financial specialists.

Just like the Director General of the UK Development agency DFID and the World Bank, the EAZ recently re-affirmed that Zambia has one of the most stable economies in the region.

President of EAZ Mr Lubinda Haabazoka confirmed that the analysis was based on key macroeconomic indicators and he reaffirmed that despite some challenges in the economy, the country always comes out strong in its goal to reaching national economic development.

The Government further looks forward to the EAZ facilitated National Economic Summit in Livingstone this July under a theme that is close to President Lungu's heart: "The Future Economic Diplomacy, Supporting Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Africa".

The Summit which is the first of its kind to be hosted by Zambia will be graced by President Edgar Lungu,

### CONCLUSION

The Patriotic Front government is consumed with "Accelerating development efforts towards vision 2030 without leaving any one behind". As statesmen guided by the one-Zambia One -Nation Motto, and the scriptural exhortation to do good to those that wish us ill, We will leave no one behind; not even those that have made an unholy vocation of disparaging us through their orchestrated slander, innuendo and fake news.

What a paradox for cynics that are bent on tarnishing Zambia's image in the eyes of the international community! They are throwing spanners in the works at a time when the country is scoring positively and being acknowledged widely.

The more they generate fake news; the more they expose their own bitterness.

The more they cry wolf and scream blue murder; the more the International Community sees through their ill motives.

The more they plan Civil Unrest: the more we remain Civil and blessed.

The greater their darkness: the brighter our light shines.

The Patriotic Front Government values our international cooperating partners and they have noted this even as they have also acknowledged our sincere efforts for the development of our nation through the 7NDP.

As our Head of State – His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu remarked in his foreword to the 7NDP document: "Our Cooperating Partners have always been supportive of the development agenda of the country and the Government will continue to appreciate their valuable contributions".

*The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General*



# POLITICAL DISCOURSE

*With*  
**Sishuwa Sishuwa**

...Only in  
**News Diggers!**  
Ear to the ground

## Zambia, a dream in ruins: *what will the tipping point be?*

Slightly over thirty years ago today, on 5 March 1988, Shem Michael Mlevhu, commonly known as Keith Mlevhu, a multitalented artist and upstanding citizen of our country ceased to breathe. Born in the mining town of Chingola 37 years earlier, on 14 September 1950, Mlevhu grew up on the Copperbelt, the economic hub of Zambia and the training ground for political and musical education for many Africans. In his early twenties, as part of the exploration of his unique capabilities and interests, he took to the guitar and ultimately found a calling in giving expression to the deeper purposes of his life through music. From 1975 to his death, Mlevhu's remarkable genius found manifestation through song. Through music, he sought to use the life, talents and opportunities he had been given to make the greatest and most valuable contribution he could to enhancing the lives of others and to participating in writing a new script for the country. In the latter task, Mlevhu was influenced by the wider context, including a government that attempted to create the larger narratives of nationhood through the use of the media (newspapers, radio, television), educational systems (classrooms from primary schools to university), church, popular forms of entertainment (music, theatre etc.) and other mediums that could bring various fora (be it chiefs, children, artists etc.) together to participate in the creation of a genuine national identity.

It was as if he was spurred by the question, 'how does one effect strategies for broad based societal change?' itself perhaps driven by his gradual loss of faith in top down revolution and the belief that most societies transform when there is a sense of crisis, or a re-analysis of self after a crisis or following a serious conflict. How do we identify the narratives of the country crisis that are particular to us, tap into the spirit of the times and offer possibilities of what could be, and not only what is? Mlevhu appeared to have realised at a very early stage that the option to carve out a national agenda is open to whoever is willing to create larger narratives of nationhood through available media that resonate on a very phenomenological level with the masses and which would need to be hopeful and tempered by a hard realism of all needing to pull together. For him, music served that purpose and he deployed it with admirable skill as an effective tool of implementing social change from below.

Mlevhu, perhaps far ahead of his time, also warned we Zambians of the danger of unlearning all the useful things that ground us, such as land, the importance of kingship and heritage. He also urged the leaders of our country to guard our sovereignty and natural wealth. Once lost, Mlevhu cautioned, taking back and reshaping our assets in our own ways would be a tough process, one that would require an ideological mind shift, a strong and enlightened leadership and significant consensus. People would need to be willing to endure a temporary period of upheaval. One of the most poignant and classic tunes that perhaps sums up Mlevhu's foresight is *Ubuntungwa*, composed in 1976 and taken from the album 'Love and Freedom'. Today, in honour of the memory of this unsung artist and hero of our country who died 31 years ago tomorrow, Tuesday 5 March 2019, I reproduce the song's lyrics below in their original language, Bemba, followed by the English translation and meaning.

### Ubuntungwa

Ubuntungwa twalipoka,

Mu chalo chesu icha Zambia  
Nomba mune wemwina Zambia wishitisha chalo  
Nga wa mona umulwani aisa no lupiya ulwingi  
Wikokola umusebe we mwine wa chalo

Ubuntungwa ubwa Zambia  
Natusunge ichalo chesu  
Webuteko niwe wine we mwine wa chalo  
Pantu nga washitisha chalo ukepaisha abantu  
Kanshi mune uchenjele kuli aba ba mwisa  
Abalefwaya ukonaula ichalo chesu

Ala mune, ukose fye  
Uchimfye abalwani mu chalo chesu

### Freedom

We attained our freedom  
In our country Zambia  
Now for you the Zambian citizen,  
Do not sell our country.  
When you see the enemy coming with a lot of money  
Don't even waste time; reject them, you the owner of the country.

