

Lungu returns from holiday

Story on page 2



LISTENING PRESIDENT: Lungu listens to Vice-President Inonge Wina upon arrival at KKIA

S&P upgrades Zambia's credit rating, but warns of consequences if IMF deal fails

By Mukosha Funga
Standard and Poors [S&P] Global says Zambia should consolidate its agreement with the International Monetary Fund by the end of the year as any further derailment can dent confidence and offset the positive economic indicators. According to a statement issued by Finance Ministry Public Relations Manager Chileshe Kandeta yesterday, S&P upgraded

Zambia's rating from negative to positive with a stable outlook but warned of consequences if the IMF deal failed.
Continues on page 7

Police allow protest against "incompetent Inspector General"

By Mukosha Funga
Chilufya Tayali says he will tomorrow go to Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja's office to tell him that he has failed.
Continues on page 2

Elections in Africa represent the will of those who count votes - Shaka Ssali

By Mukosha Funga
Straight Talk Africa host Shaka Ssali says most of African elections are a sham because they are "selections" which did not reflect the will of the people.

Speaking on Diamond TV's programme dubbed Costa yesterday, Ssali observed that African elections represented the will of those who counted votes.
Continues on page 5

IT'S TIME SOMEONE ELSE TOOK OVER PF - KAMBWILI

By Joseph Mwenda
Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says President Edgar Lungu must resign as leader of the Patriotic Front because he has failed to unite

...Lungu has failed to unite the party

the party. And Kambwili says if the PF pushes him too far, he will launch a political tsunami that the country has never seen before. Meanwhile, the former Information Minister complained that President Lungu's political advisor Kaizer Zulu called to warn him that the State Machinery would fall on him and make him broke.
Continues on page 5

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Presidential Empowerment Initiative Patron Chanda Kabwe says K10.4 million has been used to empower over 7,000 marketeers so far; both in cash and in assets form.

Speaking when he featured on the PF Interactive Forum in Kabwe yesterday, Kabwe, who is also Central Province Permanent Secretary, disclosed that a total number of 34 districts had benefited from the Presidential Empowerment Initiative.

Kabwe said the funds were coming from the first family which was contributing 10 per cent of their earnings every month.

"Initially in 2015, the project was to be for only three markets on the Copperbelt as a pilot project. The markets were Kitwe's Chisokone, Chingola's Chiwempala, and Chisokone in Ndola. These were the three markets we started with, but because the demand was huge, we went back to His Excellency and told him the demand was huge, people in the informal sector are looking for this empowerment. What can we do? Then with his authority he said we need to move across the country and identify the needs of the people and we empower them," Kabwe said.

"So from 2015 until today, we have empowered over 7,000 marketeers, we have spent K10.4 million in cash form and in asset form. Because we have identified the needs of marketeers, some marketeers were looking for monies, others were looking for tools to use in order for them to grow their business. A total number of 34 districts have benefited from the Presidential empowerment funds and all this is coming from the contribution of the first family who are contributing every month

PF gives K10.4M to 7,000 marketeers in presidential empowerment funds



Chanda Kabwe hands over a K400 grant to some marketeers on August 27, 2017 - Picture courtesy of Smart Eagles

10 percent towards the empowerment."

Kabwe said the initiative was non-political and challenged those who were suspecting that the project was using government resources to come out in the open and expose him.

"The Presidential Empowerment Initiative is a non-political initiative. We have not used not even a single Ngwee from government and I challenge anyone who has the information that we are using government monies to empower the people in the informal sector to expose us. I want to assure you my dear colleagues and the nation that we are not using government resources," he said.

He revealed that 500 people

on the Copperbelt had been empowered with airtime vending machines.

"In 2015, we procured 500 units MTN vendor machines, those machines for air-time at the cost of K1,200,080, we gave them out to the vendors in order for them to be selling airtime, and that is an empowerment. Plus we gave them airtime worth K500 each at the total cost of K250,000 so as am talking to you, 500 vendors and marketeers were empowered with these machines on the Copperbelt, you can go and verify for yourself," Kabwe said.

"We moved on to also helping miners. You are aware that when the copper prices dropped,

the presidential initiative came at play. We organized trainings for our brothers and sisters who lost employment in the mining industry. 3,000 miners were trained in various skills. We gave them hope that losing employment in the mining industry was not the end of the world. And we spent monies on human resource to train these miners."

Kabwe also said bus drivers and taxi drivers had also benefitted from the initiative.

"Again we empowered the bus drivers with the fuel scheme and vehicles, in Lusaka we opened the fuel scheme at the cost of K100,000 for the buses and taxi drivers in Lusaka. We also opened another one in Ndola at the cost

of K100,000 in 2016. We also procured vehicles for the taxi drivers and bus drivers in Chingola, in Ndola and in Kasama. We encouraged them to open driving schools so that they can generate more income. And this was at the cost of K486,000," Kabwe said.

"So we empowered 3,000 people across the country with bicycles valued at K1.8 million. We empowered people with motor bikes where 180 people benefited from the motor bikes because their biggest need was transport for doing business but the cost of doing business was very high. So 180 people were given motor bikes at the cost of K2,150,000 and these are paying. We gave them to pay for a period of

five years. They are paying back K50 per month."

He further revealed total of K813,000 was spent on people with special needs in Ndola.

"On the Copperbelt, in Ndola, a total of K813,000 was released with a special attention to the people with [special] needs. In 2016, we released K29,300 for the people of Luanshya. In end of 2016, we released K300,000 in Luanshya for infrastructure development where we are putting up two toilet facilities, Bisenge and Baluba. This year in Luanshya, again we have released K250,000. Our coordinator Mr Clement Tembo was in Luanshya to launch the empowerment of K250,000 in Luanshya," Kabwe said.

"In Chingola, K503,000 was given in 2016 to marketeers and vendors plus two vehicles were given taxis and bus drivers association of Zambia valued at K62 thousand. In Kitwe in 2015 to 2016, we gave out K886,501 to over 500 marketeers and vendors. Plus His Excellency gave us to give Chisokone market a further K250,000 for the market shelter and His Excellency commissioned the shelter."

Meanwhile Kabwe said the main targets for the Initiative were female headed households, child headed households, the elderly, and people with special needs.

"In Mongu Western province, we gave out K318,000 to the marketeers. In Mansa Luapula province, we gave K243,000 for the marketeers and vendors. In Petauke Eastern province, we gave K546,000 for both vendors and marketeers. In Solwezi North Western province, we gave out K266,000 for both vendors and marketeers. In Senanga, we gave out K86,000, in Kalomo we gave out K54,000, in Kasama we gave out K511,000 and here in Kabwe we gave out K10,000 to the people with special needs. These are some of the districts that have benefited from the presidential empowerment," said Kabwe. "Our targets where female headed households, child headed households and people with special needs or people with disabilities, and the elderly people. Especially the people in the rural areas who have no access to financial aid." Meanwhile, Chanda gave nine marketeers a grant of K400 each at the interactive forum.

Police allow protest against "incompetent IG"

From front page

And Tayali says he will also protest against the criminalization of former police commissioner Fanwell Siandenge even though the charges he would have been slapped with have been

neutralized by the High Court.

