

By Joseph Mwenda

The Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) says the Political Parties Bill which seeks to regulate campaign financing is not democratic.

This is according to FDD deputy national secretary and party spokesperson Antonio Mwanza.

In a statement, Mwanza said his party was concerned that a sitting head of State was given powers in the draft Bill to appoint board members of

# Political Parties Bill not democratic - FDD

the Political Parties Board. "As a Party, we submit that the Political Parties Board must be composed of representatives of Political Parties with representation in parliament and a representative

from the Ministry of Finance and not representatives of the church and ZICA," Mwanza stated.

"In the Bill, the appointment of the Board is to be done by the President. As a party, we

are opposed to this because the President is an interested party, thus he should not meddle in the process of selecting who should and who shouldn't sit on the Board."

*Continues on P3*

# If we rely on MMD for 2021, PF will be the next in opposition - Chongu

By Mukosha Funga

Renowned Patriotic Front cadre Maxwell Chongu says if the ruling party remains dependant on the MMD to win the 2021 elections, it will be the next opposition party. In a statement yesterday, Chongu observed that the ruling party was too comfortable despite the fact that it won the last election by

a thin margin.

"It is clear that MMD is mobilizing itself and restructuring party structures. I have a question and an observation that might need answers. How sure are we that the Movement for Multi Party Democracy (MMD) will go in with PF as a pact come 2021?" he asked.

*Continues on P2*

# PF is eager to retain Roan seat, says Mwila



# We don't bloody care what others say... WE'LL WORK WITH KAMBWILI - GBM

By Mukosha Funga

UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba says Hakainde Hichilema was excited to see Chishimba Kambwili and the party will work with him because they don't "bloody care" what others think.

And Kambwili says his peace making mission to Southern Province was just the beginning of proper reconciliation.

In an interview after visiting HH at Mukobeko with Kambwili, Mwenya Musenge and Obvious Mwaliteta among others,

GBM said the UPND was a very welcoming party.

"They had planned to come and visit our president Hakainde Hichilema after coming from Southern Province where they were treated to a thunderous welcome which clearly shows

that they have been accepted by the people of Southern Province and they have been forgiven. The chiefs were excited to see Kambwili and Musenge in Southern Province.

*Continues on P2*

# Police drop charges against Saviour

*Story on P2*



# If we rely on MMD, we will lose 2021 elections - Max

**From front page**

Suppose the opposition (UPND) decides to strike a better deal with them what will remain of the PF if we don't take necessary political precautions? Why have we become so comfortable and relaxed forgetting that the pact was merely for 2016 elections and by now I am sure we have shared according to the agreement hence the need for the Patriotic Front party to get back to the drawing board and start putting its house in order," Max said.

"The Patriotic Front Party is a big party and with several developmental programs scored and massive infrastructure development registered which will attract investor confidence thereby creating business and employment opportunities which will then put more money in people's pockets in terms of salaries and revenue earned from businesses subsequently put food on the tables in line with our party manifesto. With the above mentioned milestone in terms of fulfilling campaign promises I expect the Patriotic Front party to start thinking of facing any opposition political party come 2021 without requiring the services of backup plan in terms of political pacts. We must understand that we won with approximately plus/ minus 110,000 votes, however to make it to 50+1% threshold it was merely plus/ minus 13,000 votes. When we look at the above figures and statistics we shouldn't even be comfortable because to me it clearly shows that we only managed to survive by the skin of a tooth."

He said there was need to concentrate of grassroots mobilization instead of relying on a pact with the MMD. "Now any genuine and truthful politician will agree with me that should MMD decide to do us a 'DONCH KUBEBA' come 2021 due to failure on agreeing certain political requisites, with this comfortability I am seeing we shall definitely be the next opposition political party. There is need for us as a party to go back to the grassroots, gather information as in what people are complaining about, take it as raw information as it is study it and present it to the Secretary General of the party Mr Davies Mwila above all our distinguished



humble leader President Edgar Chagwa Lungu without editing a single word but with possible suggested solutions, something that will make our leaders make well informed decisions," Max said.

"We need to create hope in our grassroots that somehow seem uncertain whether to continue being PF or not,

we need to rekindle the lost glory. Politics is about numbers therefore for us to grow in numbers we need to preach love, unity and reconciliation from the top leadership to the lowest organ of the party which is the section or branch. Those that might have jumped off the Patriotic Front party along the way let's embrace

them and bring them closer to the party so that our numbers grow."

He noted that some people would be aggrieved at the national convention in 2020 and leave the party.

"I am a person who never sugarcoats and I know very much well that after party elections next year and the national convention in 2020

best believe me that some people will be aggrieved and may decide to cross the floor hence the need for the Patriotic Front party to embark on countrywide mobilisation. I personally feel and think that not even the MMD would be interested in going in as a pact with us as the Patriotic Front party should our

numbers keep depreciating therefore we need to focus on rebuilding our party from sections to national level. We ought to know that some of these people are showing us fake loyalties the only true loyal members will be seen after elections next year hence the need for the Patriotic Front party to have back up plans," said Max.

"People love the Patriotic Front party but what is missing is MOTIVATION hence the need to embrace new ideas that will motivate people to join the Patriotic Front party. Development alone cannot make us go through come 2021 because the corporate sector only contributes about 30 % when it comes to voting but the grassroots provide the huge chunk of about 70%. How many people go to Mandahill as compared to the number of people that go to Soweto market? How many people that go to Jacaranda Mall as compared to the number of people that go to Chisokone market? Let's encourage, empower and motivate PF groupings for they play a significant role in storing PF supporters."

## We don't care what others say, we'll work with Kambwili - GBM

**From front page**

Like I have always said, Southerners have always been good partners of the Bemba people. It is just that a few people want to bring a rift which does not exist. From time immemorial, we have been partners. If you look at the political history of this country, Bembas and Tongas have worked together and even now we are working together and we shall continue working together whether one likes it or not, we don't bloody care about that," GBM said.

"Our colleagues came to visit our incarcerated president and the president was quite excited to see Dr Kambwili and honorable Musenge. We went in at the same time and a lot was

discussed which I cannot reveal but all I can say is that they are insisting that HH should be released unconditionally. That's their plea to Edgar Lungu because they feel that the man has not done anything for it to warrant him to be incarcerated for this long, close to four months. Which I also agree with. I was part of that motorcade at the time that president Hakainde Hichilema was in Western Province and I saw nothing wrong, we never committed any offense whatsoever to warrant his incarceration. I equally say that he must be released immediately and unconditionally."

He said the UPND was not petty.

"You were talking about the reunion of the Kambwili

and us the UPND, I think we are not petty as the UPND and we have never been petty. Look at how they welcomed me when Edgar Lungu expelled me from PF, they embraced me without any hitches. This is the same way they have welcomed Kambwili also. Anybody, any well meaning Zambian is always welcomed by the UPND which is perceived to be a Southern Province party which I don't agree, it is a party for all Zambians, those who mean well and speak for the Zambians. So our appeal is that anybody who wants to join us are free to join us no matter which province or tribe they come from. We are a very accommodating party," he said.

Asked if he saw stronger political ties with Kambwili going forward, GBM said; "We feel stronger. Politics is about numbers if you didn't know. That is why I am appealing to any well meaning Zambian to join us whether he is from Eastern Province, North Western, wherever, the

more people you have the more support you have and the bigger and stronger the party becomes. And that is actually our wish that we become stronger by the day."

And in a separate interview, Kambwili said the country needed unity of purpose now more than ever.

"I went to visit my dear brother president HH who is incarcerated at Mukobeko Maximum prison. You may be aware that yesterday, I went to make peace with the people of Southern Province and I think what came out of that meeting is that we need unity of purpose in the country. we need to show love to one another and unite as a country because right now, Zambia is fragmented. Even the voting pattern will show you that the country is divided. Now we need to rebuild this unity in this country by respecting one another, feeling for one another and loving one another because that is the only way this

country will develop. In a country where there is tension based on political affiliation, tribe, creed, race and so on, there is no development. So I promised the chiefs in Southern Province that our meeting marked the beginning of proper reconciliation," Kambwili said.

