



Tension not good for education - Dora

HH WARNED PF

...UNZA, CBU impasse signals a broke govt, says Mweetwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND deputy spokesperson Cornelius Mweetwa says what is happening at the university of Zambia and Copperbelt University is symptomatic of a broke, clueless government that is governing by chance without a recovery plan. And Dora Siliya says government is deeply concerned with the UNZA, CBU situation. *To page 7*



A trader hugs UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema when the biggest opposition leader visited the Tuesday Market in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Brian Mwiinga



President Edgar Lungu speaks to PF official Paul Moonga as Sports Minister Moses Mawere (r) looks on during Youth Day celebrations in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Airtel sues Kapiri man for refusing to pay back K200,000 wrongly sent to him

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Airtel Networks Zambia has sued a Kapiri Mposhi resident in the Lusaka High Court for refusing to pay back K200,000 which was

erroneously paid to him by the company. The company wants James Kumwenda to pay it back the K200,000 plus interest. *To page 4*

CEEC irrelevant to youths, says Mwila, as opposition blames PF

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) is moribund and is not helping youths with empowerment

projects. And UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the ruling party has betrayed the youths as evidenced by the high unemployment rates. Meanwhile, Democratic

Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba says the environment is not enabling for youths to participate in the private sector. *To page 5*

Copperbelt Expo will create 200,000 jobs - Mwakalombe

By Daniel Chansa
Copperbelt minister Japhen Mwakalombe says the forthcoming Copperbelt Investment Expo will create

200,000 jobs. In an interview in Ndola, Mwakalombe said youths are a resource that should be well nurtured. *To page 3*

Lungu has no competitor for 2021, says Lusambo
Story page 3

Politics is just too aggressive for women - Minister
Story page 4

Some media houses have become political scavengers - Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila has charged that some media houses have become political scavengers and abandoned their role of informing, educating and entertaining. And Mwila says within the seven years the Patriotic Front has been in power, the media industry and broadcasting subsector has grown rapidly. Meanwhile, Mwila says although PF believes in press freedom, it's also of the view that media freedom comes with responsibility. In PF's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that as the country moved closer to attaining the Vision 2030 of becoming a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030", a diverse media industry was crucial to disseminating information and providing checks and balances. He bragged that within the seven years that the PF had been in power, the media industry and broadcasting

subsector had grown more rapidly with 111 radio and 42 television stations. "There are a number of key developments the country is presently enjoying under the PF government, that seemed farfetched under the previous regime seven years ago. For instance when the Patriotic Front formed government, in 2011, there were only 40 Radio Stations; and a modest number of less than five Television stations operating in our nation. However, within the seven years PF has been in office, the media industry and broadcasting subsector has grown exponentially," he stated. "The government has opened up and expanded the airwaves to hitherto unimaginable levels; there are currently 111 radio and 42 television stations currently licensed in Zambia." Mwila stated that the unprecedented growth of the media industry in Zambia was a direct result of

the implementation of the Patriotic Front manifesto. He added that the splendour of PF's achievements outshines the envy, fake news and yellow journalism of their critics. "PF government under President Edgar Chagwa Lungu is committed to sustaining the gains made in the media industry during the last seven years under our watch; we are resolved to continue fostering an environment for a diverse and pluralistic media fraternity to thrive in. Like a starry night sky, the splendour of our achievements outshines the darkness of the maize, envy, fake news and yellow journalism of our detractors. No one can dare take away from our track record in opening up the airwaves," Mwila stated. He however stated that although PF believed in various freedoms, the party was of the belief that media freedom came with responsibility. Mwila added that the

broadcasting industry in Zambia was governed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act, hence any breach was against the laws of Zambia. "Every licence has its limits. Whilst we are avid believers in various freedoms including freedom of the press, we believe as all right thinking believe, that every freedom has its responsibilities. The broadcasting industry in Zambia is governed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act. Any breach is against the laws of the Republic of Zambia. Media freedom comes with

responsibility," he stated. "The freedom that comes with a Broadcasting Licence does not walk alone; separating a broadcast licence from the responsibilities and obligations that go with it as promulgated in the IBA Act would be as irresponsible as removing a suckling child from its mother's breast and placing it in the bosom of a wild animal." Meanwhile, Mwila charged that some media houses had become political scavengers and they had abandoned their role of informing, educating and entertaining.

"Sadly, some media houses have taken this route and they have become political scavengers; abandoning their role of informing, educating and entertaining; they have instead resorted to breaching the terms of their licences; feasting on twisted political agendas and foraging opinionated news - thereby misinforming, mis-educating and mis-entertaining the nation with their inflammatory and irresponsible over-hyped reporting designed to arouse violent sentiments amongst citizens," stated Mwila.

NHA director of finance denies failing to follow procurement procedures

By Zondiwe Mbewe

National Housing Authority (NHA) Director of Finance Charles Chewe has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court and denied allegedly awarding a contract to a debt

collector without following applicable laid down procurement procedures. In this matter, Chewe, 54, is facing one count of wilful failure to follow applicable laid down Procurement Procedures or Guidelines

contrary to Section 34 (2) (b) as read with Section 41 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012. Particulars of the offence allege that on dates unknown but between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 in Lusaka, Chewe, being a person employed in the Public Service by NHA as Director of Finance did award a contract to Blackson Zulu, a Debt Collector without following applicable laid down procurement procedures or guidelines, a transaction which concerns the National Housing Authority, a public body. And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Felix Kaoma, Monday, Chewe pleaded not guilty. The matter has since been adjourned to April 10 for commencement of trial. The accused's police bond has also been extended.

US must impose specific sanction on troublemakers in PF govt - Msoni

By Thomas Mulenga

All Peoples' Congress Party (APC) president Nason Msoni says Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo was being cheeky and mischievous with his sentiments against the U.S embassy, following their call on the IBA to lift the 30 days suspension slapped on Prime TV. On Friday last week during the 'Let the People Talk' program on Radio Phoenix, Kasolo said it annoyed him that foreign dignitaries such as those from the U.S Embassy were undermining the sovereignty of the country by commenting on the suspension of Prime TV, ignoring the violation of media freedom by their President Donald Trump.

In a statement, Monday, Msoni observed that Kasolo's language was inviting the American government to consider imposing sanctions on those he described as trouble makers in the PF government. "Kasolo is being cheeky and mischievous in his approach towards the legitimate concerns expressed by our bilateral partners on the flimsy closure of Prime TV for 30 days. We think that sovereignty is not an insulation or convenient cover for undemocratic practices. The World is now one global village and any village bullies must be tickled at all levels to ensure that the rule of law is upheld," Msoni said. "It is lawlessness to shut down a business on flimsy political grounds without

taking the plight of workers into consideration. Effectively, this is a ruse meant to frustrate and ground the television station. It is a precursor and prelude towards complete shutdown of the Television station." Msoni said the United States of America government would be in order to consider imposing

sanctions on Zambia. "The APC denounces the uncouth statement issued by Kasolo against the U.S government in the strongest term. We urge the U.S government and the EU to take note of all trouble makers of this regime and apply specific smart sanctions on the individuals as the case was with Zimbabweans Ministers

of ZANU PF," Msoni said. "The insolence and belligerence of individuals of the PF regime is shocking and striking. At best, needs to be checked if democracy is to survive at this rate. The time is certainly ripe for specific actions to be taken against individuals out to cause trouble and undermining our democratic dispensation."

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Zambian woman wins Africa innovation award

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Muzalema Mwanza, the founder of Safe Motherhood Alliance, a Zambia-based social enterprise that develops simple, low-cost disposable baby delivery kits has won the Pitch@Palace Africa 2019 prize. According to a statement issued by Zambia's first secretary for press in the UK, Abigail Chabonda, the announcement was made at Pitch@Palace Africa hosted by Prince Andrew, the Duke of York at St James's Palace London on 7th March 2019. Zambia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Muyebe Chikonde and members of Staff from the Mission were in attendance to support Muzalema. The Kits developed by Safe Motherhood Alliance contains tools for midwives in Zambia delivering babies in clinics or at home births. Each kit includes basic items like a scalpel, sanitary pads, a hygienic sheet and cotton swabs, requirements needed for would be mothers.

17 entrepreneurs coming from six different African countries presented their innovations. "It is an honour to win the Pitch@palace Africa 2019. My innovation was inspired by my own experience when giving birth to my first child. At the hospital I was told that I needed to provide my own baby delivery kit. I decided to come up with Safe Motherhood Alliance and we produce thousands of kits each month, and we sell them to pregnant women who can't afford baby delivery kits," said Mwanza. And High Commissioner Chikonde said Mwanza had made Zambia proud. "I am encouraged to see such wonderful talent from African engineers whose innovations have solutions to change their communities," said High Commissioner Chikonde. The Zambian engineer will receive eight months of bespoke business mentoring, training, and networking opportunities, to enable her turn her prototypes into a

profitable business that will have economic and social impact. Speaking when he presented the prize, the Duke of York said; "This is a very special event in our calendar, and it is a great privilege to work alongside the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy have a huge network across Africa and do a great amount to encourage

entrepreneurial activity, without whom Pitch@Palace Africa would not be possible. Together we can help to showcase some of the great things going on in sub-Saharan Africa." Africa Prize judge and CEO of AppsTech, Rebecca Enonchong, said; "I am incredibly proud of our Africa Prize entrepreneurs, they always impress us and help

show the world what African innovation is really about." Since its launch in 2014, Pitch@Palace has helped 802 startup businesses to create 3,669 new jobs and generate over £890 million of new economic activity. In June 2019, Muzalema and 2 other African prize finalists will present their pitches at an event held in Kampala, Uganda, with the winner

receiving £25,000 and three runners-up each awarded £10,000. Pitch@Palace Africa is a collaboration between the Royal Academy of Engineering's Africa Innovation and Pitch@Palace, an initiative founded by the Duke of York in 2014 as a platform to amplify and accelerate the work of entrepreneurs.

