

WE'RE IN A VERY BAD



STATE - ZUKAS

“At the rate we are going, Zambia will very soon take a downturn”

Story on P4

I have differed with Rupiah Banda over his interference in PF - Changala

Mukosha Funga

The looting going on in the PF government will make the Frederick Chiluba plunder child's play, says Brebner Changala. And Changala says he has differed with his good friend Rupiah Banda because of the former president's interference in the PF government. Meanwhile, Changala says it's shameful for the PF to expect everyone who supported the ruling party in the first place to shut up and put their brains on recess while witnessing injustice. In a Facebook post yesterday, Changala observed that lack of critical checks and balances had made looting in the PF rife. “For the record, the looting in the PF administration will make the Chiluba plunder cases a children's picnic or clearly put, a walk in the park. Mark my words my dear brethren. What has caused all this? Lack of critical checks and balances. Lack of critical voice and the press. We are glorifying and hero worshipping our elected servants to the detriment of our cherished democracy and development. The truth be told, there is more money in political arena than in competitive business setting. Business men in Zambia are stone broke and a politician is liquid and full of all smiles,” Changala stated.

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SABC angers PF for naming President Lungu “Jonathan”

By Joseph Mwenda

The South African National Broadcasting (SABC)

has angered the Zambian ruling Patriotic Front after that country's national

broadcaster named President Edgar Lungu “Jonathan” in one of its

stories. Zambia invited South Africa's President Jacob Zuma to officiate at the Agriculture and Commercial show, but it was the wrong caption that stole the limelight, creating a tiff between PF and SABC.

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ERB reduces fuel prices

By Sipilisiwe Ncuwe

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has reduced the wholesale and retail fuels prices effective midnight tonight. ERB Board Chairperson Raymond Mpundu announced this at a press briefing today. “For wholesale prices petrol has been reduced to K6, 542. 49 from K7,254.65;

Diesel has been reduced to K6, 356.56 from K7,079.05; and Kerosene has been reduced to K5, 150.73 from K5,525 per cubic litre,” Mpundu said. “Retail prices per litre; Petrol reduced from K12.50 to K11.67; Diesel reduced from K10.72 to K9.87; and Kerosene reduced from K6.81 to K6.50.” Mpundu attributed the reduction to a

gradual reduction in international oil prices as well as the good performance of the Zambian Kwacha against the United States Dollar. “Fuel prices in Zambia are largely determined by two factors; international oil prices, and the exchange rate of the Zambian kwacha against the United states Dollar. Notably, the last fuel price ad-

justment was effected in January 2017. In between, the government has made two importations of both petroleum feedback and finished petroleum products. However, there was no price adjustment effected on those importations as they were both below the trigger threshold of 2.5%,” Mpundu said.

Continues on P2

**Agriculture
show photo
focus on P6**



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
President Edgar Lungu says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema’s issue is about accepting or refusing the election results. Responding to questions from South African journalists who wanted to know what the country’s

HH’s issue is about failing to accept election defeat - Lungu

security situation was during a tour of some stands at the 91st Agriculture and Commercial show today, President Lungu challenged HH to produce evidence that he won the polls.



ZNS officers perform at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

“He is a suspect like any other suspect. The courts of law are there to deal with the matter. I don’t know why people are driving the story, so I can let you in, President Obasanjo has just gone to Kabwe to see this gentleman and he told me ‘I will just go and tell him that just accept the results, why are you wasting time’ because you see for me, it is just about accepting the results or not. He hasn’t accepted the results but he hasn’t told anyone why. I have seen the results, we had SADC, COMESA, we had the AU, we had the EU, we had the Commonwealth, everybody who cared

came to see our elections and I won. He went to court and he had no evidence. Now can you ask him you as media to tell you where is his evidence so that you hear him, and if he convinces you, you tell me, then I will also hear him,” President Lungu said. And he said the situation in Zambia was normal. “The political situation is Zambia is normal and I have been told the situation in Zambia is bad. But you guys are the people who can tell the story from what you have seen. If there is anything you have seen, ask me and I will explain. That is the situation, the situation you have seen is the normal situation. People are going around, trading, enjoying life, worshiping and doing whatever they do ordinarily. But people are telling me that the situation in Zambia, tell me what the situation in Zambia is, you have been here,” said President Lungu.

I have differed with Rupiah over his interference in PF - Changala

From front page
And Changala stated that he had differed with RB because he was uncomfortable with his role as “godfather of the PF”. “I’m a great friend of RB, former President of Zambia. In recent months and days, we respectively have differences on his total interference in the PF as a government in power. I’m uncomfortable with his dominant role to the exclusion of the genuine membership of PF. I’m totally uncomfortable with his role as a godfather of PF. Because the truth is, he’s not but a visitor in PF. The God father of PF is no other than the late Michael Chilufya Sata,” he said. He also observed that the PF lacked administrative confidence. “We all know that HH has not committed any treasonous crime against the people of Zambia. He has only committed a crime of refusing to accept defeat. And this crime is against President Lungu and not against the people of Zambia. What we are experiencing is an administration who’s not very sure as to whether they indeed won the August 2016 General elections.

They lack administrative confidence and zeal to sale their acquired mandate. The tragedy of the current PF administration is to govern through the use of force and the mandate of the discredited police force. Most importantly to force the Zambian populace to think and act uniformly,” Changala stated. Meanwhile, Changala stated that it was shameless for the PF to expect everyone who supported them not to differ with them. “I want to remind those who think cyber bullying is their preserve. Others think we have no right to hold opinion on national matters unless you agree with them. When you differ with the powerful, it is because they did not give you a job. In other words you must agree with the powerful even if they are doing wrong things because you supported them in the first place. Because you supported them you must allow them to do whatever they want and you as supporter must render yourself irrelevant after the ballot. In other words you must send your brain on recess and ignore every wrong and felon,” he

stated. “These so called hardcore supporters of PF are not privy to any political dynamics at play. They’re deliberately left out of the loop by their so called angelic leadership. They have no clue of what their beloved leadership are doing or not doing for the country. All what motivates them is their tribal supremacy and nothing else. They live on social media to defend the indefensible deliberately attaching the truth and reality. Shame on you. When the night turns into the day, all of you will run away. You will have nothing to defend but shame and stupidity of your own making. At that point you will appreciate the critical need for criticism and divergent views.” Changala said whilst supporting PF was allowed, he was worried that “a country of zombies” would emerge. “Supporting PF is totally allowed, my worry is when others are not allowed to operate outside the PF box. I don’t agree to a creation of a country of zombies. The truth be told, the dividing victory line between PF and UPND is a mere

100,000 or minus votes. My take is the losing divide is totally blacked out and criminalized. Then, the sad story is the victor is pompous and uncomfortable to massage the vanquished so as to foster unity and brotherhood in national interest,” he said. “Cyber bullies beware that you are growing old and yet unproductive in terms of positive human resourceful contributions to the development of this great country. Just see the financial gap between you and the new leadership. Check their life style. And yet you spend your valuable time on social media insulting those in the know. Shame on you.” He claimed he had turned down jobs from former president Levy Mwanawasa and President Lungu. “Brebner Changala does not need any job from any political administration or government. For the benefit of all the doubting Thomas. Brebner Changala has been recognized and honored by the Mwanawasa administration and recently by the Edgar Changwa Lungu administration to serve in Government of

the Republic of Zambia. In all instances Brebner has gracefully declined on account of personal assessment and suitability, late alone competence to serve to the fullest benefit of our great country,” stated Changala.

