

**SADC happy
with Zambia's
democracy**

Story on page 5

FREE!

Story on page 3



HH leads a long, winding procession of his supporters from Lusaka Central Prison to party secretariat where he addressed them - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPND will restore order in Zambia - HH

By Mukosha Funga
After being freed, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema this morning led a long winding procession of his supporters, with police 'escort' from Lusaka Central Prison to the party secretariat where he addressed them. Along the way, he stood through his vehicle's

sunroof and blew kisses to Lusaka residents who lined the streets to catch a glimpse of him. The excited residents waved back at the opposition leader, some shouting "Zambia Forward" with the UPND symbol, while others joined the celebratory procession. Addressing his supporters at the secretariat, Hichilema who was in

detention for four over months, said he was willing to go back to prison if other UPND political detainees were not released. Hichilema said his party had emerged 10 times stronger following his incarceration and once it forms government, would restore order in the country.

Continues on page 4

All patients to undergo HIV testing, declares Lungu

By Sipilisiwe N'cube
President Edgar Lungu has declared that it is now mandatory for every Zambian seeking any medical attention to be tested for HIV/AIDS, and told the results without consent. Speaking when he launched the HIV Testing, Counseling and Treatment Day (HTCT) today, President Lungu said even though some people in Cabinet held the view that this was not in line with Human Rights, he held the position that no one had the right to take their own life. "The HIV scourge has continued to pose

one of the biggest threats to our country's development. The Patriotic Front government under my leadership is up to the task and has embarked on a transformative shift through emphasizing HIV voluntary counseling and testing to HIV testing and treatment. Just yesterday when we sat in Cabinet, we had this subject HIV testing and treatment, I must confess that there are some colleagues who felt that this is contrary to Human Rights and rights to privacy.

Continues on page 3

Govt won't be blackmailed into giving Mopani cheap electricity - Mabumba

By Mukosha Funga

Energy Minister David Mabumba says no amount of blackmail will deter government from implementing the cost reflective electricity tariffs. At a media briefing in Lusaka today, Mabumba appealed to the three mines to abide by the new electricity tariffs.

Continues on page 7

Prisoners get voting rights

Story on page 6

DPP entered nolle to hide State's crimes against HH and his co-accused – Wynter

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Rainbow Party president Wynter Kabimba says the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Lillian Siyunyi entered a nolle prosequi in the treason case in order to shield the State's crimes committed against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema.

He said if the DPP had not entered a nolle prosequi, Hichilema would have had the liberty to sue the state because his detention was unlawful "from the word go". "The case cant resurface, the only reason why they have entered a nolle is because if they don't enter a nolle, the whole detention would have been an unlawful detention and HH would be at liberty to sue the state. There is no case in the history of Zambia where the state has entered a nolle and they have revived that case. Not in my over 30 years of my legal practice. So they are shielding themselves against the wrongs that they have committed against HH, the breaking of his house, the unlawful detention of the man when they knew from the word go that there was no case," Kabimba said.

Kabimba said entering a nolle was abuse of the whole process and misuse of the purpose of a nolle Prosequi. "I said it from the word go when HH was arrested that there is no treason offense that had been committed in this situation. The whole situation was political, the prosecution knew very well, and am sure even President Lungu knew very well that HH had not committed any acts of treason. And this is a problem when you have the DPP who is being controlled by the executive because am sure even when that docket landed on the DPP's desk! If she was professional enough, if she had acted professionally she should have realized that there was no acts of treason that had been acted by HH and his group. So we in the Rainbow party have maintained the position that there was no

acts of treason committed by HH," Kabimba said.

"Even to enter a nolle is an abuse of the whole process of a nolle Prosequi. And it has been very common in all the governments for the executive in collaboration with the office of the DPP to abuse nolles. This is exactly what has happened now. They went and damaged the 'poor' guy's house! They have kept him in detention for the last four months when they knew very well that there was no act of treason committed. It didn't even have to take the Secretary General of the Commonwealth to intervene in this matter."

Kabimba said it was because of the colonial hangover from the government leaders that credit had to be given to interventions by outsiders like the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland, when the local Catholic Bishops had already done the work.

"What is it that the Secretary General of the Commonwealth said to President Lungu which our Bishops didn't say to him? This is the problem with Africa that we want to respect outsiders in resolving our problems instead of looking inwards. What was so special about the Secretary General of the Commonwealth? How is she more special than the group of Bishops that showed respect to the President by engaging him in this matter?" Kabimba asked.

"But because of this colonial hangover, you have to wait for somebody from outside so that you give credit to outsiders and not your own people in resolving problems. The church in Zambia has had impeccable credentials and intervening in political crisis. They did in 1991 when there was tension in this country. Why should President Lungu respect an outsider against his own people? A group of respectable and eminent men in our society in the name of catholic Bishops who showed respect to



him by engaging him and say 'can we get this matter resolved domestically' it has to take Secretary General of the Commonwealth to do what they should have done

a long time ago.

And Kabimba encouraged Hichilema to push for a better Zambia.

"So I hope that now that HH is out, he will continue the

struggle for a better Zambia. You cant continue at this rate, no! So I hope he is going to get more encouragement from his suppers in the UPND and sympathizers

from outside the UPND so that the struggle can continue until we get to live in a better society than this one which the PF is driving today."



HH supporters celebrate after learning the fate of their leader- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Lufwanyama toasts PF empowerment

By Mirriam Chabala

Women Empowerment

advocate Henry Chilombo says all well meaning Zambians must appreciate and support government efforts to end rural poverty. Speaking on behalf of the Women's Club in Lufwanyama district when he received a donation from the Minister of Community Development and Social Welfare Emerine Kabanshi, Chilombo thanked government for reaffirming its commitment of supporting women.

"Any empowerment program for the women especially in rural areas should be supported.

We have seen a lot of empowerment projects which the PF government has rolled out in Lufwanyama and our women are benefiting. This is showing how much the PF and President Edgar Lungu care for our people," he said.

Chilombo who was also a PF 2016 parliamentary aspirant for Lufwanyama noted that President Lungu's government had prioritised the supporting of women clubs through empowerment programs. "President Edgar Lungu values the contribution

of women in national development hence the rolling out of programs to empower them. The women of Lufwanyama district will stand to benefit from the social cash transfer scheme which is being implemented under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare," said Chilombo.

Kabanshi recently made a donation of over thirty six bicycles, six motor bikes and a Toyota land cruiser towards the empowerment of Lufwanyama womens club on the Copperbelt.

They raided my son's office, not mine - Mulongoti

By Joseph Mwenda

Bailiffs this afternoon raided Opposition People's Party president Mike Mulongoti's son Mpinga's office to recover property, following a dispute between him and his business partner. In an interview with News Diggers, Mulongoti said it was not his office which was raided but that of his son (Mpinga).