By Daniel Chansa

Copperbelt minister Japhen Mwakalombe says the forthcoming Copperbelt Investment Expo has targeted to create 200,000 jobs for the youth. In an interview after laying wrath for the youth day celebrations in Ndola, Mwakalombe said youths are a resource that should be well nurtured. He said government has taken keen interest in the plight of youths on the Copperbelt. "As you are aware, we will be having the Copperbelt

C/belt Expo will create 200, 000 jobs, for youths claims Mwakalombe

Investment Expo in June this year. We will create 200,000 jobs for the youths. That is what we stand for and we want our youths to use their skills," Mwakalombe said. "Again it makes me happy to see that we have youths from

different political parties. This is the way it should be. Youths should not be agents of political violence and abuse. It is a resource that we should make use of. To our youths, use this day in a productive manner."

He said youths should not get educated to be employed, but to work for themselves. "Youths should stop thinking that they go to school to get educated and get employed. They are the resource of the country through their skills. We want to ensure that there is equality of development in all the districts of the Copperbelt. So to do this we need to create more jobs for our youths."

Lungu has no competitor for 2021 - Lusambo

By Thomas Mulenga

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says the ruling party has no political competitor for 2021, boasting that other contenders will only participate because Zambia is a democratic state. In an interview, Tuesday, Lusambo said Zambians had already decided to re-elect President Edgar Lungu because he had done a lot since he became Head of State. "2021 the people of Zambia have decided already, 2021 is a time for his Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, he will be re-elected back into government because he is doing a lot of things since he assumed the office of presidency. And I can assure you that we don't have a competitor for 2021. Other people will participate, we are in a democratic dispensation, we allow people to participate in an election but we don't have a competitor," Lusambo boasted. And Lusambo, who is also deputy campaign manager for the Roan Parliamentary by election slated for April 11, said former area member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili failed to develop the constituency despite being given key government positions. "If he has failed, he has failed. Because the President and the system have been giving all of us CDF and

that MP from Roan, he was given Cabinet portfolio as minister, he has been minister of sport, he has been minister of labour, he has been minister of foreign affairs and he has been minister of information. And if he has failed, then he is just a failure because with all those portfolios, and you fail to work for your people in a constituency like Roan, you will be considering yourself as a failure and there is nothing that you can tell the people of Roan," Lusambo said. "Because the President and the government recognised you in the first place and they gave you a portfolio to respect the people of Roan. But we have seen actually that he failed as an individual, that is why we want to go and control the mistakes he made when he was on our party ticket, because PF is not a failure, PF is a party for success. That's why we'll be going there with the word of hope and we are certain that come April 11, we are carrying the day." He said the PF was confident of retaining the Roan Parliamentary seat. "Roan Constituency is a PF seat, it has been a PF seat under the former MP, Chishimba Kambwili and we are going there as defenders. We know what is happening on the ground because we are in government, we know each and every challenge which our people are facing

whether in Roan or away from Roan constituency. So for us as a campaign team, we are going in Roan Constituency with the message of hope from his Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. We know that we have to do issue based campaigns, those are the things which we will be telling the people, the things which government

is doing in Luanshya, Roan and in Zambia in general and the things that we are planning to do in all parts of the country," said Lusambo. "And I want to say that as PF we won't allow any form of violence in Roan constituency, we want our people in Roan to enjoy the campaigns and to go and vote freely on that material day, we want free and fair

elections. We don't want to experience Mapatizya, we don't want Mufumbwe in Roan, we don't want what we experienced in Sesheke. Roan is a totally ball game all together and I can assure you that as far as we are concerned, we have an upper hand in scooping Roan because the people in Roan want to work with the government of the day."

He said youths should not get educated to be employed, but to work for themselves. "Youths should stop thinking that they go to school to get educated and get employed. They are the resource of the country through their skills. We want to ensure that there is equality of development in all the districts of the Copperbelt. So to do this we need to create more jobs for our youths."

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Women shun politics because it's aggressive - Gender Minister

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Gender Elizabeth Phiri has urged women in developing nations to actively engage in political governance in order to bridge the social and economic gender gap, for sustainable development. And Phiri has observed that educated women in Zambia are shunning politics because the male-dominated political sphere has remained aggressive. According to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, Wallen Simwaka, Tuesday, Phiri was speaking when she opened the 63rd UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) side event held under the theme "Promoting Rights-based Social Protection Policies for Gender Equality, a prerequisite for Social Justice and Sustainable Development." The side event was organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in conjunction with Zambia, Women in Informal



Employment Globalising Organising, Africa Platform for Social Protection and Africa Labour Network. Phiri observed that educated women in Zambia, as in many other countries, were shunning politics because the male-dominated political sphere had often been hostile and unpleasant to the female gender.

She noted that competition in elective political positions in many countries was often too aggressive for the full participation of educated women, hence creating gender inequalities. Phiri, however, said government had continued to create an enabling environment for the promotion of gender equality

and empowerment of women through a range of innovative policies meant to close the gender social, economic and political disparities. "In Zambia, like many other countries, particularly in developing nations, for women to get to high elective political positions, they have to defeat men and it is not an

easy undertaking. Educated women are shunning politics because the male-dominated political sphere has remained aggressive. But women have to actively engage in the political governance of countries if the social and economic gender gap has to be closed for sustainable development," she said. And Phiri said Zambia remained committed to enhancing gender mainstreaming through the development of policies and programmes that would be able to reduce poverty and vulnerability among women and girls. She said Zambia's implementation of the Social Cash Transfer Scheme had so far improved nutrition levels among vulnerable rural households and they could now access adequate food. Phiri further said government was implementing the Food Security Programme which was aimed at enhancing food security at household level

through crop diversification, conservation farming, as well as the promotion of alternative livelihoods among communities. "The role of the Social Protection System is not only reducing poverty but also for achieving human development outcomes such as nutrition, health and education and tackling social inequality. Social protection programmes have the ability to tackle social constraints such as lack of income or income-generating capacity," said Phiri. The 63rd Commission on the Status of Women was also attended by Ministry of Gender Permanent Secretary Dr Auxillia Ponga, Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe, a civil rights activist from Kenya Helen Mudora and Dr Laura Alfers of Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising in South Africa.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

People's Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda says it would not be shocking if all the Bishops presiding over national dialogue resigned like Bishop Sydney Sichilima due to lack of sincerity among politicians. In an interview, Banda said the Bishops were trying hard not to dent their names through their involvement in the dialogue process. "The first thing that came to my mind when I saw that Bishop Sichilima had resigned is I sympathized with him because I think the Bishops tried their level best to help this country but the

Lack of sincerity among politicians will push church out dialogue - Andyford

politicians are not working to achieve their targets. It is true that to preserve the integrity of the church, the Bishop did well to resign and I wouldn't be surprised that all the Bishops that were ready to work with the political parties in the national dialogue followed suit because what we have realized is that there is lack of sincerity in politicians and the Bishops are really

trying hard not to have their names dented by their involvement in the dialogue process. So the first safest thing to do in as much as they have an obligation to help the country go through this dialogue, the safest thing is for them not to get involved and that is why you saw the resignation of Bishop Sichilima," Banda said. Banda said it was

important for politicians to be sincere and further warned that it would be difficult to find a mediator for the national dialogue if the church pulled out. He said as long as the politicians were not sincere in their dealings, the church would keep excusing itself from the process. "So we hope that politicians can be a bit sincere because outside the church, I think

it would be difficult to find a mediator to mediate the national dialogue. I think what we see is that everyone is gunning to see how electoral reforms can advantage or disadvantage the opponent and I think that should be the goal of the dialogue process. I think the goal of the dialogue process is to actually ensure that proper laws are implemented [and] that would last a test of time as opposed to laws that will target political competitors in this process. So we need to make sure that people are sincere to enact laws that will fever every political party [such that] if PF today was in the opposition, they shouldn't cry foul and say 'no, we want the dialogue process to change this. So we want laws that are going to last a test of time. So as long as politicians are not going to be sincere, we shall see the church excusing themselves from the national dialogue," he said. Meanwhile, Banda said the PF had failed the youth. "The challenge we have with this government is that they have taken us back to many years. So it's very difficult for us to score them and say 'this is what

they have done.' When they came in 2011 they came with projects which in essence they were supposed to have empowered the youths but those projects have disappeared and there is no money to run the projects and then we are in debt, meaning that more and more youths are unemployed. So there was no plan by the PF government to ensure that the Eurobond they borrowed would sustain the youths for a long time to come up with plans on how best they can create jobs," said Banda. "So they need to come up with empowerment projects that will not target PF cadres or people that are affiliated to the ruling party but they need to come up with empowerment programmes that would target people who are competent, people who can actually work for this country. And youths must actually look for opportunities in their communities. And also I would like to advise the youths to get involved in productive politics because they should not just be used as tools of violence. There is more that they can do in politics."