Zambia's freedom,  
Let us safeguard our country.  
Especially you the government, you are the guarantor of the freedom we attained  
Because if you sell the country, you will cause the death of many people  
So please be careful with these foreigners who just want to destroy our country.

Please be strong,  
You have to conquer the enemy in our country

...

What would Mlevhu think about Zambia today? Were he to resurrect, I shudder to imagine what he would communicate to us in song. For one thing is clear: his head and soul would be pained and outraged by the pitiful state of our existence today. He would, for instance, find a shameless set of corruptible leaders, who have betrayed Zambia to foreign commercial interests, who pawn off the country for a few trinkets, who accumulate through brazen theft of public resources and massive sale of Zambian land to so-called investors, and who strut around with self-importance when they are nothing but disposable playthings of even bigger global kleptocrats. He would learn that the country for which he spoke is being completely ripped off by a very shadowy partnership between state actors and the mining companies – it seems all the mining companies have to do is to pay peanuts into the back pockets of a few corrupt politicians, laughably known as our government.

Mlevhu would find chiefs, the custodians of our history and culture, who find no shame in adorning imported Western outfits and commemorating the same as part of our identity during significant traditional ceremonies – the Litunga clad in a uniform of a British admiral during Kuomboka, the Mwata Kazembe clothed in French national colours during Umutomboko, the Chitimukulu clad in a designer suit complete with a necktie during Ukusefya pa Ng'wena. He would also learn that Mpezeni has banned the practice of Ngoni women baring their

breast during Nc'wala and demanded that the boobs be tucked away in bras, blouses, T-shirts and all manner of Western-manufactured cloth. Mlevhu would also find a disturbing and growing particular kind of Christian theology that seem to have disrupted ideas of cause and effect among many Zambians. He would find that people no longer attribute outcomes to their likely causes, but often to supernatural phenomena. They do not recognise their own agency and the agency of those around them.

He would also learn that the University of Zambia, previously the hallowed intellectual site of nudging questions, rational inquiry and curiosity, is now reinforcing and lending comfort to the preconceived notions and outlandish ideas of the student, including subscription to illogical beliefs that have anointed themselves with the sanctity of a religious faith. He would learn that we still cannot speak to each other as Zambians because we do not have a truly national indigenous language; English, the language of a nation called England and a residue of British colonialism remains our 'national' language! He would note that the bar of leadership in the country of his birth has been dropped so low that it is literally on the floor now. He would learn that while we waste time on endless trivialities, forward-thinking leaders elsewhere are taking their countries to new heights; countries that were at war as recent as 20 years ago are catching up and even racing ahead of us.

But then, being the optimist that he ever was, Mlevhu would also likely tell us that our current deep seated systemic and structural social, economic and cultural crises are a perfect foundation to begin to build a new consciousness, to begin to resurrect the human being in the Zambian. Outraged, he would implore us to refuse to be reduced to the subhuman status our current deplorable social and economic conditions confine most of us to, to rebel against this status, and then, in our many millions of personal life activities, to transmit this rebellion to others, to wage a war against influences in all spheres that define and confine us to subhuman existence. He would question through song the quality of a citizen or human being that tolerates a Lungu, a Sata, a Banda, for a national leader. Then, he might sing another song, perhaps entitled 'Leadership Works' and with the following lyrics:

"Zambia, you have everything that is needed to turn the corner.  
Everyday, there is an opportunity to turn around.  
But learn this, my country:  
Everything rises and falls on leadership. Everything.  
How long will it take for you to arrive at that realisation?  
Leadership works. It is the difference between you and that country.  
Sort that issue my homeland and you are home and dry.  
At present, you can only take the country back through avenues provided by democracy – which may not remain for too long."

Mlevhu was indeed Zambia's star, as he himself reminded us in another of his classic tunes, 'I am your star':

"In a way, I appear looking so crap  
Looking a tramp  
I am your star people  
You have got to realise who I am."

Rest in peace, Countryman.

On the night of January 18, 2019, Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba was involved in a road traffic accident where he sustained a broken arm, among other body injuries. According to the Minister, although medical staff at the University Teaching Hospital were very professional and competent, the institution failed to treat his arm without resorting to amputation. So they referred him to the Arwyp Medical Centre in South Africa where it was fixed.

Discharged after a month's admission abroad, the minister could not help but take his joy to social media where he posted a picture with medical staff at the hospital, a move that his Twitter followers found braggadocio and provocative – as seen from their bitter reactions. With impulse, the minister expressed his displeasure by blocking those who demanded that he justifies the medical bill incurred in South Africa. But later, he realised that it was wrong to block people who demand answers from their leaders.

*"After much reflection, I totally have realized my part in the storm surrounding my being discharged from hospital. I want to unreservedly apologize and open a new page on our friendship and our online interactions. I take responsibility for the events referenced,"* tweeted Honourable Mushimba as he responded with some questions from his followers.

We always get amused whenever we see leaders in the Patriotic Front government admit a wrong. An apology is a very expensive commodity in this regime and very few

# Mushimba's accident remains a mystery...

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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people can afford it. This is why we would like to salute Honourable Mushimba for demonstrating his good leadership attributes. Indeed, Honourable minister, when you lead people, you must never run away when questions are being asked about you. Sir, continue with this great spirit of embracing accountability.