"It is about my son's architectural practice, they had a difference with his partner. So the partner went to the bailiffs and the bailiffs came without

following procedure. So they opened by force and started preparing whatever... and in fact, his offices are in Long Acres and mine are in Kabulonga," said Mulongoti.

"It is my son, and his name is also Mulongoti for sure. They have been having differences over the premisses. But the bailiffs didn't get anything. They were told that 'you have no authority to do that'. His lawyers challenged them, and he gave them upto 14:00hrs to put back everything where they found them."



UPND supporters celebrate after the DPP entered a nolle prosequi in the treason case against HH - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Hichilema free, as State discontinues treason case

By Mukosha Funga
The Director of Public Prosecutions Lillian Siyunyi has entered a nolle prosequi in Hakainde Hichilema's treason case. When the matter came up for commencement of trial this morning, the DPP informed the court that she had decided to enter a nolle. "At this juncture I would like to inform the honorable court that I am entering a nolle prosequi in respect of all the accused persons before you, having regard to Cap 187 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia. Article 180, paragraph seven of the laws of Zambia, Siyunyi said. And without giving the defense team an opportunity to respond, judge Charles Chanda said; "The DPP has decided to terminate these proceedings by virtue of her constitutional powers. Therefore, you are hereby discharged from this offense. But this is not an acquittal as at any time, you can be arrested for this [same] offense but for now you are free to go home."

At this point, HH's wife Mutinta was too overwhelmed and she broke down. Some members of the opposition UPND then got her out of the courtroom to the car where she continued crying. Hichilema himself did not seem pleased with the outcome of his treason case, as he did not show

signs of relief upon hearing the nolle prosequi pronouncement. Meanwhile, the DPP's decision drew mixed feelings from the court attendees, some of whom were heard saying "this is nothing to be happy about, these men have suffered a lot for nothing." Hichilema and his five co-accused were then taken

back to Lusaka Central Prison for discharge formalities, as UPND supporters waited in sing and dance outside. On April 10, 2017 police raided Hichilema's house in New Kasama, breaking furniture and other property in the process. He however remained in hiding until the following day when he gave himself

to police. On April 12, 2017, Inspector General of police Kakoma Kanganja held a press a press briefing to announce the charges. "I would like to inform the nation that we have jointly charged and arrested Mr Hichilema and five others; 1. Treason contrary to section 43

(1) (a) 2. Disobedience to lawful orders contrary to section 127 of the penal code. 3. Disobeying of statutory duty contrary to section 126 of the penal code of the laws of Zambia (rule No. 222 of the High Way Code) And 4. Use of insulting language contrary to section 179 of the penal code," Kanganja said.

All patients to undergo HIV testing, declares Lungu

From front page
My position was that 'no one has got a right to take his own life' therefore to make sure that we must protect life in Zambia generally and across the board. So just as we test for malaria, we don't consult you to consent whether you should be tested for malaria or not, we will do the same with HIV and AIDS," President Lungu said. "And we will counsel you and tell you that you have got this problem, you need to embark on treatment. That is what we are going to do, that is the Zambia position. So those of you who will be seeking medical help from our health institutions, we will not be questioning you whether you have tested for HIV and AIDS. If you are in a coma, we will do what we can to resuscitate you and when we resuscitate you, we will subject you to all the tests including HIV/AIDS and if we find you somehow positive, we will put you on treatment. That is the position of Zambia and its official, no debate about it."

He also urged all Zambians to participate in the efforts of ending HIV/AIDS by going for testing even without getting sick. "As we gather to launch the HIV Testing, Counseling, and Treatment day which was commemorated as the national voluntary counseling and Testing (VCT) day. The HIV Testing, Counseling and Treatment Day commonly known as the HTCT will be commemorated every year on the 15th day of August as a symbol of my government's resolve to end AIDS in Zambia by the year 2030. This is a very serious commitment and I hope that our cooperating partners will continue to support us just as much as we will support ourselves," President Lungu said. "This broad decision prioritizes HIV testing and immediate commencement of retention of Anti-Retro-viral treatment to all Zambians living with HIV. We will not wait for people to fall sick before they can start life serving treatment. Let us take integrated health services

by taking HIV services and treatment to all the communities in Zambia." President Lungu further directed Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya to find a way of compelling men to also go through HIV testing so that they could also know about their status. "According to the Zambian demographic health survey of 2014, only 67% of the Zambia population knew their HIV status and HIV testing rates. And HIV testing rates for men remained lower than those for women. I know that women go to the maternity clinics are upheld of this test but most men because they do not have this opportunity of maternity, they don't know their status. So Dr Chilufya, can you find a way of compelling men to also go through HIV testing so that we can also have higher percentage of our men knowing their status," said President Lungu. The 2017 theme for the HIV Testing, Counseling and Treatment Day is 'Test and Treat, towards ending AIDS'.

From front page

Meanwhile, Hichilema said “we have made arrangements to address all the issues that are affecting you the Zambian people and you must now watch what we are going to do in the next few days, weeks and months”

Below is HH's full address after being released from prison:

To start with, I want to acknowledge the power of God for making this day possible, for making our release from detention following our brutal arrest and extended detention. Only God makes such things happen so once more, thank you to our heavenly father for this day. I call it a day where we commence our walk towards true freedoms; walking in the path of 1963, in the path of 1991 and now, this day onwards, we want to bring true freedom, justice, equity and fairness to all our people.

I think it is in order for me to thank all of you who are assembled here today for coming out in the midst of great danger, you managed to come out to receive us today. Thank you.

I know what is obtaining out there under the invocation of Article 31. Though I have been in prison, we have been sneaking in information in our cells so we know what has been going on and we thank you for your strength. I want to continue in expressing our appreciation to our party leaders across the country for having been very strong despite the circumstances.

All our membership structures, national executive, through to our branches, thank you for your strength, your prayers and your hope. Without your prayers, without your hope, it would have been very difficult for the six of us and many others who are in detention.

To our friends across our community in this country, thank you. To the clergy, I want to single out Archbishop Telephore Mpundu and his Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops for their courage. Under these circumstances, you need people with courage, with clarity of mind as to what is right and what is wrong. I think Archbishop Mpundu provided leadership in this area.

Thank you so much to the CCZ, to the EFZ, other churches, thank you for your support. Very difficult and trying times but you were there for us. We appreciate that support. We want to thank the regional community. I am sure all of you now understand that we have a lot of friends in the regional community. Our friends in the southern African side of our continent, our friends in east Africa who did a lot, I know many of those things they did are not known to you but they did a lot. Our friends in West Africa, our friends in Europe, the European community, our friends in America including the American congress and the senate, they did a lot behind the scenes I can tell you that. And on that score, we also want to thank the local representatives of the international community. The embassies that again were working silently but doing a lot of work behind the scenes, we acknowledge your efforts, we thank you so much. I deliberately return to the civil

UPND will restore order in Zambia - HH



society in our country. CiSCA, and I want to single out the leader of CiSCA Bishop [John] Mambo, thank you.