Earlier, Kambwili told journalists at Mukobeko that President Edgar Lungu was so scared he would soon start accusing monkeys at State House of wanting to stand in 2021.

"The man in State House is scared, scared to the effect that we may hear very soon that they are suspecting that those monkeys at State House want to stand in 2021. So they will start arresting monkeys if people are not careful. And I want to apologise to the people of Zambia that had I known that this is the behavior of the man that I went to campaign for the whole Zambia, ending up so sick, I was not going to do it. The man has got a bad heart," said Kambwili.

## Police drop charges against Saviour

**By Mirriam Chabala**

Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says police have decided to discontinue a case against United Progressive People president Saviour Chishimba.

In an interview with News Diggers!, Katongo said Saviour had since been released from Woodlands Police Station where he was being held.

"Yes, we have released him, we have decided to

discontinue the case," said Katongo.

Saviour was arrested on Thursday last week and charged with Defamation of the President over some words he used at his last press briefing.

# PF is eager to retain Roan seat, says Mwila



**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says

Chishimba Kambwili's biggest problem is his mouth. Speaking at a media briefing

in Lusaka today, Mwila said warned that the PF would not take kindly to

Kambwili's childish and provocative remarks against President Edgar Lungu

"The PF is itching to defend Roan constituency and to put someone's self proclaimed

popularity to test. It does not matter in what form or shape they come, they shall fall. PF will emerge victorious because the people of Luanshya know that services, self centered politics is what they need. We are happy that he has apologized for his insults against the Tonga people or Tonga tribe. His number one enemy is his mouth, it remains for him to apologize for his mistakes or statements against the Lord Jesus Christ, something he should have done in the first place," Mwila said.

"Let me take this opportunity to warn honorable Kambwili that the party, including youths and women will not take kindly on his childishness. Childish and provocative remarks targeted at President Lungu. He has the freedom to differ with President Lungu and not to become personally disagreeable. Let him take this warning seriously, otherwise he will find it very difficult to practice his politics if that is the route he seeks to take. We challenged him after he was expelled that 'since you are a political heavy weight, let's go in Roan, we face each other,' he ran to court. So he is a coward. We are still challenging him that time is still there, he can withdraw the case so that we face him in Roan. So the party is ready to defend its action against expelled Roan Member of Parliament honorable Chishimba Kambwili in court."

He also named Erick Silwamba, Bonaventure Mutale, and Simwanza Lungu as the lawyers to represent the party in the case against Kambwili in court.

"To this effect, the party has retained the services of the following in this matter; honorable Mr Erick Silwamba State Counsel of Erick Silwamba and company, and Mr Bonaventure Mutale State Counsel from Erick and Company, and we have Mr Simwanza Lungu. These are the ones who are going to represent the party in court. I told you we are on firm ground, we are ready to defend our decision," Mwila said.

He also dispelled rumors that PF Lusaka Province Youth Chairman Kennedy Kamba was suspended from the party. "He has not been suspended, that is why he is seated behind me. If he was suspended, he was not going to be here. He is still in charge of the youths and the provincial chairman is here," Mwila added.

Mwila further revealed the names of selected candidates to represent the party in the forth coming local government by-elections in Muchinga, Northern, and Central provinces.

"The following candidates have been adopted by PF to contest the local government by-elections in their designated areas. Lavushimanda District in Muchinga Province, we have adopted colonel Peter Chipasha, we have also adopted Mr Chipalo Mwansa to stand in Kanchibiya District. In Lunte district of Northern Province, the party has adopted Lawrence Chanda as our candidate. In Itezhi-tezhi district of Central Province, we have adopted Namakau Kaingu who is a lady, so she will stand on our ticket," said Mwila.

## Political Parties Bill not democratic – FDD

**From front page**

below is the full submission that the opposition political party has written to justice minister Given Lubinda.

FDD'S SUBMISSIONS ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES BILL.

Article 60 of the Republican Constitution provides for among other things the regulation and funding of political parties. The Ministry of Justice has come up with the Political Parties Bill in a bid to operationalise Article 60 of the Constitution. It must be noted that this bill is largely a copy and paste of the Kenyan Act.

As a Party we have extensively scrutinised the bill and we have made among others, the following submissions for consideration by the Ministry of Justice:

1. COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES BOARD.

The composition of the Political Parties Board excludes Political Parties. Instead the Board is composed of representatives of the three church mother bodies, ZICA and Ministry of Finance. As a Party, we submit that the Political Parties Board must be comprised of Representatives of Political Parties with representation in parliament and a representative from the Ministry of Finance and not representatives of the church and ZICA.

2. APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD

In the Bill, the appointment of the Board is to be done by the President. As a Party, we are opposed to this because the President is an interested party thus he should not meddle in the process of selecting who should and who shouldn't sit on the Board.

We submit that each Political Party must nominate their own members to sit on the Board.

3. PARTY CONSTITUTIONS

The Bill gives the Minister of Home Affairs authority to prescribe what must be contained in the constitutions of Political Parties.

We find this provision to be preposterous

and undemocratic. Political Parties are independent associations registered under the Registrar of Societies hence each Political Party has the right to draft it's own constitution as long as it isn't ultra vires to the provisions of the Republican Constitution. The Minister has no right to prescribe what a political party should include or omit from its own constitution because such is the preserve of the members of that particular party.

4. QUORUM OF THE BOARD.

The Bill states that three members of the Board constitute a quorum.

We submit that the quorum of the Board must be 50% of the total number of the Board members.

5. VALIDITY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD

According to the Bill, the validity of any proceedings, acts or decisions of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board or appointment of any member or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

We wish to submit that the proceedings, acts and decisions of the Board are not only important but can have serious ruminations hence they should only be considered to be valid if the correct quorum and procedures were followed and that no unauthorised persons took part in the proceedings.

6. IMMUNITY OF THE BOARD AND ITS STAFF

The Bill gives Board members and their staff immunity from prosecution for any act or thing done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of their performance.

Firstly, the Board and it's staff exercise their powers in trust and on behalf of the people of Zambia hence they must be held accountable for what they do or omit to do in the performance of their duties. We therefore submit that these people must not enjoy any form of immunity from scrutiny or prosecution.

Secondly, the concept of "good faith" is vague and susceptible to abuse; what is it that must constitute "good faith" and who determines an act or omission considered to be done in "good faith"?

We therefore submit that this provision be scrapped off from the Bill to avoid abuse and to discourage wanton disregard of the rules, regulations and provisions of the eventual Act.

7. DEREGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

According to the Bill, the Registrar has powers to deregister a political party for instigating or participating in the commissioning of any electoral offence.

The above provision is not only too abstract but it can prove to be problematic in its application. How do you define a Party? Who must be held accountable as a Party? Does it mean that if a member of FDD for instance, at a tarven in Namushakende or at a village pub at Nyere Ni Imbwa village gives a colleague a coin as a bribe to induce him into voting for FDD then FDD as a Party must suffer deregistration? Is that fair? How about the problem of selective application of the law?

We therefore wish to submit that provisions that deal with offences that can result into the deregistration of a political party must be succinct to avoid abuse or conflict.

8. DECLARATION OF SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Bill demands that political parties must submit to the Registrar all the names and detailed particulars of everyone who has funded or made any pledge to the party.

While we don't have any problem with declaring our sources of funding, we wish to submit that the disclosure of such information must be limited to members' contributions and not extended to mere sympathisers of the party.

Firstly, most people, especially local businessmen don't donate to opposition political parties for fear of

retribution from the ruling party.