ERB reduces fuel prices

From front page
“With regard to the exchange rate, there has been a sustained appreciation of the Kwacha since the last adjustment. For example, in January 2017, the Kwacha traded at K9.60 per US\$ compared to just about K9.00 per US\$ by midyear of 2017. The strengthening of the kwacha was largely influenced by increases in the international copper prices, companies converting foreign exchange into local currency in order to meet their tax obligations and inflows from offshore investors for the government bond auctioning.” Mpundu said fuel price adjustments could only be implemented if wholesale prices rose or reduced by more than 2.5%. “In line with the cost-plus model that is currently used to set fuel prices, the Energy Regulation Board has reviewed the current wholesale and retail fuel prices based on the most recent importation of petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products. The decision to review prices is also in line with the policy guidance that fuel price adjustments will be made periodically as fundamentals that determine them change,” said Mpundu. “Between the last adjustment and July 2017, there has been a gradual reduction in the price of petroleum products on the international oil market. This has been on account of excess oil supply and fairly high oil inventories. For example, the price of Murban crude oil which is mostly used in Zambia moved from US\$56.60 per barrel in March to US\$47.86 per barrel in June 2017.”

HRC salutes IG for allowing by-election campaigns

By Mirriam Chabala
The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has asked the Police to deal with individuals abusing the Public Order Act by threatening politicians wishing to campaign for the upcoming by-elections in some parts of the country.

In a statement today, HRC Spokesperson Mweelwa Muleya welcomed the Inspector General's directive that police officers should allow political parties to campaign freely and called on the officers not to apply the law selectively. "HRC wishes to welcome

the directive by the Inspector General of Police, Mr Kakoma Kanganja, to officers to allow political parties to freely campaign during the forth coming by elections in some parts of the country. HRC also welcomes the advice by the Inspector General of Police to political parties

and the Police to adhere to the provisions of the Public Order Act (POA). It is important for both the Zambia Police Service and participating parties to operate within the provisions of the law in order to protect human rights and freedoms as well as maintain peace, law and

order," Muleya stated. "HRC is looking forward to an impartial administration of the Public Order Act so that it serves the fundamental purpose of regulating and not stifling the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The Commission therefore hopes that the

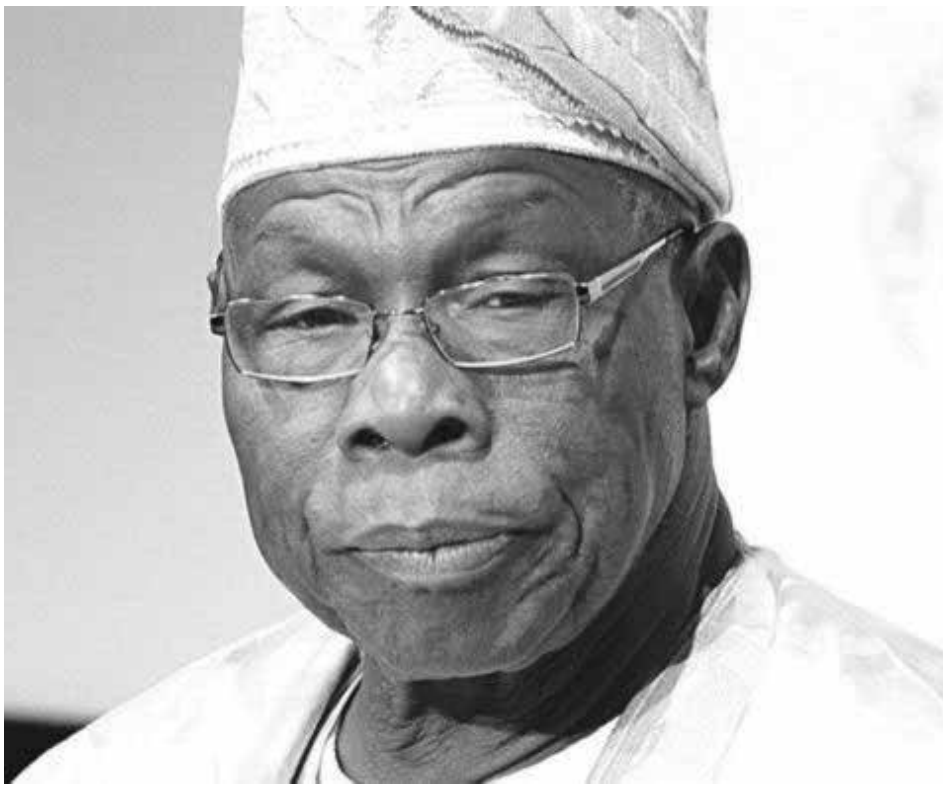
advice and warning by the Inspector General of Police against violating the Public Order Act will be understood to include those in the habit of threatening to disrupt public meetings of their opponents. Such individuals should be equally publicly warned that they shall be dealt with for threatening breach of peace, law and order." Muleya noted that the police had an obligation to protect Public Assemblies and Meetings from disruption and urged them not to resort to cancellation of such meetings each time lawless individuals threatened violence.

"The police have an obligation to protect Public Assemblies and Meetings from disruption by anyone. Therefore, they should not only be seen to be resorting to canceling public meetings whenever lawless individuals threatened violence against law abiding individuals who may have duly abided by the provisions of the Public Order Act. Therefore, HRC expects the police to stop threatening those wishing to hold public meetings from going ahead after being threatened by their opponents. The police should instead use their intelligence information to protect such meetings and warn those plotting to cause confusion," he stated. Meanwhile, Muleya appealed to the politicians to heed to the IG's advice and cooperate in order to maintain peace, law and order, particularly during public meetings such as election campaigns.