And in this same spirit of accountability, Honourable Minister, we thought you could perhaps take us back to the night when it all happened. We have a few unanswered questions, which may help our fellow citizens appreciate what could have led to the accident. Our questions are mainly based on the information that you published from your hospital bed; regarding the activities you were involved in that night. This is what you wrote:

**Brian MUSHIMBA:** *Guess that's why it's called an accident. It just creeps up on you when you least expect it; you can't*

*anticipate it. But I know now to listen to my wife more often. She didn't want me to leave the house that day, that late after I had spent the whole day flying back from duty in Brazil, adding on the jet lag of having flown from USA a few days earlier.*

*But I had to have those two meetings because I was going to the constituency the following morning! (See how we push ourselves even beyond limits!).*

*It's already late, had just finished some tasty dinner (specifically prepared since I had been away from home traveling for a month). The meeting was only to last 30mins and I convinced myself I could handle it.*

*So I went to meet the two colleagues to listen to their predicament and how I could be of help. Then a 30min meeting became 3hrs! My wife calls, worried that I had not rested and the meeting was taking too long. I abruptly excused myself and asked that I now go home and*

*rest. It's 11pm and I'm truly feeling tired. I jump in my car and using a road I was not familiar with, found myself in that dark and sharp curve on Thabo Mbeki road.*

*It came up on me very fast and had limited reaction time. I saw it all happen. Scared, holding on to my rosary I keep on me, I saw the car lose control. I remember saying a short prayer. When it stopped on its side, I climbed out and flagged down a Good Samaritan to rush me to UTH. My right arm had been injured. I also gave the Good Samaritan my wife's number to call her and advise her of the accident that had just happened. My wife met us at UTH before I went into surgery.*

*I'm glad my life was spared.*

Our questions are as follows:

Can the minister be kind enough to tell the nation which "two colleagues" he went to meet and where

he met them, without divulging any details of the "predicaments" that they wanted his help for?

Since he had been travelling for a month, why did he not invite the two colleagues to his house, considering that he had just arrived from Brazil and early morning, he needed to travel to the Constituency?

How important were these colleagues for the entire Cabinet minister to lose sleep and follow them to their comforts?

Were these colleagues sensitive individuals who were not supposed to be seen by his wife?

Since until the accident, he admittedly never used to listen to his wife "more often", is the minister in the habit of going out in the night against his wife's desire?

If she did not call him at 23:00 hours that night, what time was he planning on returning home to his wife?

The minister tells us that he was going out for TWO meetings with TWO

different colleagues, but later he refers to the two meetings as: 'A' 30min meeting which was taking long, turning into 3 hours. Did the two meetings merge as one or each took three hours?

Does the minister take alcohol? If he does, did he take any that night, and did he visit any drinking spots like G-greens or places like that?

Was the minister using a government vehicle after hours? If so, was he driving himself or his official driver caused the accident? Who else was on that vehicle apart from the Honourable?

How did the car lose control; what distracted him?

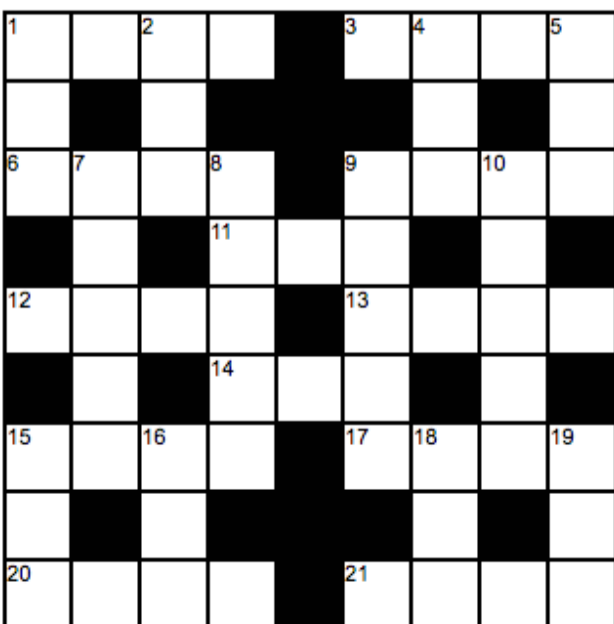
As Minister in charge of enforcing road safety regulations, including adherence to speed limits, was he driving within the specified speed limit on Thabo Mbeki Road? Did his car overturn without a tyre burst, while driving at 40km/hour?

Most importantly, how can the minister say he is not familiar with Thabo Mbeki Road when this is the road that links Parliament Motel, where he must have a room as MP, and the National Assembly?

Assuming the minister honestly doesn't know Thambo Mbeki Road, why did he chose to use it that night, knowing he was tired? Where was he driving from?

Being a good leader that he has demonstrated to be, we are very hopeful that Honourable Mushimba will find time to respond to these questions which the Zambian people are asking. We pray that he will respond honestly, while holding on to the same rosary that saved his life. Tell us, sir!

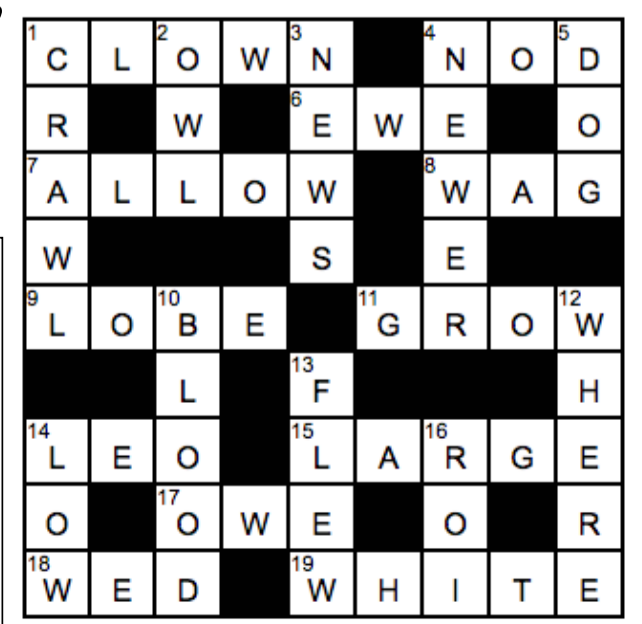
## Crossword puzzle 305



*"Use only that which works, and take it from any place you can find it."*  
- Bruce Lee

