

I DON'T KNOW WHY HH GOT TREASON - AMOS

By Mukosha Funga
Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says he does not know why police charged UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema with treason.
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DA rises, as Zambia 'deports' Maimane

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By Mukosha Funga

The European Union Parliament has moved a motion for the peaceful resolution of the on-going political crisis in Zambia. This is contained in a motion for a resolution by the Members of the European Union Parliament (MEPs) on Zambia, particularly the case of HH yesterday. MEPs demanded for the immediate relase of UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema noting that his arrest was politically motivated. “Is concerned at the continuing incarceration of Hakainde Hichilema and calls for him to be released. Notes with concern reports of political motivation in relation to the charges and therefore urges the Zambian judiciary to demonstrate

EU Parliament moves motion for crisis resolution in Zambia

independence from political interference; Underlines that all detainees should be afforded access to legal redress, healthcare and visiting rights,” read the resolutions. “Reminds the Zambian government of their obligations to guarantee fundamental rights and the rule of law, including

access to justice and the right to a fair trial, as provided for in the African Charter, and other international and regional human rights instruments; recalls that the respect for freedom of association and assembly are fundamental to any democratic society and guaranteed by the Zambian

Constitution, and that excessive force in response to peaceful protests should be avoided in all circumstances.” MEPs also noted the need for reforms in the Public Order Act, ZNBC and ECZ. “Recalls that following the 2016 general election, the EU election observation mission final report

noted that s detailed review of the electoral legal framework and redrafting of unclear, ambiguous and conflicting provisions should be carried out as well as the removal of overly restrictive limitations of freedom of assembly in the Public Order Act and that the transformation of ZNBC into a public service

broadcaster with full editorial independence from government, and enhanced oversight of the Electoral Commission of Zambia of the public media,” read the resolutions. MEPs expressed concern that government’s openness to dialogue was conditioned by the opposition’s acceptance of the 2016 elections. “Calls on the EU to make use of all available political means, including at the highest level, to encourage and assist Zambia’s commitment to make such reforms and to uphold the highest standards of human rights, the rule of law and democracy; insists on the urgent necessity of a peaceful and constructive dialogue between the Patriotic Front and the UPND in order to restore political stability and trust; welcomes, in this regard, the Human Rights Commission’s call for a dialogue to tackle political violence and prevent continued violations of human rights and freedoms,” read the resolutions. “Expresses concern that the government’s openness to dialogue and national reconciliation is conditioned by the acceptance by all opposition parties of the outcome of the 2016 elections; urges the Zambian President to engage in talks with its opponents without delay.” MEPs instructed their president Antonio Tajani to forward their resolutions to the Council, Commission and the Zambian government among other institutions. “Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Commission Vice-President / EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Co Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Parliament, the Zambian Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations,” read the resolutions.

By Mukosha Funga

In this audio, South African leader of opposition Democratic Alliance Mmusi Maimane explains to BBC how he was assaulted by Zambia police at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, given a new boarding pass whilst still on the plane and ordered to fly back to his country. And Maimane says yesterday was a low point for Africa because it was clear that dictators are rising. Maimane also explains that his phone was confiscated and he could not seek legal help. “First of all, what the Zambian officials did today flouts all international rules. Men and the police walked in, shit down the plane,insisted that every passenger produces their passports. They then came to me and instructed me that they would deny me entry into Zambia. i asked the question ‘on what basis?’ but they insisted that they would not allow me entry into Zambia, they would not allow me any reasons, simply i could not get out. Then they insisted that they confiscate all forms of communication from me, they took away my phone, they took away my ipad and I could not find any legal services while this was going on and ultimately, they said to me that they would detain me on the plane,” Maimane told BBC focus on Africa yesterday. “They issued me a new boarding pass which means that the decision was already made, whether I wanted to go to a magistrate or not whether i wanted to appeal the decision, a violation of international law, they simply said ‘here is your boarding pass, you are not getting off this thing. They started to push me, they started to assault me and the gentleman who couldn’t give me back my phone and then eventually we had to concede that we couldn’t get in touch with any legal team all because we were there to give solidarity to another leader.” Maimane also says he will go to Zambia’s High Commission to South Africa today to take further action. Maimane also told SABC that the pilot had to intervene to stop the police from assaulting him and his crew. “It is our right to stand in solidarity with him. Why are we being denied that right? This is the sort

of practice that cannot be allowed on our continent and when we reflect on Africa Day, we must remind ourselves that it is easy for democracy to be captured by dictators and I believe that the government of Zambia has acted in a manner, firstly in arresting HH in the manner that is unlawful and that is why we need to stand in solidarity with him and we will be demanding the government of South Africa to send a strong demand to the government of Zambia to demand an explanation and I would like to know what basis they denied me entry into Zambia, nobody has been able to tell me,” said Maimane. “It is a clear indicator that democracy is very fragile. We must protect the rule of law, we must protect the Constitution. When a President can act beyond the rules of the law and a government can flout international law, it is a quick way of undermining democracy. And we feel, I personally fee that today was a low point for the continent because it reminds us that dictators are rising up, they break the law and ultimately, how can we say that we celebrate Africa Day when others can be sent away without any reason? The President is just an individual, he is not above the law and when citizens choose to stand up against the President, they have the right to do so.” Meanwhile, UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango has described the incident as an international scandal. “It’s high time the PF spared us this drama that now borders on international relations of a very important neighbour. Mr Maimane is an MP of the South African Parliament and the leader of the biggest opposition party in South Africa and is therefore accorded the status, privileges and protocols similar to that of Government Minister of the Republic of South Africa. It goes without saying that he also enjoys diplomatic protocols in line with his duties as a legislative member of Government which include a diplomatic passport,” said Nalumango in a statement. “To deny entry of Mr Maimane into Zambia breaches the Geneva convention which governs and outlines the processes of diplomatic activities of member states. We believe this is an international scandal of great magnitude and



an embarrassment to the people of Zambia and we as UPND demand an immediate explanation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.” Meanwhile, the Patriotic Front claims “sources close to the treason trial” told them that Maimane was lucky he was deported because he would have been cited for contempt.

