

Violence resumes, PF hack UPND cadres in Chilanga

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

UPND national youth Spokesperson Gilbert Liswaniso says his party has filed a report at Chilanga police about some PF cadres who attacked his campaign team yesterday in

Chilanga's Chimanja ward ahead of the upcoming local government by-elections.

And Liswaniso said going forward, his party shall fight back whenever attacked, and urged the PF to get ready for them.

Liswaniso also accused the police of not taking action whenever the UPND supporters were attacked.

"We wish to confirm that the Patriotic Front cadres loaded in buses from Lusaka yesterday barbarically attacked our members who were campaigning in chimanja ward, Chilanga constituency where is a by election. The behavior by the PF cadres is uncalled and really shows that PF and it's leader, Mr Edgar Lungu are not committed to the dialogue process because if they were they would not go ahead and begin attacking us like this with the view of killing us," Liswaniso said.

I have no records from Congo - Yachi

By Diggers Reporter

I have nothing to prove that I am a Congolese national, says singer Mumba Yachi.

And Magistrate Ruth Kapulo has reserved ruling on Mumba's bail application to when he obtains a temporal residence permit.

Speaking to journalists shortly after a court hearing today, Mumba said he did not have any documentation to prove he was Congolese.

"For you to be a Congolese you have to have something to show that you are a Congolese isn't it? Or if you are a Zambia, how can you prove that you are a Zambian if you don't have anything?" he asked.

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HH meets Commonwealth envoy ahead of dialogue with Lungu

By Joseph Mwenda

UPND president Hakaiinde Hichilema today met with Commonwealth special envoy, Professor

Ibrahim Gambari who is in the country as a mediator in the dialogue process between him and Republican President Edgar Lungu.

According to Hichilema's deputy Press Secretary Brian Mwinga, the closed door meeting took place at the opposition leader's house in Lusaka's New Kasama area.

"Mr. Hichilema welcome Professor Gambari to Zambia and also used the opportunity thank the church, civil society organisations and the Commonwealth for their efforts in fostering dialogue, peace, stability and unity for national development," Mwinga said in a statement issued today.

He added that Professor Gambari expressed happiness at the willingness by the UPND president, to begin the dialogue process.

"Mr. Hichilema was accompanied to the meeting by party vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba, Secretary General Mr. Stephen Katuka, National Chairperson Ms. Mutale Nalumango, Information Chairperson Mr Charles Kakoma, International Relations Chairperson Mr Mulondwe Muzungu, and Ambassador Joe Mwale," said Mwinga.

"Others who accompanied Mr. Hichilema included the current and former UPND members of Parliaments among them: Honourable Levy Ngoma, Honourable Douglas Syakalima, Honourable Rose Sakala, Honourable Gary Nkombo and Honourable Mary Chibwa."

FDD questions govt borrowing without approval of Parliament

By Joseph Mwenda

Speaker Patrick Matibini must explain to the Zambian people whether or not Parliament authorised the contraction of the latest loan of \$200 million

by the PF Government from the World Bank in accordance with the Constitution, says FDD

In a statement, FDD spokesperson Antonio Mwanza

wondered when Parliament sat to debate and approve the latest loans approved by Cabinet.

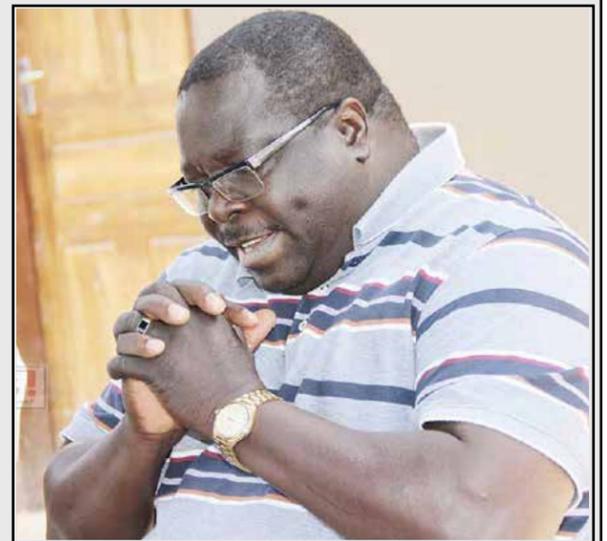
"Articles 63 and 207 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia clearly states that

Government can not contract any loan or debt without the express approval of the National Assembly," Mwanza said.

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Mwaice Kampamba, defending Lungu doesn't pay

LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES - CK



By Mukosha Funga

I am a very good example for those who are going to hold the office of Chief Government Spokesperson because after going out of my way to defend President Lungu and PF, I have been thrown away, says Chishimba Kambwili.

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...I said a lot of bad things to people while in govt, now I am apologising



Govt church body announces 40 days of prayer and fasting

By Diggers Reporter

National House of Prayer Advisory Board chairman Bishop Joshua Banda has announced a 40 day period of prayer and fasting leading up to October 18.

At a media briefing yesterday, Bishop Banda explained that there would be a church praying and fasting for the nation on each day of this period which begins today.

He also urged citizens to pick a day on which to pray and fast for Zambia.

“During the period, different churches around the country will engage in a day of fasting and prayer for the nation and this will be facilitated by our Provincial Coordinators along with their respective District teams across the nation. Every day within the 40 day period there will be dedicated churches fasting and praying for our country focussing on promoting peace and reconciliation and consolidating national unity in diversity,” Bishop Banda said.

“This year’s commemoration is uniquely significant. It will be the 2nd Anniversary observance of the National Day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation, and will coincide with the third year of Zambia’s Jubilee, which commenced in October 2014. Biblically, the third year of Jubilee is extremely

significant as it represents completeness. In biblical numerology, the number 3 is the first of four spiritually perfect numerals- the others being 7, 10 and 12. Historical scriptural precedence shows how God has consistently honoured his Word by doing significant sovereign Acts during these respective seasons. We believe that Zambia is poised for such a moment during this dispensation.”

He said this year’s National Day of Prayer would be held under the theme “Promoting Peace and Reconciliation: Consolidating National Unity in Diversity”.

“As at other times of national prayers, the National day of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Reconciliation is being facilitated countrywide through interdenominational prayer networks. These prayers will therefore be held simultaneously at respective District and Provincial Centres spearheaded by our respective provincial coordinators and district designate teams. Here in Lusaka, the year’s day of prayer will be held in the Main Arena, at the Lusaka Agricultural and Commercial Show grounds. We would like to take this opportunity to invite all Zambians from all walks of life to congregate with



Bishop Joshua Banda and Reverend Pukuta Mwanza

us others in respective nearby locations as will be announced variously in due course. We would also like to encourage the general citizenry to pick a day in

the 40 day period of fasting and praying to individually fast and pray specifically for Zambia,” he said.

He said politics must not be allowed to divide citizens.

“Our prayer and fasting this year should signify a fresh commitment to the fact that we should sustain unity at all costs. While it is important for every citizen

to exercise their democratic right to belong to a political party of their choice, we must never allow politics to divide us. We are one family,” said Bishop Banda.

We are here to ensure conducive environment for next elections, says Commonwealth envoy

By Diggers Reporter

Commonwealth secretary-general Patricia

Scotland’s special envoy Ibrahim Gambari says he wants to ensure that a

conducive environment is created for Zambia’s next general elections.

The Nigerian scholar and diplomat, who arrived in Zambia on Wednesday, told journalists after a closed door meeting with President Edgar Lungu yesterday that he would come into the country at least once every month to meet various stakeholders until the process was concluded.

“I am here to work with all stakeholders so that we can have a roadmap and strategy to build peace and ensure that a conducive environment is created for the next general elections. This is a Zambian owned process and we are just here to support and encourage the process,” said Professor Gambari. Last month, Scotland brokered a dialogue deal between President Lungu and UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema who was at the time still at Mukobeko Maximum Prison for treason charges.

4 men take turns defiling 15-year-old Solwezi girl

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Police in Solwezi have opened a docket for a case in which four men allegedly took turns defiling a 15-year-old girl of Mangrove area.

North Western Police Commissioner Auxensio Daka disclosed in a statement yesterday that the incident happened on Tuesday between 16:00 and 18:00 hours near Solwezi Trades School when the victim used a short cut on her way home. Daka said the girl’s mother reported the matter to police after she complained of general body and vaginal pains.

“The victim was complaining of general body pains and pains also on her genitals and birth canal. When the incident happened, the victim with several other children were following a Mascurate (Likishi) and as she was returning home, she decided to take a short cut alone and

that’s how she met her fate. The victim is able to identify the suspects as the incident happened during broad day light. She was issued with a medical report form to enable her access examination and treatment,” Daka stated.

Daka said the police had opened a docket into the matter despite no arrest had been made so far.

Meanwhile Daka said a 22-year-old man of Rentals Compound in Kabompo district has been arrested for unlawfully wearing an official police uniform.