Thank you to the Law Association of Zambia, thank you to our traditional leaders, I won't mention the key leader who stood up for us in the traditional leadership but you all know him, thank you very much.

I want to thank, if you allow me, a lot of friends, I want to say to you, I didn't realise that we have a lot of friends even in the PF, I want to thank those people in the PF who were on our side.

I want to thank senior citizens in our country who were also courageous, extremely courageous, issued statements, you know them, and I have some tasks to do to thank them individually after today, lots of work we have to do after today. Thank you to our members of parliament, councilors, mayors, I know 47 members of parliament sacrificed for us. But if your president can sacrifice, why shouldn't you sacrifice? But I thank you for that.

47 of them were suspended, you are aware of that, so I am thanking them for being strong and I want them, we want them to remain strong going forward. I want to thank in a special way our opposition alliance leaders, I think it is befitting to single them out, honorable Charles Lubasi Milupi, my brother Dr Nevers Mumba, my brother honorable [Mike] Mulongoti, I want to tell you, my brother Saviour Chishimba; I am glad you are out of prison and I want to thank my brother Sinkamba, president of the Green Party, I want to thank honorable

Wynter Kabimba, thank you my brother, I want to thank my brother who got incarcerated just for talking about my case president [Chilufya] Tayali.

I thought many others who are in the opposition but may have had no opportunity to express their appreciation, I know you were there for us, we thank all of you. I think it is also in order, I want to tell you that my colleagues in the business community were doing a lot of things underground, I thank you so much. I know you know that your businesses will be better under our stewardship. I think it is in order for me to thank my fellow detainees, five of them, together we were six; Chakawa, Haloba, Hamusonde, Muleya and Mulilanduka. Have you ever seen a treason case involving family members only? Have you ever seen that? I want to thank all of these gentlemen that when we agreed things in our cells, they respected what we agreed. And we strengthened each other, it would have been very difficult.

When I was detained in Lilayi for eight days, I was in solitary confinement, it was a bit difficult because you don't speak to anybody but when we linked up, we were able to speak to each other, thank you so much, thank you to them and thank you to their families and I thank their families for the support that they rendered to the fellow detainees. I want to thank Mwaliteta group, I want to thank the Matambo group on the Copperbelt and I want to tell you that a lot of our people are in detention across the country and I have made it my responsibility, it should be your responsibility, it should be our responsibility to secure

the release of all our people that are in detention across the country. That is our duty. I cannot say I am free when a lot of my members are in detention, then I am not worth being a leader.

I can go on and on but I would like to also indicate my special appreciation to President Obasanjo, you know Nigeria has 200 million people so he is a great man, to lead 200 million people is not a joke. I want to thank a few friends around, Mmusi Maimane of the DA, a good friend of ours, I want to thank Julius Malema of the EFF, I want to thank Prime Minister Raila Odinga, I want to thank my good friends across the Zambezi Tendai Biti for the tremendous support and others I do not want to mention, including certain people that you many have never understood that they did something but they were doing something. So thank you to all of these people.

I say the list can go on but you have been anxious for many months, I need you to rest. But before you rest, going forward, we have a primary duty, we who are in the UPND leadership and membership across the country, we have a very serious responsibility to work towards bringing back serious responsibility to work towards bringing back order and stability in our country, very very important. But I have already said that the starting point is to make sure we secure the release of many of our people who are in detention. And even today, a few of our people were detained, even yesterday, so this thing has to come to an end because if it doesn't come to an end, in am willing to go back to those

cells.

That is our primary responsibility, in addition, I want to say here and thank the Rt Honorable Patricia Scotland, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth. And I want to say here publicly that we have very good discussions with her, very intelligent woman, and straightforward discussions. And we are committed, as everybody should be in this country committed to peace, stability for development, we cannot continue living the way we are. It is uncomfortable. But I want to commit that we are committed to the principles of the Commonwealth and their values on the rule of law, on good governance, on human rights, and basic freedoms, universal freedoms, that's why we are seeking the release of all our people who are in incarceration. I want to say to you, it is also our collective duty to bring back unity in our country, we are so divided today, we cannot run a country in this manner and for us in the UPND, we must call out to our opposition colleagues to come together for a unity of purpose and bring order in our country. It is not correct for our people, for my young friend Clance Zulu to be buried the way she was buried. It is not correct. We have to do something and we are committed to do something. Just watch what we are going to do in a couple of days and months, just watch. There are many people who were saying 'oh, aza choka mu jele abeba [he will come of prison a tired man]', Hakainde, oyembela ng'ombe angabebe? [Hakainde who herds cattle can he get tired?]

I want to assure you that we are stronger now than before,

we are 10 times stronger than before we were incarcerated. But our strength will be used in a correct manner because we do not want to be as weak as others, we don't want to be as wicked as others, we want to make sure that we provide leadership in this country so that our people can benefit from good leadership. So I ask all of you to be strong. If your president can be out there for 126, 127 days, we can all be strong. That is all I ask you and I want to close by once again thanking you so much and I want to thank at the end my wife. I didn't know that she was this strong. I am lucky that I married this woman, I am very lucky. So once more, God bless Zambia, God bless all of us. We shall take leave now, going home, I know you know that there will be a lot of people coming to say hello to us but you must be patient, in the next few days, we are going to have a fully blown press briefing where we are going to address each of the fundamental issues that affect you and that affect this country because you know that the criminal justice system has broken down in our country starting from law enforcement, the police, total breakdown, to the prison, those prison cells are death chambers, people are dying in those chambers every day. We have to address the prosecution, we have to address the Judiciary side, so many things are wrong in our country but we are going to assemble and discuss those issues with you with diligence. Otherwise, once more, I look at you, I am humbled for your support. I was worried that you may be dismantled in my absence. God bless you all.

Compulsory HIV testing is against human rights - FDD



FDD spokesperson Antonio Mwanza

By Mirriam Chabala

The Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) says President Edgar Lungu's pronouncement to make HIV/AIDS testing compulsory for any Zambian seeking health

care is a violation of human rights.

Responding to a press query from News Diggers!, Mwanza observed that compulsory testing for HIV would be detrimental to the Health profession because it

was unethical.

"President Edgar Lungu has declared HIV testing mandatory or compulsory, meaning that from now on you will be forced to take an HIV test whether you want or not. As FDD we

strongly oppose mandatory testing for a number of reasons: firstly, mandatory HIV testing is unethical as it violates human rights; it violates the privacy and bodily integrity of persons and is actually detrimental

to public health as it is counterproductive as many people would shy away from health centres for fear of being forced into testing against their will," Mwanza said.

And Mwanza said forcing people to test for HIV against their will neither resulted into behavioural change nor guaranteed reduced cases of HIV/AIDS.