Secondly, why should the Registrar demand for the publication of pledges. Does it mean that if a Mr Petition Daka at Nsima Mbumbu village in Petauke pledges to donate a packet of Nyama Soya to FDD, that must be recorded and submitted to the Registrar? This demand is both cumbersome and frivolous. Of what value will such information be to the Registrar?

9. APPEAL TO THE MINISTER

The Bill states that a person or political party that feels aggrieved must appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs.

We fill that the Minister being a politician, himself, is an not the interested party and might not be the ideal person to appeal to because of probable bias.

We therefore wish to submit that in terms of conflict management, aggrieved parties must appeal to the Board and if they are not satisfied with the outcome of their appeal then they can accelerate the matter to a competent court of law.

10. REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT

The Bill calls for the Board to report to the President with regards to its proceedings and performance.

We find this improper because the President is an interested party. We therefore submit that the Board must report to Parliament regarding its performance and proceedings.

We wish to strongly appeal to the Minister of Justice to take into full consideration the submissions from stakeholders and not to use this consultative process for PR purposes only.

We again wish to appeal to our Members of Parliament to debate this Bill from a broader nationalistic view as opposed to debating it based on narrow partisan interests.

May God bless Zambia.

Issued by Antonio Mwanza, FDD Deputy National Secretary and Party Spokesperson.



# Siyuni has compromised the Office of the DPP, says Milupi

By Mirriam Chabala

Alliance for Democracy and Development president Charles Milupi says Director of Public Prosecution Lillian Siyuni should resign from her position for failing to protect the interests of Zambians.

In a statement yesterday, Milupi wondered how the office the DPP failed to foresee that the case against former Lusaka Province Minister Obvious Mwaliteta would not stand.

“The acquittal of Obvious Mwaliteta and his co-accused by the Lusaka High court should trouble the conscience of a well functioning office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP). Mwaliteta and his colleagues have been in jail for one year, over an offence they never committed. “The arresting officer’s evidence was so discredited, disjointed and uncollaborated as he failed to investigate the alibi of Mwaliteta’s co - accused, stated Judge Mwape Bowa before dismissing the case. Our understanding is that before a case is conveyed to the courts of law for prosecution, the DPP carries a thorough examination as to whether its merits overrides frivolity and certain hidden interests, by arresting officers,” Milupi stated.

“The case in question was so unserious, trivial and unwarranted that a third level officer in the office of the DPP, would have dismissed

it outrightly, unless of course there were political undercurrents, and that is where it is deeply troubling. This kind of behaviour by the DPP corrals her credibility to prosecute, and calls to question the propriety of her office.”

And Milupi also wondered why the DPP was over taking cases involving employees of the state.

“As a matter of fact, the pattern of events where the DPP is taking over cases of supporters and employees of the State, on the pretext of protecting public interest, is scandalous and amounts to obstruction and abuse of the judicial process by the office of the DPP. There is currently a serious and disturbing pattern of conflict of interest and apparent collusion by the DPP and an invisible hand, which amounts to obstruction of justice. This state sponsored and well coordinated miscarriage of justice threatens institutional cohesion, and will degenerate into the breakdown of the rule of law, which may further threaten peace and stability of our Nation,” Milupi stated.

He noted that there were too many people being taken to court without proper evidence against them.

“It undercuts the credibility of the office of the DPP and paralyzes legitimate initiatives of credible legal players in the value chain. The Nation has in the recent

past been treated to bizarre testimonies of arresting officers, who arrested without any basic aid of fact based evidence, other than mere assumptions. The arresting officer of the UPND President Hakainde Hichilema, made a decision to arrest for treason based on a video footage he watched on social media from the comfort of his home, without even visiting the scene of crime. The DPP ratified and sanctioned the case for ‘prosecution’. How bad can it get? What kind of joke can this be?” he wondered.

Milupi said Siyuni had failed Zambians by compromising the autonomy of her office.

“The DPP is supposed to maintain a certain degree of autonomy from the State, as a means to ensure prosecution independence. This unfortunately, is a farfetched dream for the current DPP. That’s why we call upon her to resign because she has failed the Zambian people, whose interests

she’s supposed to protect. The DPP is an institutional office protected by the Constitution, and has clear guidelines that stipulate that her duties cannot be subject to the direction or influence of anybody, including the



President,” stated Milupi. “The DPP in this regard, has therefore no excuse for her highly compromised and questionable conduct so far. It is against this background that the only honourable and right thing to do under these

circumstances, is to tender her resignation in order to save this Country from further degeneration of the rule of law, and also to enable a competent person take over the noble functions of the office.”

## PF congratulates President Zuma for surviving another vote of no confidence

By Mirriam Chabala

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila has congratulated South African President Jacob Zuma for surviving

another vote of no confidence in Parliament. In a statement by PF Media Director Sunday Chanda today, Mwila noted that ANC was

South Africa’s majority Party which opposition parties were trying so hard to succeed. “On behalf of Zambia’s ruling Party, the

Patriotic Front, I wish to congratulate the African National Congress (ANC) for winning the vote of Confidence of the South African Parliament. PF, as a sister party in the region and proud of the historical ties between our two countries, politically, socially, economically and otherwise, knows the amount of pressure driven by commercial interests aimed at derailing the South Africa’s liberation movement,” said Mwila. “Fortunately, on 8th August 2017, the ANC Members of Parliament performed their sovereign duty to affirm what the majority of South Africans have continued to reaffirm. It is not in doubt that the ANC is South Africa’s majority Party which elected a majority President who minority parties seek to remove and superimpose.” Mwila also said the PF was happy to receive President Zuma graced the 91st Agriculture and Commercial show and looked forward to deepening cooperation with his country.



Secretary to Cabinet Dr Fredson Yamba shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador Yang Youming during signing ceremony for the construction of communication towers in unserved and under-served areas of the country at Lusaka’s Intercontinental Hotel picture by Tenson Mkhala

# PF won't be happy if students are barred from writing exams - Bwalya

By Thomas Mulenga and Mirriam Chabala  
Patriotic Front Deputy

Spokesperson Frank Bwalya says the ruling party would not be happy to see over 8,000 owing University of Zambia students failing to write exams. And Bwalya says the ruling party does not care

if expelled Roan Member of Parliament Chishimba kambwili forms a political party because he is free to do.

Speaking on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star program yesterday, Bwalya, who is also member of the PF Central Committee, said he hoped an amicable solution would be found which would not disadvantage students as well as UNZA management.

"I am aware that honorable Stephen Kampyongo who is also our National Youth Chairman commented on this matter and because the majority of the people in the university are youth, we take it that he is the right person to have commented on this. They sit together in Cabinet with the Minister of Higher Education, there is no reason for us not to believe that the two would talk and that they would discuss these matters even with the President and that at the end of the day, something amicable would come up that would not disadvantage the students, that would not disadvantage the university because each side has got a reasonable justification that they have taken. We wouldn't be happy to see the students leaving the university," Bwalya said.

And Bwalya it was not the business of PF if Kambwili and Mwenya Musenge teamed up to form a

political party because the Constitution allowed them to do so.

"Only UNIP managed to stop groups of people from forming political parties at that time when the Constitution did not allow any person to belong to other political parties. But later on the Constitution was amended and MMD was formed and thereafter, Zambians have been very free to form political parties, I also formed one, so if they [Kambwili and Musenge] want to form a political party it's none of our business because we have a political party which is performing and Zambians have a lot of confidence in this political party and that confidence is rising because of our performance and we can make it even higher. So we are focusing on that and we want to believe that a kick on an elephant does not stop it from drinking water," said Bwalya.

"You see when one leaves a political party, there are always others that go with them, when Dr Guy Scott left to go and support the UPND there are some people who agreed with him and went with him. Similarly, our brother Miles who has counseled these our colleagues about forming a political party from his own personal experience that that's what happens."