Airtel sues Kapiri man for refusing to pay back K200,000 erroneously sent to him

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Airtel Networks Zambia has sued a Kapiri Mposhi resident in the Lusaka High Court for refusing to pay back K200,000 which was erroneously paid to him by the company. The company wants James Kumwenda to pay it back the K200,000 plus interest. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court recently, Airtel Networks Zambia stated that it was at all material times, a public limited company whose main business was in telecommunications. Airtel Networks added that Kumwenda was at all material times a resident of Kapiri Mposhi and owner of Subdivision K of farm number 3790. It explained that Kumwenda sued the company in 2017 and it was

agreed and ordered that he was to be paid K95,000 as full and final settlement of the said action. Airtel Networks claimed that in settling the said judgement sum, the company, through its Finance Department, erroneously overpaid Kumwenda by K200,000. "By an action in the High Court, the defendant (Kumwenda) sued the plaintiff (Airtel) under cause number 2017/HB/30 and the said matter was settled by consent order whereby it was agreed and ordered that Kumwenda was to be paid K95,000 as full and final settlement of the said action," read the statement of claim. "In settling the said judgment sum, Airtel Networks Zambia through its Finance Department, erroneously

overpaid Kumwenda by the sum of K200,000. Instead of K95,000, Kumwenda was paid K295,000." The company claimed that Kumwenda was not legally entitled to the said overpayment of K200,000, adding that the defendant had refused to repay the said money to the company. It stated that Kumwenda acknowledged and admitted receipt of the K295,000 and had no defence to the company's claim. The company lamented that it had suffered loss and damage as a result. The telecommunications company is now claiming the sum of K200,000 which Kumwenda received from it, interest, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit in the circumstances.

Kampyongo won't negotiate with trouble makers, Amos warns youths

By Thomas Mulenga

State House Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says President Edgar Lungu has given Home Affairs Minister Steven Kampyongo strict instructions to ensure that political violence is never repeated in the forthcoming Bahati and Roan parliamentary by-elections. State House Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says President Edgar Lungu has given Home Affairs Minister Steven Kampyongo strict

instructions to ensure that political violence is never repeated in the forthcoming Bahati and Roan parliamentary by-elections. "The President's message to the youths countrywide is that they are too important to be used as tools of political violence. So on the part of the President and the youths of his political party is that he wants them to lead by example, and the test for them is that in parts where the Patriotic Front commands huge support, he wants to lead by example and show that it's possible to conduct very

competitive politics and at the same time, peaceful. So he wants no violence whatsoever in the elections in Bahati, in the elections in Roan, elections in Kafue and any other areas where we have local government elections," "Minister of Home Affairs Honourable Kampyongo is under very strict instructions to ensure that as chairperson for youth and national security in the party, the PF youths are peaceful and exemplary. And by extension, the youths participating in elections must be peaceful. Any deviant behaviour is

not a matter of negotiation. The responsibility honourable Kampyongo has is not to negotiate with trouble makers, is not to seek compromise, is to ensure that every part of the Zambian soil is peaceful," Chanda said. And Chanda said President Lungu was expecting other political party leaders to instruct their youths to avoid violence. "So the President is celebrating the achievement of the Zambian youths through attending the celebration of the youths, urging them to reflect deeply on the purpose they are in politics

as youths. He is expectant that the message that he has sent through the party structures, through the SG, through the home affairs, has sunk within the rank and file of the PF," Chanda said. "But he also expects other political party leaders to do the same. But when he reaches out like this, it's not like he is negotiating for people to be peaceful, the Police are there to maintain law and order, and this is his message. Have an introspection on the occasion of Youth Day, make the meaningful contribution, make

yourself relevant and be ambassadors of peace, avoid insults, avoid antagonism, do not abuse social media." And Chanda said youth unemployment was always on President Lungu's mind and that he had always been seeking solutions to ensure that more youths are employed. "Youth unemployment is always top on the agenda of the President's program. This is why every program that is there, whether it's the program to escalate power generation through solar, agriculture, he is focusing on Agriculture, energy, tourism and all sectors of the economy, whatever they do when they create wealth, side by side there must be job creation. That is one of the most important items on the mind of the President," said Chanda.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) is moribund and is not helping youths with empowerment projects. And UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says the ruling party has betrayed the youths as evidenced by the high unemployment rates. Meanwhile, Democratic Party (DP) president Harry Kalaba says whilst the youth of today have significant entrepreneurial skills, the environment is not enabling them to participate in the private sector. In a statement, Monday, Mwila stated that CEEC had rigid conditions which limited youths' access to resources. "As we commemorate this year's youth celebrations under the theme 'Zambian Youth; Generation unlimited' it is high time that the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) removed the restrictions that limit this generation, and it also long overdue that the Ministry of Youth and Sport reports back on its implementation of the National Youth Policy. The current generation is a youthful generation that is unlimited in terms of

PF, opposition lament declining youths empowerment projects

innovation and tenacity to contribute to sustainable national development; but it is unfortunately limited by rigid conditions that severely restrict it in accessing financial support and related services," stated Mwila. "CEEC therefore needs to adapt to be relevant to the times and must be reconfigured to help young entrepreneurs. The Citizens Economic and Empowerment Commission must therefore develop and implement strategies to raise a pool of entrepreneurs and support the existing ones; it must become a vehicle to trigger a rapid revolution of young entrepreneurs. This will give impetus to His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's vision of industrialisation in line with the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) and Vision 2030. In order to achieve this, we need synergy - all relevant institutions must move at the same

pace as our Head of State; CEEC is a vehicle that can be used to drive this youth entrepreneurship revolution. We therefore make a clarion call for CEEC to give this youthful Zambian Generation a Youth Friendly Package and they must reconsider the tough conditions attached to loans such as the demand for collateral. We challenge the status quo and demand that CEEC finds other ways to spread the risk." Mwila asked the Ministry of Youth and Sports to endeavor to report back to major stakeholders on progress made on the National Youth Policy and National Action Plan. And in a separate statement, Monday, Hichilema noted that employment opportunities for the youths in the country had remained low. "Our youth have been betrayed by false promises, evidenced by the high unemployment rates in Zambia. There was a pledge of 1million jobs to be created,

this has not materialised. The creation of job opportunities in Zambia is imperative to match the growing number of youth entering the labour force every year. With over half of the global population under the age of 30, the demographics are similar in Zambia, nothing has been done to address this minefield. Many have paid cheap lip service to youth empowerment but the policies in place belie all the rhetoric which is why employment opportunities for our youth have remained pitifully low. Scrapping student meal allowances and the increase of Medical students' Clinical placement fees by 400% is not just shocking but an aberration. Especially that the very politicians who endorsed these moves were themselves recipients of a free education," Hichilema stated. Hichilema said government must ensure that it formulate policies that will facilitate

skills transfer instead of leaving the responsibilities to foreign NGOs alone. "Zambia's unemployment rate is anywhere between 40- 60% with the youth shouldering the highest burden. Our disillusioned youth have resorted to entrepreneurship and agriculture in a bid to earn a living. Majority of them working in the agricultural sector are still classed as working poor, on low earnings. A significant portion of them work as subsistence farmers or run small-scale businesses however many have neither the skill nor the technical know-how for value addition or scalability. This is where government policy should meet them and facilitate this knowledge and skills transfer, instead it is mainly foreign NGOs who are occupying this space- government has abdicated their responsibility. How much government money was allocated for this purpose in the last budget?" Hichilema asked. Hichilema stated that there was need for government policies to be pivoted on youth empowerment. "Being surrounded by 8 neighbors, Zambia has a market of 250 million people on its doorstep. What should be promoted is a policy to get over 50% of our production value chain locally. Linkages to agro-processing and other value-addition activities would not just create jobs but help invigorate local economy. There are countless other agri-businesses that our youth can be encouraged to start up. Our dairy industry could be increased to supply the entire region but in its current state, it's failing to meet domestic demand. The Citizens Empowerment Fund was set up to help Zambian citizens set up and grow their businesses, instead it has been reduced to a lending house for the ruling elites who shamelessly default on their loans. Government policies should now pivot and reflect a drive towards youth

engagement. The future of Zambia depends on tapping into this infinite pool of talent. Let us be the generation that turned the tide and tackled youth unemployment face on," stated Hichilema. Meanwhile, in another statement, Kalaba observed that the youth of today had significant entrepreneurial skills but the environment was not enabling them to participate in the private sector. "Today I see a youth full of innovation, but his innovation is not harnessed. Today I see a youth with significant entrepreneurial skills, but the environment is not enabling him or her to be a private sector participant. Today I see a youth scientist and technologist returning home from abroad, but the government has no plans to enhance the diminishing science base and industry for technology transfer. Today I see a differently gifted youth yearning for skills, but the government has no plans for such youth. On this youth day, I appreciate the fact that in 2019, we have a youth population that is far more educated than ever before. Today, we have a youth population far greater in numbers with collective zeal and energy which, when well harnessed, can place Zambia on a global development path yielding economic dividends," stated Kalaba. "This government has simply failed to find the golden key to unlock Zambia's socio-economic potential and job creation for the youth. Zambia has created a desolate and desperate youth. A few desperate youth are being exploited by politicians as tools of political violence and insults for political expediency, especially by the ruling party. These youths have been used to define politics as a dirty and dangerous field, hence perpetuating fear in those who have a positive agenda for genuine change engendering youth development."