"On the other hand, HRC wishes to appeal to political parties to heed to the Inspector General of Police advice. Political Parties have a responsibility to maintain peace, law and order, particularly during public meetings such as election campaigns. It should be appreciated that public security and order are necessary for the exercise of rights and freedoms," stated Muleya. "It is therefore important that the police and political parties must cooperate in order to achieve each other's legitimate ends, which are to maintain law and order and to freely and democratically participate in the governance of this country in line with the constitution and other regional and international human rights laws. The HRC will continue to engage both the Zambia Police Service and political parties in the quest to promote and protect the right to freedom of Assembly within the limits of the constitution and international human rights instruments."

Gap between Lungu, HH narrowing – Obasanjo

By Diggers Reporter
Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo says he sees the gap between incarcerated UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and President Edgar Lungu narrowing. Obasanjo told journalists at State House after briefing President Lungu on his visit to Mukobeko that he was committed to ensuring there was peace in Africa. "I see that the gap between the opposition leader, Hakainde Hichilema and His Excellency the president is narrowing and I think that we can move the country forward and put the issues of 2016 behind us. As an elderly African state's man, I remain fully committed to ensuring that peace, stability are at progress and continue to exist, not just in Zambia but in all the 53 countries in Africa," Obasanjo said. Obasanjo condemned HH's actions in the Mongu motorcade incident. "I have looked at some of the videos regarding presidential motorcade and that of the opposition leader – are quite overboard. I think it should not be like that," he said. Obasanjo also thanked President Lungu for allowing him to visit HH with whom he had a two-hour long discussion. "I am happy that His Excellency allowed me to visit and I had a two hour discussion with the opposition leader. I brought into his attention various issues regarding the need to uphold peace, unity and stability of the country," said Obasanjo. "I get an impression from the opposition leader, that 2016 is no longer an issue but about what happens in the future and how can we do things better."



SABC angers PF for naming President Lungu ‘Jonathan’

From front page
"The 'mistake' by South African Broadcasting Corporation with regards

to captioning the President of Zambia as "JONATHAN Lungu" is not only regrettable, malicious and

insulting to the Presidency and the country at large, but also deserves an unreserved apology from the media house," PF Secretary General Davies Mwila was quoted as saying. PF media director Sunday Chanda said Mwila described the act as unprofessional, malicious and insulting. "Jonathan Lungu? Like really? This is the same media house that the Zambian Government did give permission to cover LIVE the inauguration of His Excellency President Edgar Lungu. As a Party, we feel that the actions of SABC were nothing but antagonistic with intent to malign. SABC like any other media house worth it's salt in the region must have names of Presidents on their fingertips. Inasmuch as mistakes do happen, the bare minimum expected from SABC is an equivocal apology, " said Mwila.



Zambia Army perform at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mambo questions DPP's eagerness to prosecute government officers

By Mirriam Chabala
The Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) says the appetite by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to takeover or discontinue Court cases against state officers is worrying in the dispensation of justice. In a statement, CiSCA Chairperson Bishop John Mambo said it was immoral for the DPP to only show interest in taking over prosecution cases of state officers like religious Affairs Minister Reverend Godfridah Sumaili when there were many other people facing the law. "CiSCA strongly condemns the growing propensity

by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to take over private prosecution of state officers facing the law. We find such acts to be highly immoral and a total abuse of authority. The DPP's actions to discontinue the contempt case against President Edgar Lungu's Press Aide, Amos Chanda and now her decision to take over the contempt case against National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Rev. Godfridah Sumaili, is of concern to CiSCA," Bishop Mambo stated. "Why has she not sprung into action in other cases which involve private citizens, for example,

Chilufya Tayali? In as much as Article 180 (b) allows the DPP to take over and continue criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by another person or authority and also discontinue the prosecution at any stage before judgment is delivered, criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken by her or another person or authority, the rate at which the DPP has developed this insatiable appetite to either takeover or discontinue cases against those in the corridors of power sets a very worrying trend in the dispensation of justice." Bishop Mambo stated that the DPP's recent actions

where she had discontinued certain cases of public officers was an indication of impunity which raised questions of ethics and morality in the judicial system. "The DPP should not use her powers to protect state officers from facing the due process of the law when sued by private citizens, except when it is clear that the actions are in the interests of the public rather than those in power or office. Her actions are a clear indication of impunity and raises questions of ethics and morality in our judicial system. CiSCA's considered opinion is that the DPP must exercise her

powers with caution and restraint to avoid abusing the authority entrusted in her as it is clear from our end that she is not acting in public interest, or in regard to administration of justice or in regard to the integrity of the judicial system and in regard to need to prevent and avoid abuse of the legal process as provided for under Article 180 (7)" he stated. And Bishop Mambo bemoaned expressed worry that some government officials were not serving the interests of citizens. "CiSCA has noted that this seems to be a growing practice where public officers do not represent the interests of the citizens they are appointed to serve as was observed with the Attorney General who acted in total disregard of public interests by representing government in civil proceedings to which government is a party in accordance with Article 177(c), in this case recovering the monies from these ministers as ordered by the Constitutional Court," Bishop Mambo stated. "The Attorney General decided to protect individuals by offering his legal representation to these former ministers in the ongoing judicial review on the order by the Court for the ministers to pay back the money. These actions from state officers are

extremely worrying and a blatant abuse of their offices. The manner in which the Attorney General, the DPP and other public office bearers conduct themselves has not helped to instill confidence in the Zambian judicial system among citizens." And Bishop Mambo condemned the continued tendency to curtail critical voices by those holding power. "The recent developments as mentioned above undermine constitutionalism and the rule of law in the country and are a recipe for anarchy. As responsible citizens, we demand that constitutional office bearers must be guided by the constitution at all times and not by their political interests. CiSCA is appalled at the continued disregard of the rule of law and the failure by the current administration to uphold and respect the constitution. We are greatly concerned at the growing tendency by those holding state power to curtail even activities which are sanctioned by the law. One such example is the recent suspension of students' union activities at UNZA and the Mulungushi University respectively, in clear disregard of the fact that such activities are sanctioned by an Act of Parliament," stated Bishop Mambo.

WE'RE IN A VERY BAD STATE - ZUKAS


By Mirriam Chabala
Freedom Fighter Simon Zukas says Zambia is in a very bad state and at the rate the country is going, it will soon take a downturn. And Zukas says it was unfair for police to detain United Progressive People (UPP) president Saviour Chishimba over the long weekend without bail. In an interview with News Diggers! after he visited Chishimba at Woodlands Police Station yesterday, Zukas said the country was in a bad state. "We are in a very bad state. The way we are going as a country under the threatened state of emergency, very soon our economy will take a down turn," Zukas said. And speaking to journalists earlier,

Zukas complained that his friend was being detained unnecessarily by police. "Well, I thought he needed some support so I decided to come and see him and I also brought him some food but he is not taking food during the day, he is fasting and he only eats in the evening. But what I could see was that he in good spirit although what happened to him I feel was unfair," Zukas said. "You know they detained him on Friday and if they wanted to deal with him they should have charged him right away, so that he could get bail. Now they kept him for the long weekend, he has just been there. He is in there with some people about 11 or 12 people whom they are keeping."