“The immigration have done him a favour. He was going to face contempt charges in the morning. We were going to apply that his passport be withheld until such a time that the contempt charges were disposed off. His consistent comments that ‘we want to pressure the Courts to release Hakainde Hichilema’ is highly contemptuous.

Our Courts can not be pressured even by the President. The State had already applied for contempt. He wasn’t going to leave Zambia for a longtime.” A source close to the treason trial said,” the PF quoted a sources from the state prosecution team in a statement circulated to the media.

US\$288,000 to be spent on bio latrines in Mandevu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Water and Sanitation Association of Zambia (WASAZA) has launched a project to construct bio latrines at eight community schools in Mandevu constituency at a cost of US\$288,000. The project is being undertaken by funds which were provided by the Innovation Grant Program of the Millennium Challenge Account Zambia (MCA-Zambia). Speaking at the project launch in Lusaka yesterday, Water Development, Sanitation and

Environmental Protection Minister Lloyd Kaziya, said the bio latrine project would help improve sanitation and hygiene standards at the eight selected schools which was a major challenge in most community schools. “A large number of residential areas in Lusaka are unplanned settlements and have two major types of sanitation services, septic tanks and pit latrines which are mostly in a poor condition and therefore innovations such as this bio latrine project will help

improve the hygiene standards in Chipata Compound and surrounding areas.” Kaziya said. “I understand this is the second project that the Water and Sanitation Association of Zambia will be implementing with funding from the Millennium Challenge Account Zambia. In the first project, school children at two community schools in Chazanga, benefited from the bio latrines, while this second project is aimed at improving the lives of school children in eight community schools in Chipata compound and other compounds in Mandevu constituency.” The Minister also commended WASAZA for exhibiting its professionalism and seriousness during the first project. “Let me therefore applaud WASAZA for scooping a second grant from the Millennium Challenge Account Zambia (MCA) through a competitive process. This shows the professional manner and seriousness that WASAZA demonstrated during the first project that led to the award of the second grant that will lead to more schools benefiting from the project,” said Kaziya. “This bio latrine project will help in improving the sanitation

conditions in community schools and will also enhance the knowledge awareness of students, teachers, and their families, in the areas of sanitation and solid waste management through a simultaneous health and hygiene education process.” Meanwhile MCA-Zambia Chief Executive Officer Pamela Kasese Bwalya said her department was committed to working with organizations such as WASAZA to promote innovations such as the bio latrine project which aimed at improving sanitation, water supply and solid waste management in vulnerable communities in the city. She said MCA Zambia was also working towards improving water supply in Mandevu Constituency and had awarded a contract worth US\$ 22 million to a Chinese contractor UNIK engineering to lay a water supply network in some townships in the area. “The contractor will lay a total of 59 kilometers of water supply lines in Chipata Compound,SOS East and Ngombe townships and make 1200 household connections in Chipata Compound, while 32 kiosks will be constructed in Ngombe” said Bwalya.

Army officer, 38 others arrested for wildlife offences

By Charles Mafa

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) has arrested a Zambia Army officer named Sevelino Zulu and 38 other suspects in Livingstone for various wildlife offences. Ministry of Tourism and Arts Public Relations Officer Sakabilo Kalembe said Zulu, 40, a Warrant Officer Class II was found in illegal possession of 12 pieces of ivory weighing 66 kilogrammes concealed in a Toyota Harrier registration number ABX 2105. The suspect appeared in the Livingstone Magistrate court and is currently on bail.

Meanwhile DNPW has recovered ivory weighing up to 141.5 kilograms, three live donkeys and five motor vehicles. The impounded vehicles, a Toyota Corolla registration number AJB 8639, Toyota Harrier registration number ABX 2105, Toyota Sprinter registration number AJD 5633, Toyota Corolla registration number 3267 and an unregistered Isuzu van. Others items are one ox – cart, one 458 spot rifle, assorted game meat weighing up to 211 kilograms, one Leopard skin, one Cheetah skin, 71 wires-snares and one crocodile skin

And DNPW has arrested three suspects for being in possession of a live pangolin at Chilanga Clinic. The suspects are Kezias Mutamina, 24 of Mpungwe Village in Chief Mushili in Ndola, Wilson Munsaka, 23, Mudenda Village, Chief Mooya from Choma and Kingsley Mooya 37, of Chibozu Village, Chief Mwanza in Monze. Pangolin is protected species under the Wildlife Act and its illegal possession attracts a mandatory minimum sentence of five years. Kalembe has urge the members of the public to report anyone seen trading in the said species.

Vernon Mwaanga, 12 others seek AU intervention in PF/UPND standoff

By Joseph Mwenda

A group of veteran politicians calling itself “eminent persons, senior citizens and freedom fighters” says if local solutions to the political standoff between Zambia’s ruling PF and the opposition UPND have failed, the SADC TROIKA for Politics, Defence and Security as well as the AU mechanism for conflict prevention must step in. In a statement signed by Sketchley Sacika, Willard Ntalasha,

Michael Mabenga, Brig.Gen. Dr. Brian Chituwo, Vernon. J Mwaanga, Lily Monze and Amon Chibanda, the freedom fighters said the continuous political tension in the country had been largely exacerbated by the failure of the Constitutional Court to hear the Presidential election petition. Others who signed the statement are Shimwaayi Muntemba, Shuresh Desai, Ompie Nkumbula Liebenthal, Ambassador Joe Mwale, Levy Chimpinde and Martin Jangulo.