Public Prosecutors from National Prosecutions Authority at Lusaka Magistrates Court during Court hearing for the Former ZAF Commander Lt. Gen. Eric Chimese on March 11, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Democratic Party

Let's believe again!

Why we deserve your vote



Good Governance - Tool to Development.

According to Wikipedia, Good governance is “an indeterminate term used in the international development literature to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources including the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).” Good governance is on its own a requisite for human development and poverty eradication, as it creates a well-functioning public sector that respects the principles of transparency, all-round participation and ownership and accountability to citizens. Good governance on the peripherals brings with it transparent and accountable management of public resources, and reduces the levels of corruption and ensures that public resources are used for the benefit of all citizens for the progressive realisation of their basic rights. By so doing, this enables citizens to progressively realise their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and drive poverty, and to hold their leaders to account. It's therefore a fore-gone conclusion that in the absence of Good governance, Sustainable growth and development of a nation remains an unattainable ideology.

Zambia on the world -stage Today

The norm now by governments, International agencies and donor institutions is to take advantage of the current demand and opportunities for addressing governance deficits by “tying” aid, developmental foreign assistance to frameworks that encourage the same. In pursuing capacity development for good governance, impoverished countries must ensure that there's adherence to the frameworks and that such initiatives are comprehensively designed to be simultaneously related to change and transformation at the individual, institutional, and societal levels and be owned and controlled locally.

In July of 2009, Zambia's was a recipient of a \$355million Compact from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). The Millennium Challenge Account-Zambia (MCA-Zambia), being a unit originally established under the Ministry of Finance and National Planning by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) to solely coordinate the development of an investment programme, or 'Compact' to be supported by the United States Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). MCA-Zambia was accountable to the Zambian Government but worked closely with the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The nation of Malawi like Zambia did qualify for the first compact under the auspices of the MCC but Malawi went one-better than Zambia. Malawi in 2017 qualified for the second compact for a \$350.7million in 2017 spread over a 5yrs period. Unlike Malawi, Zambia

on its scorecards failed to qualify for the second compact for two reasons. In our low income countries bracket, we scored below the median set for the control of Corruption hurdle. We also fell below the acceptable threshold of the required standard by MCC focusing on democratic rights (either political rights or civil liberties).

The Tenets of Good Governance:

For us to progress, We must first have the courage to interrogate ourselves in the most thorough and sincerest of ways. In the matter where the defendant (Zambia) stands in dock versus the Plaintiff (Eight (8) tenets of good governance). Would the verdict pass in favor or against Zambia?

0. Transparency ; meaning information should be provided in easily understandable forms and media; that it should be freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by governance policies and practices, as well as the outcomes resulting therefrom; and that any decisions taken and their enforcement are in compliance with established rules and regulation. How often has State House remained mute on the Presidents whereabouts? How often has Government remained mute on matters that the general would demand answers?

0. Rule of Law ; Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced by an impartial regulatory body, for the full protection of stakeholders. How many times have we seen a travesty of justice? Most recently, State Police officers from Sesheke were retired in national interest without a thorough investigation and yet the Police service drags its feet over the findings of the Vespers Shimuzhila murder.

0. Accountability ; is a key tenet of good governance. Who is accountable for what should be documented in policy statements. In general, an organization is accountable to those who will be affected by its decisions or actions as well as the applicable rules of law.

0. Responsiveness ; Good governance requires that organizations and their processes are designed to serve the best interests of stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe. Does the IMS/Lamasat and RTSA speed cameras and indeed the now backtracked 17yr old concession work in the people's interest? The 65yr concession for Luburma market?

0. Consensus-oriented ; Good governance requires consultation to understand the different interests of stakeholders in order to reach a broad consensus of what is in the best interest of the entire stakeholder group and how this can be achieved in a sustainable and prudent manner. The tag of war over the national dialogue for political parties-ZCID comes into light.

0. Equity & inclusiveness ; The organization that

provides the opportunity for its stakeholders to maintain, enhance, or generally improve their well-being provides the most compelling message regarding its reason for existence and value to society.

0. Effectiveness & Efficiency ; Good governance means that the processes implemented by the organization to produce favorable results meet the needs of its stakeholders, while making the best use of resources – human, technological, financial, natural and environmental – at its disposal.

The much publicized Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) is interrogated here.

0. Participation ; Participation by both men and women, either directly or through legitimate representatives, is a key cornerstone of good governance. Participation needs to be informed and organized, including freedom of expression and assiduous concern for the best interests of the organization and society in general. How is the average voter turnout in elections? The recent Lusaka Mayoral bye-election recorded voter apathy between 80-85%.

Good governance is therefore essential for sustaining economic transformation in developing countries but Today Zambia, like many developing countries lack both the capacity, and Political will, to both achieve and sustain a climate of good governance.

Democratic Party - Good Governance

The Democratic Party commits to the following;

1. Create a dynamic civil society that can express and respond to the needs of the poorest members of society, at the same time keeping checks and balances on the authorities.
2. A justice system that provides legal security and contributes to human security, poverty reduction, and protection of the environment.
3. A free and independent media that provides platforms through which different stakeholders, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable, can freely access and share information to allow for stakeholders to learn and ask questions on various issues of interest.
4. Effective tools and platforms to foster accountability and transparency among duty-bearers.
5. Favourable democratic spaces where freedom of expression is protected and promoted, and where the citizens a right to participate is cherished.

Let's create together!
Let's Believe Again!
DP2021

UNZA, CBU impasse signals a broke govt, HH warned them - Mweetwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND deputy spokesperson Cornelius Mweetwa says what is happening at the university of Zambia and Copperbelt University is symptomatic of a broke, clueless government that is governing by chance without a recovery plan.

And Chief government spokesperson Dora Siliya says government is deeply concerned with the position taken by University of Zambia and Copperbelt University lecturers who have resolved to down tools until their February 2019 salaries are paid.

In a brief note, commenting on the impasse, Siliya who doubles as Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services said tension is not good for education and hoped that Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo would bring the issue to a logical conclusion.

"Clearly, government is deeply concerned with the situation at the two public institutions. Tension is not good for the learning environment. It is our hope that soon, the minister in charge will bring this matter to a logical conclusion," said Siliya.

But Mweetwa, who is also Choma Central member of parliament, reminded government that UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema warned of this crisis when the PF was "struggling to control its appetite for borrowing".

"What is happening at UNZA and CBU is symptomatic of the state of governance and the state of the economy. You must be aware that it is not only UNZA and CBU that have gone unpaid, except that these two institutions have felt that they can't take any more than

they have already gone through. They have suffered, if you go at the University of Zambia now, it's a sorry sight. But there are others. People who are in employment at institutions such as Zampost, National Housing Authority and others are not being paid," Mweetwa observed.

"This government is so broke that it is failing to pay public workers at the same time. Some civil servants have just been paid their February salaries after mounting pressure on government. These guys have no money now, but we told the PF a few years ago that the way they are managing the economy, they will soon have a liquidity crunch in the nation, there will be no money. When we told them that, they said 'HH is just being bitter'. Can they now still be able to say HH was bitter with what he was telling them or he was telling them the truth?"

He said winning elections by dubious means was no guarantee that the party would manage the economy.

"There are no two ways of governing a country, you don't govern a country by emotion or by accident. You govern a country by bringing about economic development through well planned policies that are in sync with the capacities of those who are charged with the responsibility of governance. It's not just about stealing votes and saying we have won the elections now we are going to govern because we have a mandate. A mandate should have with itself a skill-set commensurate with the demands and requirements for national governance and economic management. That is what is

absent in the PF, that is why you are seeing universities now reaching those levels," Mweetwa said.

"Right now the Republic of Zambia is struggling to meet its debt obligations, and those governing the country have no recovery plan. Instead they continue to borrow. What about the few years to come when some of the biggest loans they got begin to yield, what will happen? So Zambians need to brace themselves for harder times to come. But what HH has been saying, what we have been telling them, when they could not control their appetite for borrowing, is now becoming true. We want to hear the PF speak up now and say that what is happening at UNZA

and CBU is because HH is bitter."

He urged Zambians to reflect on the mandate they gave the PF.

"As UPND, we want to call on the citizens of this country to reflect... this is the time to reflect on the mandate we give to politicians, that it is not just about handing out power anyhow, it is about giving power knowing that it is that power through the ballot you are giving out that you now have to rely on for your salary increment; you now have to rely on for your terminal benefits; you now have to rely on in order to get a job once you leave college or university. It is that power in the ballot that you are going to rely on whether to remain on the street as a street vendor or not, it is the power in

the ballot that has created the situation we are in today. When we as citizens decide that it is this power we only use it and it is this voice in the ballot that we only speak once in five years. We must be very careful not to trade that voice with Chitenge or T-shirt or little money here and there or even with beer. We should know that that voice is very crucial. If you misplace it to the wrong authority, you are in for it for the next five years before you are given another opportunity to speak again," said Mweetwa.