Meanwhile, UPP interim president Oscar Kabaghe said his party was expecting the court to release Chishimba on bail. "He (Chishimba) is expected to appear in Court tomorrow and an application can be done for a bail. The other thing I need to mention to the general public is that the President is alright, he is in high spirits and encouraging all of us to continue to soldier on," said Kabaghe. "And we maintain our position as a party that the UPP will continue to fight corruption because corruption is evil and it is a negativity against development. There is no economic development that can take place in this country without the fight against corruption."

UNSTOPPABLE PRAISE

TICKETS SALE POINTS

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**BLESSING CENTRE**
CORNER OF VUBU ROAD ALONG LUMUMBA ROAD

**MIRACLE LIFE FAMILY CHURCH**
PLOT 256 FOXDALE, ZAMBEZI ROAD ROMA

**RADIO CHRISTIAN VOICE**
PLOT 35210-35203 ALICK NKHATA ROAD,

**ABEVE**
SHOP 65A PROTEA LUSAKA TOWER ANNEX, ARCADES,



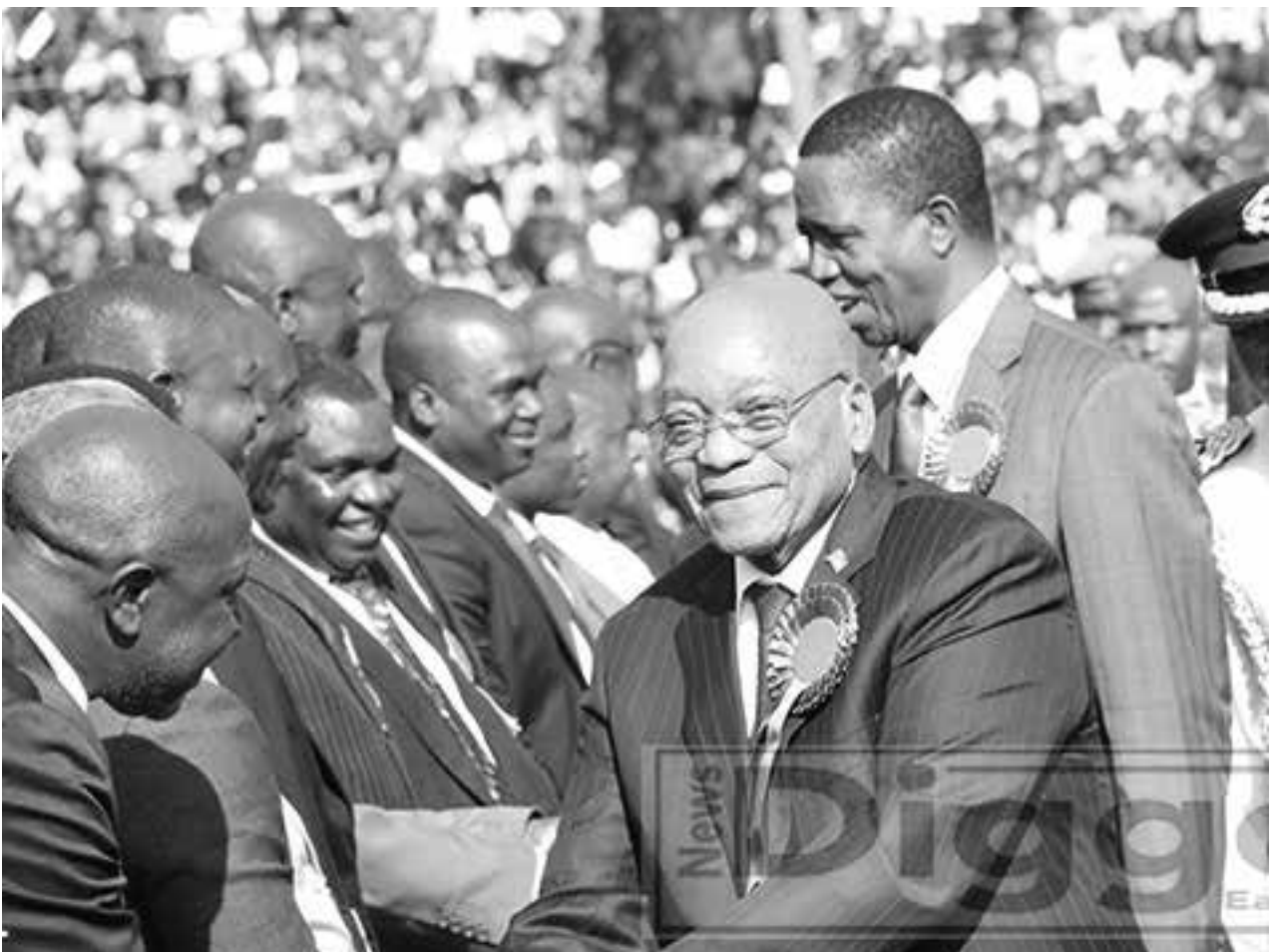
13TH AUGUST 2017
**AT WOODLANDS STADIUM
IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

CHARGES:
ORD. K100 | VIP K500

We need a regional food reserve facility to mitigate effects of climate change - Zuma

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
South African President Jacob Zuma says there is need to set up a regional food reserve facility to mitigate the effects of climate change. Speaking when he officially opened the 91st Zambia Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka yesterday, President Zuma said doing so would provide SADC with a mechanism for preventing and preparing for adverse impasse and shock to food security. “Agriculture is the bedrock of the economy of the southern region as a whole. About 80 percent of people in the region depend on agriculture for income and employment. The performance of agriculture has strong influence on food security, economic growth, and stability of the SADC region. As such, the focus on agriculture remains high on the priority list and is of critical importance. We are all encouraged that the food security situation in southern Africa has shown an overall improvement since the beginning of 2017 as compared to the previous year. This positive result is due to good rainfall experience during and towards the end of 2016,” President Zuma said. “Considering the annual

variations of food production in the region due to changing weather patterns, there is need to review the work done on the establishment of a regional food reserve facility. This will provide SADC with a mechanism for preventing and preparing for adverse impasse and shock to food security.” President Zuma said the 2017 ACSZ theme took into account the interdependence into economic growth, social protection and protection of the natural eco system among others. “The progressive theme takes into account the interdependence into economic growth, social protection and protection of the natural eco system. Our two countries share the concern and vision on matters of the environment and sustainable growth and should corporate towards the development capacity in green technologies and industries. This agriculture show has relevance beyond Zambia even the importance of agriculture on the continent and its alignment with the AU agenda 2063,” said President Zuma. This year’s Agriculture and Commercial Show is being commemorated under the theme “Promoting a Green Economy”.