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calendar abbr.</li> <li>3. Mark from a cut</li> <li>6. Immediately</li> <li>9. Bird in a cornfield</li> <li>11. Memorable period of time</li> <li>12. Spades or clubs</li> <li>13. A trail</li> <li>14. Summer cooler</li> <li>15. Alter text</li> <li>17. Take a risk</li> <li>20. Encrust</li> <li>21. Sharply pierce</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large body of water</li> <li>2. Small round veggie</li> <li>4. Coupe or sedan</li> <li>5. Inexperienced</li> <li>7. Ten-armed creature</li> <li>8. Little, in Paris</li> <li>9. Like many superheroes</li> <li>10. Aquatic mammal</li> <li>15. And so on...</li> <li>16. Pen filler</li> <li>18. Picnic pest</li> <li>19. Turning back of tide</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

## Solutions to puzzle 304





# Reader's feedback

## Sunday Chanda's advice to UPND MPs on HH over Constitution amendment process

Editor,  
 "You should have also asked MPs to choose student allowances over scrapping them!" - Chris Hbc Kayombo

"When you have failed to choose Zambia over your bellies? How about students' meal allowances? Are those not Zambian students? What kind of hypocrisy is this Sunday cadre Chanda!?" - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"The issue has nothing to do with HH. Why the hell does everything have to do with HH? HH and the other opposition leaders have made it clear that if sincere, the dialogue process, if transparent, could even save us the K2 million that has been budgeted for the exercise being proposed by the PF. We have had constitution reviews before; they came up with recommendations, some were not implemented and other issues have come up. The matters being contested in the Constitution and Public Order Act are matters raised by the opposition themselves, and for meaningful consensus, it

would be more prudent to have a roundtable meeting, meaning dialogue, so that all agree on how best the lacunas could be removed. It's not just up to parliamentarians to decide on the Constitution!" - Sylvester Chongo

"PF thinks they can out-smart Zambians. They want to crook us! Let the next government attend to the Constitution, not these skimmers; always thinking of themselves and not Zambia!" - Oliver Mpundu

## 'Kambwili should blame his own actions for losing Roan'

Editor,

"CK doesn't even need to have intelligence connections to know that his seat had to be declared vacant. He speaks without thinking things through then want to cry foul for the consequences of his own actions? Awe, ba

CK naimwe! Take responsibility for your actions!" - Sibong'ile M. Kanyungu

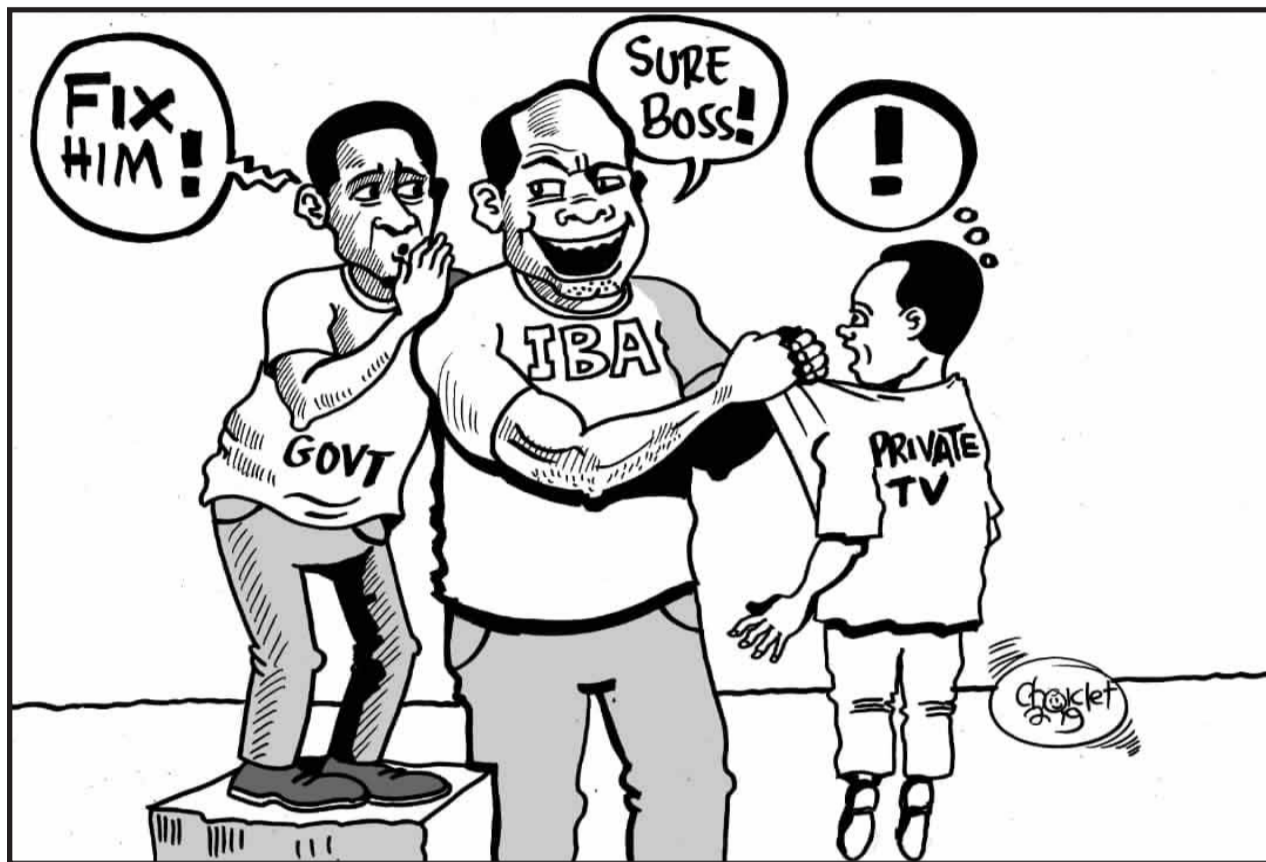
"It was anticipated, so don't be smart and start saying 'my intelligence reliably informed me Mr Speaker will declare my seat vacant this afternoon' after so much evidence available. Now you want to pull a fast one on us? I saw it coming after the events of last week, plus you radio and TV interviews, conferences and the video where you blatantly admitted you that you are NDC leader." - Lawrence Chimukwaya