“The incident happened after the suspects’ friend who is a tailor left him in the shop as he went out to buy cotton and whilst gone, the suspect picked a police uniform which had been brought for adjustment and started taking photos in it which he later posted on social media platforms,”

he stated.

He identified the suspect as Muhanga Leyani.

“Kabompo police last night picked M/ Muhanga Leyani aged 22 years of Rentals Compound in Kabompo Village Sahono in Chief Sikufele, in Kabompo district for the offense of unauthorized wearing of official uniform Contrary to Section 183 (3) Cap 87 of the laws of Zambia. The incident occurred on Tuesday at around 18:00hrs at Kabompo market, after his friend who is a tailor left him in the shop as he went out to buy cotton and in the process the suspect accessed and put on the Police uniform combat shirt which was left with him for adjustment and had photos which he then posted on Facebook and are now in circulation. Upon interview he admitted having worn the uniform as police is his dream career,” said Daka.

Violence resumes, as PF attack on UPND leaves two injured

From front page

“We however want to warn the PF cadres that should they attack us again and in fact going forward we shall be defending ourselves because we cannot report to the toothless Zambia Police which in our view is arming the PF cadres who are literally thugs. The country is talking about dialogue, but what dialogue can we talk about if PF cadres have continued attacking us? PF get ready for us, we shall too defend ourselves and we are not docile, enough is enough and this country belongs to us all not a few crooks.

He also urged his party leaders to desist from stopping them from fighting back whenever they were attacked by PF supporters.

“For us I think we have said, we are dealing with thugs, we will continue crying and crying. All we need also is to equip ourselves so that when the PF comes with, I need to prepare myself so that I hit back. That is the only way these things can come to an end. But this issue of saying calmness calmness and I want to make it very clear to you that our UPND leaders will make us to be in trouble, we the young the young people of UPND if they say don't fight, don't beat. For us we have realised that we are dealing with people who are ready to kill, so we need to protect ourselves as UPND,” Liswaniso said. Liswaniso further urged the PF to explain to the people of Chimanja ward on what the party had done to improve people's lives unlike getting involved in violence.

Meanwhile Lusaka Province Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri said his office had not received any report of such violence in Chilanga but assured that he would make some follow ups on

the matter. And asked when if the decision to respond back to violence would not disturb the process of dialogue, UPND national Chairperson Mutale Nalumungo said there

was no way such remarks would disturb the dialogue process when the actual violence from PF supporters did not. “The statement should disturb the dialogue but the violence should not

disturb the violence, that is our Zambia, that is my comment. Thank kind of upsession I don't understand because the police presence must be there all the times. They don't need anybody

to tell them that this is happening, so! Where are we as a country? They should be there, they know that these things are happening, where are they? Asked Nalumungo.



UPND cadres after being attacked by Patriotic Front supporters on September 7, 2017

Lungu launches construction of Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway

From front page

President Chairman Mao and President Kenneth Kaunda left the TAZARA a legacy and now it's time this generation created its own history President JinPing and Edgar Lungu will leave the dual carriageway,” President Lungu said when launching the \$1.2 billion project.

“When we invest like this, we are not just seeking to create wealth but we are investing in a life-saving venture; we are improving livelihoods; we are investing in people. Road safety is a huge component of public health. It saves us money. It saves lives. This road, the Great North, is the main artery at the heart of the

country. We need it in good shape always, so that we can cut on the unacceptable high number of accidents we currently witness. This is an important route connecting southern and central parts of Zambia to mining towns on the Copperbelt and Northern parts of the country. The route is also cardinal to

transiting vehicles to and from democratic republic of Congo and other countries in the SADC and COMESA regions.” President Lungu also asked the contractor, China Jiangxi, to ensure that local Zambian firms comprising small and medium scale contractors were engaged on the project as sub-contractors in line with the 20 percent sub-contracting policy.

The Head of State further also announced that 3,000 jobs would be created for locals.

“I am glad to note that during construction period, this project will create over 3000 jobs to our people. I am therefore hopeful that the contractor will give an opportunity to residents within the area where the road construction project is being undertaken. I wish to appeal to road users to bear with the contractor for the inconvenience that will be caused for the duration of the project,” said President

Lungu. And Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela said he would ensure the project was executed to the highest standard.

Meanwhile Copperbelt Minister Bowman Lusambo said he was happy that the long-awaited project was finally taking off. And Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga said the road would help open up the agriculture and tourism sectors in his province.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Yang Youming said Zambia had many favourable natural endowments but has failed to fully tap into the economic potential owing to poor road infrastructure. And China Jiangxi President Xu Guojian said his company has since 1987 worked on over 200 projects in Zambia which include over 1000 kilometers of roads.

Chipata court suspends three drivers' licences for causing death

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Chipata High Court has ruled that the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) must suspend driver's licenses for three motorists who it convicted for causing death by dangerous driving. According to a statement issued by RTSA public relations head Fredrick Mubanga today, the three drivers are Hastings Banda,

Joseph Sichibaye, and Andrew Chimbila. “The drivers were convicted of one count of causing death by dangerous driving each, which is contrary to section 161 of the Road Traffic Act Number 11 of 2002. During the Criminal Session held in Chipata recently, the Court ordered for the suspension of the drivers licenses for a period of one year each,

with immediate effect. And the Court has since directed the agency to effect the suspension of the driver's licenses,” Mubanga said. He said he hoped that the conviction would act as a deterrent measure to all would-be offenders. “To this effect, the RTSA has effected the orders for the suspension of the three driver's licenses and remains

vigilant in enforcing the law in a bid to reduce bad road user behavior on public roads. The Agency hopes that the conviction of the three motorists court will act as a deterrent measure to would-be road traffic offenders and send a strong self-control signal to all drivers not to flout road traffic regulations with impunity,” stated Mubanga.

From front page

And Kambwili who is also Roan PF member of parliament says it is not true that President Lungu was rich before going to State House because he lived in a garage belonging to incumbent Chawama member of parliament Lawrence Sicalwe for two years.

In an interview with News Diggers! the former Information Minister warned his successor Kampamba Mulenga against defending things she does not understand.

"I feel sorry for that little girl Kampamba Mulenga, I regard that young girl as my young sister but she has disappointed me the way she is carrying herself and the way she is conducting herself. For her, she thinks she is making a name to Edgar Lungu but what she should know is that it is not Edgar Lungu who will vote for her in Kalulushi. It is the same people of Zambia who are upset with the conduct of Edgar which Kampamba wants to defend. The voters are the ones who are upset about how the ministers are amassing wealth that they cannot account for," Kambwili said.

"Since when did Kampamba know Edgar Lungu in details? Ask her, does she know that the same man she is saying was very rich was staying in a garage? In a ka small room, in honorable Sicalwe's garage for close to two years? Does she know that history that the man she wants to defend was staying in honorable Sicalwe's garage? Now, can a person who was very rich and had money before he was President live in a garage where they repair vehicles?"

He advised Mulenga to learn from his mistakes.

"So tell Kampamba that don't defend things that you don't know. Aya ama (these are) politics me I have learnt something, I can only advise Kampamba not to make the mistakes that I made. And me I am a very good example for those who are going to hold the office of Chief Government Spokesperson. Because I tried my level best to defend President Edgar Lungu and the PF, what have they paid me? They have paid evil for good. Now, a normal person would learn from such kind of a situation to say, 'if they can treat Honorable Kambwili like that who used to defend them, in and out, day and night, how about me?' I went out of my way even going to the extent of telling the Tongas that even if Jesus came, they would not vote for him, for Edgar's sake and the PF," Kambwili recalled.

"What is Edgar today and the PF saying? Kambwili was possessed with evil spirits, he insulted the Tonga people.