Meanwhile, the UPND thanksgiving prayers for Hakainde Hichilema's release will go ahead tomorrow after Minister of National Guidance Reverend Godfridah

Sumaili overruled police. In an interview with News Diggers! shortly after he announced that police had granted him permission to hold a lone protest against Kanganja and the police, Tayali said he would march from the Freedom Statue to the Police Chief's office at Force Headquarters.

"I will go and give the petition right in the office of the Inspector General, I am going to tell him that he has failed, he has let us down," Tayali, who is Economic and Equity Party leader, said.

He observed that police granted him the permit because they were in a corner.

"They are in a corner,

they know that even if they denied us a permit, we would continue talking. Kanganja may not go tomorrow but at least there will be public awareness that some of these things are wrong. I want to protest against police incompetence and the inefficiency of the police."

And Tayali said he would protest against the witch hunt against Siandenge.

"I will be protesting against unlawful arrests, unlawful detention, police brutality, unfair application of the public order Act and of course about Siandenge whom they have criminalized over a case which has already been disposed

off," said Tayali.

Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo recently said there was still a bounty on Siandenge's head even though Obvious Mwaliteta and others whom he was accused of carrying out an aggravated robbery operation had been freed by the High Court.

Meanwhile, the UPND thanksgiving prayers for HH's release will go ahead tomorrow.

According to an invite sent out by City of Refuge overseer Pastor Kangwa Chileshe, the prayers will commence at 14:00 hours and end at 16:00 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Lungu returns from holiday

By Diggers Reporter

President Edgar Lungu has arrived in Lusaka from his 5 days vacation in North Luangwa.

The Head of State landed at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport shortly after 12:30 hours today.

After attending the SADC summit in South Africa, President Lungu flew straight to Mfuwe and proceeded to North Luangwa on holiday.

His absence has, however, created an atmosphere of panic among government and ruling party officials, following speculation that the Head of State was returning to make new appointments to government.

New districts have brought confusion because PF didn't consult, Gawa tells Inonge

By Joseph Mwenda and Mirriam Chabala

Kalonga Gawa Undi, the Paramount Chief of the Chewa people of Zambia's Eastern Province, Mozambique and Malawi tells Vice-President Inonge Wina that the government did not consult traditional leaders when creating new districts, hence causing conflicts and land disputes in the country.

Speaking during the Kulamba traditional ceremony at Mkaika in Katete district today, Kalonga Gawa Undi asked the PF government to consult before making pronouncements, in order to avoid conflict with the traditional leaders.

"The new districts which have been created by government continue to be a source of friction between the traditional leadership in the areas where new districts were created. Let me say from the outset that consultations were not above board. This also stems from the manner in which these new districts were created," Kalonga Gawa Undi said. "Pronouncements were made before consultations were carried out. It is important that the government seriously engages the traditional leadership on matters that have to do with traditional land, so that an amicable solution is arrived at through consensus by the concerned parties without intimidation."

He said there was need for intimidation-free consensus among concerned parties and for adherence to hierarchy in the administration of land.

"In areas where hierarchy exists, it should strictly be adhered to. This has become necessary as Zambia develops so as to avoid conflict between government and chiefs, who are the recognised custodians of traditional land," said Undi.

He thanked government for upgrading the road that leads to Nkaika from Great East Road, but expressed concern over the poor quality of roadworks in the area.

Meanwhile, acting President Inonge Wina says traditional ceremonies play an important role in the preservation of culture and heritage in different societies.

"This ceremony is a greatest demonstration of the cultural freedom across three countries and across various cultures. Your royal Highness, the 2017 theme 'educating the girl and boy child and ending early marriages' resonates very well with the Patriotic Front government's aspirations of maximising on the nation's demographic dividends through focussed investment in the youth. Our national statics indicates that the youth constitutes the majority of Zambia's population. It is therefore in order that we harness this valuable resource by nurturing it from the very tender age," said Wina.

"The PF government recognises the critical role that traditional ceremonies play in nurturing the unity of purpose among chiefs and their subjects. In the case of the Kulamba traditional ceremony, unity of purpose transcends national boundaries as it is graced by their royal highnesses and their people from Mozambique and Malawi. On behalf of my government and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend our very warm welcome to the delegation from the two sister countries.



Kalonga Gawa Undi, Paramount Chief of the Chewa people

Kanganja is an embarrassment, fire him - UPND

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The UPND says Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja and his Lusaka Province Commissioner Nelson Phiri must be fired for embarrassing the state.

In a statement today, UPND Spokesperson Charles Kakoma said if it was not true that State House and the PF were not involved in the cancellation of the UPND Thanksgiving Service last week, then Kanganja should be fired.

"If it's true that the police made an independent decision to cancel the Thanksgiving Church service for the release of UPND President Hakainde Hichilema from prison,

then police Inspector General, Kakoma Kanganja and Lusaka Province Commissioner of Police must immediately resign for embarrassing the state and abrogating the constitution. If they don't resign on their own, they must be fired," Kakoma said.

"Patriotic Front, Secretary General, Davies Mwila, is on record as saying the police independently made the decision to cancel the Thanksgiving Church Service that was supposed to be held on Thursday last week. Amos Chanda, the Press Aide for President Edgar Lungu also said State House had no hand in the bad decision to cancel the

church service which was meant to praise and worship God for the release of UPND president, Hakainde Hichilema and other political detainees."

Kakoma said his party did not believe that the police acted on their own.

"Although we do not believe that police acted on their own, this is a big lesson for the police not to be following blindly instructions from politicians in the ruling party and its government. Now that the police command has been disowned by those in the corridors of power, they should be feeling ashamed of themselves. If it is true that PF and its government was not involved in the cancellation of the Church service, then they should fire the police top command for bringing ridicule to the nation," he said.

Kakoma said that the cancellation of the thanks giving prayers was retrogressive and an abrogation of the Constitution.

"This cancellation was retrogressive and clearly an abrogation of the constitution. The Zambian constitution clearly provides for freedom to worship and pray. The Zambia police infringed on the rights of those that intended to have the prayer meeting and therefore the Police should be held accountable for this dreadful decision. The Police embarrassed State House, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the entire Nation when they canceled a church service in a Country

whose laws protect and uplift Christianity," Kakoma added.

He added that his party would have every reason to believe that the police command had received instructions from the higher offices to cancel the prayers if Kanganja was not fired.

"International media outlets, such as BBC and Voice of America, ran the story and therefore Zambia was put in bad light in the eyes of the International community. If Kanganja doesn't resign or get fired alongside his top command, then we will have every reason to believe that he had instructions from the higher offices to abrogate the constitution that he was sworn to protect, uphold and enforce. As a matter of fact, both Amos Chanda and Davies Mwila recently disclosed that the Police had been 'assisted' to reverse the decision because it was in bad taste," said Kakoma.

"This in itself is a glaring admission that we have a problem at the helm of the police and the management of the police service. The police I.G and his top command have dismally failed the people of Zambia. Meanwhile, we would like to appeal to all Zambians to show solidarity and defend the freedom of worship by turning out in large numbers on Tuesday the 29th August 2017 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka to participate in the Thanks Giving Church Service for UPND President Hakainde Hichilema's release from prison."