I don’t know why HH was charged with treason – Amos

From front page

And Alliance for Community Action executive director Laura Miti says all those defending brutality and bad governance today will swallow their words once they lose their jobs. Amos, Miti, Hakainde Hichilema’s deputy press secretary Brian Mwiinga and PMRC executive director Bernadette Deka participated in a live Al Jazeera programme ‘The Stream’, where they exchanged views about the state of the Republic of Zambia following the arrest and detention of UPND leader. Asked how a road-rage incident could turn into treason, Amos said he could only speculate that it was because HH put President Edgar Lungu’s life in danger. “Why treason? I do not know why the police charged them with treason but I can speculate that whenever the life of a President is in danger, you are within the realm of treason. I don’t know whether it is treason myself because the judge is about to pronounce upon that case,” Amos said. “That’s why I said that whoever is around Hichilema and who ever advised him to act in that manner are spectacularly foolish.” Amos also said President Lungu was not bothered about what was happening. “He has allowed the judiciary to take charge of this process, he is a lawyer himself, he believes in the rule of law; he is not bothered. He is relaxed, he is governing. Like I said, the Judiciary is functioning, the legislature is functioning, all democratic institutions are functioning, people go to work at 08:00 hours, they go for lunch, they

knock off, it is functional,” said Amos. And Miti observed that all those who were supporting bad governance would speak a different language after losing their jobs like former information minister Chishimba Kambwili. “When you listen to Amos talk about autonomy, talk about unparralled freedom, I can assure you that that is something that he can say today and then tomorrow when he is out of a job, like all these people do in the ruling party, they say one thing today and the exact opposite tomorrow. For example, the former minister of information whose job was to make journalists lives miserable and call citizens names, right now, he is busy talking about freedom and how he feels he is being harassed by operatives of the state,” Miti said. “The problem we have is that whoever is around the president, their job is to make him feel good and I think that Mr Hichilema’s biggest problem is that he is preventing the sitting president from enjoying power essentially by not acknowledging that he is President. So really, there is no law that says that people should acknowledge a sitting President...You have a government who’s efforts to address the service delivery issues for which they were elected, none of us can really see what they are doing. I cannot say that the government is not working but I can say that all their efforts are being overshadowed by this sense of wanting to hold on to power so all we hear is 2021.” She also observed that most Zambians feared expressing themselves because of the tension obtaining in the country. “I do not feel any anxiety and that is

because I am me, and not because it is safe. I understand why most people are sacred and if I ever felt unsafe, I think this would be the time I feel most unsafe. The tension in the country makes people feel unsafe.” Meanwhile, Mwiinga seized the opportunity to grill Amos, often cutting him off to counter his arguments forcing presenters to intervene. Mwiinga wondered why police did not clear the road before President Lungu used it. “The question Amos should answer is why didn’t the police clear this road if they knew that the President was going to use this road? A political gimmick?” asked Mwiinga. Deka also chipped in to add her voice to the debate but had challenges completing her thoughts. “I think let me say something about that. Let me really say something about that. I think we are talking about Zambia and I think there is a sense of patriotism within ourselves. I think that is a falsehood to actually bring out to the world that the government is overwhelmed by an opposition leader who actually lost an election. I think us as Policy Monitoring and Research Centre have been following up policies, the government’s efforts are concerted and concentrated on pushing the national agenda for the next five years which is the seventh national development plan...I talked about the autonomy of police. So is government or the presidency, auditor general, is government or the presidency for example, anti corruption commission or these other entities including the judiciary, that’s where we need to separate powers,” said Deka.

“The continuous political tension that has engulfed our country after the 2016 General Elections largely exacerbated by the failure of the Constitutional Court to hear the Presidential Petition filed by the aggrieved political parties, has created the potential to risk our country’s peace and stability,” read the statement. “We are here not to impose any solution to the current political stand-off, but to suggest alternatives that may be helpful to bridge the widening political divide currently obtaining in Zambia. We are convinced that Zambia’s problems can be handled and resolved by Zambians themselves and if need be, by applying other African solutions such as the SADC TROIKA for politics, defence and security; the AU mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution; and the Zambia Center for Interparty Dialogue (ZCID).” The freedom fighters regretted the narrowing democratic space in the country. “We have also noted the increasing intolerance and disrespect in our society and the declining and shrinking democratic, political, civic, and media spaces in our country and hereby wish to express our resolve to speak out whenever such vices emerge because we have realised that our continued silence on such matters has actually encouraged these democratic ills,” statement read. “We have noted with great concern the political divisions, discrimination based on regions, tribal and political associations not only in the political arena but even at work places to an extent that many innocent people have been retired or fired in the national interest! We also want to express great concern on the breakdown of the rule of law, the absence of separation of powers among the three arms of state and constitutionalism in the country. This is visibly observed by the continued exhibition of impunity by some state institutions to disobey court orders as was recently the case in the Hakainde Hichilema and four others, which is currently in court. In this incident the police disobeyed the Court Order to return seized property during the raid at Mr. Hichilema’s residence in Lusaka on April 10, 2017.” The freedom fighters said the recent acquittal of Hakainde Hichilema embarrassed the police service. “It is also our considered view that the recent judgment by the magistrate court in the case of using insulting language involving Mr. Hakainde Hichilema and others, is a cause for serious soul searching among the leadership of the Zambia Police Service and the National Prosecution Authority (NPA). The judgment has clearly exposed the incompetence and unprofessional conduct of some officers from the two institutions. The judgment has further brought to the fore the inherent credibility deficiencies of some of our men and women in uniform in the discharge of their duties. This judgment has brought a ray of hope in the independence and credibility of our judiciary, which is at its lowest ebb in terms of public confidence and trust,” read the statement. “In the spirit of this national pride, we advise President Lungu, political parties and all citizens to scrupulously respect and uphold the Constitution, the Rule of Law and the Bill of Rights, if we are to maintain this national pride. To this end, we, the Eminent Persons, Senior Citizens and Freedom Fighters hereby; urge President Edgar Lungu, to be a genuine bearer of a message of unity, patriotism for the love of the country by initiating genuine, unconditional and constructive dialogue between himself and his political opponent, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema.” They said “We further urge him to release Mr Hichilema as a prelude to peace and national reconciliation, together with other political prisoners like Hon Obvious Mwaliteta among others, currently being held at various detention and other correctional facilities across the country immediately. We also appeal to President Lungu to censure divisive elements within his political party and government perpetuating tribal and political divisions in the country which are observable in their actions and utterances. We also appeal to UPND leader Mr. Hakainde Hichilema once released and other political party leaders to do the same.” “Finally, we make an earnest appeal to President Lungu to honour and respect freedom fighters living and posthumously through the establishment and maintenance of Freedom Fighters’ Burial Sites for all freedom fighters such as Godwin Mbikusita-Lewanika, Lawrence Katilungu, Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, Nalumino Mundia, Arthur Wina, Munukayumbwa Sipalo, Reuben Kamanga, Elijah Mudenda, Mainza Chona, Julia Chikamoneka, Mukwae Nakatindi Nganga, Solomon Kalulu, Omelo Mumba, Lewis Changufu, Mukuka Nkoloso, Mungoni Liso, Paul Kalichini, Kapasa Makasa, Zeniah Ndhlovu, Leah Hamusonde, Mathew Nkoloma, William Nkanza, Jethro Mutti, Mama Mary Fulano, Samuel Mbilishi, Bulia Nankolongo, John Mwanakatwe, Peter Matoka, Fines Bulawayo, Andrew Mutemba, among others too many to mention here.”