Kampamba must learn from my mistakes, says Kambwili

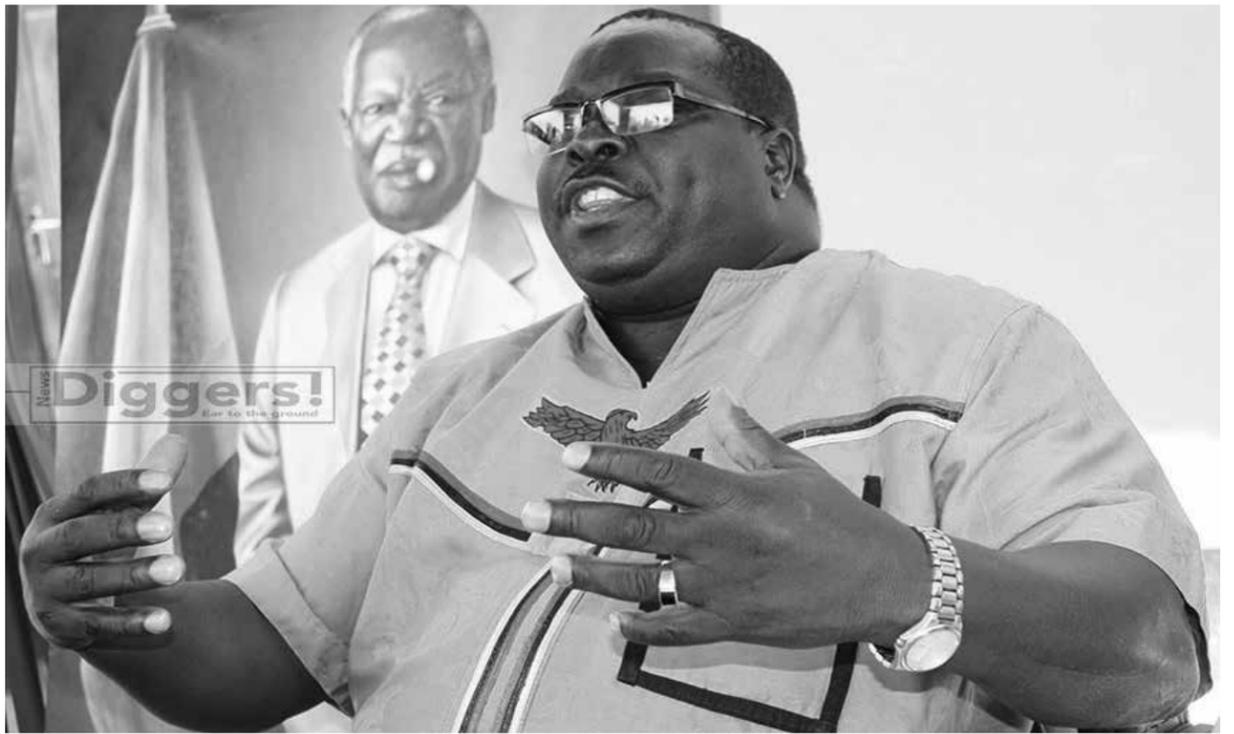
When I issued that statement, the first person to congratulate me was the President 'well done, you have done very well, that was a lovely interview'...I played a part in the winning of elections. I am not saying I am the one who made the PF win but I am part of the people that contributed and my contribution was outstanding for everybody to see. How have I been paid? So mwaiche wandi (my young sister) Kampamba, to defend people who do not appreciate, you are just wasting your time, you are going to have more enemies than friends and then they will just discard you and start insulting you."

He charged that President Lungu was very bad hearted.

"President Edgar Lungu has a very bad heart. Alikwata umutima ububi. Just look at the way he has treated ba Christine Kaseba, the widow of the late president Michael Sata, may his soul rest in peace, ba mayo has been treated like nobody, like a piece of dirt by President Edgar Lungu. Ask ba mayo how many times she has entered to go to State House after her husband died? That is a woman who used to spend money from her pocket, hard earned cash from her job as a doctor to give cadres transport money, to fund the PF, today she is treated like a piece of dirt by President Edgar Lungu. They have even named her; Black Widow, ukuvotela pacililo. That's what they call her in their circles," Kambwili said.

And Kambwili charged that President Lungu's delegation went to watch breasts at the Reed Dance in Swaziland.

"Kampamba is a very unreasonable person. I think no wonder she can't keep her marriages, she is always getting married and divorcing, married and divorcing because she is unreasonable. You see, special assistant to the president on politics has to advise the President on political issues, does he need to be travelling with the President? We had Mrs Mavis Muyunda who was political advisor to president Levy Mwanawasa, go and check how many times she travelled with the President both locally and abroad. What did the Special Assistant to the President for Monitoring and Evaluation of



Projects go to do eko bailefye ukutamba ama bele yabaiche (where they went to watch girls breasts?" he wondered.

"They spent all that money mukutamba fye amabele, amabele yatwaiche. Mwalimona picture bakopele Sikazwe, alekopa ama picture yamabele yatwaiche (You saw the picture Sikazwe took of young girls breasts), what a shame! Tell Kampamba that she should think before she speaks because I think the problem that she is having, she is talking before she thinks. She even said the trade fair is still going on, where on earth have you seen a President opens a trade fair and wait until it is closed? Ukumona fye ati the young lady, my young sister is drunk with unknown powers. But like I have said, she should learn from my experience if she wants to be a better person. But if she wants to treat government like the way she behaves in her marriages where she can walk in and walk out, let her go ahead. She will have a similar record like she has in marriage in government."

Kambwili went on sparring with Kampamba's personality.

"She is telling you that Mr Kambwili was possessed by evil spirits, it is her who needs prayers so that at least this marriage, I am told she is getting married again, she

can keep that marriage. So tell Kampamba Mulenga that ukucita defend abantu abashicita appreciate, you will end up being bruised. Because everything Kampamba said in that statement does not make sense to any reasonable person. Just look at the comments that were there on your website, if she is reasonable enough, she must know that she did not make sense," he said.

He went further to charge that President Lungu was an impoverished person before being elected Head of State.

"She is saying the President was very rich, umuntu uwali rich kuti alya indalama ishama clients bamupoka (can someone who was rich eat a client's money and they get his) practicing license? Eh bali aba (yes he was a) lawyer but record yabo muli bu lawyer is a bad record, balilya indalama yama client (he ate a client's money) and everybody knows. Just take pictures of President Edgar Lungu when he became president and you compare with how he looks today. He was very thin, not thin ilya iyanatural but ilya iyakuchula (impoverished health). Lelo mumone ama picture yabo efyo bainine. Ine Chishimba Kambwili epo naingila muma politics nalifye uwaina fino finne na nomba ndi uwaina (Look at how he has gained weight today. Me I was fat

before politics and I am still fat even today). In fact amapolitics nayangonshako nokungonsha mulandu uwakubombesha. Nomba abo chinshi bainina lelo? (In fact politics has made me lose weight because of hard work, but him, how has he gained weight? So we don't want Kampamba to be responding, we want him to respond alone where he got the money. And if they want to dare us, we can get all the newspapers to go and show them what they have built," Kambwili warned.

He threatened to expose President Lungu's ill-gotten wealth.

"So if they want to be embarrassed, they should continue responding through nonentities like Kampamba Mulenga, we will expose more, the best they can do is to keep quiet. She is saying we don't know that the President's children still live in a government house, it is only two houses from where I live. If you came now I will take you there you go and see who lives there. It is the President's children, that is abuse of authority with impunity. How can you not be aware because you are government spokesperson? All the information in government is supposed to be on your fingertips. Me when I was Chief Government

Spokesperson, every information on government was on my fingertips. You ask me, even in my sleep I will give you answers. So she is only telling us that she is not fit to be in that office," said Kambwili.

"She also said that if I have evidence I should report Edgar to the Anti Corruption Commission, are you sure she is serious? We all know that at one time people reported Kaizer Zulu to the ACC saying he was getting \$250,000 to give people appointments to see the President, what happened? the President was the first to defend him and castigated the ACC for wanting to investigate him. So does Kampamba think I am so stupid that I will go to the ACC and report President Lungu and the people who are involved in corruption with him when I know nothing will be done? I will not waste my time. We have to wait until he leaves office because the ACC will not do anything and they will say he has immunity. So Kampamba must know that don't talk about issues that you don't understand. It only shows some level of foolishness. And Kampamba is saying Findley can manage to travel on his own, Findley travelled on the Presidential plane to and from Swaziland, come on Kampamba, you can do better than that."

FDD questions govt borrowing without Parliament approval

From front page

"And in line with these provisions of the law, we as a Party beseech Mr Matibini to provide proof to the nation showing when the National Assembly approved the contraction of the said loan. The PF is killing the future of our children with the enormous debt burden and the general mismanagement of the country's economy. What is worrying about this whole thing is not just the ballooning debt levels we are witnessing but the imprudent use of the debt money, unbelievable fiscal indiscipline and the sheer incompetence of the government to effectively manage the economy, eradicate poverty, create decent jobs and business opportunities for our

people, especially the women and youths."

He said the PF government had no capacity to account for the money it was borrowing.

"This Government cannot account for the huge debt that they have accrued since coming into office in 2011. It is clear that the bulk of the debt money has been squandered through corruption, over-pricing of projects, plain theft and sheer incompetence on the part of the state to effectively and efficiently apply national resources to the productive sectors of our economy in order to spur growth and deal with the excruciating and dehumanising levels of poverty and destitution among our people," Mwanza said.

"The full ramifications of the debt-trap the PF has plunged this country into are yet to be felt since most of these debts have not yet matured. The impact of these debts will be devastating as government shall be forced to cut down on social and economic expenditure to finance the debt most of which was contracted at very high interest rates."

He envisaged that Zambia's economic outlook would weaken further.

"And if the long-term fiscal challenges remain unaddressed, our economic environment will weaken further as confidence will continue to suffer, access to capital will continue to shrink, the interest costs will continue crowding out key investments in

our future, leading to conditions for growth to deteriorate, hence putting our nation at greater risk of economic crisis. If our long-term fiscal imbalance is not addressed, our future economy will be diminished, with fewer economic opportunities for individuals and families, and less fiscal flexibility to respond to future crises," Mwanza noted.