"It doesn't make sense that the PF is busy chasing its members of parliament to create unnecessary by-elections, yet when it comes to these political events, there is no

day when we have been told that 'this by-election will not take place because government has failed to raise the necessary money for it. Does it make sense? It doesn't. Look at the money that is going into Roan. It will be more money than the money which the workers at UNZA are demanding, it could be more money than what workers at ZAMPOST are demanding. So it's like politics in Zambia is the most important thing at the expense of development, at the expense of the people who voted for us. This is where we are getting to now. People who have to suffer are the people who voted for us while those who are in those comfortable positions continue to live in luxury."

Kambwili being unfairly treated by Speaker, courts, ECZ - CSO

By Mukosha Funga

A legal entity civil society organization, AGE Justice International, says the Speaker of the National Assembly, the courts and the Electoral Commission of Zambia have treated Chishimba Kambwili very unfairly.

In a statement, Tuesday, AGE Justice International executive director Philimon Phiri stated that the Speaker and ECZ were in a hurry to declare the Roan seat vacant. Phiri also said it was also unprecedented that the courts had refused to grant

Kambwili judicial review.

"It should be noted that the speaker of the National Assembly proceeded to declare the Roan seat vacant following a point of order from the PF:- 1. The Speaker does not have such powers to declare a seat vacant as provided under section 72 of the constitution of Zambia. 2. Declaration of any seat vacant is a preserve of the constitutional court. 3. The roan member was never and not given chance to be heard through the relevant standing committees. 4.

There is a requirement for a speaker to notify the Electoral Commission of Zambia of any seat failing vacant within 7 days, however on the 5th day the ECZ issued a notice for the by-election in Roan. The speaker and the ECZ were in unprecedented hurry to declare the Roan seat vacant. The Roan lawmaker proceeded to court for a Judicial review for the illegal actions of the speaker of parliament and ECZ," Phiri stated.

"The High Court has refused to grant the relief sought.

This is the first refusal by the courts to grant judicial review process to operate as a stay of execution in the history of this country to a serving member of parliament. In all instances were a serving member of parliament has applied for a judicial review to act as a stay of execution, the courts have in all incidents from 1964 to date given the relief sort. Therefore Dr Chishimba Kambwili is for all intent and purpose being extremely unfairly treated by the speaker, ECZ and the courts. It amounts to denying of justice to a citizen of the republic."

He stated that PF were doing everything possible to exclude Kambwili from Parliament.

"It is therefore extremely difficult to exclude the PF from such maneuvers as they hold a world record in interfering with all institutions of governance. We are also fully aware that the PF are spending sleepless nights just to ensure that Dr Chishimba Kambwili does not get a fair hearing and totally exclude him out of parliament as they fear that he will expose all the corrupt leaders in the PF and government. It is also correct and true that Dr Chishimba Kambwili has been and his a strong voice in parliament speaking for the poor and marginalized and also continues to remind the PF and its failures to govern the country properly," stated Phiri.

UPND govt will reintroduce full bursaries for needy students, says Mwashingwele

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND deputy spokesperson Patricia Mwashingwele says Hakainde Hichilema's government will reintroduce full bursaries for all needy students in higher learning public institutions. In the UPND news letter to News Diggers! Mwashingwele noted that the current conditions in Zambia especially the state of higher education had nothing to write home about.

She stated that the UPND government would deliver a better Zambia and would reintroduce full bursaries for all needy students in public higher learning institutions.

"A better Zambia is possible and UPND will deliver that better Zambia. A UPND Government will radically change the manner in which higher education is managed. Like we have consistently observed, education is the best equaliser in life and we pledge to ensure that it continues to play this important role through: (i) Resumption of adequate and timely funding for our Public Universities and ensuring greater operational autonomy," she stated.

"(ii) Reintroducing full bursaries for all needy students in all public institutions of higher learning. (iii) While acknowledging the importance of University education, we shall revamp and modernise vocational and trades

training institutions, which will produce the needed skills for industries. (iv) Ensure prudent implementation of projects, including Universities and vocational and trades skill centres through project appraisal."

She added that the principal reason for non-ending problems in Universities was because government was not adequately funding the institutions.

"Unfortunately, our current conditions and especially the state of higher education is nothing to write home about. The whole country is aware of the financial and operational woes besetting our institutions of higher learning. The principal reason for the non-ending problems at our Universities is basically that Government is not adequately funding the institutions, which struggle with shoe-string budgets, year in year out," she stated.

"The PF government has lamentably failed to adequately fund the two public Universities (UNZA and CBU), and hence the perennial financial problems that have affected the two institutions. Although the difficulties facing our Institutions of higher learning precede the current Government, the PF chipante pante way of doing things has compounded the situation."

Mwashingwele observed that CBU and UNZA were being forced to raise their own operational

costs, with government only supplementing.

"A common question that people often ask is why new Private Universities seem to be running better than UNZA and CBU. This comparison is as misplaced and patently wrong! Both the CBU and UNZA are public universities, meaning they are supposed to be funded 100 percent by the government, as indeed is the practice with other Universities in the region. While private Universities charge fees that reflect costs, the government dictates what fees UNZA and CBU can charge," she stated.

"The nation should know that the Universities actually raise the bulk of money used for operational costs, with government supplementing. Unfortunately, almost the whole budget is spent on operational costs and hardly any remains for capital costs, which explain the dilapidated state of infrastructure at public universities."

She charged that at the rate at which the PF 'chipante pante' government had mismanaged higher education in the country, Zambia risked becoming even more uncompetitive.

"When they assumed power, the PF government woke up one day and, against all logic, proclaimed a strange policy of constructing Universities in all the provinces. In Lusaka, construction of

Chalimbana and Palabana, was also commenced. The PF had inherited a fairly healthy treasury, which allowed them to go on a thoughtless construction expedition. With time, however, they ran out of money before these projects could be completed. Not only have they failed to complete these projects, the Chipantepante government also did not think through how and where they were going to get Lecturers for the new Universities. Being used to short cuts, and afraid of deep thought, the Chipantepante group simply damped the running of new Universities on already outstretched UNZA and CBU!"

stated Mwashingwele.

"It is clear that higher education has been mismanaged in the country, and at this rate, the country risks becoming even more uncompetitive, at the very time when other countries, such as Rwanda are radically changing their countries through quality higher education. While our neighbours desire and dream to go far, we seem to be content with mediocrity. While our neighbours are investing in the education of their youth, we seem to be content with maintaining our youth's helplessness and just use them as political tools! This is not right and it must be stopped!"

Luapula woman throws her baby into fire for eating relish from pot

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Police in Mwanabombwe District of Luapula Province have arrested a 21-year-old woman of Kasumpa Village for throwing her two-year-old baby into the fire after she found her eating relish from the pot.

Deputy Police Spokesperson Rae Hamoonga, disclosed in a statement, Tuesday, that the two-year-old child sustained severe burns on both legs after her 21-year-old mother identified as Esther Mumba beat her up and threw her into the fire outside the house. He stated that the baby was fortunately rescued by her grandfather.

"Police in Mwanabombwe received a report of

Assault on a Child in which Rodgers Mutale aged 60 of Kasumpa village in Mwanabombwe District reported that female juvenile aged two years of the same village was thrown into the fire by her biological mother, Esther Mumba aged 21. She sustained severe burns on both legs. Facts of the report are that, on March 11, 2019 around 16:00 hours at the above village the named suspect found her child eating relish from the pot. She became upset, beat her up and threw her into the fire outside the house. Fortunately, the baby was rescued by her grandfather," stated Hamoonga.

He stated that the suspect had been arrested and would appear in court soon.

A wife should be The President's most trusted advisor

President Edgar Lungu says women will never achieve gender equality if they give up their pursuit for social justice and stick to the shipikisha mentality. According to his International Women's Day message, the Head of State would like to see more women standing up against abusive "old fashioned" men who don't consider their opposite sex as equal partners in development.

Our President was very right on this point, and we note that he was echoing sentiments made by the United Nations country representative Janet Rogan. The shipikisha mentality that is common among our women in Zambia is retarding the fight for gender equality and national development, in the long run.

But this shipikisha is a more complicated issue than it appears on the surface. It is embedded in the DNA of our women, intertwined in their culture and highly evangelized in the society they live in. When our girl children are born, they are taught not to be naughty like boys. Before they even turn 10 years old, girls are formatted to accept that boys their age are of superior gender who can afford to be mischievous, while their role is to be supportive.

That is where the problem starts. By the time these girls develop into young adults, they look for a man who can suitably support their needs; a man who they think is basically superior to them. When they get married to this man, they will do everything to keep him no matter how abusive he can be; after all, they were taught at

childhood that it's normal for boys to be naughty. This is why women who are beaten in relationships don't waste time reporting the abuse for fear of further victimization. There is even a song that says "Chipuba chandi ndekeni nemwine, chilansunga bwino." (so long he provides, he is my beloved idiot).

Our society today teaches young women that "ubucende wamwaume tautoba ing'anda" (a man's promiscuity doesn't destroy a marriage). And for real, when a woman reports to elders that her husband is having an extra marital affair, they tell her to shipikisha because she will never find a perfect husband who has no bad habits. They say, "you can't complain about a cheating husband because there

are wives out there whose husbands are having children outside wedlock".