## Kambwili has done the right thing by apologising to Tongas - Nkombo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube  
Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Garry Nkombo has commended Chishimba Kambwili for apologising to the people of Southern Province for the way he mocked them in 2015.

On Wednesday, Kambwili, who is Roan Patriotic Front member of parliament, met some Southern Province chiefs and asked for their forgiveness over his infamous remarks that even if Jesus were to stand against Hakainde Hichilema, southerners would not vote for him.

"I sincerely thank you for accepting my apology, I came here to basically unreservedly apologize to the Tonga speaking people before the people of southern province and the Zambians for the unfortunate statement that I made on ZNBC to the effect that 'even if Jesus Christ was to come, the people of Southern province would vote for a fellow Tonga'. This I have reflected and I want to say that I have withdrawn the statement and unreservedly apologize to the people of Southern province. My first apology was through my radio interview but I felt it was important that I come to the custodians of Southern province who the Chiefs

so that I can physically apologize to them," said Kambwili.

In an interview yesterday, Nkombo said Kambwili deserved a second chance. "I wish to congratulate the royal highness for receiving Kambwili and hearing

him out, I think we have to follow suit. It is not an issue of apologizing to the Tonga people door by door, I think he has done his thing very well by identifying the royal highnesses, though them by asking them to get their subjects to consider

forgiving him. I think it is within the spirit and he needs to be given a second chance. I think everyone deserves a second chance, that's my true feeling especially to him who has made an atonement," said Nkombo.

## Editor's Choice: Farewell Lady Liuwa

By Eneya B Phiri  
The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Zambia is saddened by the death of a celebrated lioness, famously known as 'Lady Liuwa' who lived in the Luiwa Plain National Park. As confirmed by African Parks, Lady Liuwa died of natural causes on 9th August 2017 a day before World Lion Day. Lady Liuwa's iconic story of endurance and strength is one of the most renowned wildlife accounts the world over. In the early 1990's, after the Angolan civil war turbulence, poaching and illegal trophy hunting entirely wiped out Lions from the Luiwa Plains. The only survivor was the Lady Liuwa. Her first confirmed sighting was in 2002 and she wandered the plains for years in isolation. WWF Zambia Species and Protected Areas

Specialist Moses Nyirenda has described Lady Luiwa as a phenomenal lioness whose death is a loss to the ecosystem. "Lady Liuwa was a uniquely remarkable lioness. Her separation from her kind drew her close to humans and she was always considered as part of the conservation family" He Said. Mr. Nyirenda explained how WWF's efforts in partnership with African Parks and the Department for National Parks and Wildlife contributed to reuniting Lady Luiwa with a new pride. Several efforts were made to reintroduce lions to the Luiwa Plains, many of them suffering major setbacks. In 2008, after safeguarding the park and ensuring improved law enforcement, WWF through its partners facilitated the introduction of a male lion to the Luiwa.



Tragically, he died in the process of translocation. A second attempt was made in May 2009 and this time two males were relocated to the Luiwa from the Kafue national park. They were both acquainted with Lady Liuwa but

unfortunately any attempts to produce offspring were unsuccessful. With time, it became clear that Lady Liuwa was incapable of producing offspring. This is particularly unfortunate because Lady Liuwa is the last lioness of

the Kalahari sun genes in the Luiwa national park. Although her exact age is unknown, she is believed to have been between 17-19 years old which is remarkable as the average lifespan of her kind is around 10-15 years.





## Solicitor General opposes application to join Lungu to eligibility case

By Diggers Reporter

Solicitor General Abram Mwansa has opposed the joining of the Head of State to his 2021 eligibility case saying he enjoys immunity.

This is in a matter in which four opposition leaders want the ConCourt to determine whether or not President Edgar Lungu qualifies to re-contest in 2021.

The UPND has asked the ConCourt to join President Lungu to case as the matter had nothing to do with his executive functions and its outcome would directly affect him.

But the Solicitor General strongly objected to the application urging the court to dismiss it as the President could not be compelled to come to court.

The lawyer representing PF Secretary General Davies Mwila also opposed to the application to have him joined to the case.

However, UPND Secretary General Stephen Katuka, through his lawyers, insisted that President Lungu and Mwila should be joined to the petition as the two had publicly declared that President Lungu was eligible to contest the 2021 general elections despite having already served two terms.

After hearing submissions from both parties, ConCourt judge Professor Margaret Munalula reserved ruling to August 15, 2017 on whether or not President Edgar Lungu will be joined to the 2021 presidential eligibility case.



## Treason case hearing strictly by accreditation – Judiciary

By Joseph Mwenda

Judiciary public relations officer Veronica Chisambisha says no political party supporters will be allowed near the

Lusaka High Court as the treason case involving UPND president Hakainde Hichilema and five others takes off on Monday next week.

In a statement, Chisambisha said due to security reasons and limited space in the Supreme Court, the judiciary would accredit all people who will have access to the public gallery in the courtroom.

“No party cadres from any political party will be allowed on to the judiciary premises or in the vicinity of the judiciary. Organisations and political parties are free to approach the office of the chief registrar to obtain accreditation for their members. The office

of chief registrar will also facilitate accreditation for counsel, journalists and observers,” Chisambisha said.

“Further note that cellphones, tablets, iPads, cameras or such similar devices will not be allowed in the Supreme Court room number one. This measure applies to journalists and legal counsel. Any breach of the said measure may result in accreditation being cancelled and the person in breach being ejected from the court premises.”

## Lsk man gets one year for stealing two Bibles

By Diggers Reporter

A 22-year-old Lusaka man has been sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labour for stealing two Bibles valued at K479.98 from Pick n Pay. Lusaka magistrate

Rachael Mwansa jailed Jeff Chiyoya of Lusaka’s Misisi compound upon his admission of guilt today. Chiyoya said he stole the Bibles so that he could resell them.

He begged for leniency as he was a first offender. According to facts read out by the prosecutor, Chiyoya was seen by Martin Kumwenda, a Pick n Pay employee, through CCTV putting the Bibles

in his coat. After alerting the security guard, Chiyoya apprehended 100 meters away from Pick n Pay. The matter was reported to Embassy Police post in Chawama.

# UNSTOPPABLE PRAISE

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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**  
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**13TH AUGUST 2017**

**AT WOODLANDS STADIUM  
IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**CHARGES:**  
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# Fuel price reduction too minimal to cause a drop in prices – EAZ

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Economic Association of Zambia president Chrispin Mphuka says the reduction in fuel prices may not have a greater impact on the economy because it is too marginal. In an interview with News

Diggers! yesterday, Dr Mphuka commended government for the reduction but called for regular adjustments on a monthly basis. “It is difficult to predict if this adjustment in fuel prices will have a positive

impact on the economic performance because we don’t know when fuel prices reduce, it is highly unlikely especially when these reductions are very small, prices become what we call ‘sticky’ so to change prices there is a cost and if that

cost can’t be recovered from the things that are made out of the exchange rate appreciation, then people will leave prices where they are. And we call those ‘menu course’ so when the factors that are leading to a price reduction are not

adequate to reduce the menu course, you find that prices are sticky downward,” Dr Mphuka said.

“So it means fuel prices have been reduced, agent super markets and other dealers may not reduce prices immediately because the reduction is not very significant. So you have that stickiness, it is non responsiveness until when the adjustment is big enough is when you expect people to reduce. So it is highly unlikely that we will see a greater impact on the economy from this marginal reduction. Movement in prices is usually sticky. People don’t normally reduce prices, they are quick to increase prices, but reducing prices you find that even when transporters reduce their prices, you find that the other dealers will use other excuses not to reduce prices, so that always happens and it is because prices are sticky downwards. So the reduction is so marginal, it may not have a greater impact on the economy.” Dr Mphuka noted that there were so many factors to consider before adjusting fuel prices.