"The following summarizes several of the negative ramifications of our growing debt:

Reduced Public Investment. As the national debt increases, the government will spend more of its budget on interest costs, increasingly crowding out public investments. And the more that resources are diverted to interest

payments, the less that will be available for the government to invest in areas such as education, agriculture, energy, processing and manufacturing that are important to economic growth. This will eventually lead to more joblessness, more energy deficits, more youths forced out of the education system owing to high tuition fees, more sick children due to malnutrition, high mortality rates and generally high poverty levels across the country. Reduced government expenditure in key economic areas is stifling innovation and slowing the advancement of new breakthroughs that could improve our lives."

He added that: "Investors are beginning to doubt the

government's ability to repay debt and could demand even higher interest rates, further raising the cost of borrowing for businesses and households. Over time, lower confidence and reduced investment would slow the growth of productivity and wages of our workers."

"Growing long-term debt also has a direct, real world effect on the economic opportunities available to every Zambian. In short, the PF has mortgaged our country to shyllocks due to incompetence, theft of public resources, corruption and general mismanagement of our country's economy. Mutatinomics is not working and Zambians must brace themselves for harder economic

PF wants to chase Mutati because of his fiscal discipline – Antonio

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Forum for Democracy and Development Spokesperson Antonio Mwanza says the ruling party wants to chase Finance Minister Felix Mutati because of his fiscal discipline which they are not used to.

And Mwanza says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema's remarks in South Africa do not amount to denting the country's image.

Speaking when he featured on UNZA Radio's Lusaka Star programme today, Mwanza observed that the PF were too used to corruption to stand Mutati's discipline.

"Through the dictates of the IMF, the World Bank, and the rating agencies, looking at the fact that this country is broke, there are a lot of stringent measures that the IMF, the World Bank, the cooperating partners are pushing on Zambia to make sure that we try to stabilize our fiscal position, moving forward as a country. And therefore the issues of money have become a problem here because the PF are used to collecting debts and sharing the money. They are used to corruption. So president Mutati has been putting measures with regards to the fiscal side of the state. And they are not happy with that. So he has become a thorn in the flesh and they want him out and they will succeed to flush MMD out. It's up to president Mutati and the MMD to open up their eyes.

They no longer have room in PF. They are going," Mwanza said.

He also said the budget which Mutati will present to Parliament on Friday will just be a meaningless piece of paper because there is no money.

"This budget will just be on paper but there is no adequate financing. There would not be discipline to ensure its implementation. The problem we have is accountability. President Edgar Lungu has told us that he is running a corrupt government, he told us his Ministers are stealing. He has told us publicly that he was going to fire those Ministers who were stealing from the Zambian people. We as FDD believe that we are not here simply to form government, but we are here to provide leadership. It is not a matter of life and death, what we need to do is to continue proving leadership, checks and balances, providing alternative policies and

practically helping the Zambian people to move forward economically," Mwanza said.

And Mwanza said HH had not been denting Zambia's image but simply telling the truth about his incarceration.

"I listened to the speech of President Hakainde Hichilema in South Africa and I have listened to the sentiments that have come out from members of the Patriotic Front and many other people who have labeled president Hakainde Hichilema as a sale-out who went to South Africa to dent the image of Zambia. After carefully listening to the speech of president Hakainde Hichilema and listening to the views of comrades Emmanuel Mwamba, Sunday Chanda, and many other comrades in the PF, I have come to the following conclusion; what Hakainde Hichilema said in South Africa does not amount to denting the

image of Zambia because he was simply referring to the treatment that he received from the time he was arrested, the period he was incarcerated, until the time that he was released. He was simply narrating the story of his arrest, his incarceration, his trial, and his release and that has got nothing to do with the image of Zambia. That has got everything to do with the facts," Mwanza said.

Mwanza said criticizing President Edgar Lungu and the PF was not the same as being unpatriotic.

"And I want also to echo the fact that President Edgar Lungu and PF are not Zambia, and I want to repeat, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his Patriotic Front are not Zambia. They are simply a President and a political party in office. And when we criticize President Edgar Lungu and when we criticize the Patriotic Front, that does not mean that we are denting the image of

Zambia. So to claim that anyone who tells a story about how PF has mistreated him, to an outsider is being undiplomatic, is being unpatriotic is simply not true. I want to state that patriotism does not mean standing by the President, patriotism means standing by your country. What is it that president Hakainde Hichilema said that is not unpatriotic? There is nothing wrong with saying the truth, you can even say it to the high heaven, it does not dent the image of Zambia," Mwanza said.

"The people that are denting the image of Zambia is President Edgar Lungu and his Patriotic Front by using the police to intimidate people, arrest, and abuse opponents, and by invoking Article 31 and create an image to the outside world that this country is on fire. It is them that are denting the image of Zambia by refusing to respect the rule of law, by refusing to respect the

human rights of individuals, by refusing us as opposition political parties to freely go round and mobilize ourselves. It is them that are denting the image of Zambia by closing media houses that are critical to the government, it is them that are denting the image of Zambia by the massive corruption."

Mwanza also urged UPND officials to be aggressive in defending their leader against numerous attacks.

"I am taken aback when I see that the UPND as a political party are not coming to the fore to set the records straight and to defend their president. I did not come here to speak on behalf of the UPND because I am FDD. But I am forced to speak and defend UPND because I haven't heard UPND officials coming out very clearly to defend their president and I think that is something that UPND will have to work on," said Mwanza.

Wild sex party worries Catholic Bishops

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Zambia Conference for Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) has urged parents across the country to take action and fight the scourge of immoral activities among young boys and girls.

In a statement issued by ZCCB Communications Director Fr. Winfield

Kunda, the church further advised parents to take the onus of monitoring their children's movements and instil discipline where necessary.

Fr Kunda was reacting to a News Diggers story that exposed a wild sex party in Lusaka's woodlands area involving over 70 children

between the ages of 13 and 18 years, who were later picked by police and charged for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Fr Kunda said the onus of disciplining children should not be left to household maids and teachers only but that it is the duty of every

responsible parent.

"The Catholic Church is concerned on the moral decay that has engulfed some teenage girls and boys as it was reported of young ones who were involved in immoral activities of sex orgies and alcohol abuse in Lusaka and Livingstone. This development if not curtailed fully and nipped, will explode and it leaves each one of us baffled as to what kind of families such children will raise in future and consequently the kind of the nation we shall have," Fr Kunda said.

He said there was need to fight the scourge because if left unchecked, it would accelerate the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections such as HIV/AIDs.

"Young people's getting involved in premarital sex as it was reported, should worry everyone and all us must be involved, take action and fight this scourge because it will not just accelerate the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections or HIV/AIDs but moral degradation in Zambia. We as the Church have always insisted that the responsibility of teaching and disciplining children falls squarely on parents and immediate families. We agree with

Pope Francis when he says: "It is okay to spank children to discipline them as long as their dignity is maintained" (General Audience, 2015)," he said.

"This is what we are even told in the Scriptures: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov 22:6) and "whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them" (Prov 13:24). We urge you parents to take this task seriously. Parents should be monitoring their children movements and take discipline. The onus of disciplining a child should not be left to house maids or teachers at school."

And Fr Kunda said there was need to counsel the children who were involved in the group sex on the dangers of such acts.

"Those children that were caught in those group sex, should not be left without being counseled on the dangers of such acts and how the country of Zambia depends on them for its future. Parents should not be defensive in trying to protect them but be ready to let their children be directed in right path and be helped in moral formation of their children," said Fr Kunda.



Assessing the damage in Mexico City's borough of Xochimilco after heavy rains caused the overflowing of the San Buenaventura river. AFP

By Diggers Reporter

A witness has told the Lusaka High Court that he heard gunshots from Chilanga UPND member of parliament Kieth Mukata's lawfirm but he did not see the shooter.

In this case Mukata and his lover Charmaine Musonda are accused of murdering Namakabwa Kwenda a security guard who was manning the

I didn't see the shooter at Mukata's law firm - witness

lawfirm.

39-year-old Collins Kabanda, a security guard at Altitude

Advertising Company said on the fateful day he interacted with Kwenda before his death.

Kabanda testified that whilst chatting with Kwenda in the vicinity of AKM Legal

Practitioners, he saw Charmaine drive into the premises.

Kabanda said few minutes after Charmaine drove in, Mukata came outside of the gate and gave them a K200 for food.

Kabanda said after sharing the money, they dispersed.

Kabanda narrated that at midnight he heard someone order Kwenda to open the gate at Mukata's law firm, after which he heard three gunshots.

Kabanda also told the court that after the gunshots, he peeped through the pigeon windows of his guard room and saw Mukata oscillating and shouting for help saying someone had shot his worker.

He said Spice Bar proprietor Kumar, called the police while the caretaker of Altitude Advertising Company and himself went to the crime scene.

He recalled that when they got to the crime scene, they saw Kwenda

laying in a pool of blood at the gate to the law firm.

Kabanda said Kwenda lay at the entrance with his head outside whilst his body was inside the yard.