"Studies the world over have proved that mandatory testing does not result into reduced cases of HIV and AIDS. There is no evidence whatsoever that mandatory testing of HIV results into behavioural change. The World Health Organisation, to which Zambia is a signatory has defined five key components (5-Cs) that must be respected and adhered to by all HTC services comprising of consent, confidentiality, counselling, correct test results and connection to prevention, care and treatment. The five Cs, and the key principles they entail, apply to all models of HTC services," Mwanza said.

"People being tested for HIV must give informed consent to be tested. They must be physically and psychologically prepared to take the test. They must be informed of the process for

HTC, the services that will be available depending on the results, and their right to refuse testing. Mandatory (coerced) testing is never appropriate, regardless of where that coercion comes from, government inclusive." Mwanza advised government to start looking into ways of combating further spread of HIV/AIDS and other related infections. "Instead of forcing people to test for HIV against their own will, government should instead focus its energies on addressing issues that would help to combat the spread of HIV such as ensuring expanded access through an ethical process for conducting HTC, including defining the purpose of the test and the risks and benefits to the person being tested. Assuring linkages between the site where the test is conducted and appropriate treatment, care, prevention, and other services, in an environment that guarantees confidentiality of all medical information," stated Mwanza.

"Addressing the implications of a positive test result, including the risk of discrimination and stigma and the importance of early enrollment in HIV treatment, care and follow-up services as needed. Reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination at all levels, including within health-care settings. Ensuring a supportive legal and policy framework within which the response is scaled up, including safeguarding the human rights of people accessing HTC and other services. Improving the health care infrastructure so quality services adhering to these principles can be sustained in the face of increased demand for testing, treatment, and related services and ensures effective monitoring and evaluation is in place."

Zambia's embassy in S/Africa says SADC is impressed with Zambia's democracy

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Zambian diplomatic mission in South Africa says the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has applauded the country's growth of democracy.

In a statement, First Secretary for Press and Public Relations, Naomi Nyawali SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax praised Zambia for remaining a beacon of democracy on the continent.

"Speaking during the official opening of the SADC Council of Ministers, SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax praised Zambia and others that recently held national elections for holding credible, peaceful and free and fair elections. She said Zambia, Lesotho and Seychelles

held elections that were monitored by international observers including SADC and that the elections were held in a free and fair atmosphere.

"We are proud of the region. Zambia, Lesotho and Seychelles held very successful and credible elections. We congratulate the governments of Zambia, Lesotho and Seychelles for this growth in Democracy," meanwhile, Zambia was represented by Minister of National Planning Development Lucky Mulusa, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Margaret Mwanakatwe and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harry Kalaba.

The technical team was led by Permanent Secretaries Kayula Siame and Lombe Chalwe.

The meeting opened on 10th August 2017,

discussing among other things, energy, disaster preparedness, agriculture development, climate change, regional cooperation, banking and financial matters, quest to honour founding fathers and anti-poaching

strategies. Other matters were peace and security, trade and investment, as well as regional integration in the region.

President Edgar Lungu is expected to arrive in Pretoria on Friday 18th August 2017 to attend the

Heads of State Summit Meeting.

South Africa and President Jacob Zuma will take over the SADC 2017-2018 Chairmanship while President Edgar Lungu will take over the critical organ of Defense and Security.

Chinese rhino smugglers named

By Charles Mafa

The three Chinese nationals who were last month arrested illegally for possessing 25 pieces of rhino horns weighing 32.2 kilogrammes at Chanida Border in Eastern Province have been named as Hung Qingzhou, He Qingmao and Wan Qin, while the two Zambians who were involved have been identified as Lovemore Kamwendo and Obert Simwajata.

They five have since been charged with possession of prescribed trophy and appeared before Chadiza

Magistrate Fred Musaka where they pleaded not guilty.

Their lawyer Chansa Mulenga Kapatamoyo applied for bail but Magistrate Musaka could not grant it on grounds that they Chinese were a flight risk as they did not give exact addresses for their residences. The Chinese told the court that they are residents of Beira in Mozambique, while their Zambian counterparts – Kamwendo, a driver and Simwajata said they were residents of Chelston and Ngombe in Lusaka respectively. Their second court appearance was

on Thursday 10th August after their lawyer applied for a review of the bail application. Magistrate Musaka again refused to grant bail on the same grounds.

The five suspected criminals of wildlife were arrested near Chanida border on 27th July this year by a joint team of government investigators for being found with 25 pieces of rhino horns. They were briefly detained at a police station in Chadiza but were later transferred to Chipata Prisons where they are currently detained.

ConCourt allows inmates to vote



By Diggers Correspondent

The Constitutional Court has passed a landmark judgement, giving inmates the right to vote.

This is in a matter in which Prisoners Care and Counselling Association (PRISCCA) petitioned the ConCourt over the prisoners' right to vote.

In his petition PRISCCA executive director Godfrey Malembeka submitted that Prisoners did not forfeit their fundamental rights upon being sentenced and as such, they should be allowed to vote.

Malembeka argued that even though the inmates lost freedom upon being jailed that did not take away their right to participate

in elections.

Being an ex convict, Malembeka instigated the petition in a bid to champion rights of pre-trial remandees and those awaiting

bail and appeals to vote in an election within prison facilities.

ConCourt judge Annie Sitali passed the verdict in favour of PRISCCA despite the state having objected to the application.

ConCourt refuses to join Lungu to 2021 eligibility case

By Diggers Reporter

The Constitutional Court has dismissed an application to join President Edgar Lungu to the 2021 eligibility case saying

he cannot be subjected to litigation.

But the ConCourt has joined PF Secretary General Davies Mwila to the proceedings

saying he is an interested party.

This is in a matter in which some PF inclined opposition leaders asked the ConCourt

to determine whether or not President Lungu was eligible to stand in 2021.

The UPND, the second interested party, had asked the court to join President Lungu to the proceedings saying the Constitution did not bar the action against him as the issues to be determined were not related to his executive functions but his own personal ambitions.

Party secretary general Stephen Katuka said President Lungu and his secretary general had publicly proclaimed that he qualified to stand as a presidential candidate in the general elections slated for 2021.

But ConCourt judge Professor Margaret Munalula said the President was shielded from civil litigation in order to enable him to effectively perform his executive functions.

"Given the clear pronouncement in Article 98 (1) and (2) the application to join the 5th intended applicant had no merit and it is dismissed," said Prof Munalula.

And on joining Mwila to the case, Prof Munalula said; "I find that the Patriotic Front has sufficient interest in the matter herein to warrant their being joined."

Justice Munalula however said the action was untenable and impracticable as it is against the fundamental principle of free will attributable to persons at law.

He said although Mwila had been joined, he could choose whether or not to participate in the proceedings.

"Once the 6th intended applicant opposed joinder as an applicant, he could not be joined as the 6th intended applicant," said Justice Munalula.