Kasonde represented the best of politics – State House

By Mukosha Funga

State House says former Minister of Health Dr Joseph Kasonde proved that it is possible to be in politics but still be decent towards one another, including those who hold divergent views.

At a media briefing in Lusaka yesterday, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda said Dr Kasonde was one of the finest men President Edgar Lungu had ever worked with.

"It is of considerable regret that the President learns of the demise of Dr Kasonde who he said was one of the finest men he has ever worked with, a very dedicated, distinguished gentleman with considerable commitment to duty and commitment to patriotism. On behalf of State House, the President and the First Lady and the government in general, the President sends his condolences and wishes the family of Dr Kasonde God's grace during the funeral and the tough period ahead of them without this pillar

of the family. Dr Kasonde was a fine man, very understanding with an extra ordinary commitment to detail. He was a perfectionist who wanted things done in a perfect manner in the medical circles. He was simply one of Zambia's finest, one of the very best. In politics too, he remained a decent man of extra ordinary grace in his interactions with people both within the party and those across the aisle in the opposition," Chanda said.

"He represented the best of politics and that's an example that the President says one of the things that Dr Kasonde teaches us is that it is possible to be in politics, have different opinions and still remain ingracious and decent to one another. The President sends his heartfelt condolences to Mrs Kasonde and family on the passing of this great son of the soil. The President wishes the berieved family God's strength during this period of mourning. What remains of us, the President says is an opportunity to learn

from his achievements and his great sense of patriotism and his commitment to duty."

He also noted that Dr Kasonde understood the importance of national unity.

"Dr Kasonde definitely represented that fine generation of men and women who we can proudly say they fully grasped the meaning of nationhood. They fully understood the inescapable duty to promote those values that speak to the broadest interest of the greatest majority of the citizens. In his work both as a doctor and a politician, Dr Kasonde sought to contribute to the emergence of development and sustenance of a Zambia that is committed to one goal and that is development. He used his field to try and advance his vision of a Zambia that is one, united and common in its pursuit for what is good for mankind," said Chanda.

Dr Kasonde succumbed to cancer of the liver on Friday around 21:30.



Home Affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo with his counterpart Justice minister Given Lubinda during their visit at Lusaka Central Prison August 25, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

CTPD, ZCEA ask govt to increase budget allocation for children

By Mirriam Chabala

Some civil society organizations say they expect enhanced public spending towards children in the 2018 national budget so as to realize child rights and access to essential services such as health, education and social protection. In a statement issued by Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) executive director Isaac Mwaipopo, urged Finance Minister Felix Mutati to increase budgetary allocation to early education.

“CTPD and Zambia Civic Education Association (ZCEA) through Child Budget Network (CBN) expects enhanced public spending towards children in the 2018 national budget so as to realize child rights and access to essential services such as health, education and social protection. We understand that the National Budget is a vital economic policy instrument that reflects government priorities in trying to realize the countries’ social and economic agenda. As the Ministry of Finance seats to look at various recommendations gathered from the national consultation process, CTPD and ZCEA would like to highlight some of its key expectations with regards to child focused expenditure for the 2018 National Budget,” Mwaipopo stated.

“With regards to Education, we urge government to consider improving budget allocation towards Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programme to ensure adequate supply of learning and teaching materials for children and there should be an increase in recruitment and deployment of ECE teachers in the 2018 budget. On children’s rights to Health, the 8.9% allocation in the 2017 budget is still 6.1% below the recommended 15% Abuja Declaration threshold which would ensure the needed investment

for making the desired gains in the health sector. We are calling on government to consider increasing the total allocation towards health as a share of the total national budget from 8.9% in 2017 to the 15% minimum in the 2018 National Budget in accordance with the Abuja Declaration. The stark reality is that the provisions of the health infrastructure and care services have still remained a big challenge in Zambia.”

He also stated that CTPD and ZCEA wanted government



CTPD Executive Director Isaac Mwaipopo

to improve health care provision allocations.

“According to the UNICEF- Maternal, Newborn and Child Health report of 2017, it highlights that Neonatal Mortality rates and Under Five are still high: 34 newborn babies die per 1,000 live births while 119 under five babies die per 1,000. We are therefore urging government to provide better attention on health care provision through allocations in the 2018 national budget. In terms of human resource for the health sector, government should consider maintaining the demonstrated commitment in 2017 by training, recruiting and retaining more health personnel in 2018 through provision of more funding for this purpose,” stated Mwaipopo.

“On nutrition, we are concerned that spending towards

nutrition has remained low over the years. According to the analytical brief of the social sector budget 2017 done by UNICEF, Zambia has one of highest stunting rates almost half of children under the age of five in rural and urban areas are stunted which reiterates the need to refocus efforts towards addressing these challenges. We are therefore recommending government to increase nutrition budget allocations in the 2018 national budget: Finally, we would like to emphasize our high anticipation of a National Budget that is driven by plans and strategies highlighted in key policy documents such as the recently launched seventh national plan. We look forward to having a budget that fosters inclusive growth and tackling rising inequalities.”

From front page

In an interview with News Diggers! Kambwili said he had taken time to interact with the sidelined ministers who were in Michael Sata's Cabinet and they were not happy with how the ruling party had been hijacked by the MMD.

"The original PF members are not happy. Everybody is not happy. There is an invisible hand that is dictating the affairs of PF and this hand is destabilising the party. The sooner the PF members realise that we are being taken on a wrong course, the better. Look at what is happening in the mines; how can the government allow miners [at Mopani Mines] to be sent on forced leave over a contractual agreement which is very straight forward. Mopani are not being unreasonable, they are following what is contained in the Power Supply Agreement that they have with CEC. We need to understand these issues other than threatening Mopani. We have a big problem here, we expect the President to call Mopani to State House and resolve the issue, he should have even cut his trip from Mfuwe," Kambwili said

"That is why I am saying under this administration of Edgar Lungu, Minors will never see anything tangible. The earlier the President realises that he is making a mistake and comes back to sit with the original PF, and do the original plan of PF, the better. Failure to which, the only thing I can do is to ask him to resign and pave way for other people to lead PF. Someone who has a heart for the people, a heart for the poor, a heart for the miners."

Asked if he was interested in taking over from President Lungu, Kambwili said all he wanted was unity in the ruling party.

"I want to fight for PF and my matter is in court, but if we reach the hard rock, there is nothing I can do. I will have no option but to device plan B. I have told them that once we go plan B, they will have nobody to blame but themselves. They will see a political Tsunami that they have never seen in this country. I am not a political lightweight," warned Kambwili.

He said he could not sit idle and watch the party he labored for be taken over by strangers.

"The MMD government is back through the back door. Everything that is happening now is MMD. It's no longer PF. The entire leadership of PF today is MMD and the

It's time someone else took over PF - Kambwili

man behind the control of PF is Rupiah Banda. So we have gone back to square one; the people that we removed from power have come back," Kambeili observed.