He testified that he noticed Charmaine wanted to drive away.

Meanwhile, 41-year-old Matengo Siyaluta has told judge Wanjelani that he was assigned by family members to identify the deceased' body at the university teaching hospital.

Siyaluta said during identification, he noticed a hole on the right side of Kwenda's neck.

Justice Wanjelani's court room was packed as a number of relatives and friends turned up to offer solidarity to the accused.

Among the people present was Mukata's wife Marico, who tried to avoid media personnel, some UPND members, among them Obvious Mwaliteta.

The matter comes up for continued trial today, August 8, 2017.



Fire guts famous Chimwemwe Lodge in Petauke

By Diggers Correspondent

A group of workshop delegates were forced to abandon their seminar as they scampered to safety after discovering the grass thatched building they were conducting business from at Chimwemwe Lodge was burning down from the top.

Chimwemwe Executive Lodge is a famous luxurious facility located at the Petauke turn off in Petauke district of Eastern Province.

In an interview with News Diggers! lodge supervisor Tasila Tembo explained that the fire started from the nearby bush but spread to the buildings following a wind.

"The fire started from the bush behind, but there was some wind and that forced the fire to spread to the old building and later to the main conference building and to the building that houses

the dining, kitchen, bar, and administration," explained Tembo.

She said the fire was put out shortly after it spread to one of the chalets, leaving the two key buildings burnt to ashes.

I have no records from Congo, says Mumba Yachi

From front page

"For me I don't have any records from Congo. I don't have any birth records from there, I don't have an NRC from Congo. That is the situation, so it's something that can be laughable in future."

He also said he was heartbroken because he missed his two-year-old daughter.

"I am broken, I miss my daughter, she is my best friend. I am very heart broken. Her name is Amour, she likes telling me stories and I miss those stories," Mumba said.

Mumba also asked his fans to support him by buying his album.

"I love my fans very much. For now, they can buy my album, the Great Work album is out and if they can buy that album, they can provide some food for my daughter. I am not a beggar but I work hard.

So if they buy the album, that is the best way of helping," he said.

Asked about his experience in jail, Mumba said he was getting to understand some of his lyrics better while in detention.

"The experience is okay, you get used once you are inside. As an artist I understand more or the lyrics that I write. Jail has made me understand what I mean, sometimes you

have to be here to understand things. Sometimes you can be out there, writing songs but you don't really know what you mean," said Mumba.

And Magistrate Kapulo said she would only rule on whether or not to grant the accused bail if he obtained a temporal permit to stay in Zambia.

The accused, whose real

names are Shadreck Chite Mukenge alias Shadrack Mumba, is facing three immigration charges among them unlawful stay in Zambia.

Magistrate Kapulo said if Mumba was released on bail without formalising his stay in Zambia by obtaining a permit, he could still be arrested.

She said ruling had been reserved until such a time when she saw a permit.

The matter has since been adjourned to September 18, 2017 for mention while trial has been set for October 22, 2017.

His lawyer Mwape Bwalya told the court that she would start the process of acquiring a permit for his client today.

Mumba's fellow artists, who filled the court gallery, murmured upon hearing the court's decision to reserve ruling on bail.

And as he was being led out of the courtroom, Mumba told his wife Catherine, whilst wrapping his arm on her shoulders, to be strong.

He also hugged and kissed his tearful wife.



By Mukosha Funga

The Patriotic Front government has continued borrowing with the latest acquisition being a \$200 million loan from the World Bank intended for feeder roads.

And government has paid K308.5 million of debt owed to Zesco, Zambia State Insurance Corporation (ZSIC), and Zamtel by various ministries,

PF continues borrowing

provinces, and spending agencies.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Finance Head of Public Relations Chileshe Kandeta yesterday, Finance Minister Felix Mutati announced that Cabinet had approved

the loan acquisition for feeder roads works in all parts of the country.

"In order to speed up our economic diversification drive, we need to facilitate the construction of feeder roads so that the agricultural logistical

chain operates smoothly. When the programme commences, numerous jobs will be created all over the country from the time construction starts and as we progress in our economic diversification drive through

agriculture, tourism and industrialization," said Mutati.

Last week, government acquired a \$150.57 million loan from the African Development Bank (ADB) for a water and sanitation programme.

And Kandeta stated that Zesco had been paid K172.6 million while ZSIC had been paid K91.9 million and Zamtel had gotten K44 million.

"The funds paid to the three State-Owned-Enterprises through a debt swap mechanism have been ring-fenced to offset some outstanding tax obligations to the Zambia Revenue Authority, in line with the government's fiscal consolidation initiative. Commenting on the development, Minister of Finance Felix Mutati has said the initiative to activate a debt-swap with the three companies is in line with the government's fiscal consolidation policy through which the dismantling of arrears is one of the strategies being used to inject liquidity in the market and stimulate private sector participation in the economy through growth and job creation activities," Kandeta stated.

He stated that Mutati pledged government's continued support to stabilize parastatals. "The Minister has noted the positive performance of Zamtel over the last few months, adding that, 'the government will continue to ensure that state-owned-companies are helped to commercially stabilize by cleaning up their balance sheet so that they compete favourably; grow their businesses; and, perform in a manner that is worth the money for which the public pays for the goods and services which they produce,'" stated Kandeta.

CSPR laments lack of implementation of National Development Plans

By Mirriam Chabala

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) says the 7th National Development Plan (7NDP) can contribute significantly to the achievement of sustainable development in Zambia if well implemented.

And CSPR says there is need for the country to sought assistance from financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for growth and sustainable development to be attained in the country.

In an interview with News Diggers! CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano said that he was anxious to see how government would go about its economic recovery programme without compromising the poor and vulnerable people of this country.

"Zambia recently launched its five year 7th National Development Plan (7NDP) under the theme 'Accelerating Development Efforts towards vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind'. This comes at a time when the country is in discussions with the IMF on an economic recovery program. Both the plans for an economic recovery program and the 7NDP have been well received so far and if implemented well, they could contribute significantly to the achievement of sustainable development in Zambia," Nshindano said.

"As Civil Society, our main call has been to see how the poor and vulnerable are protected during the recovery period and that the aspirations of the nation as contained in the National Development Plans, especially on poverty reduction and reducing inequality are not compromised in the name of economic recovery programme."

Nshindano also said that international financial institutions like the IMF were key to the attainment of sustainable development, growth and eradication of poverty in the country.

"The IMF published a policy paper on social safeguards and programme design in poverty reduction and growth which considers how poor and vulnerable groups can be protected in Fund supported programs in low-income countries by using measures that safeguard and improve public spending on these groups. The paper highlights among other things Poverty reduction, which is a core objective of IMF programs in low-income countries and it also talks about IMF-supported programs in low-income countries such as protecting health and education spending and to strengthen social safety nets."

"This is not the language one would traditionally expect from an IMF paper and as a position of the

Fund given the public negative historical perceptions of the Fund towards the protection of the poor. It is increasingly evident that the Fund like many international financial institutions have come to the realisation that sustainable development and growth cannot happen without ensuring that poverty is reduced and that as many people as possible are uplifted out of it, especially the vulnerable groups such as women, children and differently abled," said Nshindano.

He however regretted that it was difficult to meet the country's economic needs at once as there were scarce resources to meet all the economic challenges the country was facing.

"It is however easier said than done as resources to meet the country's needs are always a challenge and each country provides different dynamics that would need to be taken into consideration. Zambia for example, is seeking balance of payment support from the Fund and one of the reasons for approaching the fund is that the country is faced with a budget deficit of over 9% amidst a shrinking economy due to drop in copper prices and with an increasing debt burden currently standing at 56% of the GDP," he said.

Nshindano further observed that

a number of reforms had to be put in place to ensure prudent expenditure and reduced wastage of resources by focusing on high impact areas in order to manage the economy.

"The IMF policy paper emphasises improved targeted spending and social safety nets. It also demonstrates the protection of social spending especially to health and education during IMF programs. This is extremely important as social safety nets are very limited in terms of reach. In the case of Zambia, implementing social assistant programs such as unconditional cash transfers universally would imply having to cover 40% of the population, which is the population leaving in absolute poverty," said Nshindano.

"It can further be observed that despite incremental allocations towards the social sectors in Zambia, the level of resource utilisation has remained low, in some cases as low as 45% of budgeted allocations, hence the need to ring fence social sector spending especially during recovery periods. Further to this, an enhanced targeted mechanism for social protection will promote the use of various mechanisms to identify, and distribute the bulk of benefits to the poor and vulnerable to shield them against the negative effects of structural reforms."

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The United States government department of African Bureau of International Narcotics and Law (INL) Enforcement Affairs says criminals generate about \$40 billion every year from environmental crimes in Africa.

And the INL department says Zambia will benefit from \$50 million which it has been allocated to combat wildlife trafficking on the African continent.