By Mukosha Funga
ZCCM-IH Chief Executive Officer Dr Pius Kasolo has sued Daily Nation Newspaper in the Lusaka High Court for insinuating that he had intentions of taking over the Patriotic Front presidency seeking damages for malicious falsehood.

In a statement of claim filed today, Dr Kasolo stated that he had suffered harassment and unnecessary question on whether or not he was contesting the PF presidency. “On the 23rd day of February 2017, the defendant published an article on page 4 of the Daily Nation Newspaper, volume 3 issue no 1594 entitled ‘Team Pius Kasolo’, an article which was in direct reference to and discussant of the plaintiff. The veracity or truthfulness of the said article were not verified with the plaintiff before it was published by the defendant. The article falsely stated and imputed among other things that the plaintiff had political ambitions to take over as president of the PF, a political party in Zambia and that there was a ‘community of Zambians who believed that the goals and the beliefs of the PF were well embodied in him’ when in fact there existed no such community and there was no factual evidence to that the Plaintiff had any political ambitions to take over the leadership of the PF as alleged,” Dr Kasolo stated. “The article further falsely and without truth stated that the Plaintiff had worked or had held positions of employment with the European Union and the Zambia Revenue Authority when in fact not. The article further falsely and

Pius Kasolo sues D/Nation for story claiming he wants to succeed Lungu



maliciously stated that that the ‘Plaintiff was the only one outstanding of all the technocrats in Zambia.” He submitted that the article was meant to alienate him from President Edgar Lungu and the ruling party. “The false and unverified publication placed the plaintiff

in a position of both actual and potential antagonism with the PF leadership and had put and continues to put

the Plaintiff at great risk from potential political aspirants, notably that politics in Zambia at many times tend to have

varying levels of violence associated with it,” Dr Kasolo stated. “The false and unverified

publication was further meant and intended to isolate the Plaintiff from the Republican President who is leader of the ruling PF, the party in government to whom he renders a service as Chief Executive Officer of a public listed parastatal company the ZCCM-IH Plc.” He further submitted that he had received countless threats from unknown people and stressful phone calls. “The Plaintiff being a person of professional public standing has suffered harassment and unnecessary questioning on whether he is challenging the leadership of the Patriotic Front. The Plaintiff has been put in a position that makes him appear hostile to the ruling party, the publication wholly affected the Plaintiff’s professional integrity and caused stress, mental anguish fear and isolation,” stated Dr Kasolo noting that Daily Nation refused to apologise publicly. Dr Kasolo is therefore seeking damages for malicious falsehood, interests on all sums, costs and any other relief the court might deem fit.

Woman stabs boyfriend to death, gets 4 years

By Diggers Reporter
A 24-year-old woman of Lusaka’s Emmasdale area has been sentenced to four years simple imprisonment for stabbing her boyfriend to death. High court judge Mwape Bowa convicted Wendy Kapembwa for manslaughter on Friday. Kapembwa stabbed her boyfriend Kativia Mwanza with a knife during an argument in Lusaka’s Emmasdale area on July 30, 2016. Mwanza sustained a deep wound on his lower left side of the chest and died the following day at the University Teaching Hospital where he was rushed to. In sentencing the convict judge Bowa said she had exercised leniency because Kapembwa did not waste the courts time by readily admitting to the charge. However the judge Bowa sentenced Kapembwa to four years simple imprisonment saying the court had a duty to step in and send a loud message against the increasing cases of gender based violence. “The courts have a duty to step in and send a message loud and clear so that the crime can end,” judge Bowa said. The court observed that there were better ways to resolve conflict than resorting to violence. “This man was not only personally known to you but he was the father of your child. There are better ways to resolve conflict through communication or better still, people can walk away from potential violence,” judge Bowa said. “The offence for which you have been convicted carries a possible life sentence of imprisonment. I send you to four years simple imprisonment with effect from July 31, 2016 being your date of arrest.” Kapembwa was initially charged with murder but the charge was reduced to manslaughter.

Keith Mukata’s ‘wife’ attracts attention at court



Charmaine Musonda arrives at the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court - picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Elias Banda
Chilanga member of Parliament Keith Mukata’s lover Charmaine Musonda today attracted attention at the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court when she arrived on

a wheelchair, covered by a chitenge material. Charmaine, who was brought straight from the hospital with a canular still on her hand, attracted the attention of onlookers when she hid

her face with a chitenge to avoid cameras while being driven on a wheelchair. Meanwhile, both Mukata and Charmaine said they understood the murder charge after Lusaka magistrate Ireen Wishimanga explained it to them. Lusaka lawyer Lubinda Linyama then asked magistrate Wishimanga to allow Charmaine to continue receiving treatment in hospital until she has fully recovered before being remanded in custody which the magistrate accepted. Magistrate Wishimanga said Charmaine would only be

remanded in prison after she is discharged from hospital either on May 22 or 23. The state did not object to the application to admit her to the hospital as a doctor’s report where they recommended her admission was presented to court. The case comes up on June 2 for mention while awaiting for instructions from the DPP as the case is tried by the High Court. The two are alleged to have murdered a security guard Namakau Kwenda who was working at Mukata’s law firm on May 6, 2017.