"And for me I doubt if President Edgar Lungu has ever been PF before, because if he was PF, he would have continued with the PF members in leadership. What is going on now, you can see that it's the MMD tricks; where when you

have an election, you put the price of maize at K85 per bag, immediately the elections are over, you bring the price of maize at K60 per bag, this is what we were seeing in MMD. The MMD would start a road when there are elections, immediately after elections are over they demobilise."

He observed that President Lungu was travelling unnecessarily and neglecting pressing national issues.

"What were we were seeing in MMD is that the President was out of the country every after two weeks. This is exactly what we are seeing now. Look at what President Edgar Lungu did; there was an inauguration ceremony in Rwanda and there was a very important meeting of Heads of State in South Africa. Ordinarily, you would have the President to send a minister or Vice-President to Rwanda

for the inauguration ceremony and go and attend an important SADC meeting. But the President goes for both meetings. He goes and lands for two minutes and takes off again to go to South Africa, from South Africa he goes to Mfuwe," said Kambwili.

"You have seen of late that opening of all things now is done by the President, if there is opening of a market shelter costing K250 it

is the President. If there is official opening of a school, it is the President, official opening of a shopping mall, it is the President. Launching of Oil Exploration, the President goes to launch. Surely, do you need the President to go for the exploration of oil? A President should be going to launch the production of oil, not exploration. It appears that the President doesn't have anything to do in the office.

Elections in Africa represent the will of those who count votes - Shaka Ssali



Straight Talk Africa host Shaka Ssali

From front page

"The reason is that they (some African leaders) are not confident of who they are. [That's why] they tend to be autocratic. They don't do what democracy requires you to do which is consulting the people, listening to the people and they are not in the business of [upholding] accountability. Yes, they will call for elections but really, what sort of elections are those? Are they qualitative elections? Do you find a situation where the results of some of those elections reflect the will of the voter, the will of the people or do they simply reflect the will of those who counts the

votes? That's why you find in most African countries the incumbent president not losing elections because those elections are basically sham elections; they are selections," Ssali said.

"I'm not talking about any particular president or any particular country. We have 54 member countries of the African Union and I do not think that you'll find more than 15 countries out of those that practice a semblance of democracy as it is described, for example, by one American President Abraham Lincoln who said democracy is a government of the people, by the people, for the people. [But]

the problem is that democracy has ended up being a government of some people, by some people, through some people."

He said it was unfortunate that most Africans were uneducated and could not hold their leaders accountable.

"They do not have the kind of information that is required in a democratic society so that you can actually make your leaders accountable because at the end of the day, in a democracy it is the people who have the power and not their representatives, not their presidents, not the judges and what have you. But in reality, it is

the other way round; the people who are supposed to be employees of the people are the ones that have power. These people are probably socially, politically and economically insensitive to their own people; they don't care! It's just about me. This black American preacher, the Reverend, Dr Martin Luther King Jr, said 'injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere.' What is needed in Africa is economic justice," Ssali said.

And Ssali advised journalists to carry out research in order to be authoritative on the stories they were reporting on.

"You have to practice your journalism in a

manner that at least reflects the kind of knowledge that you have. You have to somehow portray yourself as being authoritative in what you are doing - you are a professional. You have to rank very high and that means you have to read a lot, by the way. Make sure that you do not go to interview any newsmaker or any individual, unless you have done your homework on what makes that person tick or not tick. You don't have to necessarily be aggressive [but] you can be assertive and that will show the knowledge of what you are talking about," said Ssali.

GBM, HH seditious practices case fails to take off as duo is reported sick



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema and his vice president Geoffrey Mwamba in Petauke—picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Diggers Correspondent

THE case in which UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba are charged with seditious practices has failed to take off as the two are reported sick.

This is a matter in which the two are charged with three counts of seditious practices and unlawful assembly contrary to the laws of Zambia.

In count one and

two, Hichilema and Mwamba were charged individually with seditious practices contrary to the laws of Zambia.

In count three, the two were jointly charged with unlawful assembly contrary to section 75 as read with section 74 of the Penal Code and regulation of the Public Order Act.

Particulars are that the accused number one, Hichilema, 54, of house number 14/38

Sable road Kabulonga on September, 26, in Mpongwe did conspire with others unknown to bring into hatred, incite violence, resistance, and disobedience to the administration of the elected government of Zambia by uttering words namely “nga taba mufumisha Matambo, epo ulubuli lwalatampila (if they do not release Matambo, that’s when the fight will start)”.

In count two, Mwamba, 57, of house number 10

Roan Road, Kabulonga, was charged with seditious practices.

It is alleged that on September, 26, 2016 in Mpongwe, accused number two, Mwamba did conspire with others unknown to bring into hatred, incite violence, resistance, and disobedience to the administration of the elected government of Zambia by uttering words namely “ifwe pano nga ba UPND tufwile twakana iyi

government yakwa Lungu; ngabamyeba ati kuli ama meeting yaba Lungu mulekana, pantu president wesu ni HH (as UPND, we should reject Lungu’s government. When they tell you that there are going to be some meetings chaired by Lungu, don’t go there because our president is HH)”.

In count three, it is alleged that on September, 26, in Mpongwe being in a public place jointly and whilst acting together with others unknown the duo did convene, assemble unlawfully with intent to carry out some common purpose without notifying the regulating officer.

When the matter came up for continued trial today, the defence informed court that the two accused were unable to attend court.

Defence lawyer Mulilo Kabesha presented two medical reports for the

accused.

“First accused person is undergoing medical attention and we have medical reports from Lusaka Trust Hospital which gave him five days as being unfit for work starting from 24 August 2017,” said Kabesha.

“Second accused has been unwell and was initially admitted to CFB, and given sick note indicating that he was unfit for work. We have information that his condition is not improving and has since been taken out of the country for further medical attention. We apply for an adjournment, that being the case.”

The state did not object to the application by the defence team of Mulilo Kabesha, Tom Shamakamba and Chimuka Magubwi. Magistrate Mbuzi then adjourned the matter to September 18, 2017 for continued trial.

Mopani asks court to cite CEC for contempt

By Diggers Reporter

Mopani Copper Mines has filed an application in the Kitwe High court, asking judge Timothy Katanekwa to cite Copperbelt Energy Corporations (CEC) for contempt of court for disobeying court orders.

This is after judge Katanekwa had granted an ex-parte order, restraining CEC from limiting power supply to Mopani, in the interim, while the two parties

resolve the tariffs increase disputes in an arbitration hearing – a directive that the electricity supplier did not obey. Mopani has since asked the court to cite CEC for contempt of court.

The mining company submitted that CEC had not complied with the order and that they had no respect for the courts.

Mopani added that CEC’s behaviour undermined the

course of justice and could impair the standing and reputation of the court and the judicial system in Zambia.

“By implication, CEC’s decision to ignore the order could mean that the courts in Zambia have no effect and should not be obeyed,” submitted Mopani.

Judge Katanekwa has since adjourned the matter to August 30, for hearing and has moved the court to Kabwe District.

Reject proposal to collect garbage levy via phones, ZSPA tells Lusaka residents

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia Society for Public Administration says Lusaka Mayor Wilson Kalumba's suggestion to collect garbage levy from mobile phone bills is illogical.