“Unless those who are saying that the reduction is too minimal are privy to the formula that is being used, has the kwacha gained so

much by a bigger rate for us to expect a huge adjustment in fuel prices? No one knows. So clearly I think the model which ERB uses to really adjust fuel prices accounts not that to the gaining of the kwacha but also the oil prices on the international market. So we should take into account all those factors. As long as this is an adjustment, I think that is what is important. So if they do another adjustment maybe next month, maybe it will be significant. The idea is this should be done regularly,” said Dr Mphuka. “We are happy with the principle of adjusting fuel prices on a regular basis because that allows adjustments to filter through the economy. So regular adjustments are what we advocate for and so it is good when government make those adjustments so that we don’t have a miss alignment because of delayed adjustments. So as an association we still strongly urge government that they should be doing these adjustments more often like one in a month because that would be allowing agents to be adjusting as we go on. Of course we think that the adjustment in fuel prices is mainly because of the exchange rate in which the Kwacha has been gaining and also the international oil prices which haven’t changed for months. So that filtered in an economy and we expect a positive adjustment from that perspective. So we welcome the move and we hope that this will be done on a regular basis moving forward.”

## TIZ demands Public Interest Disclosure Act

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Transparency International Zambia president Rueben Lifuka says government must quickly implement the Public Interest Disclosure Act which deals with protection of whistleblowers. Responding to a press query from News Diggers! after the Road Development Agency fired Loyce Saili and two others on suspicious of leaking information to the media, Lifuka observed that whilst some civil servants were appalled by some abuse they could be witnessing, they could not come forward for fear of victimization.

“We call upon Government and specifically the Minister of Justice to provide guidance and ensure the full implementation of the Public Interest Disclosure Act which deals with protection of whistleblowers. It is our considered view that there are many well meaning public servants who are appalled by this impunity and abuse of public resources. But such public servants cannot come forward for fear of victimization. We also call on government to restore order and provide appropriate guidelines to all Boards of parastatal bodies and government agencies on their responsibilities and entitlements,” Lifuka stated.

He noted the increasing levels of impunity among some board chairpersons. “Transparency International Zambia has noted with serious concern the increasing levels of impunity by some Board Chairpersons or Board members of parastatal bodies and public institutions, who are forcing Chief Executives of their respective companies to buy them luxury vehicles and offer them fringe benefits which are not necessarily available to non Executive board members. It has come to our attention that Chief Executives

or senior managers that resist these demands have been disciplined or have had their employment contracts terminated. We want to insist that serving on a Board of Directors for a parastatal body or government agency, should not be looked as a source of employment for those who are appointed, but they should consider this as a call to national service,” he said.

“Government Ministers should stop this tendency of populating Boards with ill qualified persons whose only credentials is loyalty to a political party. Some of these appointees have no idea of their expected responsibilities and they consider their tenure on such boards as a ‘time to eat.’ We want to underscore that such caderisation of Boards of Directors erodes the central concept of proper

management oversight and introduces all sorts of vices including corruption. A Board Chairperson who solicits and receives unwarranted benefits, becomes compromised and in most cases, fails to fairly discharge his or her responsibilities.”

Lifuka asked chief executive officers of parastatal organizations not to be vulnerable to manipulation.

“It is disheartening to note that such acts of impunity and disregard for good corporate governance, are also alleged to be perpetrated by some Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. This defies government’s own desire to promote fiscal discipline – for Board Chairpersons to be demanding for new vehicles to be bought for them – even when such expenditure is not budgeted for. We call on the Minister

of Finance, Secretary to the Treasury and the Industrial Development Corporation, to put an end to this wastage of public resources. It is also time that Chief Executives were protected from this undue influence of politically aligned Board members who use their political connections to intimidate management and harass them into acts of abuse of office, including disregard for Public Finance and Public Procurement regulations. Similarly, we call on Chief Executives not allow themselves to be vulnerable to such manipulation and we urge them to remain professional and resist such selfish conduct. As a people, we should not allow such personal aggrandizement at the expense of many other deserving national programmes,” said Lifuka.



Power in the Purse Market Day, May 2017



There has been too much talk about President Edgar Lungu and UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema “agreeing to dialogue”. We have seen statements coming out of State House explaining how the Catholic leadership and now the Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland have been making round trips to Mukobeko Prison to mediate reconciliatory talks between the two leaders.

On Thursday, August 10, 2017, the government controlled and state-owned Zambia Daily Mail and Times of Zambia ran screaming headlines: “Lungu, HH agree” and “HH recognises EL”.

We support the move taken by the two leaders to “reconcile, put the 2016 election differences behind and focus on 2021”. We would be among those Zambians who would rejoice if Mr Hichilema was released from prison and summoned to State House for that elusive post-election handshake between two political archrivals – for the sake of peace and unity. We encourage dialogue, and from what we remember, the UPND has never refused to dialogue with PF; it is President Lungu who has repeatedly told citizens that the only time he will dialogue with HH is if an agenda of what is to be discussed is put on the table or made public first. Maybe now that the Times of Zambia and Daily Mail are saying the two leaders have agreed to dialogue, they may as well publish the agenda of what will be discussed. We assume that whatever the agenda is, it has satisfied President Lungu and the PF. So let President Lungu

# Reconcile, but don't pardon HH

**News Diggers!**  
Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD  
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.  
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078  
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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and president Hichilema reconcile. We actually don't mind if the two leaders decide to take each other to Mfuwe on vacation to celebrate their reconciliation; it's up to them and their political parties. They can hug, kiss, play njuga or drink chibwantu together and completely bury their differences; it is up to them.

However, we are concerned with where this reconciliation might lead. The tone of statements coming from State House and the wording of headlines being published and broadcast by government controlled media houses seem to suggest that this reconciliation may affect the treason case. There is a feeling which this impending dialogue is creating that seems to propose an end to the court case involving the

UPND president.

Our opinion is that Mr Hakainde Hichilema must not be pardoned for the treason offence he allegedly committed. Neither President Lungu nor any government official must be allowed to prevent this eagerly awaited treason trail from being heard. We don't mind Mr Hichilema and the five others being released or placed on House arrest (whatever the law allows), but no one should even begin to think about pardoning the accused for the crime they allegedly committed. We urge those who have, or think they have powers to pardon Mr Hichilema, to show their mercy on any other suspected criminal, but not him. We want the same excitement and courage that was there when

arresting Mr Hichilema to continue as the matter now takes off in the High Court. Let the witnesses prepare and remain bubbling with confidence as they go to take the stand and testify that the UPND leader tried to take over executive powers of the President of Zambia.

We say this because there has been so much fuss about this treason case, and the world has waited for so long to hear its merit. It has cost Zambia the identity as an icon of democracy in Africa. In fact, this treason case is no longer about HH and his five 'co-abused'; it is about the integrity of the Republic of Zambia. Our reputation as a democratic nation is at stake. The world wants to know, just as much as Zambians, what constitutes

treason in this country. So far, we have already ruled out the Mongu presidential motorcade incident because that matter was disposed of, HH and his five disciples were already acquitted. We also know that it has nothing to do with HH using insulting language, because the State lost that case and the DPP has not appealed. It has also been made very clear that this treason case has nothing to do with HH's failure to recognise Edgar Lungu as duly elected President of this country – both PF and State House have made public statements admitting that there is no law in Zambia that forces citizens to recognise a head of state. This treason case, we are told, is about Mr Hichilema conspiring to take over the Republican presidency.

The State claims that Mr Hichilema, together with Hamusonde Hamaleka, Muleya Hachinda, Laston Mulilanduba, Pretorius Haloba and Wallace Chakawa “used force to try and carry out an enterprise to usurp the Executive powers of the State”. They are further accused of conspiring to ensure that the UPND leader was declared President of the Republic of Zambia at the 2017 Kuomboka Ceremony in Mongu.

Surely, there are many Zambians who wouldn't want Mr Hichilema to try and take over the executive powers of the President by force, and let alone declare himself Head of State. So if this is what he did, the world wants to know the details, hear the witnesses and see the evidence.