Man in court for raping drunken woman

By Diggers Reporter
A 31-year-old man of Lusaka’s Makeni Villa has been dragged to court for raping a woman of the same area after the match between Zambia U20 and South Korea two months ago. Johnson Kalaluka, a driver is alleged to have raped Anna Kazembe between

March 8 and 9 2017. Details before the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court are that on the material day Kazembe was uncontrollably drunk at CC night club in Chawama. Bar men allegedly tried to kick her out of the bar but she resisted. According to one of the barmen’s

statement, a “good Samaritan”, Kalaluka, offered to drive her to her house in Makeni Villa saying they lived in the same location. But according to Kazembe’s statement, Kalaluka raped her after they left the bar. Kalaluka is yet to take plea in the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court.

Bumper harvest must translate into reduced mealie meal prices – JCTR



By Charles Mafa
The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) says the bumper harvest, estimated at over 3.6 metric tonnes, which

Zambia has recorded should lead to a reduction in mealie meal price. In a statement issued by JCTR public relations officer

Tendai Posiana yesterday, the theological centre noted that there was need to improve the marketing of maize and other agricultural crops if the bumper

harvest was to have positive impact on people's lives. "It is vital to note that the production of maize, millet, rice, groundnuts and beans has

increased and the JCTR desires to see an increased production in other crops like sugarcane, wheat, potatoes and many other crops that are suitable to

grow in our country. With this bumper harvest it is therefore expectant that the country will have a reduction and stable mealie meal price which have remained above K90 for a while. The JCTR also urges that FRA should buy maize from small scale farmers especially those who are in typical rural areas who fail to find easy access to the market," Posiana stated. She also stated that JCTR was hopeful that the lifting of the maize export ban would lead to a stable kwacha exchange rate. "The immediate benefit of lifting the export ban is increased agriculture percentage contribution to GDP which has been a key objective for government. This might also promote foreign exchange inflow thereby stabilizing Kwacha exchange rate which has been performing poorly and has ranged between K9 and K10 per US dollar for some time now," stated Posiana. "Zambia's neighbouring countries are in maize deficit, this should be explored and Zambia should benefit from this by increasing its maize exports. JCTR hopes that increased agricultural production will spur value addition and ultimately economic transformation. Value addition remains a big challenge in our country as most farmers sell their crops without adding any value to them which makes our products less competitive and low priced."

CCPC seizes products worth K9,000 in Eastern Province

By Mirriam Chabala
The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) in Eastern Province has confiscated assorted goods worth over K9,000 for failure to meet the obligations outlined in the Competition and Consumer Act. CCPC Public Relations Officer Namukolo Kasumpa said in a statement today that the goods were confiscated during an inspection operation conducted in over 30 shops in Lundazi, Chadiza and Petauke districts. "The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) in collaboration with three Local Authorities in Eastern Province has seized assorted goods worth

over K9, 000 during a joint inspection operation conducted in over 30 shops in Lundazi, Chadiza, Petauke districts. The seized items did not meet the minimum required standard for them to be sold to consumers; some products were expired and others had no expiry dates while others had broken seals and insufficient labeling," Kasumpa stated. "Further, some products were defectively packaged which contravened consumer protection provisions as outlined in the Food and Drugs Act Cap 303 of the Laws of Zambia Act as well as the Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 24 of 2010. Amongst the products seized included Vienna

sausages, meat products, agro-chemicals and paints." Kasumpa stated that the seizure of the goods which was conducted by the CCPC Executive Director Chilufya Sampa during the tour of the province was also aimed at sensitizing the consumers on their rights when purchasing goods. "The main objective of this exercise was to inspect trading premises in selected Districts in Eastern Province with the view of ascertaining the trader compliance levels with the Competition and Consumer Protection Act (CCPA) No 24 of 2010 specifically with regards to product labeling, display of disclaimers, price display and

product safety," Sampa said. Sampa also warned Lusaka distributors to avoid

transporting goods whose expiration dates were close to rural areas.

Zambia attracts \$3bn investment from India

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia's High Commissioner to India Judith Kapijimpanga says trade between Zambia and India currently stands at US\$700 million with Zambia's continued seeking for investments from India in its core economic sectors. And Kapijimpanga says since 2007, Foreign Direct Investment from India into the Zambian Economy has swelled to US\$3 billion. In a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Tourism at the Zambian High Commission in India Bangwe Naviley, Kapijimpanga also disclosed that Finance Minister Felix Mutati was expected in India to attend the 2017 Africa Development Bank (AfDB) annual convention to be held from 22nd to 28th May at Mahatma Mandir Convention Center in India. Kapijimpanga said the 2017 AfDB annual convention was expected to strengthen trade ties between India and African Countries. "This year's meeting follows a successful 2016 AfDB annual meeting held in Lusaka from May 23 to May 27, 2016," Kapijimpanga said. Kapijimpanga who is also accredited to Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives and Singapore revealed that AfDB had 81 member countries of which 57 were from Africa and that India was among the 24 non regional member countries. The 2017 AFDB annual convention meeting will be held under the Theme; "Transforming Agriculture for wealth creation in Africa. Meanwhile Kapijimpanga further disclosed that since 2007, Foreign Direct Investment from India into the Zambian Economy had swelled to US\$3 billion. "Trade between India and Zambia currently stands at USD700 million. Indian exports to Zambia include pharmaceuticals, transport equipment, plastics, and chemicals while semi-precious stones, non-ferrous metals, ores (copper and cobalt), semi-precious stones and raw cotton constitute India's imports from Zambia. India and Zambia aim to increase this trade to US\$1 billion and Zambia has been seeking investments from India in its core economic sectors," said Kapijimpanga. "The High Commissioner says this includes a US\$ 2.6 billion investment by Vedanta Resource in Konkola Copper Mines, the establishment of a US\$ 300 million manganese processing plant by Taurian Manganese, and Bharti Airtel's establishment of Airtel Zambia after its acquisition of Zain Telecom's Africa Businesses."