In a statement yesterday, ZSPA president Kelvin Esiasa urged Lusaka residents to reject the proposal.

"We want to appeal to the people of Lusaka to reject the proposal by His worship the Mayor Wilson Kalumba's intention to start collecting garbage levy via the telecoms. We feel that this proposal lacks credibility, merit and should not be supported for any cause. We reject it because we feel it could be a very unfair practice, something that cannot be supported. Because for instance, if a family of 6 has 6 telephone numbers, it will mean this family will be required to be paying 6 dollars per Month. There is no classification between the number of people living in a particular house in relation to the number of garbage that they may be disposing of," Esiasa stated.

"There is no credibility in what the mayor is proposing and it is meant to abuse institutions like ZICTA. What the mayor needs to do is to engage the citizens and see how best they can make the city clean and ensure that we who live in the city are committed and responsible enough to promote a clean culture and ensure that refuse is disposed of in a designated place. Garbage in the central business district and other high density areas is raising concerns that require citizens to support the local authority in maintaining it."

He advised Kalumba to find other means of improving garbage collection.

"Having said that, we want to see the mayor engage the citizens in transforming this city to be a better place. The Mayor is free to come up with other avenues to strengthen the collections of Garbage Levy, Telecoms will only abuse the process and there will be no credibility or accountability because there are people who registered their numbers in Lusaka but are no longer living here. It is very important that we see how best we can create a credible process to ensure that the right people pay the right garbage levy. We are not objecting to the garbage Levy, we are simply saying that there is need to find better avenues of collecting it," Esiasa stated.

He also observed that the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) was diverting from its original mandate.

"We would also like to put it on record that as an organisation that is interested in promoting public service excellence especially in Public institutions, we are getting concerned that ZICTA is diverting from its original mandate. We have seen that of late, the institution has been used in a lot of activities, some of which we think are going to derail its efficiency. For instance, the proposal by the Lusaka Mayor to be collecting garbage fees through telecoms. No Telecom in the country has been mandated to collect levy on behalf of any city authority. If the mayor is saying that every person has to pay garbage levy, then we need to find our own payment option other than through the talk time that we buy. He should give us a payment point and process so that we can all go and pay. He should also ensure that the council carries out a valid census and also duly register all Lusaka residents," stated Esiasa.

"The Mandate of ZICTA is not to get involved in such activities, but to protect information communication systems and people's personal Data. We have submitted a lot of information to ZICTA and it is not supposed to be used for operational activities or be sold to third parties that we are not obliged to. We have also seen that many people receive unsolicited messages, information, announcements and invitations through phones that they have not subscribed to. ZICTA, being an institution of high caliber is fully aware that nowadays in the telecom world, everyone has to subscribe to any information that they want to receive. The forms that we fill in with ZICTA do not indicate that we will be receiving any notices whether from political parties or the government or from any other place."



S&P upgrades Zambia's credit rating, but warns of consequences if IMF deal fails

From front page

"We also note that discussions with the IMF have been ongoing for well over a year, derailment of an expected agreement could dent confidence, reduce investment, and offset the positive factors. It could also risk the benefit to external finances of increased foreign participation in the government's local currency debt market. Particularly between now and an IMF disbursement, higher copper prices and an expected increase in copper output are both supportive of not only higher growth but also of banking system liquidity, which in turn is a key source of government financing," S&P said in a report issued

by Primary Credit Analyst Benjamin Young and Secondary Credit Analyst Gardner Rusike.

"Copper prices have risen by about 18% in 2017 and core liquid assets in Zambia's banks by some 44% over the same period. The Bank of Zambia has continued to ease its policy rate and Zambia's currency, the kwacha, has remained on a slight appreciation path for some time now. As a result of these factors, the cost of debt for the government has also reduced. A related factor, given that inflation has fallen, is that foreign participation in the local bond market has increased by around 2.5% of GDP over 2017, which is a helpful current account deficit financing item. On the downside, the factors leading to anticipated higher growth are largely outside of the government's immediate control, leaving them vulnerable to calming demand for copper or unfavorable weather patterns. The government has made efforts that are gradually diversifying the country's energy mix."

S&P noted that; "although still tight, the government's fiscal financing position appears more assured, with domestic liquidity conditions continuing to improve."

S&P Global also observed that Zambia's economic growth prospects were improving and as such they revised their outlook on Zambia to stable from negative.

They further stated that Zambia's stable outlook balanced an improving macroeconomic picture against a number of negative rating pressures, including

a still large fiscal deficit and substantial debt stock.

They cautioned that the rating could be lowered if the government materially deviated from its fiscal consolidation target.

"We could also lower the ratings if previously destabilizing factors re-emerge, for example, if copper prices were to materially fall, or if rainfalls disappointed, or if improvements in the liquidity of the domestic banking system reversed," they stated.

"These factors have a substantial bearing on macroeconomic stability, growth, and the government's financing position."

S&P Global further noted that, should Zambia's external imbalances reduce materially faster than expected in tandem with faster growth than they currently expect, which could raise their GDP per capita trend growth forecast, upward momentum on the ratings could emerge.

"We have assigned a stable outlook to reflect a number of more positive developments that we expect will continue

to reduce pressure on Zambia's fiscal, economic, and external assessments. We still assess Zambia as being highly vulnerable to a reversal of these trends, despite the authorities implementing policies that aim to reduce macroeconomic susceptibility to such events. We have improved our economic growth forecasts and expect increased economic output will be supportive of corrective fiscal measures," stated S&P.

And Minister of Finance Felix Mutati said the upgrading of

Zambia's sovereign rating by S&P from negative to positive with a stable outlook was an endorsement of President Edgar Lungu's sound policies.

"This development rides on the basis of the critical reforms which we have embarked on as a country under the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme to implement fiscal consolidation, remove subsidies, reform the energy sector, and embark of diversification of the economy through agriculture development and industrialisation," said Mutati.

"The result from the assessment conducted by S&P Global is a welcome incentive for investors as they should remain confident assured that this country is on track with economic stabilisation and growth. We will work diligently to ensure that the confidence of our people and that of investors in the good intentions of the government to stabilize and grow the economy are not taken for granted."

Mutati reaffirmed that government would continue to pursue fiscal consolidation, economic stabilisation, and growth.

He maintained that the Ministry of Finance would remain highly alert on the need to reduce borrowing by enhancing resource mobilisation initiatives such Public Private Partnerships, increasing grant-inflows, and reinforcing tax-related initiatives which are targeted at strengthening enforcement and compliance.



Students doing RESEARCH PROJECTS DIPLOMA/DEGREE/MASTERS/PhD

Contact (+260978918920/mwalenelson@yahoo.com)

For EXCELLENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

Many people have raised concern over how Mr Amos Chanda, President Edgar Lungu's special assistant for press and public relations, has been carrying himself as a jack of all trades. Some have labeled Mr Chanda a know-it-all, because he has seemingly assumed the role of PF spokesperson, Inspector General of Police, State House chief of staff, political advisor, Central Bank consultant, foreign investment expert – name it.