Lusaka man claims damages after being hit by presidential motorcade

By Diggers Correspondent
A Lusaka resident is demanding compensation

for personal injuries he suffered after being hit by a vehicle which was part of the

presidential motorcade in 2016.

Levison Muchunga of John

Howard has dragged the Attorney General to court, claiming special damages over

the loss of income.

Muchunga is also demanding for medical, transport expenses to and from the hospital, valued at K2,800.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka high court Muchunga said he was hit by an unregistered Toyota Car which was part of the presidential motorcade despite standing off the road at Kafue roundabout on June 25, 2016.

Muchunga said the accident was caused as a result of the excessive speeding by the driver of the Toyota Runx who failed to swerve and look out for other road users in a bid to avoid committing an accident. He stated that the vehicle was moving from the southern direction into the northern direction when the accident happened, leaving him with a ruptured spleen and permanent scars.

After the accident the victim was rushed to the University Teaching Hospital aboard Zambia police service motor vehicle which was also part of the presidential motorcade.

He says he was operated on and later discharged.

Muchunga said even after being discharged from hospital on July 13, 2016, he was still unable to go for work due to injuries he sustained.



Presidential motorcade

Court orders CEC to resume electricity supply to Mopani

By Diggers Correspondent
The Kitwe High Court has granted Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) an interim injunction restraining the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) against limiting power supply to the mining firm until the matter is determined by the court.

This is in a case in which MCM has sued CEC and Zesco as first and second defendants, respectively. CEC has been restricting power supply to MCM since Friday last week.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Kitwe High Court, MCM also wants the court to make a declaratory order that the attempt by CEC to obtain tariff increment outside the process that is clearly outlined in the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) is null, void, and unlawful.

The mining firm also wants CEC to pay damages for breach of contract arising from the manner CEC has attempted to obtain a tariff increment outside the process stipulated in the PSA entered into between the defendant and the plaintiff.

MCM is seeking interest or any sum found to be due to them in addition to costs and any other relief that the court may deem fit.

It contends that in March 2005, it entered into a PSA with CEC that subsequently underwent two amendments in 2008 and 2015, and that clause 3.3 of the power purchase agreement outlines the process that is supposed to be followed in effecting a tariff increment.

MCM argues that CEC proposed a tariff increment in January this year following proposals from the Ministry of Energy, but the plaintiff stated that needed to consult in line with the provisions of the PSA. MCM stated that no agreement has been reached between it and CEC regarding the issue of the tariff increment

as negotiations have been on going. MCM said by their conduct, CEC and Zesco have breached

a fundamental provision of the PSA, and as a result of their action, the plaintiff has suffered loss and damage.

High Court judge Timothy Katanekwa granted MCM an injunction to restrain CEC from reducing power supply

to the mining firm pending hearing of the inter parte summons, or until further order of the court.

He further ordered Zesco not to restrict power supply to CEC until the matter is fully determined by the court.



Fishing ban too short to allow breeding - Chilangwa

By Mirriam Chabala

Luapula Province Minister Nixon Chilangwa says the three months fish ban period is not enough to allow breeding.

Featuring on ZNBC's Government Forum yesterday, Chilangwa said there was need to increase the ban period because it would also encourage people to resort to alternative activities for their survival.

"I don't believe that the three months fish-ban period is adequate, I believe we need a longer period and we do not have to close off all the water bodies. As you know, Luapula

Province has got over 30 per cent of the water resource of this country. So we can segment to say this river or this lake and so on, we can close them for six months or we can close in some areas for a year so that the fish can regenerate and once the fish regenerates in the water bodies that we are likely to close, what we can do is to alternate the water bodies that were left open then can be closed but once we open the water bodies which were closed for a number of months or years," Chilangwa said.

"After that is done, then we can

put regulations to say where somebody goes to fish using a mosquito net, it is a crime and you can go to jail for that. We should also make it clear to say that we should not leave the water bodies in the manner that we have done, we need to have constant patrols on our rivers and lakes so that those who are doing wrong things can be brought to book."

Chilangwa also said he wanted to introduce commercial fishing methods in Luapula Province.

"We also want to bring in commercial fishing where we can bring in cages on the rivers and the lakes so that there is commercial fishing taking place in the rivers and lakes of Luapula province like we have in Siavonga and like the fish that we are getting from Zimbabwe or from China and other places where they have engaged in commercial fishing. So we want to start that kind of fishing this year and we have identified 19 sites in Luapula province on the Luapula fisheries where fish caging will be done," Chilangwa said.

"And if we manage to commercialize fish in the 19 sites that we have identified, we will attract people to come and lead this and they will be able to see if we have been doing the role as we speak now because we have given money to some individuals to start fish caging. Then the other thing is for us to start considering fish farming as a personal venture where we can have people growing fish at their back yards and if

we can have many households growing fish on a family level just in the same manner people keep goats and chickens, we want it to be a tradition which we must inculcate in our people. Apparently Luapula people most of them have been fishermen from time immemorial so it is a skill that they already have."

Chilangwa noted that government had failed the people of Luapula in the past. "If we go back to our books in history, you will find that Luapula Province was the third biggest economy in this country just running after Lusaka and the Copperbelt Provinces and what was driving that economy was the fishing industry. But that has actually changed because of population explosion and bad fishing methods and due to lack of political will on our part as government. In the past and I am including the PF because where I come from they say 'Mupyanango apyana namabala', meaning that when you inherit a leopard, you also inherit its dark spots. So when you inherit governance it means you do not only inherit the good things that have been achieved in the past but also the negatives," Chilangwa said.

"So that's what we are saying that as government there are certain things we failed to put in place in the past so what happened is, because of bad fishing methods amongst ourselves as people from Luapula Province, we have over fished our rivers and our lakes

and as government, we have no will to ensure that we put in measures to ensure that we implement sustainable ways of fishing. And as PF government, we have realised that if the economy of Luapula province was able to be pushed to that level during those early years, it is possible that it can also happen now. What we have to do is to put in measures that can curb the vice."

Meanwhile, Chilangwa said the only way to reduce poverty in Luapula Province was to start making efforts to improve the economy at household level so that people did not depend on handouts.

"The poverty levels in Luapula Province are very high and even though we have a lot of people helping us, I do not believe personally that hand outs can actually reduce poverty levels, my great belief is that poverty can only be reduced by economic performance. If we have economic performance at individual level, at household level, community, district and institutional level, then we are going to start making some real strides in ensuring that we start reducing poverty levels. So we have to look at the infrastructure availability in the province, what infrastructure do we have in the province and what infrastructure do we need in the province? So that we can use it as a platform for development, so we have to look at all those things to come up with a basis of what we need to do in the Province," said Chilangwa.