Hear here.

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While Zambians are busy arguing about whether Hakainde Hichilema’s arrogance in Mongu was necessary or if President Edgar Lungu’s ego is befitting for a poor man from Chawama compound, the world out there is redefining Zambia.

Professors of law and democracy, scholars, academicians and authors are cashing in, writing about what constitutes “Treason” in Zambia, as they admit a new member to the list of African dictatorships.

Make no mistake, Zambia is now in the middle of international media spotlight – and there is no better-placed country that should appreciate the consequences of Western media frenzy than Zimbabwe’s closest neighbour.

The list is endless, but we picked the most damaging international headlines from the world’s most respected news sources to illustrate the extent of disgrace which has befallen Zambia so far, thanks to two power-hungry political rivals.

The Western press is already reporting that Zambia, under President Lungu, is planning to pull out of the International Criminal Court to pave way for what he is about to do to his political opponents.

BBC AFRICA:
How road rage led to treason charge in Zambia

“Zambia’s opposition leader has been charged with treason after his convoy failed to pull over for the president’s motorcade.”

FINANCIAL TIMES:
Treason charge plunges Zambia into political crisis

“Tension in Zambia, which has been one of southern Africa’s most vibrant democracies, is threatening to destabilise a country that is already grappling with rising debt, widening deficits, sluggish growth and weak revenues from copper that account for 70 per cent of export earnings.”

DAILY NATION KENYA:
Lungu need not spoil what makes Zambia unique

“Zambia is one of few African countries that have managed to avoid political havoc and wars in most sub-Saharan countries in nearly six decades. Current events in that country will show whether the country will maintain that reputation. I would urge those in power in Zambia to take a step back from the brink and move back onto the path of democratic progress while they still can, before irreversible damage is done.”

MAIL & GUARDIAN:
Zambian opposition leaders detained in ‘filthy, unimaginable’ conditions

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Zambia the new Zimbabwe

“The congestion is beyond what you can believe. The smell is indescribable. It’s so filthy you can’t even imagine.”

ALJAZEERA:
Zambia denies opposition leader barred access to lawyer

“Treason is a non-bailable offence in Zambia, with a minimum jail term of 15 years and a maximum sentence of the death penalty.

WASHINGTON POST:
A Zambian opposition leader was arrested, but there are deeper cracks in the country’s democracy

“There’s more to this story, though. Observers of Zambian politics have identified a much broader process of democratic erosion and government repression in Zambia, where the independence of political institutions has been undermined.

So Zambia, Hungary and Turkey all exemplify the ways in which democracy tends to fall apart in the 21st century. In the past, coups used to be the most imminent threat against the survival of democracy, but Zambia and other cases illustrate how democracy can suffer gradual deterioration. The independence of democratic institutions is slowly chipped away while presidential powers are extended.

BBC WORLD NEWS:
EU MPs debate motion on Zambian opposition leader

“The first motion expresses concern at the imprisonment of Zambia’s opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, who was detained last month on suspicion of treason. The draft motion calls for a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into allegations that he has been mistreated in prison.”

DAILY MAVERICK:
Dark, dangerous days for Zambia’s democracy

“Hakainde Hichilema is famously suspicious; with a safe

room in his house, he travels with a phalanx of bodyguards, and often brings his own food wherever he goes, just in case anyone wants to poison him. After the attack on the home of Zambia’s opposition leader, and then his arrest on spurious charges, Zambia’s reputation as a beacon of democracy in Africa is under serious threat. No one is dismissing Hichilema’s paranoia now – and no one is quite sure what would have happened in the absence of that safe room into which he could retreat.”

WORLD POLITICS REVIEW:
A road rage case in Zambia is renewing fear for the country’s democracy

“The latest flare-up in Zambia’s ongoing political drama began with a high-profile case of road rage. This could be the beginning of something quite scary. There is little sign that a more functional political environment is in the cards. One potentially worrying sign could be the “interesting set of friends” President Edgar Lungu has courted since assuming office, arranging visits with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.”

THE CONVERSATION, ACADEMIC RIGOUR:

We need to talk about Zambia as it falls from grace under President Lungu

“Zambia has often been ignored by the international media. One reason for this neglect is that it’s been comparatively unexceptional, on a continent with more than its fair share of extremes. As a result, the country has returned to the headlines, and whether one agrees with the Catholic Bishops’ evaluation about the country turning into a dictatorship or not, one thing is clear: it’s time to start talking about Zambia.”

RAILA ODINGA:
Zambia politics in worrying turn

“What has been happening in Zambia must not pass without comment. It is a direct assault on Zambia’s democratic traditions and a stain on the continent’s record. It has long-term costs for Zambians and other Africans alike.”

US SENATE COMMITTEE:
“Senator Ben Cardin Raises Hakainde Hichilema’s Case with Capitol Hill

“The most recent State Department Country Report for Human Rights in Zambia indicates that the government has only taken selective and halting steps to prosecute or punish officials who committed these abuses, targeting mostly those who opposed the ruling party.”

CARTE BLANCHE:
Political turmoil in Zambia

“In the SADC region, Zambia has been praised as a beacon of democracy because of the smooth transfer of power by five presidents since 1991, but the recent arrest of the country’s main opposition leader suggests [that] that trend may be changing. There has been narrowing democratic space against the high handedness of police actions in Zambia.”

Ironically, the World media is still attributing the treason offence to the motorcade incident in Mongu when in fact the State dropped that charge through a nolle prosequi more than a week ago.

At News Diggers! we have every reason to believe that if President Edgar Lungu was enjoying this treason euphoria when it started, he is certainly not enjoying the negative publicity now, unless there is something acutely wrong with his faculties.

We believe that the President of the Republic of Zambia has

now realised that this was a joke taken too seriously, but has no idea how to put an end to it while retaining plausible deniability of being behind Mr Hichilema’s incarceration.