To some extent, people who have made such observations have a point. No wonder fraudsters find it necessary to use his name to swindle business houses because it is very easy for anyone in Zambia to believe when told that Mr Chanda is fundraising for a State House event. There isn't an area of the PF and its government where it is impossible to hear Mr Chanda's name. He is basically all over.

We have seen Mr Chanda on TV propounding political ideologies, announcing health policies, analysing economic issues, arguing governance theories and so on and so forth. It seems Mr Chanda finds it a weakness to tell the person interviewing him that, "I am not sure about that, ask the economic advisor" or better still "Let me consult and get back to you on that because it is not my area of expertise". He seems to know quite a lot about everything.

But it is common knowledge that a jack-of-all-trades is usually a master of none. We are concerned that Mr Chanda is turning so many tables, crossing many paths with

The Amos Chanda Zambia needs

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

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+26077122344 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

so many people – sometimes unknowingly – and in the process, forsaking the job which he was appointed to do. He is neglecting areas where his services are greatly valued.

We say this because whenever Mr Chanda speaks as a journalist, he scores. Every time he steps out of his so many shoes and puts on his journalistic glasses, he sees clearly, he shines. He articulates issues sensibly because that is his strength. That is an area where he spent years in college and accrued years of field experience.

This is exactly what happened on August 26, 2017 when Mr Chanda called a press conference at Twangale Park and invoked the journalist in him. You can say all the bad things about the former Zambia Daily Mail news editor, but it is hard to disagree with much of what he said on that day.

"We have received reports, some of [them] confirmed, some of [them] unconfirmed

that police have said they will not allow the UPND to proceed with the card renewal exercise...Police have informed us that in fact they have not stopped that card renewal exercise but I wish to place it on record that even if police had to stop that, I think that they were going to be guided to allow that process to proceed...Let me place it on record that the action to stop a (UPND) church meeting, obviously is regretted because even under the environment where there are emergency regulations, I think police are expected to exercise judgment, very good judgment as they try to balance the need for public security on one hand and also the need to ensure that civil liberties of citizens are not infringed upon," Mr Chanda said.

He added, "But we must understand that the police have been under extreme pressure to ensure that, in light of what has happened in the past, public security is safeguarded. But it is with regret that that happened

and I think now I can reveal that positive interventions were made and the police was overruled...The police have been encouraged to exercise very good judgment as they police the country under the circumstances. More importantly, they should ensure that only when circumstances exist where public security or danger to public property would be visible, should they stop a public procession."

We can go on and on repeating the many wise words Mr Chanda spoke at Twangale Park because we were very proud that he espoused the noble cause of journalism in a diligent manner. That's just the summary of his excellent observations. To that, we say bravo Mr Chanda for bravely sticking your neck out and condemning injustice.

In just one statement, the journalist in Mr Chanda informed the nation about how the police are making emotional and irrational decisions as they implement the current Threatened State

of Emergency. He told us how much the police command is under pressure and how so often they are having to be corrected, guided on what to do; how to apply the law. How can anyone disagree with Mr Chanda?

That is the Amos Chanda Zambia needs. The Amos Chanda who can publicly admit that a wrong was committed and further name, caution the wrongdoer. That is the part of Amos Chanda we have been missing; frank, objective and truthful. In fact, he was very diplomatic in the manner he pointed out the incompetence of the police command. He was using words like unfortunate, regrettable, good judgment, etc. But his message was clear.

It is true that police officers are trying so hard to justify the declaration of a Threatened State of Emergency. It is also true that the police command is working hard to create hostile situations in a peaceful country so that they can make use of the extra

powers given to them by the invocation of Article 31. There is no civil unrest anywhere in Zambia, no demonstrations or protests, but police are itching for some action. They have nothing to do because Zambians are ignoring them and minding their own business.

Our view is that the police must take time to appreciate the caution from Mr Chanda. We believe that if the action by the police to stop a church service did not hurt the presidency, the State House press aide would not have spoken against them in that manner. The PF government already has so many problems to deal with; it would not be fair for our police service to aggravate the state of affairs by making horrible decisions which ignite public anger against the Head of State.

Once again, we salute Mr Amos Chanda for speaking like ba shi Mpundu, a brave man. We encourage him to do this, which he does best, more often. Let him leave technical issues to technocrats and stick to his calling. Our country will move forward faster. In fact, we can suggest the same to President Edgar Lungu. We have never socialised with the President of Zambia before, so we don't exactly know what he is famous for or what he does best, but whatever it is, he must stick to that and our country will be a much safer place.

Should a donor-conceived child have the right to know the identity of his or her sperm or egg donor? The South African Law Reform Commission is investigating this question and holding workshops around the country. As such, it is opportune to stimulate public debate on this issue.

Currently, our law provides for sperm and egg donor anonymity. A donor-conceived child can access all the available medical information about a donor, but not the donor's name or contact details.

From a practical perspective, the right to access a donor's medical information depends on the child actually knowing that he or she is donor conceived. The law does not prescribe that a parent should ever make such disclosure to a child.

Some argue that it is in the best interest of a donor-conceived child to know the identity of his or her donor, and that the current donor anonymity should be replaced by compulsory access to donor identity. This argument often relies on studies conducted on adopted children, or on anecdotes of donor-conceived children who want to know the names of their donors.

The psychology of being donor-conceived is different

Donor sperm and eggs: How much should a child know?

from being adopted. As such, studies conducted on adopted children cannot be applied to donor-conceived children.

Large-scale empirical studies on donor-conceived children are still limited in number, but the results suggest that knowing the identity of one's donor has no effect on children's psychological wellbeing. Accordingly, the existing psychological evidence contradicts the claim that knowing the identity of one's sperm or egg donor is in the best interests of the child.

In the recent case of AB vs Minister of Social Development, this very issue was debated in the Constitutional Court. The majority of the Bench decided that knowing the identity of one's sperm or egg donor is important for a child's self-identity, and thus in the best interests of a child. The minority of the Bench disagreed with this conclusion. It is important to note that

the majority did not pay any heed to the psychological evidence presented to the court. This included expert opinions by world-leading psychologists, who provided relevant insights on how a child forms an identity. One of the psychologists observed that there are many factors in a child's environment that affect the formation of an identity and some factors may complicate this more than others.

But, the psychologist said, experiencing a more complicated process of forming an identity does not necessarily mean a child's psychological well-being is negatively affected. Everyday examples from contemporary South African society confirm these psychological observations. Think, for instance, of children of mixed-race couples and same-sex couples. Our law allows these couples to have children, despite the fact that

the identity formation of these children are likely to be more "complicated". "Am I a Zulu like my mother, or an Afrikaner like my father?" "How can I be both?" "Why do I have two mothers, while other children have one mother and one father?"

These questions undoubtedly complicate the formation of a child's self-identity, but do they cause a child psychological harm? Is the best interests of the child compromised by mixed-race couples and same-sex couples having children? I believe not. Our legal values have evolved beyond such prejudice.

We accept that a more "complicated" formation of identity is not necessarily a bad thing for a child.

Then why all the fuss about donor-conceived children and knowing the identity of one's sperm or egg donor?