This is the reality of the society that we live in. That is the depth of the gender imbalance that we have tolled for generations. Therefore, breaking this shipikisha mentality will take a little more than reading speeches on International Women's Day. It might mean having to first break the very fabric of our society and initiating a cultural remodeling campaign that should be extended to the rural populations where the gender gap is even wider and the traditional norms are even more bizarre.

But while we agree with President Lungu that time is now for our women to demand their equal rights. We would like to draw his

attention to yet another thought provoking idea from economist Chibamba Kanyama, regarding how else women can score big in the national development agenda.

Chibamba says women are capable of using their domestic influence at household level to curb corruption, by demanding to know the source of money and properties which their husbands possess.

CHIBAMBA Kanyama: "When corruption eats up a society, it means women have abandoned their calling; they are partakers of corruption, failing to ask their husbands, 'Where did this money come from? My wife once told me, 'you are exposed to opportunities to make money illegally but I will not be a conduit to an

evil that will eat up our own family, giving false hope of eternal security and prosperity'. A smart woman has power to tell the husband, 'unless you show me the source of this money; of this property; of this vehicle, I remain aggrieved because our children should grow up in an environment of sustainable prosperity'. My wife is the guiding light for me, the number one trusted advisor..."

Mr Kanyama is absolutely right. If you look back in recent history, you find that all high profile theft and corruption cases of former government leaders have not excluded their wives. Recently, we carried a picture of a former commander who is jointly charged with his wife in a criminal case. This is

not necessarily because wives are involved in any alleged criminality, but simply because they allowed their names to be used in wrong dealings. Instead of interrogating the source of money, some spouses get excited when their partner is bringing home unexplained wealth. They believe in "kufwa na no!".

In our view, these messages should be directed at President Lungu's wife and his Cabinet Minister's spouses, because these are the people who have access to the little resources that our country is remaining with. Has our First Lady cared to know how her husband has become so filthy rich within a short period? She has to, otherwise it will be quite painful to first of all, shipikisha in her marriage, then later on have to answer for crimes she was not involved in.

A First Lady must be a number one trusted advisor, making sure the President doesn't drag the whole family into a mess after leaving office. Other advisors have their own lives after the presidency, but a wife can't run away from the husband's trouble.

This is also food for thought for those minister's wives who think their spouses are very hard working because they leave the house in the middle of the night for unexplained meetings, where they even get involved in car accidents. If they don't want to interrogate these night covert meetings which are generating wealth, they should be ready to face news cameras at court when the bells come tolling.

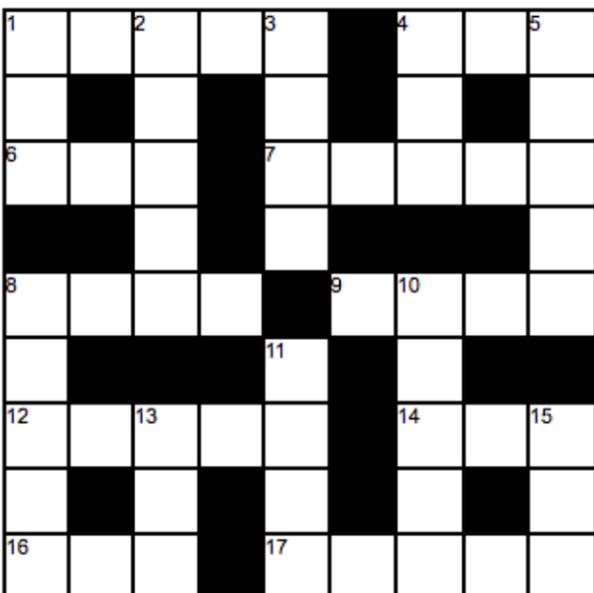
News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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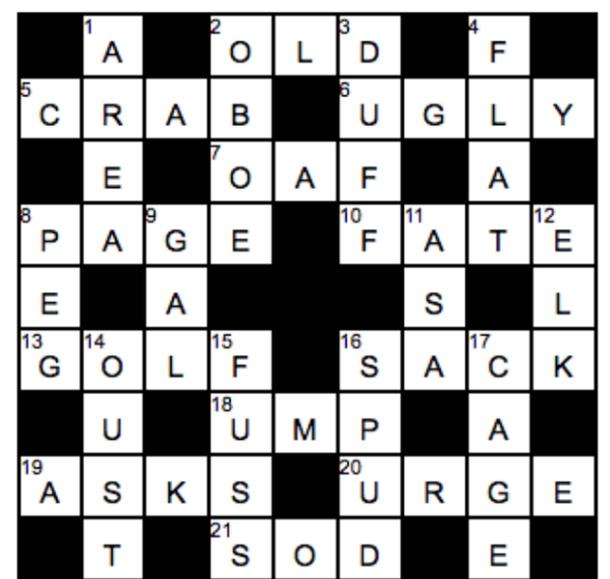
Crossword puzzle 312



"I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest -- blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine."
- Charlotte Brontë

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explode 4. Overalls part 6. It shoots bullets 7. Urge gently 8. It holds up the flower 9. Between shoulders and head 12. Arm joint 14. Space between 2 things 16. Pull behind 17. Prepare for surgery | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Piece of luggage 2. Kitchen appliance 3. Cistern 4. Abbott, Lou's partner 5. Shatter 8. Sugary 10. Raring to go 11. Hasn't paid yet 13. Curve 15. Tavern |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 311



Reader's feedback

Kasolo's remarks that US Embassy must talk to Trump about media freedom

Editor,

"Chanda Kasolo should know that the Democratic congress is NOT the US govt. Davies Mwila was well within his rights to bar PTV from PF functions. CNN rarely, if ever, praise Donald Trump but he has NOT had their operating licence suspended or withdrawn. When did it become IBA responsibility to train journalists for free? Even RTSA does not train for free PSV drivers for accident prone passenger service bus companies. It is tertiary students that need meal allowance support from govt. The next time the US govt

offer some PEPFAR support Chanda Kasolo should also tell off the US ambassador because

there are US citizens that as a matter of right need that support than Zambians. What

happened at PTV was a PR failure on the PF and not an abrogation of the law. PF were hamstrung,

there was nothing they could practically do to counter the factual audio-visual reports

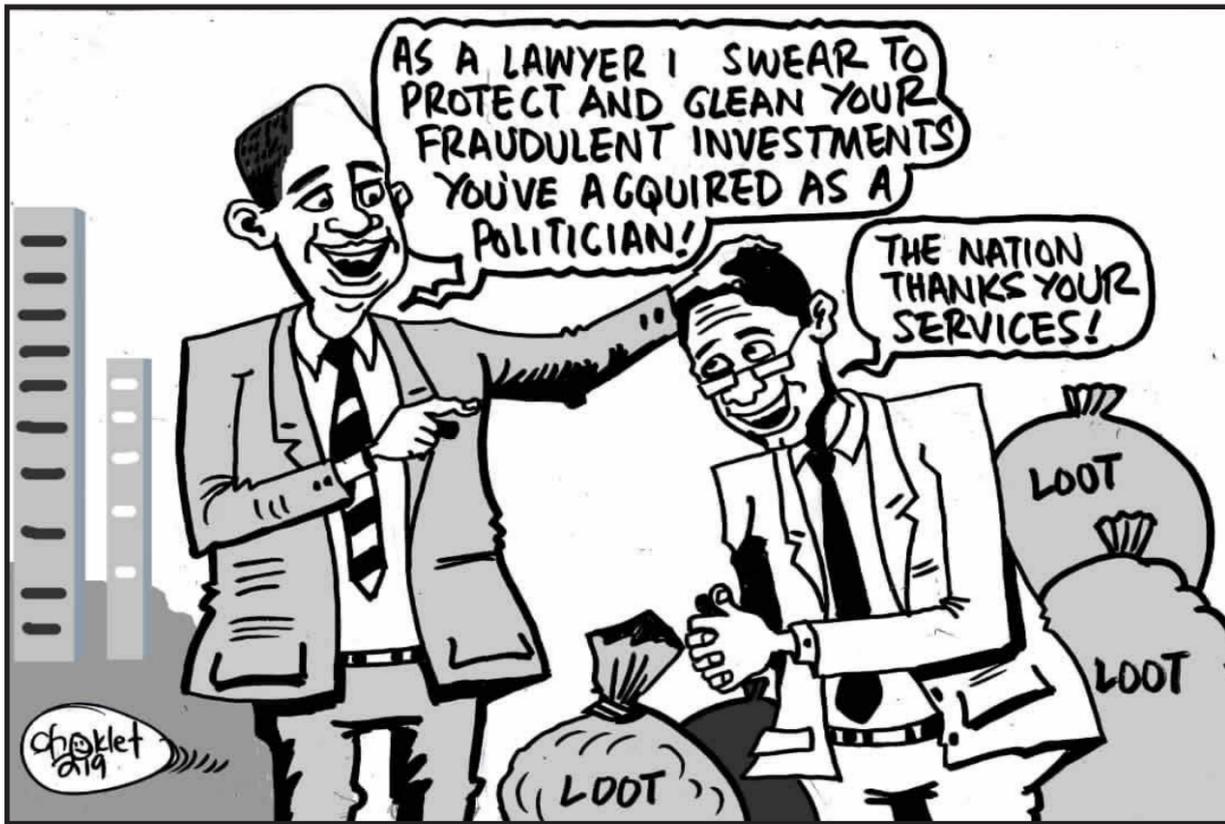
of the happenings in Sesheke," - David M Mwanangombe