We will not be blackmailed to give Mopani cheap electricity - Mabumba

From front page

"It does not make sense for these firms to fail to abide by the new tariffs when domestic users are paying. Mopani is not paying, Kalumbila is not paying, Kansanshi is not paying, those mines that are not paying, we will give them the amount of power equivalent to the new tariff at 9.3 cents and it is as a result of that we have restricted, for example what I have here, Kalumbila, they are supposed to be getting 155 MegaWatts, Zesco has restricted to 110 Megawatts, Kansanshi

they are supposed to be getting 187 MegaWatts, we have restricted to 133 MegaWatts. Mopani are supposed to be getting 190 MegaWatts, they are getting 94 MegaWatts," said Mabumba.

"There is no one person who will be given special consideration. If the other customers are paying, why should we be subsidizing to the industry? I think it will be very unfair. The mines that are not paying, they want to blackmail government, our considered view is that we don't want this restriction of

power to have an impact in the economy but obviously if this continues, it might have."

And at the same briefing, Zesco director transmission Webster Musonda said it was unfortunate that the mines were refusing to pay despite having committed to do so.

On Friday, Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) began restricting power supply to the three mines, forcing Mopani to send home some of its employees. A court hearing to resolve the dispute is scheduled for this Thursday.

So, by declaring compulsory HIV testing for citizens who seek any form of medical help, President Edgar Lungu has declared all Zambians HIV positive until proven 'innocent'. As a matter of fact, this extends to non-Zambians who go to our public hospitals. This is not a small pronouncement; it is a declaration which will have serious consequences on the country and its citizens. Therefore, we urge all Zambians and government stakeholders to take a moment to critically think about the benefits and repercussions of the declaration made by the President of the Republic of Zambia.

"The HIV scourge has continued to pose one of the biggest threats to our country's development. The Patriotic Front government under my leadership is up to the task and has embarked on a transformative shift through emphasising HIV voluntary counseling and testing to [compulsory] HIV testing and treatment. Yesterday when we sat in Cabinet, we had this subject 'HIV testing and treatment', I must confess that there are some colleagues who felt that this is contrary to Human Rights and rights to privacy. My position was that 'no one has got a right to take his own life', therefore this is to make sure that we must protect life in Zambia generally and across the board. So just as we test for malaria, we don't consult you to consent, whether you should be tested for malaria or not, we will do the same with HIV and AIDS. We will counsel you and tell you that 'you have got this problem, you need to embark on treatment'. That

Even achalasia can kill without treatment



is the position of Zambia and its official, no debate about it," said President Lungu.

How can President Lungu declare that there will be no debate about this issue as if he owns Zambian citizens? A President does not own citizens, not even those who voted for him. Therefore, he cannot authoritatively dictate personal and private decisions on behalf of citizens. Those who came up with the idea that HIV testing should be voluntary knew that, because of the nature and stigma that unfortunately continues to be associated with positive living citizens, a person's mind needed to be psychologically ready and prepared for the news. You cannot have a situation where someone visits a dentist for a toothache, only to be dragged on the side and told that "by the way, you also have this problem". Not everyone is ready to hear their HIV status at the

same time. Other people will go to the hospital to check their BP before sitting an exam the following day, so how does President Lungu think telling such a person that they are HIV positive on that day help?

When we heard President Lungu saying the move is meant to end AIDS in Zambia by 2030, we wondered if the health minister misled the Head of State into believing that those who are on HIV treatment cannot spread it. We are shocked because anyone who has ever gone for counseling knows that AIDS is most commonly transmitted through sexual intercourse. Anyone who has ever gone for testing knows that AIDS is prevented by sleeping with one faithful partner or having protected, safe sex. What HIV/AIDS treatment does is prolong the infected person's life, not the life of the person they are going

to have unsafe sex with. Therefore, the whole nation can be on HIV treatment, but for as long as people continue to have unsafe sex, the prevalence rate will not reduce at all. To end AIDS by 2030, President Lungu must find ingenious ways and means of persuading citizens to indulge in safe sex, not just getting treatment.

President Lungu said his decision was based on the Zambian demographic health survey of 2014, which showed him that only 67 per cent of the Zambian population knew their HIV status. What else does that health demographic survey say? Does it say that HIV/AIDS remains the number one killer disease in Zambia? Does that survey have the cancer mortality rate statistics? President Lungu also says refusing to know your status is like taking your own life. But is that not the case with all other diseases? Why did

President Lungu's Cabinet pick on HIV/AIDS alone for compulsory testing? Why is government not interested in compulsory cancer screening for all men and women who seek any form of medical help?

Our opinion is that President Lungu is wrong on this issue. He must reverse the declaration before it creates a crisis, especially in the rural areas of Zambia where people don't fully understand their rights, and HIV/AIDS knowledge is limited. The President is trying to create a new law without fully agreeing with his own Cabinet, let alone Parliament. If government spent money to consult people on maintaining membership to the International Criminal Court, how can it fail to find resources for a consultative process of such a thorny issue?

Anyway, we understand that whatever President Lungu

declares never gets reversed. So we know that no matter how much the Human Rights Commission speaks, no matter how much stakeholders talk, compulsory HIV/AIDS testing is here to stay. Our plea, however, is to ask President Lungu and his Cabinet to lead the way. Since they want hospitals in Zambia to know every citizen's HIV status, let them lead by example in testing for HIV publicly, they must go a mile further by publishing their results. We need to know how healthy our health minister is, and all others who support this move.

We propose this in order to demonstrate to President Lungu how his members of Cabinet will fight to protect their rights to privacy. Our ministers know very well because the majority, if not all, of them are sexually active. They know that being minister or President does not give anyone the immunity from contracting AIDS. But if President Lungu insists, let us give him a chance to take the challenge. Let him try this at home. Let him propose to his family that everyone should know their status at any given time. Let us see if he will unite his family on this thorny issue. If President Lungu's family does not resist, Zambians will be encouraged. At that point, we will join our caring Head of State in pushing for this agenda. In fact, we will demand that not only should there be mandatory testing for HIV/AIDS, but all other killer diseases because without treatment, so many illnesses out there can kill, including achalasia.

Can diplomatic immunity save Grace Mugabe from going to jail in S/Africa?

Zimbabwe's first lady has landed herself in hot South African water following the alleged assault of a young model.

Initial reports had it that Grace Mugabe handed herself over to police and was expected to appear in court on Tuesday afternoon.

But in a radio interview that morning, the country's police minister said that "if she came here with her diplomatic passport she can have diplomatic immunity". This led to confusion and indignation on social media.

"Did #gracemugabe come here to beat up people because she's banking on diplomatic immunity?" tweeted one person.

We got the lowdown from an expert.

Protection & privileges extended to certain foreigners

What is diplomatic immunity and under which circumstances does it apply to foreign citizens visiting or working in South Africa? Professor Hennie Strydom, who holds the South African Research Chair in International Law at the University of Johannesburg, explained to Africa Check how it works.

"Diplomatic immunity refers to the protection and privileges extended to certain foreigners, such as members of diplomatic missions, consuls, ministers of foreign affairs and heads of state," he said.