We have said it before that Mr Hichilema and the five 'co-abused' are not the only ones facing trial in this treason case. The Inspector General of Police who investigated or supervised the investigation into the allegations is also on trial. Since the Director of Public Prosecutions saw the evidence and was convinced that it was sensible enough and decided to go ahead to prosecute this treason case, her reputation is also on trial. That's not all - the judge who will hear this matter, listen to witnesses and analyse the evidence before making any ruling will equally be on trial.

The accused have already been humiliated, harassed and punished. They have lived without their families for months, in terrible conditions. So it is too late to pardon them now; call the case and let us hear it in full!

## Lessons from S/African Parliament: Conscience and the courage to rebel

Prior to the motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma in the National Assembly, former Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, among others, urged the African National Congress (ANC) MPs to be guided by their conscience, implying that they should break ranks with their party and vote with the opposition.

The thrust of Gordhan's argument was that under Zuma the presidency had become corrupt and morally compromised. Therefore a vote against Zuma's continuance in office would be in the national interest.

The further implication was that voting for Zuma to go would be in the long-term interest of the ANC. The reasoning behind this was that, unless the party is to return to the values for which the liberation struggle was fought, it will wreak its own destruction.

The counter-argument by the ANC hierarchy was that ANC MPs were bound by obligation to the voters who had elected them to vote the way the party instructed. MPs in the South African system are not elected as individuals, but merely as members of their party. To vote against the party line would be to overturn the logic of democracy. A further argument put forward by ANC speakers in the debate

was that the opposition was seeking unconstitutional “regime change”. This was quite correctly challenged. The opposition pointed out that the motion had been put in terms of the constitution, and that they were seeking to replace the President and not the ANC government.

And yet, although the ANC argument was manifestly “rubbish” (to quote Wits academic Ivor Sarakinsky in commentary on a local television stations eNCA), the debate highlighted a very real tension at the heart of South Africa's democracy. Should MPs have the right to vote according to their conscience?

The role of the political party Universally, the rise of political parties alongside the expansion of parliamentary democracy inevitably came at the cost of the independence of individual MPs. It is rare today for any individual not belonging to a political party to secure a seat in any parliament. Belonging to a political party has become a necessity except in the most exceptional of circumstances.

In turn, belonging to a political party requires that MPs or representatives sign up to a Faustian deal. If they want to progress politically, they have to follow the party line, even on

occasions where they disagree with party policy.

This is entrenched in the communist notion of ‘democratic centralism’ – once the party has ‘democratically’ made its decision, the individual is politically bound to implement it. In practice, however, party systems are not always so rigid as this implies.

Parliamentary histories are stuffed not merely with internal party rebellions but individual MPs voting against their own governments. Internal rebellions are prone to occur where party leaderships lose the confidence of their backbenchers (who are usually relaying extra-parliamentary discontent). And individual MPs may choose to vote against their party's line – often for religious or ethical reasons. They may also do so because they see themselves as representatives of constituencies or interests that are offended by party policy.

Political parties handle such problems in different ways. Often they will seek to fudge policies so as to contain intra-party differences. Alternatively, minority factions within parties may grow to become a majority and secure a change in party policy.

Where parties are split down

the middle, party leaderships may try to resolve difficulties by suspending party directives and allowing a free vote (as during the Brexit referendum debate). On key issues, individual MPs who threaten to vote against their parties may be bribed by promises of bounty for their constituents or by compromises made to relevant policy proposals, although ultimately the threat of expulsion from the party lies in waiting.

Individual MPs may also be buoyed up by the honour that accrues to them if they are perceived to be standing their ground on matters of political or moral principle. They may earn the respect of their political opponents as much as the brickbats of their party colleagues.

Challenge for the ANC The variations, inconsistencies and flexibility built into modern party systems clearly stands as a challenge to the contemporary ANC mantra that MPs are slaves to their party's requirements. Yet the ANC position is by no means without logic. It is indisputable that under South Africa's electoral system, as it stands, MPs are elected as party representatives and not as individuals.

National-list proportional representation allows for no individuality of candidates.

Voters do not have individual MPs. They simply vote for a party. Under this system MPs are allowed minimal scope for conscience.

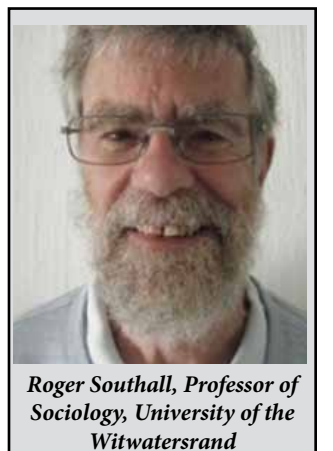
But, ultimately, the ANC has no answer to the popular expectation that, when pressed on major issues, MPs should vote for what they think is right. They should vote against that which they think is wrong. They must be guided by their conscience rather than their pockets.

Voters seem to expect that when MPs refer to each other as ‘honourable’ that they should indeed embody ‘honour’. Yet equally, the public distaste for blatant political opportunism, as displayed during the floor-crossing episodes of yesteryear when minority party MPs jumped ship, mainly to join the ANC for personal and financial reasons, it is clear that voters expect MPs to respect the outcomes of elections. Discipline yes, but courage too. Seemingly there is no consistent set of principles and practices which will satisfactorily resolve the tension between party demands and individual conscience. Yet what does become clear is that there is much more scope for flexibility, tolerance of dissent, and – yes – freedom of conscience in systems where MPs are directly

responsible to constituents rather than, as in South Africa, they are wholly accountable to their parties.

Is this why the ANC so forthrightly rejected the recommendations of the Van Zyl Slabbert Commission on Electoral Reform? The commission recommended a mixed electoral system, whereby MPs would be elected on party platforms but from multi-member constituencies.

There is no escaping the necessity of party systems to get the job of government done. Voters understand the need for party discipline. Yet as the vote of no confidence also shows, they also want MPs to have the courage to rebel.



**Roger Southall, Professor of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand**



US President Donald Trump has thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for ordering the departure of 755 staff from US diplomatic missions. Speaking to reporters in New Jersey, he said he wanted to thank the Russian leader for saving the US money.

Several US investigations are looking into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, which allegedly meddled in the 2016 election.

Mr Trump has rejected the inquiries as a "witch hunt".

# Trump thanks Vladimir Putin for ordering US diplomatic staff cut

Media caption Who's in Trump's good and bad books?

At the end of July, President Putin said 755 staff would have to leave US diplomatic missions in Russia, in retaliation for new US sanctions against Moscow.

Many employees are believed to be "local hires", meaning it is likely far less than 755 people will actually have to leave the country.

He said they had to leave by 1 September, bringing staff levels to 455, the same as Russia's complement in

Washington.

'Very thankful'

Staff in the embassy in Moscow as well as the consulates in Ekaterinburg, Vladivostok and St Petersburg were affected.

At the time, the US State Department said the move was a "regrettable and

uncalled for act".

But Mr Trump thanked Mr Putin for reducing the US government's "payroll".

"I want to thank him because we're trying to cut down our payroll and as far as I'm concerned I'm very thankful that he let go of a large number of people," he said.

Also on Thursday, President Trump said he was "very surprised" by raids on the Virginia home of his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort by federal agents on 26 July. Special counsel Robert Mueller, who is heading

up the main investigation into Russian election interference, left Mr Manafort's Alexandria home with "various records", the Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

The president, who is on a working holiday at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, also told reporters he had not thought about the possibility of firing Mr Mueller, who was appointed as special counsel in May following Mr Trump's sacking of then FBI Director James Comey. **BBC News**



Kenyan police question a suspected protestor in the Kawangware slum of Nairobi

## Kenyan opposition warned over claims

Kenya's electoral commission has warned the opposition that its claims of victory for its presidential candidate, Raila Odinga, could be deemed illegal.