South African President Jacob Zuma with President Edgar Lungu during the official opening of the 91 st Agriculture show in Lusaka on August 5, 2017 - picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPND confirms Luapula defections to PF

By Mirriam Chabala
Luapula Province United Party for National Development (UPND)

Chairperson Edwin Besa Chimbaka has confirmed four defections of its members to the ruling Patriotic Front

(PF). On Friday, PF Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri, Luapula Province PF chairman Nickson Chilangwa and other members of the Central Committee welcomed defectors at Henry Courtyard Hotel in Mansa and they declared that it was the entire UPND leadership that had defected in the province. But in an interview, Chimbaka claimed that only four officials had defected after being paid. “No, actually that is very untrue. That is the normal PF propaganda...since the 2015 Presidential elections we have had problems and difficulties in handling these guys; Lwendela Chinynta who was IPS for Luapula

Province, then we have also a former teacher Mr Musonda who was Vice-Chairman and then we had a treasurer. These are the only people who were actually poached and paid to defect and they have been going round the Province in all districts to poach people to defect with but they drew a plank they literary failed,” said Chimbaka said. “So the truth is that only four of them like I said were members of our provincial committee. You know our structure consists of 34 members of the provincial committee, now those four are the ones who have been corrupted to join PF to help them with their propaganda. It is not 70 as reported, that is a blue lie and that is propaganda by PF”

Police nab Lsk Pastor for killing nephew, step son

By Mukosha Funga

Police in Lusaka have arrested a pastor for allegedly causing the death of his step son and nephew aged 10 and nine respectively. Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo confirmed this in a statement today. “We have arrested a Pastor at Door of Heaven Ministry church located in Lusaka’s Chibolya Compound in connection with the death of two male juveniles who are his step son aged 10 years and his nephew aged nine years which happened on 05th August, 2017 at about 17:00 Hours in Johnlaing compound. The incident is alleged to have happened when the Pastor identified as Eugene Haminda aged 38 of Johnlaing was weeping the two male juveniles aged nine years and 10 years respectively after he discovered that some money was missing in the house,” stated Katongo. “It is alleged that the pastor had tied the two boys whilst whipping them and they later fell to the cooker which later electrocuted them and they died on the spot. The bodies of the deceased were deposited in UTH mortuary awaiting postmortem while the accused person is detained in Police custody. We have since instituted investigations in the matter to establish what transpired.”



91st Agriculture show photo focus



Bostwana's Makilikili dance group perform at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala





President Edgar Lungu, South African President Jacob Zuma and former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo - picture courtesy of State House



Bostwana's Makilikili dance group perform at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala



ZNS officer performs at the 91st Agriculture show in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

Zambians want Hakainde Hichilema to be freed from prison, but not all of them. Others don't care about him, instead, they want President Edgar Lungu to stop globetrotting and save money. Again, some Zambians are not bothered whether the Head of State accumulates more flying hours than a homeless hummingbird, but they want Finance Minister Felix Mutati's mouth to speak the truth about how much debt the country has accrued so far. However, there are those Zambians who don't give a damn if Mutati can't read debt figures correctly in Parliament, but they are loosing sleep over UNZA's decision to bar their children from writing their exams. Much as that might sound so important an issue, there are still some other Zambians who have no sympathy for the usually violent students. Instead, they are concerned with the injustice at NPA and they want a voice that can tell the Director of Public Prosecutions that she is a biased DPP, because she is not appealing against the acquittals of Dora Siliya and Maxwell Mwale.

That is why the United Party for National development must not lose focus of its role of providing credible checks and balances, standing up to irresponsible government leaders (not only the president) and speaking on behalf of

UPND is noisy but silent

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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the voiceless. We say this because UPND is the largest opposition political party in Zambia and more than 1.7 million citizens wanted them to form government. That means those citizens look up to UPND members of parliament and Central Committee officials to speak for them against the DPP, UNZA, Mutati and so on and so forth.

What we have seen from the UPND lately are relentless efforts to spread the news of "Edgar Lungu's dictatorship", and the monotonous voice demanding the release of their incarcerated leader; nothing more. Of course the UPND must not stop pressing for the freedom of HH because they believe that he is an innocent man facing political persecution. As a matter of fact, we also believe that the persecution of Mr Hichilema is a demonstration by President

Lungu that no matter how much money the opposition leader has, Chagwa can make his world very small. That is why we say it is within their rights as UPND to press harder and make the world hear them; a baby that doesn't cry dies on the mother's back. We encourage Mr Hichilema to woo as much sympathy from the Zambian people as he wants by providing realistic updates of his survival in prison, not through Facebook as we are being made to believe. Being an unconvicted prisoner, we are sure that the prison authorities will permit him to write pen-written, heartfelt memoirs while he is still in detention in order for him to give Zambians the real picture of how he spends his days and nights inside there. Our focus, however is not to advice HH on how to speak for himself, but rather

how the UPND must speak for the voiceless. It is our observation that since HH was arrested and detained, the opposition political party has lost interest all other governance issues apart from "Lungu is a dictator" and "HH is innocent". Quite alright, President Lungu might be a dictator and HH might be innocent, but that is not news anymore. We are saying to the UPND that while HH's movements are restricted, the earth is still moving.

Our view is that the UPND leadership needs to come up with a special committee dedicated to speaking for the "Treason 6", helping them demand for the protection of their human rights. While this is happening, the rest of the opposition party must stay the course. Zambia needs UPND to be in its right frame of mind and upto

date with developments that are affecting both their supporters and non-politically aligned citizens.

Farmers for example, they don't really care how long HH has been imprisoned, they want a strong voice to challenge the Food Reserve Agency and the Agriculture minister over the ridiculous maize floor price this year. Where is the Dundumwezi member of parliament on this issue, why is he not speaking for the people in his constituency and all the complaining farmers in the country? Why is he not challenging Dora Siliya for lying to the farmers in Petauke that government would buy their maize at a good price?

Cornelius Mweetwa is a former University of Zambia Students Union president, why is the Choma Central member of parliament not voicing out against UNZA's decision

to bar owing students from writing their exams. It is not always about criticising; the Energy Regulation Board has just reduced the fuel pump prices, little as the reduction might be, we expect the UPND committee on energy or any less bitter MP to commend government and demand reduced bus fares from operators. That is what it means to be an alternative government – eyes on the ball, not singing the same two choruses everyday.