"Let him not even accuse the Speaker. It's his actions that lead to this! You cannot be leader of opposition NDC and be PF MP. Concentrate on your party and give the seat to NDC if you can. My prediction is you will come out third. The battle is between the top two..." - Adiel Chimbane'ngo Suchilila Siwale

"Very true. Ba CK was played! I think he realised when it was too late. Ba Kalaba seems more smarter!" - Robert Chunga Sr.

"The fact that Mwenya Musenge expelled Kambwili was enough arsenal for PF to catch CK. Mwenya Musenge with his current financial woes was very vulnerable to PF machinations, hence the current situation and has made CK to lose his seat! The other contest with PF in court will just be an academic exercise in futility." - Gladwel Sham

"Don't worry, CK. Presidents come and go, but Zambia remains." - Wilson Kainga



## 'Bank loans & interest rates in Zambia remain a trap!'

Editor,

"Bank interest rates are so high in Zambia it's almost suicidal to borrow. Margins are so thin while business turnover is relatively low. Those that dare might make sensible returns. On the whole it's good to know that the facility is available." - David M Mwanangombe

"Banks discourage the public by high lending rates, while giving very low interest on customer deposits if any. Actually, it's more deductions on the money you deposit with banks. The Bible is very right: 'Even the little shall be taken away'." - Henry Bwalya

"Don't get a loan, it's a trap!" - Bright Joseph Mweemba

"It's a trap!" - John Kazembe

## Musenge's request to Registrar of Societies to suspend NDC activities

Dear Editor,

"If the letter is authentic then it gives Mr Kambwili legal ground to challenge his removal from Parliament! As Mr Musenge clearly said that he is SG and CEO of the party and has informed the Registrar of Societies that Mr Kambwili is not a member of NDC. Meaning he has not crossed the Floor, therefore, rendering grounds for his removal from Parliament void. What a circus!" - Flavio Kalunga Chipakula

"Stop your madness big man, please!" - Dickson Mulenga

"Proof that old age has no correlation with mature behaviour!" - Mukumba Mulele

"This is what hunger can do. I'm not surprised because this was expected from someone who has been bought! Politics in Zambia is full of drama." - Peter

Ngwira

Sunday Chanda's advice to UPND MPs on HH over Constitution amendment process

### 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.

There is no reason to delay having another baby after a stillbirth, research in the Lancet suggests.

Although women are often told to wait for a year before getting pregnant again, there is little evidence to back up this advice.

This international study of 14,000 births found no increased risk of problems if conception happened earlier.

A UK stillbirth expert said the findings were important and reassuring.

About one in every 225 births in the UK ends in stillbirth, which is defined as the death of a baby after 24 weeks of pregnancy in the UK. However, in this study, a stillbirth is defined as a baby's death after 22 weeks' pregnancy.

Stillbirth rates have been gradually reducing in the UK since 2000, and more sharply since 2015, but compared with many other European countries, improvements

# Quick pregnancy safe after stillbirth, study finds

in the UK have been slow.

In many countries there is limited guidance available on planning future pregnancies after stillbirth, the study says.

Manchester University's Prof Alex Heazell, spokesman for Tommy's stillbirth charity and the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, said his message to women was "not to worry".

"As long as they get all the information about why their baby died, then the choice of when to have another baby is down to when they are psychologically ready."

He said there was no physiological reason to wait more than a year before trying for another baby.

"Stress may exacerbate things and so waiting until that goes may be a reason for some to hold off," Prof



Heazell said. To wait or not The researchers looked at the birth records of 14,452 women who

had previously had a stillbirth in Western Australia, Finland and Norway over 37 years.

A total of 2% of those subsequent pregnancies ended in stillbirth, 18% were preterm births and 9% were babies born small for their age.

The study found that those who conceived within 12 months of stillbirth were no more likely to have another stillbirth, or a preterm birth, than women who left two or more years between pregnancies.

Out of the births studied, 9,109 or 63% were conceived within 12

months of the stillbirth.

The study, led by Dr Annette Regan, from Curtin University in Australia, said the findings were useful for clinicians who give counselling after stillbirths.

She said women who did not leave enough time to recover after a previous pregnancy could be at risk of "poor nutritional status, which has been linked to increased risk of foetal growth restriction and birth defects".