The opposition has published its own figures, putting Mr Odinga ahead of incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta.

This contrasts with provisional electronic results giving Mr Kenyatta a clear lead in Tuesday's poll.

Electoral commission chairman Wafula Chebukati told the BBC it was the only body legally allowed to count votes.

He accused the opposition coalition of basic mathematical errors.

International observers have described the election as free and fair.

However, many fear a repeat of the violence after the disputed election 10 years ago when more than 1,100 Kenyans died and 600,000 were displaced.

Dangerous limbo On Thursday, scores of people took to the streets of Mathare, a slum in the capital Nairobi, shouting "Uhuru must go".

Mr Chebukati said that the

documents containing the real results were still being sent from constituencies to their national tallying centre.

Mr Odinga has said the IT system of the electoral commission had been hacked and Kenya was witnessing the worst "voter theft" in its history.

But the commission said that while there had been an attempt to hack its system, it had failed.

The final outcome should be announced later on Friday.

African observers described Tuesday's poll as credible, while former US Secretary of State John Kerry said its integrity remained intact.

The European Union said candidates should accept losing as "natural".

Mr Kerry, who is heading the Carter Center's observer team, urged all sides to wait for the final results, and for the loser to accept defeat.

He said there were some "minor variances" but none that had so far made him doubt the poll's integrity.

The "bottom line" was that the electoral commission had in place a "transparent process of voting, counting,

reporting and securing the vote", Mr Kerry added at a press conference in Nairobi.

Commonwealth observer mission head and Ghana's ex-President John Mahama said there was no reason to doubt the commission's ability to deliver a "credible election".

Raw polling data published on the IEBC's website says that with almost all of results in, Mr Kenyatta - who is seeking a second term - is leading with about 54.3%, to Mr Odinga's 44.8% share of the vote.

These suggest Mr Kenyatta is heading for a first-round victory. **BBC News**

## Mystery illness hits Canadian envoy in Cuba

Canada's foreign ministry is investigating after at least one of its diplomats stationed in Cuba was treated for hearing loss and headaches.

It comes a day after the US said its diplomats in Havana were experiencing strange physical symptoms.

Reports suggest the envoys could have been targeted by a covert sonic device that causes hearing loss.

Havana denies the allegation, but the US has removed two Cuban diplomats from Washington DC in retaliation.

"Cuba has never, nor would ever, allow the Cuban territory to be used for any kind of action against accredited diplomats or their families," Cuba's foreign ministry said.

Global Affairs Canada, the country's foreign ministry, says the government is working with US and Cuban officials to find out what happened.

"We are aware of unusual symptoms affecting Canadian and US diplomatic personnel and their families in Havana," a spokesperson for Global Affairs told the BBC.

"The government is actively working - including with US and Cuban authorities - to ascertain the cause. At this time, we do not have any reason to believe Canadian tourists and other visitors could be affected."

The Associated Press reported that a US investigation determined that the American diplomats' hearing loss could have been linked to sonic devices which emit inaudible sound waves that can cause deafness.

**BBC News**



Residents fearing aftershocks sleep outside of their homes after an earthquake in Zhangzha in southwest China's Sichuan province



# Taylor Swift says DJ subjected her to long, 'horrifying' grope

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Taylor Swift testified on Thursday she was subjected to a "very long" and "intentional" grope by a Colorado disc jockey who appeared to be drunk during a photo session four years ago.

The 27-year-old pop star was testifying for the first time for a U.S. District Court jury weighing her accusation that David Mueller grabbed her bare buttocks during a pre-concert fan reception in 2013 against Mueller's

assertion that she falsely accused him and then got him fired.

Swift - one of America's most successful recording artists, whose hits include "Fearless" and "Fifteen" - spoke forcefully under questioning by Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland. She said several times, "Your client grabbed my ass," at one point calling it a "devious and sneaky act."

"It was a definite grab ... a very long grab," she said. "It was intentional. He stayed

latched onto my bare ass cheek. I felt him grab onto my ass cheek under my skirt."

Mueller, 55, testified on Tuesday that he may have made innocent contact with Swift but denied any inappropriate behavior. Asked if he grabbed her backside, the former disc jockey for Denver radio station KYGO-FM replied, "No, I did not."

Swift spent an hour on the witness stand on Thursday and said it appeared both Mueller and his girlfriend,

who stood on the other side of her for the photo, had "had a few cocktails."

The photograph, repeatedly displayed in court, shows the pop star in a black skirt and top, flanked by Mueller and his girlfriend, all three smiling for the camera. Mueller has his right hand concealed behind her rear end, and Swift appears to have shifted her hip slightly away from him.

Asked by McFarland why her bodyguard did not step in when "this big drunk guy" groped her, Swift

replied: "No one could have expected this to happen. ... It had never happened before. It was horrifying and shocking."

**'THAT'S HIM'**

Swift also sharply denied McFarland's suggestion that Mueller was the victim of mistaken identity. "He had a handful of my ass. I know it was him," she fired back.

The legal team and other Taylor Swift staff including publicist Tree Paine (2nd L) arrive at Denver Federal Court where the Taylor Swift groping trial jury selection was to resume in Denver, U.S., August 8, 2017.

Rick Wilking

Swift's account was backed by subsequent testimony from her photographer, Stephanie Simbeck, who recalled seeing Mueller "put his hand on (Swift's) butt" through the camera's viewfinder. She said it was clear to her that Swift "was trying to get away" from Mueller.

Once he and his girlfriend left, Simbeck testified, Swift said aloud: "Dude, that guy grabbed my ass," to which Simbeck responded, "I knew it. I have the photograph."

They quickly found the Mueller image in her camera, and Swift said, "That's him," Simbeck told jurors.

Explaining why she did not report the incident to her managers and security detail right away, Swift said she still had more fans to meet and "didn't want to ruin their concert experience."

Slideshow (5 Images)

Questioned about her reaction to learning Mueller had been fired, Swift replied,

"I just never wanted to see him again. And here we are years later, and I'm being blamed for the unfortunate events in his life."

Mueller initiated the litigation, claiming Swift fabricated the story and put pressure on KYGO to fire him from his \$150,000-a-year job. Swift then countersued for assault and battery, asking for symbolic damages of \$1. Swift asserts she never demanded Mueller be fired. The former DJ is seeking lost earnings and to clear his name, telling the court this week that it was humiliating to be accused of "something so despicable."

Following Swift to the witness stand was KYGO manager Robert Call, who fired Mueller two days after the alleged incident, acting on a complaint from Swift's liaison to radio stations, Frank Bell. Call testified that he had known Bell for many years and had no reason to doubt him.

Call said Mueller at first denied to him that he had touched Swift at all. But when shown the photo in question, Call said, Mueller responded: "Well, if it did happen, it was accidental." Call said he fired the DJ because of his shifting accounts of the incident, and because the photo showed that Mueller's hand was "not where it was supposed to be."

Swift, who has 85 million followers on Twitter and 102 million followers on Instagram, earned \$170 million in the year to June 2016 following a world tour and her best-selling "1989" album, according to Forbes Magazine. **Reuters**

## Cornell's family commissions memorial statue in Seattle



Chris Cornell's legacy will live on.

The late Soundgarden singer's family has commissioned a memorial statue in his honor to be placed in his hometown of Seattle, Washington.

Cornell's widow, Vicky, announced the plans in an interview with The Seattle Times on Wednesday. The family has hired artist and sculptor Wayne Toth to create Cornell's statue, which will take about seven months to create. In the meantime, Seattle attorney and family friend Mark Johnson is working with the city to find a location.

"He has already given me a design and the children and I love it," Vicky told the publication, adding that they would love to hear from fans on where they should place the statue. "He is Seattle's son," she added, "and we will be bringing him home and honoring him, I hope, with all of you, your love and support."