"Ati we're a sovereign and independent state, when his govt always depend on hand outs from western countries," - Chrissy Chuma

"The real power lies with the people uncle Kasolo. Wait until election time comes then you will see who the real power lies with," - Mwangilwa Bwalya

"Didn't Davies Mwila ban Prime TV from attending his briefings? That would equate to what Kasolo is saying, not complete shutdown of operations. Internal affairs should not be used as a line of defense when Zambia is a signatory to the charter of the universal declaration of freedom of expression," - Mukube Pumulo Kelvin

"IBA wants to train Prime TV journalists how to fear ruling party cadres and their news Should be Edgar, Edgar, Edgar for the first 30minutes. Shame on you Kasolo a PF card carrying cadre who wants to re-train the journalists on how to fear Davies Mwila and Sunday Chanda," - Chiundule Wansimbi



Mumbi Phiri's excitement over Sichilima's resignation from CCZ

Editor,
 "UCZ is the only play ground for the PF and they have received more donations from PF government than any other Churches in Zambia, so there is nothing for integrity here," - Humphrey Katenekwa

"You say Mark Simuwe is UPND, should we also say that Bishop Sichilima is PF? So if someone does not agree with your draconian style of leadership then they have no integrity? Anyway this is what happens when you have rulers and not leaders," - Dennis Tyson Phiri

"PF wants to start its own TV station? will it be under IBA or what?" - Boyd Nakuweza

"Mumbi Phiri any comments on Chawama MP and Chitotela?" - Edward Chimowa Chitembo

Kanyama's advice that women must demand to know their husbands' source of money

Editor,

"Esther Lungu is even in the forefront of looting a whopping USD\$2.2m for the US trip with her 25 accomplices she calls "entourage" to receive salaula wheelbarrows," - Sarah Musongole

"What the good economist should encourage is that everyone should demand to know the source of their spouse's money, women also these days are tricky when it comes to "resource mobilisation"," - Stephen K Manda

"Big up sir. Unfortunately, wives and families of the corrupt can even be more corrupt than the culprits encouraging their relatives to engage in the vice for a life of luxury when citizens cannot access health, education or clean water. All that without any sense of fear or guilty. Or else how do you explain someone reportedly owning mansions, automobiles and other properties beyond their income without their spouses raising the alarm? Shopping sprees, expensive schools for children and holidays are enough to brainwash their minds. The absence of the rule of law should be of major concern here. If our spouses knew that we risked coming into contempt with the law

they would not abate theft," - Lubasi Lubasi

"My wife should know my sources of income as my what? Is she my mother or employer? I refuse to live under pitcot government," - Holyfield Bashi-Tasheni Mumba

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

"They are stakeholders that is the reason why, if that wasn't the case why should they bother, let me remind you that your national budget is financed by the same pipo you are saying they are getting involved in your internal affairs. Should they stop funding you will you survive from hunger?" - Kenneth Ngalamika



People gather near collected debris at the crash site of Ethiopia Airlines near Bishoftu, a town some 60km (37 miles) south-east of Addis Ababa

Celebrating people living with rare skin condition

Gemma Whyatt has birthmarks covering her upper back, neck, chest and ear, with hundreds of smaller marks all over her body.

It's a rare skin condition called congenital melanocytic naevus (CMN).

The 24-year-old from Cambridgeshire is one of 30 people with CMN taking part in an international exhibition.

"For someone else to see the way I look as art and something to be celebrated is really amazing for me," she tells Radio 1 Newsbeat.

Gemma, a fourth-year medical student in Leeds, was born with CMN, which is untreatable: "I was told they were my brown patches or birthmarks."

As a child she says her life was like anyone else's.

"I did normal things and had normal friends and I even did gymnastics and trampolining - which involved a leotard that revealed my birthmarks and I didn't think anything of it when I was growing up.

"It wasn't until I became a teenager that it really affected me.

"I realised I looked different and I felt quite self-conscious about it - I didn't really know anyone else with the condition.

"I used to wear scarves, long sleeves, and I would wear full aussie cozzies instead of bikinis."

But Gemma tells us she just got "fed up" of feeling self-conscious and when she was around 17 she booked a holiday to Spain with her friend where, for the first time in years, she wore a bikini.

"No-one even stared or said anything. It was kind of like exposure therapy in a way.

"I started enjoying life more to the full. It made me realise it's not that big a deal and I didn't need to limit myself."

Gemma was the first person to sit for the photographer behind the How Do You C Me Now? exhibition and tells us it was "scary and nerve-racking".

"I was only wearing my pants, with someone I've never met. I wasn't wearing any make-up and I didn't do anything with my hair.

"Usually I like to be in control of how I look and how I'm perceived, especially when taking pictures. But to give all of that to someone else did make me feel quite vulnerable.

"In doing so, it made me come to terms more with how I look and that I can't always have control over how other people see me."

Photographer Brock Elbank says: "It's about celebrating unique individuals and to have hair and make up detracts away from their natural beauty."

CMN charity Caring Matters Now worked with Brock to find those who were willing to take part.

It took three years to complete and features children and adults from 13 countries.

Gemma says people from around the world have already contacted her. **BBC**

'My lucky day', how one man missed flight

A Greek man says he missed the Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed in Addis Ababa after arriving two minutes late at the boarding gate.

"I was mad because nobody helped me to reach the gate on time," said Antonis Mavropoulos as he recalled his "lucky day".

A second man also says he narrowly missed the flight.

The Boeing plane to Nairobi crashed six minutes after taking off on Sunday, killing all 157 people on board.

The victims are from more than 30 countries, including 32 Kenyans, 18 Canadians, and seven Britons.

Antonis Mavropoulos: 'My lucky day'

Mr Mavropoulos, president of the non-profit International Solid Waste Association, said he was initially angry as staff had not helped him and he missed the flight.

"I had a 30 minute connection and my flight arrived on time. My connection ambassador came after I left the plane," he said of

the company employee that was supposed to take him to his next flight.

"He was trying to find me. I would like to say many thanks to this ambassador who saved my life. My luggage was on me and they didn't need to wait for me. I saw the last passengers in the corridor," he told the BBC.

Earlier, in a Facebook post entitled "My lucky day," Mr Mavropoulos said he was put onto the next flight to Nairobi and only found out about the crash when he was

stopped from boarding his next flight.

He was taken to a police station for questioning when an officer told him that he was the only passenger booked on the flight that did not board.

With a picture of his boarding pass, Mr Mavropoulos wrote: "The officer told me not to protest but to pray to God."

Police cross checked his identity and questioned him on his reason for not boarding the aircraft.

"The wi-fi in the airport was cut and I was worried that the news might be on the Greek internet and TV. I texted friends as I didn't want my family to be devastated," he said.

"My friend told me the plane had crashed. I decided to call my family to let them know from me."

Mr Mavropoulos was reportedly travelling to Nairobi to attend a session of the UN Environment Programme.

He said that many of his friends travelling to the conference were on the flight.

"I had friends who were travelling and were lost. Everyone at the

conference is devastated. It's a very sad moment for all of us. It can happen to anyone. It was randomness."

At least 19 victims were affiliated with the United Nations.

He said: "I'm grateful to live and that I have so many friends that made me feel their love."

Ahmed Khalid: Delayed flight Dubai resident Ahmed Khalid said he had missed the connecting flight due to a delay in the first leg of his trip. He was then put on a later flight to Nairobi.

"Everyone was asking the cabin crew what was happening, but no one was saying anything," he told The National newspaper.

"They were just going up and down until one of the passengers saw on his mobile that the first plane which had just flew, like six minutes after it flew, it just crashed."

His father, who was waiting for him in Nairobi, heard the news and immediately thought his son was on the flight.

He said: "I was shocked but shortly after, my son contacted me and told me he is still in Addis and did not board that flight." **BBC**



Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika drops bid for fifth term

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has postponed the 18 April presidential elections and said he will not seek a fifth term in office.

President Bouteflika's candidacy had provoked mass protests across Algeria over the past few weeks. He has led Algeria for 20 years but has been rarely seen in public since he suffered a stroke in 2013.

No new date for the election was set. A cabinet reshuffle will happen soon, a statement in Mr Bouteflika's name said.

There was no suggestion in the announcement that the president intends to step down before a rescheduled election.

Meanwhile, Algeria's Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia announced his resignation and was replaced by Interior Minister Noureddine Bedoui, who has been tasked with forming a new government, the official APS news

agency reported.

What did Bouteflika say?

"There will be no fifth term," Mr Bouteflika was quoted as saying in a statement. "There was never any question of it for me. Given my state of health and age, my last duty towards the Algerian people was always contributing to the foundation of a new Republic."

He had pledged last week that he would step down early if re-elected - but the guarantee failed to placate the thousands of demonstrators.

Algeria had been hit by strikes by teachers and students, as well as shops closing and train services being suspended as thousands took to the streets.

What changed on Monday?

Pressure mounted on Mr Bouteflika to withdraw when more than 1,000 judges said on Monday they would refuse to oversee the planned general election were he a candidate.