By the way, HH says his freedom is not the most important thing that he looks forward to in his life. According to Mr Cornelius Mweetwa who recently visited him, HH looks forward to a time when Zambians shall be freed from the PF captivity. So the UPND must be more relevant to Zambia than to UPND itself. HH doesn't even need the UPND voice, because those who are keeping him will not cut him loose no matter how much UPND talks. Instead, it is the loud international voice in Turkey, Washington, Britain, New York, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya that is giving the captures pressure. So while the world is speaking for HH, let UPND prove that it is not a one-man party by speaking for the ordinary poor Zambians. UPND must stop being noisy, yet silent on other important matters.

Can Zambia sustain a consumption driven economy?

Africa has been deindustrializing since the late 80s - both in terms of the share in GDP and in Employment - and the impressive growth rates recorded in the first decade of the millennium have not helped to reverse the trend. The continent has experienced a significant decline in the share of agriculture and employment which unfortunately has not resulted in the corresponding increase in the share of manufacturing in GDP and employment as structural transformation hypothesis posits. The benefiting sector has been the services sector whose productivity has also been competitively low.

In Zambia, the Labor Force Surveys of 2008 & 2014 indicate that the share of employment in agriculture declined from 71.3 percent to 48.9 percent while that of manufacturing marginally increased from 3.5 percent to 3.8 percent over the same period. The main beneficiary of this declining share of agriculture has been the wholesale and retail trade sector whose share of employment has risen from 9.2 percent to 11.8 percent in 2014. In essence, the Wholesale and retail trade sector is becoming or has already become, the safety net

for the unemployed people. This begs the question, what is this wholesale and retail trade sector? The Wholesale and retail trade sector basically involves the wholesaling and retailing of merchandise without transformation. They are the intermediate and final stages in the distribution chain respectively. An important point to note is that in both wholesaling and retailing, there is neither transformation nor value addition to the merchandise. The examples of wholesaling and retailing include the selling of second-hand clothes a.k.a Salaula, supermarkets, gas stations etc. And in all these cases, the goods are mainly produced and packaged outside the country then brought into Zambia in bulk for retail distribution and selling. Whenever I am passing through Kamwala flyover bridge, Chachacha, Freedom way and Lumumba roads, the statistics always come to life as I behold the increasing number of vendors trading in these places and also the fact that almost all of these vendors are trading in imported second hand clothes. Salaula wholesalers have also continued to increase both in number and geography.

The country has not also been spared by the diffusion of the supermarket revolution which began in the early 90s. The country is decorated with shopping malls in their beauty and splendor adding sanity to the cities. The continued diffusion of shopping malls into local economies has also revived the real estate industry which had remained stagnant for a very long time. Notwithstanding the many positive contributions of these facilities to the economy, the inventories of the wholesalers and retailers occupying these spaces are made up of mostly foreign products. For example, the textiles and leather industry is virtually nonexistent, and therefore, clothes sold in these shops are mostly imported. The shelves of the major chain stores; Spar, Shoprite, Pick & Pay, are all filled with imported products except for mealie meal, sugar and a few other products while eateries are mostly foreign owned. We already know that other than the Grain Milling and sugar products, Zambia is a net-importer of food products and the deficit keeps on increasing. This is largely because the agro-processing sector - which constitute more than sixty percent of the manufacturing industry - has not been developed to meet

the rising standards in food tastes and people's healthy dietary demands as they become more and more health conscious. The failure by the domestic enterprise to meet these demands effectively implies that the country is exporting manufacturing jobs to supplying countries. Sadly, we seem to be comfortable with the status-quo as long as we are getting our taxes and a few low paying jobs are being created for the locals! Given this scenario, it is clear, even by observation, that the migrating farm workers are not ending up finding employment in the manufacturing sector but in the wholesale and retail trade sector which is not dynamic and is on the fringes of the technology frontier. The jobs in this sector are not only characterized by low wages but also do not present any real opportunities for upgrading and skills development which the country could have been benefiting had the shift been to manufacturing. For a country in its developmental state, it is bad economic strategy to build a consumption driven economy especially when the population is too small with very high dependency ratios. Zambia is now in a state where she is generating

static gains at the expense of dynamic opportunities in manufacturing. This situation is not economically sustainable and may eventually collapse under the prevailing conditions of a small working population with stagnantly low wages vs high food prices, small tax base vs huge personal tax burden, and high dependency ratios. These conditions significantly eat into a person's monthly disposable income on which the management and sustainability of these shopping malls depend. Zambia is essentially an import dependent country whose current account balance depends on the export of copper and copper concentrates (mining sector); which sector is prone to unpredictable price fluctuations. Hence, the failure to create sustainable high paying jobs in manufacturing and services sectors will continue to render the country vulnerable not only to exchange rate fluctuations but also to costly budget deficits and delay the prospects of meeting the vision 2030 objectives. To those who would argue in defense of this economic path Zambia is taking and liken it to China's transition from an export oriented



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economy to a consumption driven economic system, must understand that China has embarked upon this economic transition after long years of building the manufacturing sector and integrating millions of people from absolute poverty into the middle class society and beyond. The economy of China had been growing in excess of ten percent for more than thirty years creating hundreds of billionaires along the way. Therefore, the strategy China has taken cannot be replicated in Zambia because it has zero chance of success owing to the significant differences in economic and political conditions.



Pence denies planning 2020 presidential bid

US Vice-President Mike Pence has dismissed as “disgraceful and offensive” a report suggesting he is preparing a run for president in 2020.

The New York Times said a “shadow campaign” had been set up by some Republicans on the assumption Donald Trump would not stand again.

Citing multiple sources, the article said Mr Pence had implied that he would plan to run if Mr Trump did not.

Mr Pence said the report was an attempt to divide the administration.

The Times story said the turmoil around the White House, including investigations into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during last year’s election, had prompted some Republicans to take steps “unheard-of so soon into a new administration”.

Mr Pence, it said, had created an “independent power base” and set up a political fund-raising group.

In a statement, Mr Pence said: “The allegations in this article are categorically false. “Whatever fake news may come our way, my entire team will continue to focus all our efforts to advance the president’s agenda and see him re-elected in 2020. Any suggestion otherwise is both laughable and absurd.”

Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway also dismissed the report as “complete fiction”.

“It’s absolutely true the vice president is getting ready for 2020 - for re-election as vice-president,” she told ABC’s This Week.

A New York Times spokeswoman stood by the article, saying: “We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself.” *BBC News*



Anti-government activists stand near a burning barricade in Valencia, Venezuela

Eleven dead in Nigeria church gun attack

At least 11 people have been killed in a gun attack on a church in southern Nigeria, police say.

Up to 18 other worshippers were wounded in the early morning incident at the church in Ozubulu near the city of Onitsha.

There were conflicting reports over whether the attack was carried out by a lone gunman or a group of attackers.