Unless President Edgar Lungu doesn’t mind coming out of hiding and doing like Frederick Chiluba did – taking credit for Kenneth Kaunda’s jailing and release from Prison – he has no option but to privately ask Magistrate David Simusamba to find a way of acquitting Mr Hichilema on Monday. If our judiciary has suddenly become too independent for such an undertaking, then let the DPP enter a nolle prosequi.

This shouldn’t be difficult, we would assume, because on acquitting Mr Hichilema in the insulting case, magistrate Greenwell Malumani already discredited the treason charge as baseless and even admonished the arresting officer before branding him a liar.

If magistrate Simusamba refers the treason case to the High Court for trial, the preliminary judicial inquiries which will arise, shall further prolong the detention of Zambia’s biggest opposition leader, thereby destroying President Lungu’s little remaining admiration.

This may excite those who dislike Mr Hichilema and his “tribal party”, especially those in the ruling Patriotic Front.

But here is the bad news for PF; on all the above listed websites, the search word is “Hichilema”, which means some of these world media outlets have never published any stories about the UPND leader before. There is no story on these websites about how President Lungu is humble and loves to pray, or how UPND is a tribal party. This will eventually turn out to be free publicity for HH. In the eyes of the world out there, Hichilema

who refused to give way to the Presidential motorcade, like we all do in Zambia, is now the victim and President Lungu is the aggressor.

Ironically, the World media is still attributing the treason offence to the motorcade incident in Mongu when in fact the State dropped that charge through a nolle prosequi more than a week ago. The world media is no longer portraying Zambia as a peaceful home of United Nations refugees from war torn-African countries. Right now, all what the world believes is that Zambia is under a ruthless, thin-skinned dictator.

Ironically again, at his first press conference as Head of State in January 2015, President Lungu said his stay in State House was going to be very short because he was merely a transition President after the death of Michael Sata, but today, the transition leader is knocking out key participants in the democratic process.

Our fear is that if President Lungu is not helped out of this political quagmire, he will end up as Africa’s most battered Ex-President, unless he has no intentions of leaving State House – which is not a far fetched possibility judging by the levels of intolerance.

But if President Lungu is not ready to follow Robert Mugabe’s footsteps of retiring within State House, we are hereby reminding him with due respect that without the police, the army and the PF militia behind, he is nothing. He may have a lot more money by the time he leaves office, but that money will not make him more powerful than the person who will take over from him. It will be the same Arthur Shonga, Mbita Mpazi and other police officers who were squeezing HH’s workers’ genitals who will squeeze the genitals of those who are eating with President Lungu now. It is the same Magistrate Malumani and Simusamba who will decide the fate of those who are persecuting HH and his co-accused now. This is not science, it is called karma.

The Western press is already reporting that Zambia, under President Lungu, is planning to pull out of the International Criminal Court to pave way for what he is about to do to his political competitors. If the Western media turns a blind eye to any positive developmental news coming out of Zambia and focuses on crimes against humanity, our beloved humble Edgar Chagwa Lungu will not end better than Ivory Coast dictator Laurent Gbagbo. Please save President Lungu!

By Joseph Mwenda

Congratulations madam Bernadette Deka for winning the Al Jazeera mediocrity contest. Just like natural intelligence, dullness can also be a virtue when you are showcasing a nation that prides in insanity – so we thank you for not letting us down. There are many dull leaders in my President’s government and some of them don’t even know why Hakainde Hichilema was charged with treason, but you Bernadette Deka are our national heroine for showing your face to the world. In fact whenever they are feeding us nonsense, most of our dull government leaders lower their voices, like a man attempting to buy condoms in a shop, but you Bernadette Deka were loud and clear.

In case you think I am accusing Deka of having beauty without brains, well I am not the only one.

Al Jazeera Femi Oke: “The

Diggers Lite: Mediocrity Contest

motorcade stand-off was chaotic, but now it has turned into treason. What does that say about Zambia’s democracy?” Bernadette DEKA: “I think let me say something about that. Let me really say something about that. I think we are talking about Zambia, we are all Zambians and I think there is a sense of patriotism within ourselves. I think that’s a falsehood to actually bring out to the world that the government is overwhelmed by aah... aah... by an opposition leader who is aah... who actually lost an election. I think us as Policy Monitoring and Research Centre have been following up policies, the government’s efforts are concerted and concentrated on pushing the national agenda for the next five years which is the

Seventh National Development Plan...I talked about the autonomy of institutions deliberately. So is government or the presidency police, is government or the presidency auditor general, is... is... is government or the presidency aah...aah for example, Anti Corruption Commission or these other entities including the judiciary, that’s where we need to separate powers...”

A friend sent me a message saying until he watched Deka on live TV; he used to think Mumbi Phiri was dull. My friend even wished Tilyenji Mwanza was available to salvage the once mighty Wynter Kabimba’s Patriotic Front from the hall of shame. But I think he was missing the point. The point is that the PF has no point to point at.

Thanks to the PMRC Executive Director, the world now understands why citizens are refusing to recognise their leaders in Zambia. And by the way, if you work at PMRC and you went to congratulate your boss in her office for a job well done; you my brother and sister are going to hell.

Now let’s not be greedy with our compliments by heaping all the praise on Deka as if she had the total monopoly of reverse wisdom on the show; I think Mr Amos Chanda did well as a runner up.

AMOS Chanda: “Before I became press secretary in State House, I was an ordinary editor. There was no policeman at my house. I didn’t see a thief coming to attack me just because there was no police officer at home. So if there was

no policeman on that road, that was not a reason for anyone whether it was Hakainde or any other person to try and endanger the life of the President.”

Since Mr Chanda told Al Jazeera that there is freedom of speech in Zambia and that there is no journalist being sent to prison for expressing themselves; I will ask just one question. Do you understand how dull I would have to be as president to hire that policeman-example wisdom above, for my benefit at State House?