But she said this may be less likely to occur after a pregnancy loss, such as stillbirth or miscarriage.

Commenting on the research, Mark A Klebanoff, from the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in the US, said there were other factors to consider.

"Rather than adhering to hard and fast rules, clinical recommendations should consider a woman's current health status, her current age in conjunction with her desires regarding child spacing and ultimate family size, and particularly following a loss, her emotional readiness to become pregnant again." **BBC**

## 'I was told painting is for lazy people'

"Painting is for lazy people," Ajarb Bernard Ategwa's father would tell him as a child. Daydreaming and doodling in his school books would often get him scolded as a boy. But the Cameroonian artist, now 30, tells the BBC he got the last laugh.

Ategwa says his vivid paintings of life in Cameroon's biggest city, Douala, sell for up to £20,000 (\$26,000).

He jokes that family members educated to a higher level than him "now respect me a lot... because I am the most successful".

"It's the only thing I know how to do. So painting is my life," Ategwa told the BBC. "At times when I'm angry, painting calms me down."

He never formally trained as an artist, and says he has used the same bold approach to colour since the age of seven. Although his works feel like immediate portraits of bustling city life, Ategwa told

BBC Focus on Africa that they're filtered to an extent by memory and imagination. "All of them are inside my head, because they're things that I see every day going to my workshop."

"I do a sketch first before I start painting," Ategwa says of his technique. Many are imposing in size - one of his recent works is more than 2 metres tall and 4 metres wide. Walking around Douala, "you see many things like markets, shops, hairdressing salons," Ategwa says.

There are lots of sounds too, including "influences from Congolese music and Ivory Coast. You hear that everywhere."

An exhibition of Ajarb Bernard Ategwa's work at London's Jack Bell Gallery has just ended, while new works will be presented at New York's Armory Show in March.

"I've not been to school, but I am a successful man today.

My paintings are shown all over the world," Ategwa says.

"Not everything is just about education, education, education. If you have a

child and they love drawing, please allow them to do their drawing.

"Allow [young people] to follow their passion." **BBC**



The memorial follows the day after Mr Kim met Vietnam's President Nguyen Phu Trong. This is after the North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un spent a final day in Vietnam after the abrupt end to talks with US President Donald Trump.

# US urges UK to embrace chlorinated chicken

Fears over chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-fed beef are "myths," according to the US ambassador to the UK.

In the Daily Telegraph, Woody Johnson urged the UK to embrace US farming methods after Washington published its objectives for a UK-US trade deal.

EU rules currently limit US exports of certain food products, including chicken and beef - but Mr Johnson wants that to change in the UK after Brexit.

Downing Street has repeatedly denied it will accept lower food standards.

A No 10 spokeswoman said: "We have always been very clear that we will not lower our food standards as part of a future trading agreement."

Mr Johnson, however, described warnings over US farming practices as "inflammatory and misleading" smears from "people with their own protectionist agenda".

He also said the EU's "Museum of Agriculture" approach was not sustainable, adding: "American



farmers are making a vital contribution to the rest of the world. Their efforts deserve to be recognised.

"Instead, they are being dismissed with misleading scare-stories which only tell you half the story." On chlorine-washed chicken, Mr Johnson said the process was the same as that used by EU farmers to treat their fruit and vegetables. Describing it as a "public safety no-brainer", he insisted

it was the most effective and economical way of dealing with "potentially lethal" bacteria such as salmonella and campylobacter.

"Welfare standards' President of the UK's National Farmer's Union (NFU) Minette Batters said that while Mr Johnson was correct in saying chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-fed beef was "safe" to eat, there were other factors that needed considering.

"The difference is welfare standards and environmental protection standards," she told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "Our consumer has demanded high standards of animal welfare, we've risen to that challenge - he's right to make the point that food security is crucially important, we would say the same - but all we're saying is: 'Produce the food to our standards and we'll have a trade deal.'"

Ms Batters said chicken farms in the US were not required, for example, to include windows in their sheds or clean out in between flocks.

The US National Farmers' Union has always maintained that its chicken and beef, which use processes banned by the EU, are "perfectly safe" and argues there has been a lot of "fear-mongering".

However, its British counterpart said the UK government should not accept a US deal "which allows food to be imported into this country produced in ways which would be illegal here".

That, Ms Batters said, "would just put British producers out of business".

Amy Mount from Greener UK, an environmental lobby group, said: "This wish-list shows that a hard-Brexit pivot away from the EU in favour of the US would mean pressure to scrap important protections for our environment and food quality.

"Any future trade deals should reflect the high standards that the UK public both wants and

expects."

Despite the NFU's insistence that consumers are keen to maintain the current welfare standards in farming, Ms Batters said there was a possibility the UK would give in to the US.

She said: "There's always been the risk - and agriculture has always been the last chapter in any trade deal to be agreed - so yes there is a huge risk that British agriculture will be the sacrificial lamb in future trade deals."

Meanwhile, Dr Emily Jones, who is an associate professor of public policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, also said the issue was likely to be a sticking point for the US.

"I think the US won't buy it in negotiations with the UK," said Dr Jones, referring to the UK's insistence on maintaining its current standards.

"It's wanted, for a very long time, the EU to harmonise with US regulations and approaches to the production of food and it's exactly what it'll ask of the UK as well." **BBC**



## Gundogan 'very happy' at Man City but coy over contract extension

Ilkay Gundogan insists he is "very happy" at Manchester City, although he was coy when asked whether he will sign a contract extension with the club.