The ramifications of creating a new right to know the identity of one's sperm or egg donor

go beyond the immediate interests of donor-conceived children. Will sperm or egg donors still be willing to donate? Countries such as the United Kingdom that legislated such a right saw a drastic decrease in sperm and egg donations, and even the closure of fertility clinics. Do we not rather want to maintain and expand access to fertility healthcare services?

The current donor anonymity may be too rigid and could be replaced with a system that offers donors the choice of whether they are willing to disclose their identities or not and, if so, whether they are willing to have contact with the donor-conceived child.

It will then be up to the child's parents to choose a donor who fits their personal values. Parents who do not want to disclose their child's donor conception can opt for an anonymous donor. On the other hand, parents who believe it in their child's

best interests can choose a donor who is willing to have contact with the child during the child's childhood. This is a flexible, consensus-based system that does not force one conception of morality on all parents.

To create a new right to know the identity of one's sperm or egg donor will simply replace the current rigid system with an equally rigid, one-size-fits-all system.



By Donrich Jordaan

Five die in Austria climbing accident

Five German climbers were killed and another climber was seriously injured after an accident in the Austrian Alps.

Five rescue helicopters were sent to the scene, 2,900m (9,500ft) above sea level in the Zillertal Alps.

The climbers were roped together when one of them slipped, pulling the rest of the group with him, police said.

They fell 200m (650ft) down a slope before landing in a crevasse. Only one survived, and was flown to hospital in Salzburg, about 80km (50 miles) away.

Officials say the climbers were below the Mannlkarscharte pass near Krimml, in an area where a heightened risk of rockslides made recovery of the bodies more difficult. "We think a rope may have come loose," said Anton Voithofer, head of the Red Cross rescue team.

Three of those who died were over 60 years old. The climber who was seriously injured is in his 70s.

The accident is believed to be the deadliest so far this season in the Austrian Alps, where several dozen mountaineers die annually. In a separate accident,

three Italian climbers are believed to have died on a glacier in the Ademello Brenta Park near Trento, in the Italian Alps.

Two of them perished after falling into a crevasse. The Associated Press reports that a third was rescued but died later.

They were climbing as a group of nine mountaineers roped together, and their six companions all sustained injuries.

On Saturday, an Italian climber died after he was hit by rocks in the Valtellina valley near the Swiss border. *BBC News*



A homeless man seeks shelter from the rain in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas

Kenya plastic bag ban comes into force after years of delays

A ban on plastic carrier bags has come into force in Kenya, which means that from Monday anyone found selling, manufacturing or carrying them could face fines of up to \$38,000 or prison sentences of up to

four years.

The government says the ban will help protect the environment.

But manufacturers of the bags have argued that 80,000 jobs could be lost. A court on Friday rejected a challenge to the ban.

Kenya's are estimated to use 24 million bags a month.

A number of other African countries have outlawed plastic carrier bags, including South Africa, Rwanda and Eritrea.

This is the third attempt in the past 10 years to ban plastic bags in Kenya.

The BBC's Anne Soy in Nairobi says that so far many Kenyans appear to support the ban.

But there is also some uncertainty about how

consumers will adjust to life without polythene bags, which are usually given free-of-charge at retail outlets.

Travellers coming into Kenya with duty-free plastic shop bags will be required to leave them at the airport under the new rules, the National Environmental and Management Authority has said.

The government gave a six-month window for adjustment which expired on Sunday night.

Manufacturers who use polythene to wrap products are exempted from the ban.

Most traders have been caught off-guard despite the phased introduction of the ban, The Standard reported.

A spot check carried out by the newspaper revealed that most small-scale traders in Nairobi's Muthurwa market had not obtained alternative packaging materials.

In its ruling last week the High Court dismissed a case filed by two plastic bags importers urging it to drop the ban. The court ruled that environmental concerns were more important than commercial interests.

Research in Europe has shown that a paper bag must be used three times to compensate for the larger amount of carbon used in manufacturing and transporting it.

Likewise a plastic "bag for life" must be used four times, and a cotton bag must be used 131 times. *BBC News*



A damaged home sits amid a flood on Saturday after Hurricane Harvey slammed Rockport, Texas

S. Korean fined for linking Dr Dre and president's widow

A South Korean man has been fined for spreading rumours online that the 94-year-old widow of late president Kim Dae-Jung was to marry US hip-hop legend Dr Dre, reports said Monday.

Dr Dre, 52, rose to fame with gangsta rap pioneers NWA in the 1980s, going on to found Death Row Records and more recently created the Beats headphone brand, bought by Apple in a multi-million-dollar deal.

In contrast Lee Hee-Ho, the ageing widow of the late president known for his "sunshine policy" of engagement with Pyongyang, remains an influential figure in Korean politics even after her husband's death in 2009.

They make an unlikely couple, but were linked by an unidentified online user who posted on his blog in January that the former first lady was to marry

the American rapper to "launder the late president Kim's slush funds".

The Seoul Western District Court on Friday dismissed the rumour as "groundless" and fined the 73-year-old man 5 million won (\$4,400) for defamation.

"The defendant violated the honour of the deceased and the bereaved," Judge Lee Eun-hee said in the ruling, the Korea Times reported Monday.

"The rumour about the slush fund and the marriage between Lee and Dr Dre is groundless," the judge added.

But online South Korean commentators quickly picked up on the fictional wedding as one of the funniest jokes for some time.

"I cracked up just by reading the headline," posted one online user.

Another asked: "Will Eminem be singing at their wedding?" *AFP*



Kendrick Lamar dominates a politically tinged MTV awards



Rapper Kendrick Lamar won the top prize at the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards ceremony

Rapper Kendrick Lamar dominated the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday as the glitzy gala took a political turn with impassioned denunciations of white supremacists in America.

Lamar won the most prestigious award of Video of the Year for "HUMBLE.," his ironic look at his growing fame in which he dresses up as everything from the pope to Jesus in "The Last Supper."

Lamar opened the show in Los

Angeles with a martial arts-themed performance with ninja dancers, one of whom eerily appeared to set himself ablaze.

One of the most acclaimed rappers of recent times, Lamar took home six statuettes -- rechristened the "Moon Person" from "Moonman" to be gender-neutral.

English songwriter Ed Sheeran won Artist of the Year, a new prize after the separate male and female categories were merged, while rapper Khalid

won for new artist.

While Lamar's latest album "DAMN." toned down his earlier political bent, the globally televised awards gala itself did anything but.

The mother of Heather Heyer, the 32-year-old anti-racism protester killed when an avowed white supremacist drove into a crowd during the August 12 unrest in Charlottesville, Virginia, took the stage and vowed to "make Heather's death count." *AFP*



Katy Perry ended her performance slam-dunking basketballs



Rapper Khalid won the award for Best New Artist

Algeria picks Leicester striker for World Cup game against Zambia

By Diggers Reporter

Striker Riyad Mahrez headlines Algeria's 25-member team for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B doubleheader qualifier against Zambia.

The 2016 CAF African Footballer of the Year and want-away striker from 2015/2016 EPL champions Leicester City has been selected by Algeria's Spain-born coach Lucas Alcaraz for the September 2 date in Lusaka and September 5 clash in Constantine.

Mahrez has so far scored one goal in Algeria's four games in 2017 Group B qualifiers.