And before I forget ba UPND, this kind of disorganization where the entire party and legal team can leave such a brilliant opportunity to make a global appeal for intervention in the hands of a novice like Brian Mwiinga, is what will keep Mr

Hichilema lining up for beans in prison a little while longer. Mr Chanda was claiming the police operate independently in Zambia but the audio of his instructions for police to be harsh on UPND is still in circulation – Mwiinga couldn’t punctuate the mediocrity contest with this reminder. Shame!

As for you madam Laura Miti, I am sure you saw for yourself that you were as useful on the programme as a fork in a sugar bowl. While you were there asking the PF to focus on work and stop bickering over the 2021 presidency, Bernadette Deka was asking the world “does anyone have a small pin charger?”

Cheerio!

Visit diggers.news to listen to the audio



Madalitso Muthiya

Muthiya in impressive start at Mopani Golf tournament

By Diggers Reporter

Madalitso Muthiya has made an impressive start at the 2017 Mopani/Redpath Zambia Golf Open at Nkana Golf Club in Kitwe. The 2006 runner-up posted a first round score of 2-Under 70 to equal his best start since 2012 in Lusaka when he ultimately finished in 28th at par on 292. Muthiya, who is 15th, finished six shots behind leader Oliver Bekker of South Africa who shot 8-Under 64 to displace compatriot Ockie Strydom who was the lunchtime leader and is one shot behind. Meanwhile, amateur Gabriel Chibale was the second best local performer on day one and finished one shot behind Muthiya in 26th place. However, there was carnage for the other local prospects with Patrick Mwendapole and Dayne Moore in a battle to make the cut on Friday. Mwendapole and Moore posted 7 over and 9 over respectively.

FAZ acquires new Chipolopolo jersey

By Joseph Mwenda

The Football Association of Zambia has signed a long term deal with Asian sport apparel maker Mafro. FAZ general secretary Ponga Liwewe said the two parties

have signed a two year deal for an undisclosed fee to dress the Zambia national soccer team. “The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) is pleased to announce that it recently concluded negotiations with MAFRO to become a new kit sponsor of the Zambia National team,” Ponga said. “The kit sponsorship deal between FAZ and MAFRO is for a 2-year period. “As an Association we are proud that this deal has been unveiled when the junior Chipolopolo participates in the 2017, South Korea U-20 Fifa World Cup.” Mafro currently dresses Nkana and some clubs in the Ghana league including the Zimbabwe national team.

Singuluma makes surprise Chipolopolo return

By Diggers Reporter

Seven foreign-based players headline Zambia’s provisional 29-member team that coach Wedson Nyirenda has summoned ahead of the June 10 Clash against Mozambique in a 2019 AFCON Group K qualifier. Nyirenda has made two shock changes dropping midfielder Nathan Sinkala and bringing in his forgotten TP Mazembe club mate and striker Given Singuluma. Sinkala has played in Mazembe’s opening two 2017 CAF Confederation Cup group matches while Singuluma has come off the bench in the second half of the five-time African champions 2-0 home win over CS Mounana of Gabon. Singuluma returns to the team for the first time since June 13, 2015 in Zambia’s 2017 AfCON qualifier at home against Guinea Bissau that ended 1-1 in Ndola. Meanwhile, Zambia go into camp in Ndola on June 4 where they will play Mozambique at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in a Group K opener. Namibia and Guinea Bissau are the other teams in Group K. GOALKEEPERS: Kennedy Mweene (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa) Toaster Nsabata (Zanaco), Jacob Banda (Zesco United) DEFENDERS: Simon

Silwimba, Fackson Kapumbu, George Chilufya (all Zesco),Taonga Bweembya, Ziyo Tembo (both Zanaco), Billy Mutale (Power Dynamos), Isaac Shamujiropa (Nchanga Rangers),Stopilla Sunzu (Arsenal Tula, Russia),

Mwila Phiri (Green Eagles) MIDFIELDERS: John Ching’andu, Kondwani Mtonga, Misheck Chaila (all Zesco United), Rainford Kalaba (TP Mazembe, DR Congo) Collins Sikombe (Napsa Stars), Clatus Chama (Lusaka Dynamos),

Chisamba Lungu (FC Ural, Russia), Fwayo Tembo (Power Dynamos), Stanley Nshimbi (Red Arrows), Augustine Mulenga (Zanaco) STRIKERS: Dave Daka (Zesco United), Collins Mbesuma (Highlands

Park,South Africa), Ronald Kampamba (Nkana), Winston Kalengo (AFC Leopards, Congo-Brazzaville),Justin Shonga (Nkhwazi),Given Singuluma (TP Mazembe, DRC), Jackson Mwanza (Zesco United)



John Chigandu of Zesco United with a ball as he tries to beat his opponent of City of Lusaka at Woodlands Stadium. Zesco won 1-0 Picture By Tenson Mkhala



ITALIANS BREAK ZAMBIAN HEARTS

By Joseph Mwenda

Zambia has lost to 10-man Italy by three goals to two in a grueling Under 20 FIFA World Cup encounter in South Korea.

Although the Chipolopolo Boys led twice in the game, Italy came from behind twice and went on to grab a winner in the second half of extra time to settle a 2-2 dispute after 90 minutes.

Patson Daka opened the scoreline in the 4th minute, a lead which Chipolopolo sustained but only until the first half, as Italy levelled in the 50th minute from a close range header.

Fashion Sakala scored a second for Zambia in the 84th minute to take Chipolopolo ahead for the second time in the quarter final encounter.

But Italy's Dimarco levelled four minutes later from a free kick, despite the European being one man short due to an earlier foul.

The two teams had to get into extra time to settle the draw as they both chased a debut semi-final appearance.

Despite Zambia firing a whooping 19 shots on target, Italy managed to get a late winner from a corner kick to break Zambian hearts.

Although the junior Chipolopolo boys are out of the tournament, they will leave Korea commanding more respect having been the only African country to make it thus far.

Zambia beat Iran, Portugal, Germany and lost to Costa Rica before facing Italy.



FAZ acquires new Chipolopolo jersey

Story on page 7

Muthiya impresses start at Mopani

Story on page 7