Gundogan's contract expires in the summer of 2020 and he has said that he would be willing to wait until next season before making a final decision on whether to sign a new deal, indicating that neither he nor

the club are in a rush.

But Pep Guardiola cast some doubt on the German's future at City on Friday, saying that "if he was 100 per cent then the deal would have been done".

Guardiola's comments suggest City would have liked to have concluded negotiations by now, and it was put to Gundogan that that could be taken as a sign of his discontent at the Etihad Stadium.

"No, that's not a sign at all," the 28-year-old told reporters. "I'm very happy here, I just think that these kind of things... especially as I'm not the youngest any more, just need sometimes a little bit of time, you know?"

"The club doesn't rush me, I don't rush myself, so I have still more than one year to go so I try to see it relaxed and then we will see."

Gundogan was then asked whether he wants to stay at the club, to which he gave a somewhat cryptic response: "I think in terms of playing football, in terms of enjoying the game, at the moment in Europe there is not really a better place than here."

He was then asked two questions simultaneously; whether his previous response meant 'yes', and about Guardiola's desire for him to stay.

Answering the latter, he replied: "Obviously that's a great sign when one of the greatest managers asks you to stay in this team."

Gundogan played a key role in City's 1-0 win at Bournemouth on Sunday, helping to restrict the Cherries to zero shots on target and zero corners from his deep-lying midfield role.

Riyad Mahrez scored the only goal of the game and while the scoreline suggests a close encounter, Gundogan was clear about the nature of the game.

"We were very dominant, that was my feeling," he added. "We had a lot of possession, obviously it's always hard when your opponent is so tight, so defensive, five at the back, four in midfield, it makes it a little harder, especially when they defend in front of their goal, that's why we may have struggled to have clear chances in the first half but I think we did it well."

Gundogan is filling in for the injured Fernandinho at the back of City's midfield, a role that has proven relatively troublesome this season. **AFP**

## Unhappy Madrid were too soft against Barcelona - Mourinho

Jose Mourinho accused Real Madrid of lacking fight and looking unhappy against Barcelona on Saturday, just as the pressure cranked up on coach Santiago Solari after a second successive Clasico defeat.

Mourinho has been among those mentioned as a possible replacement for Solari, as Madrid have been knocked out of both the Copa del Rey and, realistically, La Liga's title race within four days.

The fact that both losses came at the hands of Barca, and at the Santiago Bernabeu, compounds the misery. After losing 3-0 in the cup on Wednesday, Madrid were inferior again in the rematch, as Ivan Rakitic's delightful chip earned Barcelona a 1-0 win.

"I think it was not a happy

performance," Mourinho said as a pundit for bEIN Sports. "It was not the performance of a happy team, of a team with great belief and self-esteem.

"Clearly they are now in a zone after a few bad results, especially after the cup match, where they are in a low. They couldn't bring to the game what I used to call the temperature of the big matches. They were passive.

"I cannot speak about a bad performance, it is just a soft performance. Sometimes you play like this against medium teams and in the end, you get a positive result, but against the top teams you have to do a lot more than this if you want to win."

Former Real Madrid president Roman Calderon has claimed

Mourinho will take over in the summer.

"I'm pretty sure he has general information about the club of his passion," Mourinho said. "But he knows more than me because I know absolutely nothing about it at all."

-- 'We will fight for it' --

Mourinho also said it was "very flattering" to hear Spanish Football Federation president Javier Tebas saying last month La Liga missed coaches like him and Pep Guardiola. Many will see Mourinho's comments as conveniently timed given Solari now appears particularly vulnerable. When Solari took charge in November, Madrid were seven points behind Barcelona but that gap now stands at 12. They have also lost three consecutive games at home for

the first time in 15 years.

"Football is about being clinical and they were much more clinical," said captain Sergio Ramos. "It is true with the consistency Barca are showing, they have increased the gap on us again and taken another important step towards winning the league."

Madrid's season, and perhaps Solari's future, will again depend on them winning the Champions League. They carry a 2-1 lead into the second leg at home to Ajax on Tuesday.

"We need the league for fitness and rhythm so we must continue working and keep winning games," Ramos said. "We have another final in the Champions League on Tuesday and we will fight for it. In the league we will try to reduce the gap." **AFP**

## 'Special, magical' Federer reaches 100-title landmark

Roger Federer described winning his 100th career title as a "special, magical" achievement on Saturday but the 37-year-old insists he won't obsess over passing Jimmy Connors' all-time men's record of 109.

Federer reached the landmark with a ruthless 6-4, 6-4 dismantling of Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Dubai Championship final, his eighth trophy at the Gulf event.

His 100th title comes 18 years after he captured his first in Milan.

Federer, the winner of a record 20 Grand Slam titles, said that he's not particularly targeting the 109-mark of Connors.

"A lot of people always ask me about, 'Are you going to go for 109?'," said Federer.

"To answer the question is not easy. Winning five matches in six days or five matches in five days, it takes a different type of fitness.

"You can play a great tournament, play a brutal semi, you get unlucky sometimes with the schedule, whatever it may be.

He added: "That's why you have to be fit on many fronts: mentally, physically; you have to be able to beat different types of players: beat them all on successive days."

Connors, who set his record



during his glory years in the 1970s and 1980s, took to Twitter to congratulate the Swiss star.

"Welcome to the 'Triple Digit' tournament victory club @ rogerfederer — I've been a bit lonely - glad to have the company," wrote the American.

Federer, who remains a long way back from the all-time mark of 167 titles set in the women's game by Martina Navratilova, said that his two-decade longevity was key to

the title century.