Police said the shooting was the result of a feud between Nigerians from Ozubulu who were living abroad.

Anambra State Police Commissioner Garba Umar said the violence could be linked to drug-trafficking.

He said the gunman had been hired to kill a local man who was believed to be in St Philip’s Catholic Church.

One of the Nigerian expatriates involved in the feud had built the church, Mr Umar added in a statement.

map

Parish priest Jude Onwuaso said that a “boy or man” entered

the church and started shooting:

“After the first round, there was second round and I guess it was during the second round that people were shot dead. When I came back I discovered that some of my parishioners were dead, about five or six I saw shot dead bleeding. “A lot of people were injured, some were shot in the stomach, some were shot in the head and some were shot in the hand.”

Police were sent to the churchImage copyrightREUTERS

Image caption

Crowds gathered in front of the church following the attack

But a local human rights activist said there was more than one attacker and they had been targeting the son of a local chief.

They had not found him at his home and became angry when they could not find him in the church either, Emeka Umeagbalasi told AFP news agency.

The authorities have said they do not

believe there was any involvement by the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which has burned hundreds of churches during its insurgency in the north-east of the country. *BBC News*

Mauritania abolishes upper house in vote

Mauritanians have voted to abolish the upper house of their parliament, the Senate, in a controversial referendum that was boycotted by the opposition.

The result is seen as a victory for President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who is accused by his rivals of trying to extend his mandate, which he denies.

He called the referendum after the Senate rejected his proposals to change the constitution.

Turnout was 53.73%, with 85% of voters supporting the change, officials said.

But members of the opposition denounced an “electoral farce which has given way to open-air fraud”.

Mr Abdel Aziz, who described the Senate as “useless and too costly”, said the move to abolish it would improve governance by introducing more local forms of lawmaking.

He is barred by the constitution from running a third term - he came to power in a coup in 2008, was elected president the following year and won a second term in 2014.

The president is a key ally of the West and neighbouring states in countering Islamist extremist groups.

In the same referendum, held on Saturday, voters also supported a change to the national flag.

The current green flag with yellow Islamic crescent and star will also feature red bands to honour the blood spilt by those who fought for freedom from France. *BBC News*



Sista D perform during Peace and Unity concert which was aimed at fundraising for victims of the Lusaka City Market inferno at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala

Actors Chris Pratt and Anna Faris split



Actors Chris Pratt and Anna Faris are splitting up after eight years of marriage, they said on Sunday. “Anna and I are sad to announce we are legally separating. We tried hard for a long time, and we’re really disappointed,” Pratt, 38, said in a statement posted on his official Facebook page. Faris, 40, posted a statement along the same lines on her social media pages. Pratt, known for starring roles in blockbusters “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “The Lego Movie” and “Jurassic World,” and Faris, star

of the “Scary Movie” franchise and the TV sitcom “Mom,” have a four-year-old child. “Our son has two parents who love him very much and for his sake we want to keep this situation as private as possible moving forward,” the couple said. “We still have love for each other, will always cherish our time together and continue to have the deepest respect for one another.” The couple married in 2009, two years after co-starring in the film “Take Me Home Tonight.” It was Pratt’s first marriage and Faris’ second. **Reuters**



Aaron Carter says he’s attracted to men and women

Aaron Carter is opening up about his sexuality. The singer and younger brother of Backstreet Boys heartthrob Nick Carter revealed in a tweet on Saturday that he is attracted to both men and women. “To start off, I would like to say that I love each and EVERY ONE of my fans,” Carter, 29, began his post, which was a screenshot of the Apple Notes app. “There’s something I’d like to say that I feel is important for myself and my identity that has been weighing on my chest for nearly half of my life. “This doesn’t bring me shame, just a weight and burden I have held onto for a long time that I would like lifted off me,” he continued. “I grew up in this entertainment

industry at a very young age and when I was around 13-years-old I started to find boys and girls attractive,” Carter, who had high-profile relationships with Lindsay Lohan and Hilary Duff when he was younger, wrote. “There were years that went by that I thought about, but it wasn’t until I was 17-years-old, after a few relationships with girls, I had an experience with a male that I had an attraction to who I also worked with and grew up with. “To me music has always been my temple,” he continued. “Music will ALWAYS be what transcends us and myself. The studio has always been my safe haven. But the ultimate goal for me is to be satisfied. I never want to be a figure of disappointment.

The best quote to sum ‘I’ve never felt as though I didn’t belong, I just acted as though I did.’ —Boy George.” It’s been a dramatic summer for Carter. He was arrested on July 15 on suspicion of driving under the influence and possession of marijuana. He denies that he was under the influence while driving, claiming that he was experiencing car troubles. His girlfriend, Madison Parker, was with him that night and was also arrested. In June, Carter was briefly hospitalized for exhaustion and spoke out against critics who had been body-shaming his thin frame, which he says is the result of a hiatal hernia that he was diagnosed with when he was 19. **Yahoo News**



Arsenal FC player celebrate winning the Community Shield against Chelsea

Nyirenda not worried despite Ethiopia friendly draw

By Diggers Reporter
Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda does not believe Saturday’s draw against Ethiopia is a reflection of what is to come in next weekends 2018 CHAN final round, first leg qualifier away against Bafana Bafana. Ethiopia held Zambia to a 0-0 draw at Woodlands Stadium in a pre-CHAN qualifier friendly match in

Lusaka. Augustine Mulenga, Ernest Mbewe and Ziyi Tembo all had great chances wasted in the first half while John Chingandu also wasted great opportunity in the last 15 minutes of the second half. The draw also halted Zambia’s two-match winning run that saw Chipolopolo down Swaziland 4-0 away and

3-0 at home in July in a 2018 CHAN first round qualifier. “We scored four goals in Swaziland and we were not at home,” Nyirenda said.