The South African

government can also extend this protection to people on an ad hoc basis by publishing their names in the government gazette. It also applies to family members of diplomats and their personnel.

The immunity includes that people protected by it "shall enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state", as set out by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Most countries in the world have ratified this convention, Strydom said.

Following ratification, local legislation has to be enacted to give effect to the convention. In South Africa, this happened through the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges

Act of 2001.

BUT...

Diplomatic protection only applies to people in the course of conducting official state business. As Mugabe was reportedly travelling in her private capacity, she may therefore be prosecuted.

Deputy director-general of the department of international relations and co-operation, Clayton Monyela, told Africa Check: "The lady [Grace Mugabe] is appearing in court. The only way that can happen is if she was arrested or turned herself in. This wouldn't have happened if she had diplomatic immunity."

"In my case, when I travel on business, I use my diplomatic passport. But when I go on holiday, I have

to use my private passport. I am not allowed to use my diplomatic passport."

Home country can revoke immunity

Three courses of action are possible when someone enjoying diplomatic immunity commits a crime. "The first remedy is that the person can be declared persona non grata," Strydom said. This means he or she will be expelled from the host country.

The second is that the country of origin could revoke immunity. Monyela provided an example: "Say you are a South African diplomat and you are posted somewhere. Whilst you are there you commit a crime, like murder, and it comes to the attention of South Africa.

"Your country can revoke your immunity dependent on the crime you have committed. But if they don't revoke it the host country can't charge you."

The last option is that the country of origin could prosecute the person back home.

This is not the first time the issue of diplomatic immunity has been raised because of Grace Mugabe's actions. In 2009, Mugabe's diplomatic immunity protected her from arrest after she allegedly assaulted a British photographer in Hong Kong. – Kate Wilkinson & Anim van Wyk.

This report was researched by Africa Check, a non-partisan fact-checking organisation.

Sierra Leone mudslide: At least 600 still missing in Freetown



The hillside collapsed on to dozens of houses in Regent after heavy rain

At least 600 people are still missing following a mudslide and flooding that devastated parts of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, a spokesman for the president has told the BBC.

President Ernest Bai Koroma earlier pleaded for "urgent support", saying entire communities had been wiped out. Nearly 400 people are confirmed dead after a mudslide in the Regent area and floods elsewhere in Freetown on Monday. The Red Cross has warned it is a race against time to find survivors.

A mass burial of victims is planned on Wednesday to free up space in mortuaries.

A disaster waiting to happen?

Presidential spokesman Abdulai Baraytay told the BBC that bodies were still being pulled from the mud and rubble.

"The entire community is now in mourning. Loved ones are still missing, well over 600 people," he said.

The UN said its teams in Sierra Leone had mobilised and were supporting rescue efforts.

"Contingency plans are being put in place to mitigate any potential outbreak of waterborne

diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Homes in the hilltop community of Regent were engulfed after part of Sugar Loaf mountain collapsed following heavy rain early on Monday. Many victims were asleep in bed when disaster struck.

President Koroma fought back tears as he toured Regent on Monday and said the devastation was "overwhelming us".

"Entire communities have been wiped out. We need urgent support now," he said.

Map shows the location of the capital of Sierra Leone, Freetown

He urged people to stay away from the affected areas.

"This tragedy of great magnitude has once again challenged us to come together, to stand by each other and to help one another," he said.

Flooding is not unusual in Sierra Leone, where unsafe housing in makeshift settlements can be swept away by heavy rains.

The rains often hit areas in and around Freetown, an overcrowded coastal city of more than one million people. *BBC News*

Philippine drug war sees 'bloodiest night' of deaths

Philippine police have killed 32 people in drug raids, thought to be the highest death toll in a single day in the country's war on drugs.

The raids took place over 24 hours on Tuesday in Bulacan province, north of the capital Manila.

Police said that those killed were suspected drug offenders who were armed and resisted officers.

Thousands have been killed since President Rodrigo Duterte launched his controversial war on drugs in 2016.

The campaign, aimed at wiping out the drug trade, has attracted intense international criticism over the number of deaths. Mr Duterte has in the past sanctioned extrajudicial killings.

Tuesday's operation, which lasted from midnight to midnight, comprised dozens of raids carried out across Bulacan according to local reports. More than 100 people were arrested and officers seized illegal drugs and arms in the raids.

Handcuffed male residents are rounded up for verification after police officers conducted a large scale anti-drug raid at a slum community in Manila on 20 July 2017. Despite falling away from the international headlines, the record

number of killings is a reminder that President Duterte's war on drugs is far from over.

In a strongly worded public address last month he warned drug users that he would hound them to the "gates of hell."

I recently met a woman

who told me her son was shot and killed by masked vigilantes during a late evening "buy-and-bust" raid. She insisted her son wasn't a dealer, and had his marijuana use declared to the authorities three months before the killing.

Despite stories of extrajudicial killings like this, many in the Philippines support the war on drugs. Taxi drivers have told me that roadside bag snatching has subsided. Manila residents I've spoken to say the streets feel safer. *BBC News*



Nigerian President Buhari passes 100 days abroad, calls grow for him to either return or resign

Obama's tweet is now the most-liked tweet ever

He may not be the president anymore, but Barack Obama is still influential enough to break the Internet. The tweet Obama wrote in response to Saturday's white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, became the most-liked tweet ever, as of 10:07 p.m. on Tuesday, according to Twitter. That honor previously went to Ariana Grande for a tweet the singer wrote following the attack at her Manchester concert. Late Tuesday night, Obama's tweet had racked up 2.8 million likes.

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..." the former president tweeted Saturday at 5:06 p.m., along with a 2011 photo of himself greeting a group of children through a window taken by former White House photographer Pete Souza at a day care facility next to his daughter Sasha's school in Bethesda, Maryland.

Obama's tweet is also the fifth most-retweeted tweet ever, according to Twitter. His tweet was retweeted 1.2 million times as of late Tuesday night. *Yahoo News*



Obama greeting a group of diverse kids in a window

Paris Hilton says she could have been like Princess Diana if not for sex tape

Paris Hilton was on her way to becoming the next Princess Diana if it weren't for her sex tape. This, according to Paris Hilton.

The socialite-turned-businesswoman sat down with Marie Claire for a wide-ranging interview on everything from family friend President Trump to that infamous video. Hilton, now 36, says the sex tape with then-boyfriend Rick Salomon is something she regrets.

Hilton was 18 and Salomon 33 when the tape was released without her consent. The heiress denies she participated in the video's release for fame or profit.

"That's one thing that really pisses me off when I hear it, because I never, ever received one dollar from that video," she says. (According to TMZ, Salomon made \$10 million in the first year.) "That is the last thing that I would want out there."

"It's really hurtful, because my whole life I really looked up to Princess Diana, all these elegant, amazing women, and I feel like [Salomon] just took that all away from me," Hilton adds. "I could have been like that, but because of that tape, I will always be judged and thought of as whatever they say about me because of a private moment between my boyfriend and me."