WATCH: Chris Cornell's

Daughter Toni Performs With OneRepublic in Honor of Her Dad and Chester Bennington. Additionally, Vicky also committed \$100,000 toward the Chris Cornell Music Therapy Program managed by Childhaven, a non-profit in Seattle that provides care to abused and neglected children and provides parents with the tools to help care and nurture their kids.

"Chris was always interested in protecting traumatized children who had suffered physical or psychological abuse," Vicky shared. "He always felt music was a way to heal even neurological and emotional conditions." The Audioslave singer committed suicide on May 18, following a performance at the Fox Theater in Detroit, Michigan. "Chris' passing was so sudden," expressed Vicky. "It came with no warning except in that last call, which will stay with me forever. I understand

everyone is looking for answers that make sense to us. The truth is, it will never make sense. Because it wasn't meant to happen." Earlier this month, Cornell's eldest daughter, Toni, took the stage with OneRepublic to perform a touching

rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" on Good Morning America in honor of her father and Linkin Park singer, Chester Bennington, who were good friends before their deaths. **Yahoo News**

## Goat crowned King in Irish town

For a few days this week a goat will be king of a small town in Ireland's rural south west.

Billed as one of Ireland's oldest festivals, the Puck Fair sees locals in the town of Killorglin pluck a wild mountain goat from its habitat and crown him 'King Puck' for the duration of the event.

This year's king was paraded through the town on Thursday, where he was crowned by the Queen of Puck - an honor bestowed on a local schoolgirl. He appeared relaxed, if occasionally bemused, during

his coronation.

"I've seen it for the last 11 years so it's nothing new but when I first moved here from England I thought it was strange," festival-goer Ben Henry, 25, of Killarney told Reuters.

"I heard a fella today saying he's been coming to Puck for 57 years so that says a lot!" he added.

The festival will feature music, street performers and a horse fair.

The origins of the event are unclear, though there are many local theories from a harvest festival to tales of a lone goat

fleeing Oliver Cromwell's troops into the village.

Organizers say historical references to the festival date back to the early 17th century.

As for King Puck, organizers say he is to be treated royally during his brief reign with a diet of ash tree branches, water and cabbage to sustain him until he returns to his mountain home following his dethronement ceremony.

Organizers expect to welcome more than 100,000 visitors during the festival which runs until Aug. 12. **Reuters**



# Kondwani ruled out of CHAN away leg

By Diggers Reporter

Injury has ruled out key Zambia utility midfielder Kondwani Mtonga from this weekend's 2018 CHAN first leg away qualifier against Bafana Bafana.

The Zesco United defensive midfielder sustained an injury last Sunday after scoring a stoppage time goal for the league leaders in their 2-0 home win over Nakambala Leopards in Ndola.

Kondwani's absence is a massive blow for Zambia where he is a pivotal figure just in front of the back four.

"Kondwani has a very big cut on top of the left eye. He is out, we will miss him in midfield but we have replacements," Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda said.

Nyirenda said Green Buffaloes' Jack Chirwa and Nkana defender Donashao Malama may take Kondwani's place.

Kondwani is also set to miss Zesco's home league game against Lusaka Dynamos on Thursday due to the same injury.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Toaster Nsabata has been certified fit for Thursday's trip to South Africa after recovering from an injury he sustained in Zanaco's 1-1 home draw against Green Eagles on Monday.

"Toaster Nsabata is much better and trained on Wednesday morning. It is encouraging for us I think he is looking good," Nyirenda said.

Meanwhile, Zambia depart for South Africa on Thursday for East London where the first leg, final round qualifier will be played on August 12. The final leg decider is set for August 19 in Ndola.

Kondwani Mtonga of Zambia during the Cosafa Cup Semi Finals match between South Africa and Zambia on the 17 July 2013 at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, Zambia - Picture by Muzi Ntombela/Back-pagePix



## Critics are already killing me, says Chelsea's Morata

Alvaro Morata believes critics are already "killing" him at Chelsea, although the striker accepts his price tag invites extra scrutiny. The Spain international made his competitive

debut as a 74th-minute substitute in the clash with Arsenal at Wembley and missed from 12 yards as his side lost 4-1 to the Gunners in the shoot-out following a 1-1 draw. Morata, who joined

from Real Madrid for a reported initial fee of £58million, had only made two International Champions Cup appearances for Chelsea prior to last Sunday's encounter following a lengthy transfer saga.

The 24-year-old believes the significant fee – a club record for Antonio Conte's side – means he is likely to face additional criticism but he says it is something which motivates him to succeed. "I admit it's a very important amount but I have the personality to play calmly and to stay on my path," he told Marca. "I've only had two pre-season games, 15 minutes officially and a missed penalty, and they're already killing me, so I know what's ahead. "It's the price you have to pay for such a big transfer. It's something that motivates me and makes me work harder every day. I know that twice as many people are looking at me now.

"It's been a long, strange summer, in which I've had to make decisions. I wasn't fresh and I couldn't train well. Now I have to adapt to a new team with an Italian coach who's very tactical. But I've already adapted and I'm excited to play."

Morata has said previously that he was motivated to join Chelsea in order to work with Conte, who signed him for Juventus three years ago before leaving to take

charge of Italy.

The striker admits it has been challenging to adapt to the manager's demands which, he says, are different to those of any coach he has worked with in the past.

"I have to understand Conte well. He asks me the opposite of what my previous coaches have asked me. I'll play in different positions and in different systems of play," he said.

"I don't think I need to adapt to the Premier League, but to my new coach.

"I knew he wanted me and I talked to him a number of times. In a way, I felt indebted to him because he signed me for Juve and then had to go."

Morata, twice a Champions League winner with Madrid and a league champion in Spain and Italy, is determined to enjoy success with Chelsea after making the tough decision to leave the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I think I had to leave Madrid," he added. "It was a difficult situation; I was leaving a team that's my home and who are winning everything at the moment.

"But it was a personal decision; it was to do with sporting ambition. If it had been for my team-mates, I would have stayed. I left because I want to succeed in football, to do great things. I'm at the best place to do that." **Goal.com**



LeBron James greets rival Kevin Durant during 2017 NBA finals between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers

## Ng'onga prepares to marry, drops from Bafana game

By Diggers Reporter

Power Dynamos striker Alex Ng'onga has been dropped from this weekend's 2018 CHAN qualifier against Bafana Bafana.

Ng'onga has been excused for the first leg match in order for him to prepare for his wedding after

receiving a late call-up this week for the August 12 game away date in East London.

"No he has not travelled. He has been replaced by Lubinda Mundia," FAZ spokesperson Desmond Katongo said prior to the team's departure to Johannesburg on Thursday morning.

Ng'onga was this weekend due to end his two year hiatus from the Zambia fold.

The striker has been in fine form for Power scoring three goals in six matches since re-signing the Kitwe club two years after his move to Gabonese champions CS Mounana.





# Zambia eliminated from London IAAF championship

**By Diggers Reporter**

**Kabange Mupopo** failed to make podium in the final of the women's 400 meters final on Wednesday at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London.

The 2015 All-Africa Games 400 meters champion finished second last in 7th place on a rainy night at the London Olympic Stadium.

She run a time of 51:15 seconds, over two seconds behind American Phyllis Francis who won the title with a time of 49:92. Outgoing World champion Allyson Felix of the USA finished third after clocking 50:08.

Mupopo's exit sees the end of Team Zambia's interest at the World Championships after Sydney Siame earlier finishing 4th in his 200metres semifinal heat.

Siame crushed out of the 2017 IAAF World Championship in London at the semifinal stage of the men's 200 meters.

The Zambian clocked a time of 20:54 seconds, behind Jerem Richards of Trinidad And Tobago who won the semifinal heat with a time of 20:14 seconds

Joining Siame out at the penultimate stage was Jamaican star Yohan Blake who finished 3rd ahead of the Zambian with a time of 20: 52.



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