Alcaraz has also called four home-based players who were part of Algeria's unsuccessful 2018 CHAN qualifiers against Libya.

Algeria's highly rated goalkeeper Rais M'bolhi is also coming for the first leg match to be held at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

But their will only have two players who are familiar with Zambia, both from the two nations last international meeting in 2011 at Under-23 level.

Defender and former Under 23-captain Brahim Boudebouda and striker Sofiane Hanni are set to face Zambia again for the first time since the 2012 London Olympics qualifiers that Algeria won 3-2 aggregate.

Zambia won the final leg 2-0. Goalkeeper Allan Chibwe, defender Simon Silwimba, midfielder John Chingandu and Alex Ngonga are notable survivors from that last international encounter between the two sides at that level.

However, goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene and defender Stoppila Sunzu are



the senior survivors from the two sides last senior meeting in the 2012 FIFA World Cup qualifiers that Algeria won 1-0 at and 2-0 away in Chililabombwe. Meanwhile, Zambia is 3rd in Group B on 1 point, tied with Algeria and are two points behind 2nd placed Cameroon and a further five points adrift of leaders Nigeria.

Algeria Team:

Goalkeepers: Rais M'bolhi (Rennes - France) Abdelkadir Salhi (CR Belouizdad - Algeria), Mehdi Jeannin (Clermont Foot - France).

Defenders: Faouzi Ghoulam (SSC Napoli - Italy), Brahim Boudebouda (MC Algiers - Algeria), Youcef Atal

(KV Kortrijk - Belgium), Rami Bensebaïni (Rennes - France), Carl Medjani (Trabzonspor - Turkey), Aïssa Mandi (Real Betis - Spain), Ilias Hassani (Cherno More Varna - Bulgaria).

Midfielders: Raouf Benguit

(USM Algiers - Algeria), Adlene Guedioura (Middlesbrough FC - England), Nabil Bentaleb (FC Schalke 04 - Germany), Saphir Taïder (Bologna FC - Italy), Sofiane Daham (Sochaux - France).

Forward: Hilal El Arabi (AS Monaco - France), Islam Soudani (GNK Dinamo Zagreb - Croatia), Yacine Brahimi (FC Porto - Portugal), Riyad Mahrez (Leicester City FC - England), Sofiane Hanni (RSC Anderlecht - , Rachid Ghezzal

(AS Monaco - France), Islam Slimani (Leicester City FC - England), Idriss Saadi (RC Strasbourg - France). New call-ups: Kamel Belarbi (USM El Harrach - Algeria), Usama Darfalou (USM Alger - Algeria).

Algeria first-choice goalie in injury scare

By Diggers Reporter

Algeria are sweating on the fitness of first-choice goalkeeper Rais M'bolhi for their September 2 away clash against Zambia.

Zambia will hosts Algeria this weekend at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka in a 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier.

According to Algerian media reports, M'bolhi sustained an injury on Saturday night while playing for French Ligue 1 club Stade Rennes in their away match against Toulouse. The nature of M'bolhi injury is unknown but he will be assessed on Monday when he joins camp as Algeria prepare to travel to Lusaka for the first leg of their Group B doubleheader against Zambia.

Algeria host Zambia in the final leg on September 5 in Constantine.

Meanwhile, Rennes lost the match 3-2 and M'bolhi started and finished the match on his Ligue 1 debut for Rennes.

Zambia and Algeria are tied on 1 point from two games, one point behind 2nd placed Cameroon and a further five points adrift of leaders Nigeria.

Nigeria host Cameroon this Friday at Uyo.

And Chipolopolo entered camp in Lusaka on Monday and held their first training session in the morning at Woodlands Stadium.



Japan's Kimiko Date has announced her retirement

Japan's 'iron lady' Date to quit game at 46

Japan's Kimiko Date, the grand dame of women's tennis, announced Monday that she will retire from the game a few days short of her 47th birthday.

The former world number four said on her official blog that she will add the "full stop" to her career by retiring -- for a second time -- after the Japan Women's Open tournament, which begins in Tokyo on September 11.

"I have always been obsessed with competing," said Date, who took a 12-year hiatus from professional tennis after quitting at the peak of her powers in 1996.

"But increasingly I've found myself adjusting the length and intensity of training to look after my physical

condition.

"It has not been an easy decision to sever the feeling that I want to get back on court and run around like I used to," added the eight-time WTA Tour singles champion and former Wimbledon semi-finalist.

"But it is time to put the punctuation point on my tennis career."

Date, a wiry 5ft 4in (1.63 metres), underwent two knee surgeries since appearing at the 2016 Australian Open, but defied the odds to return to action in May this year.

The Kyoto native admitted she was still nursing a sore knee and shoulder.

"All my energy is focused on the Japan Open," she said. "I hope many of those

who have supported me down the years can come out to watch and have that image to remember me by."

Date, whose game is a throwback to a time when tennis was more about lobs, dinks and clever use of spin than power-hitting, broke several records in the sport.

Most notably in 2009, Date became the second-oldest player in the modern era to win a WTA singles title after Billie Jean King when she captured the Korea Open.

Despite playing on until the ripe old age of 46, Date fell some way short of her idol Martina Navratilova, who retired a month short of her 50th birthday in 2006. **AFP**



Zesco's Zlatko Krmpotic job hunting in S/Africa

By Diggers Reporter

Zesco United coach Zlatko Krmpotic was apparently not only in South Africa to spy on 2017 CAF Confederation Cup opponents SuperSport United, but also job hunting, according to Laduma!

Krmpotic missed Zesco's 0-0 away draw at Power Dynamos last Wednesday in Kitwe reportedly to spy on SuperSport United in midweek ahead of their CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal clash in three weeks time.

SuperSport will host Zesco in the first leg on September 15 in Pretoria and travel to Ndola for the final leg on September 23.

According to South Africa premier soccer weekly Laduma, Krmpotic has expressed interest to leave Zesco for a PSL or even a second division South African club.

"My client Zlatko Krmpotic is the current coach of Zesco United in Zambia. He was formerly with TP Mazembe (as an assistant under head coach Patrice Carteron), who won the CAF Champions League," Krmpotic's agent Tebogo Modise told Laduma on Friday.

"He will be in South Africa

on the 23rd of August to have a meeting with one of the teams, which I can't mention at the moment. My client is open to any offers from the PSL or NFD."

Zesco's have declined to comment on the report.

Krmpotic joined Zesco in February on a two-year deal when he replaced George Lwandamina who left last November for Tanzanian Champions Young Africans.

However, Zesco performances have been modest so far under the Serb and laboured to even reach the Confederation Cup quarterfinals.

Zesco have also been unconvincing in the league despite being top of the table after losing four league games from 23 matches played.

But Defending champions Zanaco have lost one match from 21 games on

40 points and in 5th place and are five points behind Zesco.

Krmpotic will be back on the Zesco bench this Sunday when they face

2nd placed Green Buffaloes at Woodlands Stadium in Lusaka.

Buffaloes are two points behind their guests from Ndola.



Algeria first-choice goalie in injury scare ^{P11}

Tennis: Japan's 'iron lady' Date to quit game at 46 ^{P11}