Speaking during a telephonic press conference from Washington D.C yesterday, INL Deputy Assistant Secretary Dan Foote said illegal wildlife products were among the top four lucrative trafficked goods in the region.

Foote told journalists that the US government was making efforts to halt wildlife trafficking adding that the crime restricted economic development, security, and undermined the rule of law.

Foote also disclosed the United States and China, which happened to be the biggest demand countries in the world for illegally-trafficked wildlife products, had signed an agreement to end legal markets in most illicit wildlife.

Criminals generate \$40bn annually from wildlife breaches in Africa - US

"Last year, the United States and China, who happen to be the two biggest demand countries in the world for illegally-trafficked wildlife products, signed an agreement to end legal markets in most illicit wildlife. China plans to fully enforce its ban on ivory and other wildlife products by the end of this year, the United States has done the same. I attended a huge ivory crush of several tons in New York City a few weeks ago to show the amount that we've seized here in the United States. We've also seen major efforts and decreases in demand across Southeast Asia, which are also high-demand countries, such as Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc. So that has had a big impact on demand, and as a result, we've seen prices go down. We've also seen many successes on the supply side, which I've been speaking about here today, with impressive seizures, huge ivory

crushes and burns in Kenya, in Vietnam, in San Diego, and, as I mentioned, in New York. We're now beginning to see a lot more prosecution, so I am cautiously optimistic that we've reached a tipping point and we're starting to really have a positive impact on this terrible scourge," Foote said.

"Wildlife trafficking has devastating impacts on ecosystems and societies: it pushes iconic species to the brink of extinction, restricts economic development, threatens security, and undermines the rule of law. Throughout Africa, we've seen that this criminal trade fuels corruption and is linked to armed groups that create instability. Unfortunately, wildlife trafficking is often viewed solely as a conservation issue. It isn't. The truth is that wildlife trafficking is also a serious crime, and often a violent one, which fattens the wallets of transnational crim-

inal syndicates. Illegal wildlife products are among the top four most lucrative trafficked goods and the trade is estimated at tens of billions of dollars annually."

He said that through various trainings, the department would partner with African nations in order to improve their enforcement, investigative, prosecutorial, and legislative capacities, and cooperation within and across governments.

"The State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, or INL, We strive to help partner nations improve their enforcement; investigative, prosecutorial, and legislative capacities; and cooperation within and across governments. To date, our training efforts have reached over 1,000 justice sector officials worldwide who combat wildlife trafficking, including conservation law enforcement officers. INL takes a crim-

inal-justice approach to wildlife trafficking, focusing efforts around halting poaching and trafficking and lowering demand," Foote said.

"Our work also includes cutting-edge forensics work: we support DNA forensics research on ivory seizures, which has resulted in significantly improved intelligence on ivory trafficking. This has augmented the ability of law enforcement to trace the criminal networks involved in this illicit trade. The United States government will continue to lead global efforts to end the gruesome trafficking of elephants, rhinos, and other endangered species. We stand ready to work together with more partner nations in this effort."

He disclosed that the INL department had been allocated \$50 million to combat wildlife trafficking on the African continent.

"Last year, or this year I

should say, our Congress allocated to the Department of State INL \$50 million to combat wildlife trafficking, of which a percentage probably slightly over 50% has been allocated towards working on the African continent. Our programs in Africa provide training and technical assistance on legal reform, investigative capacity, and building regional cooperation. We conduct regional programs to foster a transnational effort against this transnational crime, and we also oversee," said Foote.

Foote added that the department would also embark on specific programs in Zambia and Malawi this year.

He further stated that wildlife trafficking was a crime which did not only put money in the coffers of drug trafficking organizations, but that some terrorist groups that operated across Africa derived revenues from the same crime.

Honourable Kampamba Mulenga, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, has impressed us with what she has been able to learn in just less than 10 months of being in Cabinet. The chief government spokesperson has really sharpened her skills in terms of defending government policies and most importantly defending her appointing authority, President Edgar Lungu.

We say this because around December 2016, barely a month after she took over from Chishimba Kambwili, we had a rare opportunity of interacting with the Kalulushi PF member of parliament in her office. We went to introduce ourselves as newcomers in the private sector of the media industry. We further wanted her views on various issues that fall under her ministry, ranging from press freedom to progress on the Access to Information Bill.

Despite giving us a very warm welcome, the Minister chickened out of the interview after looking at the questionnaire we prepared for her. She spent time studying the questions and went further to solicit for guidance from junior officers in her ministry on how to deal with us. But still, she terminated the interview after our cameras had already started rolling. She could not go ahead. Instead, the minister came up with an excuse of having received a call for an emergency meeting with the President at State House, which we easily established was not true. We were forced to switch off our cameras before being sent away - in a very civil manner we must admit.

We could tell then that the Minister was at that time empty. She understood very little about government policy, let alone media related issues. She had no capacity to answer pressing questions and the best she could do was lie low, take cover. Honourable Mulenga avoided embarrassing herself on camera, she did not want to expose her ignorance. The minister found various smart ways of keeping away from discussing

Kampamba has learnt the art of lying

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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things which she had little or no knowledge about. She was still struggling switching from being a PF cadre to a senior government executive.

We understood Honourable Mulenga and took no issue with her decision to chicken out of the interview she had already granted us. We knew she needed time to develop her capacity to face journalists and debate pressing national issues. After all, she was not the first low caliber minister serving in government - those who had an opportunity to interview Vera Chiluba years back can agree with us.

Anyway, 10 months later this week, Honourable Kampamba Mulenga granted us a long winding interview where she seized an opportunity to react to Kambwili's charges against President Edgar Lungu. She spoke so eloquently without any signs of hesitation. The minister went as

far as challenging us to practice real investigative journalism and not just report any "nonsense" we record from bitter politicians like Kambwili. She was on fire!

After analysing her rebuttal to Kambwili, we feel we have no right to remain silent and not applaud the Minister over what she has learnt within such a short period of being in the PF government. Honourable Mulenga is really a fast learner. From November 2016 when she was appointed to date, the Information Minister has transformed into a fully-baked government official ready to take on anyone on any issue. She seems to finally understand what her role in government is, and what she is expected to do whenever those opposing the President speak out.

Our amusement is around the Minister's capacity to lie with insolence. Responding to Kambwili's question of how

President Lungu had accrued so much wealth within a short period, Honourable Mulenga said the Head of State was not poor before going to State House. She claimed the former Chawama member of parliament made a lot of money as a lawyer in private practice.

"First and foremost, President Lungu is a very well educated man, he was a lawyer before, it is not like he just came in a poor man, no! We know lawyers are one of the most handsomely paid professionals in Zambia. Questioning the aspect of whether President Lungu can own property, yes he is a Zambian entitled under the Constitution to own property. It is not true that President Lungu came into State House a poor man. He had a life before..." said Mulenga.

We agree with the Chief government spokesperson that Mr Lungu had a life before becoming

President - otherwise he would be at Chingwere today and not State House - but we have difficulties agreeing that he was a rich man. In fact, not even President Lungu and his wife Esther can agree with the Minister's claim. This is a blue lie, or a green lie if you like, because the PF has turned the blue lies of MMD into green.

We don't want to waste time debating the fact that President Lungu did not practice law for so many years because LAZ suspended his license for chewing a client's money. But how does Honourable Mulenga reconcile the fact that President Lungu declared K2.5 million worth of assets in 2015 and K23 million before the 2016 elections? How does the minister account for K10.4 million being reported as only 10 per cent of the President's earnings in the past 30 months, money which has been dished out in the name of Presidential

Empowerment Initiative? Did President Lungu make all these billions in private law practice?

Seriously, this is taking lies too far. We respect the fact that the Minister of Information has mastered the art of lying, she has become so versatile with fancy phrases like "first and foremost", "by and large", "over and above" etc, but to expect Zambians to believe this misinformation is an insult to their intelligence. It's demeaning to those who work so hard to pay their taxes to the government, including us.

What the chief government spokesperson should realise is that she doesn't need to belabour too much in defending the truth because the truth defends itself. But one lie requires 10 other lies to cover it up. Lying on behalf of President Lungu will isolate her from the truth when nature takes course and facts begin to unveil themselves. Honourable Mulenga should not get carried away with her ministerial position and assume that those who are not in government are dull and have no means of knowing what goes on inside there. This is the mistake that her now miserable predecessor, Kambwili, made when he was in her position.

And by the way, we would also like to report back to the minister that we took her challenge to us to investigate some of the issues raised by Kambwili; and of course we established very easily that President's Lungu's ministerial house on Lewanika Close is still occupied by his relatives. The Minister should not tell other journalists this lie that government is not aware of this fact. She should instead, inform the nation why this has been allowed and what the law enforcement will do about this clear criminality and abuse of authority.

As the 689th Lord Mayor of the City of London, I act as an ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector, and am here in Zambia this week to meet with senior business and government officials to discuss how we can build closer business ties between our two countries. During my year in office visiting both established and emerging markets was a key priority for me, and I look forward to discussing how we can ensure Britain remains a vital partner for businesses across Zambia.