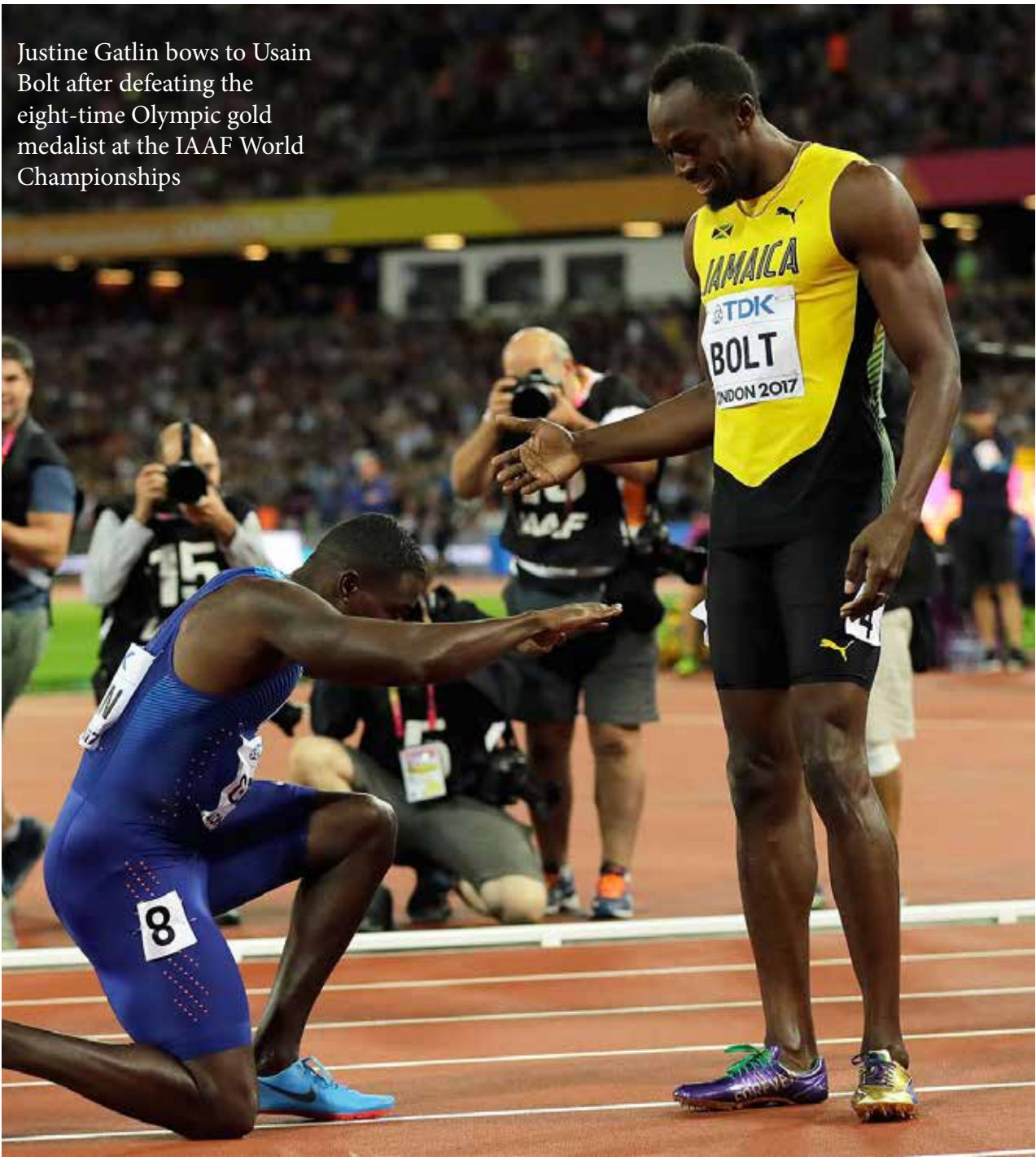
“It was a very good test match. Ethiopia were playing almost the same type of game like South Africa who also enjoy playing a passing game. “I think it was good for

us. We played well, we had a few shortcomings which we have to work on but that will be done in training.” Zambia face Bafana Bafana on August 12 in East

London before hosting the South Africans at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on August 19 to decide who goes through to next year’s CHAN tournament in Kenya.

Zesco’s signings jet in

By Diggers Reporter
Zesco United’s war chest for the final half of their 2017 domestic and continental campaign has swelled with the arrival of their two Burundi international signings. Midfielder Enock Sabumukwama and goalkeeper Dieudonne Ntibahezwa who impressed against Zesco in 2017 CAF Confederation Cup first round in March with their ex-club Le Messenger Ngozi, have joined Zesco on permanent deals. Sabumukwama and Ntibahezwa arrived on Friday afternoon in Ndola on an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Bujumbura. The duo join Zesco on two-year deals. “We are very happy to be here and we hope to do our best in Zambia and in particular at Zesco,” Sabumukwama said at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport. “I think it is not difficult to win the league title with Zesco in Zambia. “Zesco is a big team and we are happy to have joined the club.” Sabumukwama and Ntibahezwa join Rwanda winger Jean Claude Ilanji and Uganda striker Davies Kasirye at the club bringing Zesco’s foreign signings in the FIFA summer transfer window to four. The quartet has also been registered for Zesco’s 2017 CAF Confederation Cup final knockout phase campaign where they face SuperSport United of South Africa in the quarterfinals. Zesco will face SuperSport United away in Pretoria in the first leg on September 16 and later host the South African club on September 23 at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola to decide who goes through to the semifinals. On the domestic front, Zesco are 2nd on the FAZ Super Division table on 35 points, two behind leaders Napsa Stars.





Siame, Mupopo in IAAF finals

By Diggers Reporter

Zambian athletes Sydney Siame and Kabange Mupopo last night qualified to the Men's 200 semi finals and women's 400 meters finals respectively at the 2017 World Championships in London.

Siame shocked his competitors with a time of 20.29 seconds to also set a new Zambian record.

Kyle Greaux of Trinidad and Tobago and Filippo Tortu of Italy also qualified in 2nd and 3rd with times of 20.48 and 20.59 respectively.

Meanwhile, Mupopo, the Shepolopolo striker finished 2nd in heat 3 with a time of 50.60 seconds behind Phyllis Francis of the USA who won with a time of 50.37 second. But it was enough to see the youngster through to the finals tomorrow Wednesday , August 9.

Wedson laments Mwila's departure

By Diggers Reporter

Wedson Nyirenda has admitted that striker Brian Mwila's departure for Platinum Stars is a blow in the team's 2018 CHAN ambitions.

Mwila joined the South African club from Green Buffaloes this week on a three -year deal.

This means Mwila is now ineligible for CHAN duty.

CHAN is a second tier AFCON for domestic-based players first staged by CAF in 2009.

"Brian has been a very important player in our team. I think his absence has clearly been felt,"Nyirenda said.

Mwila scored five goals in seven games for Zambia since making his Chipolopolo debut in a 0-0 away draw against Gabon on June 4.

Nyirenda said he was now expecting Power Dynamos striker Martin Phiri and Davy Daka of Zesco United to step into the void Mwila has left.

"But I think we have players who will take his place. I think they are also looking very good and gelling very well with the other team players," Nyirenda said.

Meanwhile, Zambia face Ethiopia this Saturday, August 5 in a pre-CHAN qualifier friendly at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka.

Zambia will later travel to South Africa next week to face Bafana Bafana in a 2018 CHAN final round, first leg qualifier on August 12 in East London.

The final leg will be played at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on August 19 that will see the winner over both legs qualifying to next January's tournament in Kenya.