Then the military's chief of staff, Lt Gen Gaed Salah, said the military and the people had a united vision of the future - the strongest indication so far that the armed forces were sympathetic to the protests.

Top clerics had already criticised pressure on them to issue pro-government sermons. "Leave us to do our job, don't interfere," cleric Imam Djamel Ghoul, leader of an independent group of clerics, told journalists.

Was Bouteflika's health a factor?

The president's announcement came a day after he returned home after a two-week stay in a Swiss hospital, where he has been for treatment since suffering a stroke in 2013.

He has over the years since his stroke become a virtual recluse. His last public address was in 2014, shortly after winning the previous general election.

Many Algerians were concerned about his ailing health, and worried that his death in office during a fifth term might cause dangerous political instability.

What has the reaction been?

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian welcomed President Bouteflika's decision not to seek re-election.

"France expresses its hope that a new dynamic that can answer the

deep aspirations of the Algerian people will rapidly take hold," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, people on the streets of the capital, Algiers, have been celebrating the news. **AFP**



Abdelaziz Bouteflika, pictured here in 2017, has not spoken in public since 2014



'I'll sacrifice my CL dream for Liverpool fans' - Salah

Mohamed Salah says he will "sacrifice" his Champions League dream if it means giving Liverpool supporters what they crave. The Anfield club are chasing glory on two fronts, with star striker Salah, 26, admitting Europe's elite competition is his priority over the Premier League.

With Liverpool heading into Wednesday's last-16 second leg clash with Bayern Munich with the tie poised at 0-0 and the club second in the Premier League a point behind leaders Manchester City, success in both competitions is a possibility. While Salah acknowledges the Champions League is the most "prestigious competition", he knows Liverpool fans want a first title of the Premier League era more than anything. "I will be honest with you, the

most prestigious competition for me is the Champions League," Salah told Sky Sports. "But the dream for the entire city and the club is the league. So, I am happy to sacrifice my dream for their dream but if we win both that would great

and this is what we are trying to do." Despite some questions over his recent form, the Egyptian disclosed that he is ready to help Liverpool make the most of any City slip in the title race. Salah is Liverpool's top scorer with 20 goals but has not

found the back of the net in his last five matches in all competitions, stretching back to a 3-0 win over Bournemouth at Anfield at the start of February. "The competition is very tough and we have difficult games left as do they," he added. *Goal*

City launch child sex abuse compensation scheme

Manchester City have launched a compensation scheme for survivors of historical child sex abuse in football, the Premier League club have announced.

The scale of abuse among youth teams in Britain came to light in 2016, when a string of ex-footballers, including England internationals, told of the crimes inflicted upon them, including years of being repeatedly raped. Former football coach Barry Bennell was last year sentenced to 30 years in prison for abusing youth players, with the judge branding him "sheer evil".

City said they commissioned a review in November 2016 into whether the club was used by Bennell and "any other individual to facilitate alleged sexual abuse of children from 1964 to the present day".

That review, which is ongoing, led to the "uncovering of serious allegations of child sex abuse in respect of another individual, John Broome."

Bennell, who was a youth team coach with City and Crewe, was convicted of dozens of offences committed against 12 boys he coached between 1979 and 1991.

Broome, who is now dead, was involved in City's youth set-up in the 1960s.

City said the compensation scheme applies to the victims of Bennell and Broome.

"The club's review remains ongoing and Manchester City FC continues to be restricted as to what it can make public at present for legal reasons," the club said in its statement. *AFP*

'Neymar or Mbappe? I'd choose both' - Perez hoping Zidane's Real Madrid return will benefit summer rebuild

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez hopes "both" Kylian Mbappe and Neymar could join his club in the future, while also hoping Zinedine Zidane might lure the France star to the Spanish capital. The Frenchman was named as head coach on Monday on a contract through the

2022 season, returning to the club he departed 10 months ago, having won his third straight Champions League title. Zidane will be tasked with righting the ship after his successors Julen Lopetegui and Santiago Solari struggled to live up to expectations following

the Frenchman's departure last summer. Real Madrid have arguably struggled to cope with the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo, who left for Juventus in the summer, and the hunt for a proper replacement for the Portuguese has seen the likes of Paris Saint-Germain

stars Mbappe and Neymar both linked with a move to the Spanish capital. Mbappe has previously downplayed a move away from PSG in the near future, though has not ruled out an eventual shift to the Spanish capital. And Perez, speaking to reporters after presenting

Zidane to the media, admitted he hopes that the presence of the France legend at the helm once more might tempt the 20-year-old star to Madrid. "Zidane's French so maybe he could do something with Mbappe," Perez, with a laugh, told reporters. When pressed over whether he believed Mbappe could be convinced to join Madrid, the club president deflected, instead saying their focus was on finishing the season.

"Right now, all we are concerned with is ending the season well and start preparing for next season," Perez said. Neymar has also been rumoured as a Madrid target, with reports suggesting the club would shatter the transfer record PSG paid for the Brazilian while offering to make him the highest-paid footballer in the world.

It has also been reported that such a move would take Madrid out of the race, at least in the short term, for Mbappe, given the cost of landing both stars. However, when asked who he would choose between the two PSG stars, Perez instead answered "Both."

Neymar has been coy on his future as well, a few weeks ago saying he was happy in Paris but admitting Madrid was an attractive option and that he was uncertain over what the future may hold. *Goal.com*

Eleven Under-15 footballers to tour Barcelona football academy in Spain

By Alex Chilumbwe

Eleven footballers from the Under-15 and Under -10 categories at Raising Stars football academy of Arakan barracks have been selected for a week long tour of the Barcelona football academy in Spain.

The players under the tutorage of female footballer for Green Buffaloes Women Football Team Delicious Hamwiinga will leave for Spain on April 7 and 15th, in separate flights, a courtesy of the Barcelona Football Academy of Zambia. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Hamwiinga explained how the academy picked all her players that were taken for trials for a rare privilege of touring Spain.

"There was an open call for Youth coaches to take their players for trials and when Barcelona academy Zambia watched my players, it ended up getting all of them. I'm still

shocked and don't even know how to feel because in total, I coach 150 boys four days a week. I pay for their expenses from my pocket and when another person sympathizes they help out. I thought they would pick one or two but no, all of them that attended trials were picked," she explained. Delicious, a Zambia Army recruit is no stranger to making strides in coaching. In 2018 FAZ awarded her with the Youth Coach Of The Year award while her player Thomas Mwambazi was named Player Of The Year in the Under-15 category. She sung praises about the Zambian female FIFA referee Gladys Lengwe who she said had defied all odds in a male-dominated sport, and called her an everyday inspiration. "There are times I get tired of these kids not because I don't have my own yet but because they are a handful. But I look

at my everyday inspiration Gladys Lengwe who has gone far in a career full of men. She's my inspiration and I also want to go far as a female coach and go outside Africa," she said. Meanwhile, Gladys Lengwe, an iconic top female referee in the country said she was humbled that her works were impacting young girls positively. "I'm very humbled to hear that a young lady that looks up to me is already making such great achievements in coaching. It is something a well meaning person cannot ignore and I pray that she does not lose focus. One day she will look back and be glad of this achievement. We all need to support such people with good intentions for the beautiful game of football," said Lengwe. The players' trip to Spain will be sponsored by Barcelona Academy Zambia and the list of the selected young



Coach Delicious Hamwiinga poses for a photo with some of her players after practice.

footballers is as follows:
 1. Watyakeni Watyakeni
 2. Mizu Sikazwe
 3. Thomas Mwambazi
 4. Noah Mumala
 5. Ricky Chanda

6. Fred Siamuzala
 7. Lweendo Chimuka
 8. Martin Sitali
 9. Joseph Njobvu
 10. Marcel Zimba
 11. Bisho Emmanuel Mulenga

Luis Enrique reveals 'tension' with Messi at Barcelona

Luis Enrique has revealed there was tension between himself and Lionel Messi during his successful time in charge of Barcelona.

Now leading Spain, Luis Enrique was at the helm of the Catalan club when Messi starred in their incredible treble triumph in 2014-15.

Towards the end of that campaign, there were regular stories in the Spanish media hinting at a rift between the head coach and his star player.

The former Barca boss has rarely gone on record about his relationship with Messi but has now opened up about the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

"Until the issue was resolved there was a period of tension," Luis Enrique told Catalunya Radio.

"Which I was not looking for in any way,

but which happened and needed to be managed.

"But today I can only say good things about Leo Messi."

Luis Enrique quit Barca after three seasons, spending the next year on sabbatical, but confirmed he made his decision to leave Camp Nou several months before a public announcement was made.

"At the beginning of the third season I had already asked the club to start looking for a replacement," he added. "In a selfish way, I didn't have any more energy to give.

"I also thought that with this group of players, who were so special, it would have been the easiest thing for me to renew. I mean, it would have been the easiest thing in the world. To sign a huge contract, being in my home, with the best players in the world... it could hardly be better. *Goal*



'Neymar or Mbappe? I'd choose both' - Perez Story page 11

U15 PLAYERS GET BARCA INVITATION



Delicious Hamwiinga's footballers among which eleven will fly to Spain

By Alex Chilumbwe

Eleven footballers from the Under-15 and Under -10 categories at Raising Stars football academy of Arakan barracks have been selected for a week long tour of the Barcelona football academy in Spain.

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