London is the world's leading financial centre, boasting an unparalleled clustering of expertise, and the UK's regional centres of excellence such as Leeds, Edinburgh and Bristol complement London's exceptional global offer. One of the UK's key strengths is our leadership in the field of financial innovation, with London a key global centre for both Green Finance and Islamic Finance. I would encourage Zambian companies to explore these two financial products as possible alternative financing routes for investing in future growth and prosperity.

In London we are also looking to the future, with the rapid growth of FinTech rapidly becoming one of the City's crown jewels. More people are employed in this sector in the UK than in New York. I see real possibilities for British FinTech firms to collaborate with Zambian firms to help people across the African continent access banking and

London Lord Mayor: Why I'm visiting Zambia this week

financial services in a way that is not currently facilitated by physical banking infrastructure.

The UK and Zambia already benefit from strong trade links - in 2015 alone, the UK exported £64 million in services to Zambia. Our trade in financial services has been growing at a steady rate in recent years too, rising by 45% between 2007 and 2015. I hope to see this figure grow by leaps and bounds in the coming years.

I am pleased by the great strides that Zambia's financial sector is making to diversify its services offering and increase trade with other countries. Zambian financial institutions are continuing to strengthen their traditional banking service offers such as lending to customers and businesses, but are also exploring ways to offer more specialised financial products, such as investment banking, portfolio financial packages, and issuance of corporate bonds. Improvements made to strengthen the economy and wider financial sector across Zambia have not gone unnoticed, with global credit rating service Standard & Poor's recently revising up its grading

just last month.

As part of my trip to Lusaka, I will attend a number of meetings with business leaders from the financial and professional services sector, and I'm looking forward to discussing with them the main opportunities and concerns of firms based in the region, and see how the UK might assist. In particular I look forward to attending a meeting with the Governor of Bank of Zambia, where I hope to hear how macro-economic policies are supporting economic growth across the country. I'm also looking forward to meeting a number of big UK firms based in the capital - such as Standard Chartered, Barclays and Prudential - to discuss the opportunities they are exploring in this steadily-developing market.

As the UK prepares to leave the European Union, we are actively looking at how we can deepen our relationships with existing international partners. We have been clear that we remain committed to the EU, but I am personally looking forward to seeing how we can increase trade, boost collaboration and share even greater business

intelligence with our partners across Africa, particularly here in Zambia.

The financial sector, in particular, with its well-established trading relationships with international partners will look to cement its ties with its partners across the world. With some of the most promising emerging markets in the world, the UK's relationship with African nations will become ever more important.

In recent years, the City of London Corporation has been proactively looking at ways to strengthen ties with partners across the Commonwealth. My visit to Lusaka as a representative for the UK's financial and professional services industries this week marks a significant occasion, and represents this increasing international outlook to the UK's financial sector.

The Commonwealth of Nations is a collection of 52 member states united by shared values of democracy, free speech, human rights, and the rule of law. These basic principles encourage business prosperity, and are consistent across all Commonwealth nations, meaning it is only right that we

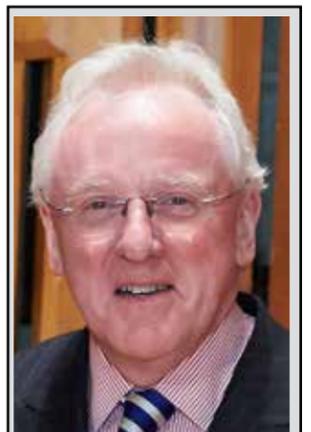
look to strengthen the economic ties that bind us.

The Commonwealth has a population in excess of 2.3 billion people spread across all of the world's inhabited continents. While it is right that we recognise that our relationships within the Commonwealth have not always been easy, I know there is a strong universal desire to develop Commonwealth trade. We can and should do more. In 2013, intra-Commonwealth trade in goods and services stood at nearly \$600 billion dollars. It has grown at almost 10% a year since 1995. The aspiration is to hit \$1 trillion dollars in trade by 2020.

London is the hub of the Commonwealth, and puts us in prime position to spread the City's world-leading skills in financial and professional services to the rest of the Commonwealth. With London's support I hope to see a new era of strong international growth based on cooperation between our family states.

With the great collaboration that the UK and Zambia has already benefitted from, I am confident that this trip marks a

positive step toward our mutual commitment to continue to build upon this relationship. The UK is entering an unprecedented phase, but that does not mean we are reticent in our ambitions to grow. The City, London and the whole of the UK remain open for business, and I look forward to discussing how we can shape a prosperous future for both Zambia and the UK.



Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, The Lord Mayor of the City of London



Hurricane Irma which strengthened into a Category 4 storm on Monday is now a powerful Category 5 Hurricane and is reportedly powering towards Florida

At least 12 dead as Irma ravages the Caribbean

Hurricane Irma ripped through the Caribbean on Friday, with its violent winds and torrential rains leaving a trail of devastation and killing 12 as it barreled towards the United States where up to a million people were told to flee.

With the monster storm expected to reach the American south by the weekend, coastal areas of Florida and Georgia were battering down the hatches and carrying out the biggest evacuation since 2005.

"The entire southeastern

United States better wake up and pay attention," warned US federal emergency chief Brock Long. "It will be truly devastating."

Barreling across the Caribbean, the rare Category Five storm laid waste to a series of tiny islands like St Martin, where 60 percent of homes were wrecked, before slamming the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

As it raged westwards, Irma packed winds of up to 185 miles per hour (295 kilometers per hour), an intensity it sustained for

33 hours -- the longest of any storm since satellite monitoring began in the 1970s.

On many islands, violent winds had ripped roofs or facades off homes and businesses, tossing cars and even shipping containers aside like matchsticks.

So far, 1.2 million people have been affected by Irma, the International Red Cross said.

But that number looks set to rise -- possibly reaching as many as 26 million.

- Six more deaths -

At least two people were killed in Puerto Rico, a senior rescue official said.

More than half of the territory's population of three million was without power, with rivers breaking their banks in the center and north of the island.

Ahead of the storm, Governor Ricardo Rossello activated the National Guard and opened storm shelters sufficient for up to 62,000 people.

Another four people were killed on the US Virgin Islands, with the governor's

office saying a number of badly injured people had been airlifted to Puerto Rico. St Martin, a pristine island resort divided between France and the Netherlands, also suffered the full fury of the storm.

France said four had died and 50 were injured, two of them seriously. Officials also said six out of 10 homes were so badly damaged that they were uninhabitable.

Insurance officials in Paris believe the cost of storm damage on France's Caribbean islands to be well over 200 million euros (\$240 million).

On the Dutch side of the island, one person died and several others were wounded, officials said.

Both France and the Netherlands have quickly mobilized to join in search and rescue efforts and provide food and water to their respective citizens.

Britain also said the hurricane had caused "great devastation" in the British Virgin Islands, with foreign minister Boris Johnson saying London had sent teams there to distribute aid. Two British warships have also been deployed to help as the storm heads for Turks and Caicos, an archipelago of around 30 islands that is a self-governing part of the United Kingdom.

- Tourists evacuated -
Irma also laid waste to tiny

Barbuda which suffered "absolute devastation," with up to 30 percent of properties demolished, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said.

Rescue teams were scouring the island for survivors, an AFP correspondent said, as some 300 people without shelter were evacuated to Antigua.

One person died on the island of 1,600 residents, apparently a child whose family was trying to get to safer ground.

As of early Friday, the eye of the storm was just north of Great Inagua, at the southern tip of the Bahamas.

As the storm swept past Haiti, people were largely left to face the hurricane's fury alone as authorities showed little sign of preparing for what forecasters said could be a catastrophic event.

In the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, torrential rain and powerful winds whipped the northern and eastern coasts, leaving 17 districts cut off as rivers burst their banks, emergency officials said.

Nearly 20,000 people were evacuated from their homes and more than 100 houses were destroyed.

Meanwhile in Cuba, some 10,000 foreign tourists were evacuated from beach resorts and officials hiked the disaster alert level to maximum. *AFP*



At least five people were killed when the storm hit the Caribbean island of St Martin, four lost their lives in the French-run part while the fifth died in the Dutch sector

At last, our thirst for proof of Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx's relationship has been satiated. No longer will we have to accept blurry cellphone shots and word of mouth, because there are now official, crystal clear, hand-in-hand photos of the two strolling down the beach in Malibu — probably the most obvious way for two celebs to announce that they are, indeed, a thing. (Well, other than wearing your beloved's name on a T-shirt at her annual Hamptons Fourth of July party.)