Hilton continues, "I wish I had never met him. That

is actually the one regret in my life. I wish that I had never met that guy. I could not leave my house for months. I was so depressed, humiliated. I didn't want to be seen in public."

One person who admits to watching the tape? Hilton family friend Trump. He's been close with Paris's father, Rick Hilton, for decades.

Paris was asked if it crept her out that Trump watched the intimate video, and the Marie Claire interviewer writes that Paris "shrugs it off: It was on Howard Stern's show."

Hilton says she didn't vote for Trump — she didn't vote at all — but also dismisses his infamous "grab them by the pussy" tape.

"I've heard guys say the craziest things ever, because I'm always around guys, and I listen to them speak," she says.

As for the women who alleged that Trump sexually assaulted them, she told the magazine, "I think that they are just trying to get attention and get fame."

Still, Hilton views herself as a feminist. "I just feel it's about women's empowerment and girl power, and I'm very into that," she says.

The love is mutual between Paris and Trump, who once called the heiress "dumb like a fox." Her sister, Nicky Hilton Rothschild, also tells the magazine, "[Paris] didn't get this far by being dumb." *Yahoo News*



Nadal passes Federer in ATP rankings

What a difference a year makes. With the U.S. Open, the final Grand Slam of the year, set to get underway on

Aug. 28, the ATP rankings have seen some big changes in the top five due to injuries. Next week, Rafael Nadal will return to No. 1

for the first time since July 2014, leapfrogging Andy Murray and Roger Federer. Murray (hip) and Federer (back) both withdrew from

the Cincinnati Masters, prompting Nadal to move up. Novak Djokovic, who has battled injuries this year, decided to shut down

his season in July to fully recover from an elbow injury. Stan Wawrinka, who has battled knee problems, also cut short his season.

Australian Open final and cruising to his 10th French Open title, Nadal's comeback has been impressive after suffering through many setbacks in 2015 and 2016.

"A lot of things have happened since the last time I was in this spot. Injuries and some tough moments, of course, but I have held the passion and the love for the game, and that's why I have the chance to be back in that position again. So I'm just trying to enjoy the moment and just trying to be ready to compete well here. That's the most important thing for me now."

Odds makers list Federer and Nadal well ahead of the pack for the U.S. Open. Federer remains the favorite to win at Flushing Meadows with his odds listed at +110, while Nadal has the second best odds at +250. Murray is listed at +500 and Alexander Zverev is fourth at +800.

Federer has won the U.S. Open five times. Nadal has won the tournament twice.

ATP Rankings (points)

- 1) Andy Murray (7,750)
- 2) Rafael Nadal (7,555)
- 3) Roger Federer (7,145)
- 4) Stan Wawrinka (5,780)
- 5) Novak Djokovic (5,325)

Yahoo Sport



'Aunt' Venus preparing for Serena's baby and US Open

Wimbledon and Australian Open runner-up Venus Williams is preparing this week for the US Open and to become a new aunt with sister Serena giving birth to a baby soon.

Ninth-ranked Venus advanced Tuesday to the second round at the WTA Cincinnati Open by eliminating US compatriot Alison Riske 6-2, 6-0 in 66 minutes.

But off the court, she's doing some online shopping for Serena's baby, and getting some valuable advice from her mother, Oracene Price, who has raised five daughters.

"I have a lot of things in my cart that I'm about to order," Venus Williams said. "I talked to my mom yesterday. I'm like, 'Mom, what do you really, really need?' So she really gave me the low-down.

"So I'm going to get this stuff and as things progress I'll see what I need after."

Serena and her fiancée, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, have said they plan to keep the sex of the baby a surprise until birth. Serena, 35, was pregnant when she beat Venus, 37, in an Australian Open final that was more all-Williams than either knew, winning a 23rd career Grand Slam singles crown, one shy of Margaret Court's all-time record.

In April, Serena revealed on social media that she was pregnant. She is expected to give birth in

about another month.

With Serena sidelined, seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus has picked up the family mantle and turned back the clock, making a run to the Wimbledon final last month, losing to Spain's

Garbine Muguruza in a bid for her first Slam crown since 2008.

Venus, who won five Wimbledon and two US Open titles, has been an aunt before, but not when she was old enough to do some serious spoiling

and spending on the new arrival.

"This is the first time I've been an aunt as an adult," she said. "So it's a completely different experience than before when I was a child." *Yahoo Sports*

Messi promised Neymar he would win him the Ballon d'Or



The lengths to which Lionel Messi went to try to keep Neymar at Barcelona have been reported by Sport with claims the Argentine was willing to help the Brazilian become the best player in the world.

Messi's attitude towards putting others first is not a new one. It's a common notion that

the Barca talisman always put Suárez and Neymar first on the pitch, often for the better of the team and the happiness of his star team-mates.

In fact this is something that we have observed playing out on the pitch game after game. There wasn't a shred of selfishness

that Messi displayed when it came to his relationship with Neymar on the pitch.

Neymar is obviously gone, but what is fascinating is that Messi really knew that the Brazilian wanted to be the best player in the world and reportedly told his team-mate he would give him what he wanted. *Yahoo Sports*



Zambia finally train in Ndola after 24hr delay



Former world chess champion Garry Kasparov at his office in Midtown, Manhattan, on June 13, 2016

By Diggers Reporter

Zambia finally kicked off their 2018 CHAN final leg qualifier training camp in Ndola on Tuesday after a two-day delay. Chipolopolo have been marooned in Lusaka since they arrived from South Africa on Sunday night where they drew 2-2 with Bafana Bafana on Saturday in a 2018 CHAN final round, first leg qualifier in East London. The team trained on Tuesday afternoon at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium where the August 19 match will be played. "This is our first session this week, we had some problems in Lusaka when we arrived. We did not know whether we would be here or Lusaka," Nyirenda said.

"The information came in late that we had to proceed to Ndola. "We wanted to start off at 15h00 on Monday but we could not. Everyone is OK and we hope for the best." But missing from day one training was Power Dynamos striker Alex Ngonga who has yet to report after missing the first leg draw to prepare for his wedding. "Everyone is here but we still awaiting Mr Alex Ngonga but the team manager is still communicating with the people at Power Dynamos," Nyirenda said. Ngonga is unlikely to join the team for Wednesday training as Power have a crucial league match against Buildcon at home in Kitwe on the same date.

Kasparov suffers first loss in comeback event

Chess legend Garry Kasparov suffered the first loss of his brief but highly anticipated comeback to the game, succumbing to fellow Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi and bringing his draw total to five. After three draws on Monday, the 54-year-old former world champion, who dominated the game from 1985 to 2000, had hoped to play "more aggressive" chess on day two of the Rapid and Blitz tournament in St Louis. Sportstarlive.com