"It's a deep satisfaction, an immediate one. A lot of people always emphasise all the Slams, but I play on the ATP Tour. This is where I've won so many of them. Been around for so long," he added.

"I don't rest between Slams all the time, like people think I might be. I think this number proves that. I think that's why this was a very exciting week for me."

- 'Magical things going on' - The Swiss star will have little

time to contemplate achieving yet another record with Indian Wells in California, next on the agenda for the first Masters of the season.

"I didn't come here expecting I was going to win, to be quite honest. I hadn't played since Australia," explained Federer who had been defeated by Tsitsipas in the fourth round at the Australian Open in January.

"I'm just happy on all fronts how my game has progressed, how well I played in the final,

winning the eighth Dubai title, winning the 100th.

"So many magical things going on. I'm very, very happy right now."

Federer's 99th trophy had come last October at his home event in Basel.

He missed out on the century at the Paris Masters, the ATP Finals in London and then at Melbourne.

On Saturday, the second seed was untouchable throughout much of the 69-minute final as he gained revenge for his

shock Australian Open defeat by the 11th-ranked Greek.

Tsitsipas, who will become the first Greek to ever reach the world's top 10 on Monday, paid tribute to his opponent.

"100 (titles) is just completely insane -- I'd be happy with 100 wins. Seriously, I'm trying to get there," he said.

Tsitsipas admitted he had few chances in the rout.

"He was very aggressive, didn't give me any time today. I was expecting it, for him to be a little more aggressive.

"He just seemed like having control over everything he was doing, taking the ball super early, on the rise, giving me no time to prepare.

"It felt like he was controlling everything on his own terms."

Tsitsipas saw the end of an eight-match winning streak as he arrived in the Gulf with the Marseille title from last weekend.

Federer broke in the opening game of the final, but had to battle to claim the opening set. Tsitsipas saved three set points in the final game before Federer -- who faced two break points -- finished off the set as the Greek returned wide.

In the second set, a break in the penultimate game for 5-4 and a service hold a game later were enough as Tsitsipas put a forehand into the net. **AFP**

# 'Special, magical' Federer reaches 100-title landmark



## Galaxy honour David Beckham

Major League Soccer kicked off a new season on Saturday with 10 games and a tribute to football great David Beckham whose arrival in 2007 helped usher in a new era for the then upstart

league. A statue of the former England captain was unveiled by the LA Galaxy outside their stadium in an emotional ceremony prior to their 2-1 victory over the Chicago Fire.

Beckham's former Galaxy coach Bruce Arena and teammate Robbie Keane, as well as Beckham's wife, Victoria, attended the ceremony. "From day one when myself, Victoria, and the kids arrived in this city we felt at home and for that we will be forever grateful," said Beckham, who is set to become an MLS club owner when expansion side Inter Miami joins the league.

"This city has always felt like home for me. My wife, my kids, my parents, and my friends, I couldn't have had the career I had without the support from you guys." **AFP**

# PROBE MWAMELO, KALU, LEVY NGOMA URGES ACC

By Abraham Kalito

Former Sinda Member of Parliament Levy Ngoma has challenged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to probe former FAZ vice-president Boniface Mwamelo following revelations of his involvement in match fixing. And Ngoma says the ACC should also probe former FAZ president Kalusha Bwalya to ascertain his involvement in the match fixing scandal as revealed by FIFA lately. FIFA recently banned Mwamelo from all football related activities for accepting bribes and colluding with international match fixers to manipulate the results of the U23 tournament held in Egypt in 2010. In an interview with Goal Diggers! in Lusaka, Ngoma said government should demonstrate its zero tolerance towards corruption by probing Kalusha and Mwamelo both who were penalised by FIFA. "The act by former FAZ officials, Mr Boniface Mwamelo, Mr Kalusha Bwalya and those whose names have not been mentioned, who were in the previous administration at FAZ, it's really heart breaking. That Zambia is being mentioned today as in the corruption perception index ranking very high. And it's sad that despite these issues being brought into public domain, our Anti-Corruption Commission seem not

to be taking keen interest. Let the leadership of this country together with the ACC go deeper into these issues. If the PF and President Lungu have come on the mountain top to say that they have a zero tolerance towards corruption, let them prove what they say by doing something about it," he said. "Both government and Sports Minister Mr Mawere are quiet, does this mean they are happy when the name of the country is being put into disrepute? Does this mean that corruption in the PF flows in their DNA and so they cannot do anything about it? Or is it that they still want to use Kalusha Bwalya for their political mileage? So what I am saying is that this issue should not die a natural death. Be on top of things as government and as the anti-Corruption Commission and probe Kalusha and Mwamelo. They have dented the name of the country. Two selfish individuals who are so heartless have managed to put the name of the country into bad books and that is so bad. If you are charged to bring normalcy to the country and you become quiet, then you also conspire against the country." He said Mwamelo should now face the sentence he was afraid of facing when he accepted bribes. "And I hope that is not the situation

with those in leadership today. Let them show us that they intend to fight this corruption to the core and bring the perpetrators to book. The criminality that Bonny Mwamelo committed is so huge. It is against

the country, against every Zambian. So even if he says I will appeal against FIFA decision, we wish him well in his appeal but let him be probed here in Zambia as well so that people can know that this country does not

condon corruption and abuse of authority. He himself said that if he was caught it was going to be a huge case in Zambia and that he would face a hash prison sentence. Let him face that sentence now."



Barcelona's Lionel Messi squares off with the Sergio Ramos after a nasty challenge by the Real Madrid defender in Saturday's el Clasico which Barcelona won 0-1 at the Bernabeu in Madrid