Undercover has been the name of the game for Foxx, 49, and Holmes, 38, ever since the two got tongues wagging in August 2013, when they attended a Hamptons party and reportedly got flirty on the dance floor with one another. It was dismissed as nonsense — including a vehement denial from Foxx — until the rumors started kicking into overdrive that fall, when *In Touch* reported that a driver who thought he was picking up Foxx from his hotel was surprised to see Holmes enter the limo. According to the magazine, "A hotel employee confirmed that Katie had stayed at the hotel with Jamie and that she was taking his car. So the driver drove her home to her Chelsea apartment." And then came the bombshell, in the form of a photo of the two in a recording studio, holding hands and indeed looking like a couple. *Us Weekly* shared the photo in March 2015. From there, the

How Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx kept their romance undercover



Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx first got people talking when they were this close at a benefit in the Hamptons in August 2013

two led tongue-waggers in a skilled game of cat and mouse, keeping the are-they-or-aren't-they discussion alive for years. The two became adept at scheduling their arrivals and departures in the same city, and same location, so

as to not attract attention. They even had special escape routes to duck nosy neighbors, with reports claiming Holmes had a back way out of her New York apartment that fed into Whole Foods. Holmes and Foxx reportedly had

a lot of catered dinners at their respective homes so they wouldn't be papped. They also became masters of disguise. In September 2015, *Us Weekly* reported that Holmes wore a wig and hat in order to meet Foxx at his hotel.

But they weren't always expert at keeping their relationship secret. Three months later, in December 2015, *TMZ* reported that Holmes was at Foxx's birthday party, and there were blurry photos taken of the two in the same locale at the same time, although photos of them looking coupled-up never surfaced. By the summer of 2016, people started figuring out their coordinated arrival and departure schedule. While Holmes was shooting *The Kennedys: Decline and Fall* in Toronto, Foxx was spotted around Yorkville and at the airport, leading most to assume he was merely stopping over en route to the Formula One Grand Prix in Montreal. But they were caught having dinner in Yorkville a month later, prompting Holmes to leave out one exit with her assistant and Foxx to leave from another. Of course, who could forget when former *Real Housewives* of Atlanta star Claudia Jordan, who is friends with Foxx, announced in an interview that the two were indeed together, and that, "He is very happy with her. I love that he seems very happy." Not long after, Jordan backtracked, saying she

misspoke and has never seen the two together.

And though Foxx and Holmes jetted off to a getaway in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, last December for Holmes' birthday, during which the two reportedly holed up in a suite and didn't leave, something seemed to shift this year, leading to more and more public scenes. For example, when they spent New Year's at the Soho Beach House in Miami, where they were spotted "holding hands while walking near the pool" and declared "very serious" by a source.

There was also that time in April when a sneaky snapper caught them out for dinner in New York, as they dined at a members-only club and held hands while walking by the pool (these two love their pool walking, apparently). And then there was their romantic Parisian getaway in May. As reported by *E!*, "Jamie wrapped filming on *Robin Hood* and Katie flew in to Paris to meet him for a few days," said a source. "Tom Cruise was filming *Mission: Impossible 6* only a few blocks away, but Katie and Jamie stayed inside their hotel ... and didn't leave."

When problems with their jet delayed their plans to fly home, "Jamie had a big smile on his face as they returned to their hotel and snuck in through a private entrance," the source continued. "They were very discreet and made sure to always enter and

exit the hotel and the car separately."

Still, signs were starting to show that the two were ready to make their love public. As *Us Weekly* reported in April, following their New York dinner, Holmes, "used to be super worried about public attention," adding that their meetings were elaborately planned. Said a source, "To make it impossible to get photo evidence that they are together, they traveled in cars with tinted windows and took secret back elevators. They had it down to a science."

But according to reports, Holmes was tired of playing the game, and may have been sending a subtle message that she was done with it in August, when she was photographed all over New York wearing a pair of sunglasses from Prive Revaux, Foxx's affordable eyewear brand. This all leads us to the official confirmation photos that surfaced over the long Labor Day weekend, showing the two looking carefree and, yep, in love.

The decision to take their relationship public might not be as spontaneous as it appears. Rumor has it that one of the stipulations from Holmes's divorce from Tom Cruise was that she couldn't be seen with another man for five years, and if you've done your gossip math, those five years expired this summer.

Whatever the reason, we're happy to see these lovebirds officially fly. *Yahoo News*



Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes are no longer hiding their love away as they are pictured holding hands at a beach

FAZ bans Nkana chairman

By Joseph Mwenda
FAZ has handed Nkana president

Evaristo Kabila and club secretary Mutale Kapwepwe a

six-week ban from football activities for “bringing the game into

disrepute”. Kabila and Kapwepwe’s ban emanates from a

July 19 letter Nkana sent to the FAZ general secretary Ponga Liwewe

but also availed to the media.

In that letter, Nkana complained over FAZ’s delayed formalisation of strikers Walter Bwalya’s illegal move from Lubumbashi Sports Club to Zambia two seasons ago, without an International Transfer Certificate.

Nkana further alleged that some FAZ officials had an interest in Bwalya and were involved in a US\$400,000 offer for the player from an overseas club.

“The FAZ disciplinary hearing chaired by Joseph Jalasi, found the two guilty of putting the image of the Association and the game into disrepute through media attacks, contrary to the FAZ disciplinary code 7.10. FAZ has further fined the two an amount of K2,500 respectively to be paid within seven days,” FAZ spokesperson Desmond Katongo said.

“The accused are at liberty to appeal to the FAZ Appeals Committee within 14 days of the ruling.”



Chipolopolo hero Brian Mwila out on injury

By Joseph Mwenda
Chipolopolo striker Brian Mwila is expected to be out of action for most of September due to injury.

significant but the pain is. He should be back to action in two-three weeks. But he should not be rushed.”

Coach Wedson Nyirenda will be keeping his fingers crossed over Mwila’s recovery with Zambia’s

date penultimate Group B qualifier against Nigeria looming over the horizon on October 7,

away in Uyo. Mwila is Chipolopolo’s top scorer in 2017 with 7 goals from eight games.

Mwila sustained a knee injury on September 2 while in action for Zambia in their 3-1 home win over Algeria in a 2018 World Cup Group B qualifier at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

The striker, from South African club Platinum Stars, scored a first half brace in that match but limped off in the 68th minute before being replaced by Roderick Kabwe.

Mwila’s injury saw him fail a late fitness test for the final leg against Algeria that Zambia won 1-0 in Constantine on September 5.

“Brian is likely having a sprain of the medial ligament of the right knee,” Zambia team physician Dr George Magwenge said.

“To know exactly and the extent of the injury, an MRI scan must be done. On examination, the laxity is not



Argentine and Venezuela players scumble for the ball during their World Cup 2018 qualifier game

By Diggers Reporter
Zambia captain and goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene has described next month's 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier showdown against Nigeria as a do-or-die affair. Second placed Chipolopolo will visit leaders Nigeria in a penultimate Group B clash in Uyo on October 7. An away win over the Super Eagles next month would put Zambia in a strong position of make their debut FIFA World Cup qualification. Zambia put the pressure on once Nigeria's comfortable Group B supremacy when they posted significant results over Algeria following 1-0 away win on September 5 after beating the North Africans 3-1 at home in Lusaka on September 2. "When we started, we knew what we wanted, we did our homework and got the most important six points. The game against Nigeria is all about preparation. I am confident we can win in Nigeria with adequate preps like the one we had," Mweene said. "It will definitely be tough because it will be a do or die affair, we are three points behind them, which we can break. We have a good team that can do it. All the players

We can drop the Super Eagles - Mweene



Kennedy Mweene after saving a Didier Drogba penalty during the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations final shootout

have shown commitment and dedication. The morale is high in camp and that is what gives us the motivation." With two Group B fixtures left to play, Zambia have 7 points, three behind Nigeria ahead of their penultimate away date on October 7 in Uyo. Cameroon are 3rd with 3 points and Algeria are bottom with 1 point and both are out of contention in the 2018 Group B qualifiers.

FAZ DITCHES MAFRO

Joseph Mwenda
FAZ has ditched MAFRO just four months into the two parties long-term deal to supply Chipolopolo, the junior and women's teams with kits. FAZ announced the divorce of their short-lived marriage on Friday in Lusaka. MAFRO and FAZ signed a two-year deal in May. FAZ spokesperson Desmond Katongo said MAFRO had failed to meet their

contractual obligations and that Football House would be seeking legal redress over the matter. "Following the agreement between the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and kit supplier MAFRO signed in 2017, FAZ wishes to announce a review of the partnership," Katongo said. "The contract between FAZ and MAFRO was based on the premise that either parties would meet their obligations to the other.

Despite agreement for the provision of playing kit and replica jerseys, MAFRO has only partially fulfilled its obligation with regard to playing kit and similarly not been able to meet their delivery schedule for replica kits." He said MAFRO was in breach of contract. "MAFRO is therefore in breach of contract by their failure to meet these and several other conditions set out," said Katongo. "These matters have been brought to their

attention and they have been given several opportunities to redress the situation to no avail. In view of the current status, FAZ has begun discussions with other potential partners." The MAFRO deal came after FAZ had an off-the-shelf deal with Italian sportswear maker Kappa in late 2016 and early 2017. This is after FAZ's previous long-term partnership with American sportswear giant Nike was terminated in 2014.

