

Lusaka man gets 3 yrs for stealing AK-47 rifle from Police Station

By Diggers Reporter

A 20-year-old man of Lusaka's Kanyama area has been sentenced to three years imprisonment with hard labour for stealing an AK47 from a police station.

Lusaka magistrate Brian Simachela sentenced Ronald Makumbi after he readily admitted to the charge yesterday.

Facts in this matter are that between July 1 and 12, 2017 with intent to steal, Makumbi broke into a police post at Kanyama Shopping Mall.

Makumbi stole an AK47 rifle with nine rounds of ammunition valued at K2,462 belonging to the Zambia police. Makumbi told magistrate Simachela that he stole the fire arm because he wanted to sell it to poachers in Kaoma district. He was apprehended about

a week later in Kaoma after enticing a customer.

Makumbi asked for leniency as he had learnt a lesson behind bars and he pledged to educate his friends about the dangers of stealing.

Lollipop chokes, kills Kafue girl

By Oswald Sichone

A Grade six pupil at Mungu Primary School in Kafue District has died after she allegedly choked on a lollipop.

Mungu ward Councillor Kelli Liwanga narrated the incident and named the victim as Vivian Mweene who resides in Kafue West.

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Laura Miti mobilises demonstration against US\$42m fire tenders

By Mukosha Funga

The Alliance for Community Action has written to Lusaka Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri informing him that they

IT system not giving us chance to debate in Parliament - UPND

The opposition UPND today complained to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini that the newly installed IT system was not giving them a chance to ask questions in the House.

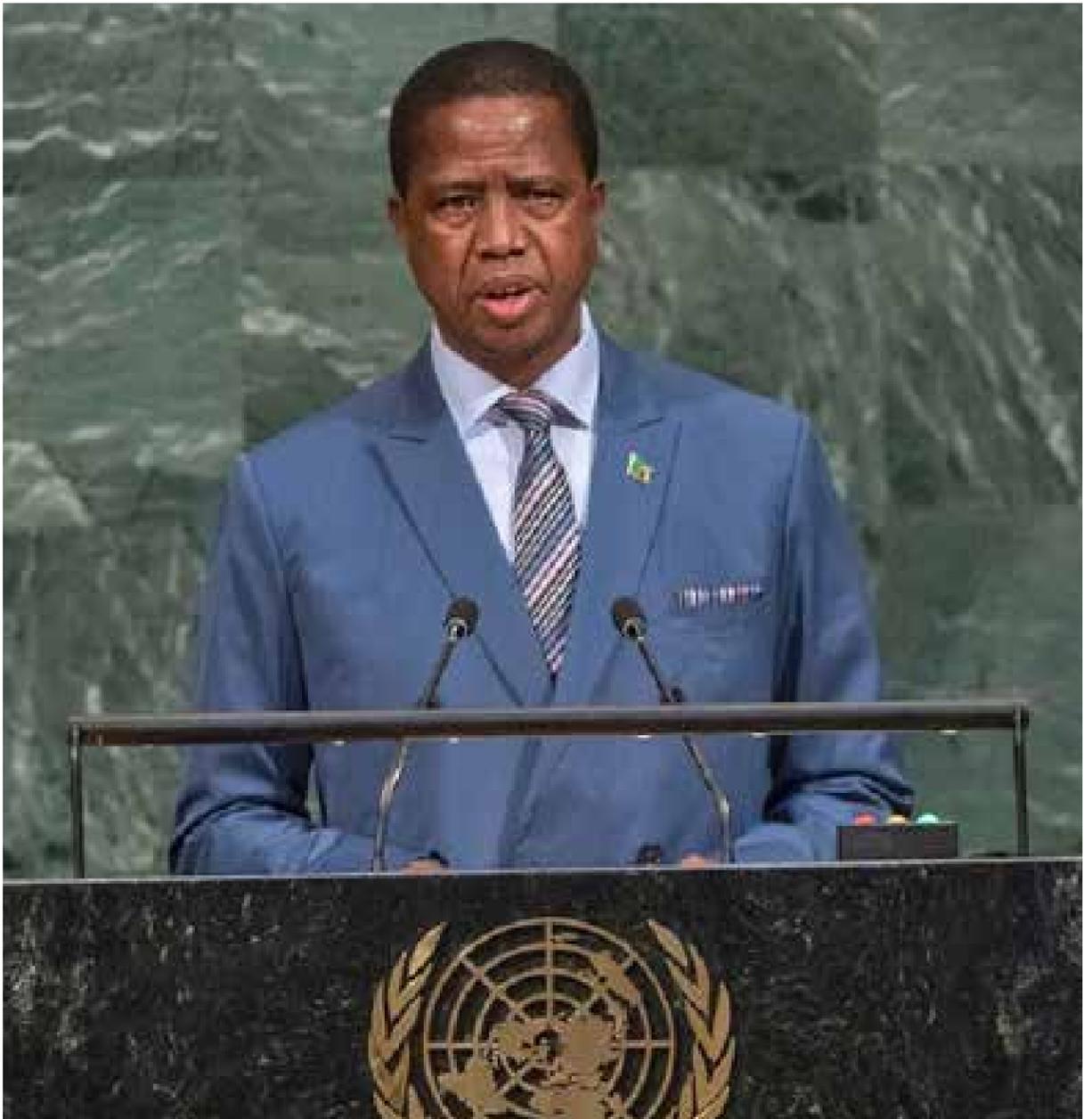
Full story page 2

wish to protest against the controversial fire tenders.

In a letter today, ACA executive director Laura Miti notified Phiri that the protest against mismanagement of public resources would be held on Friday, September 29, when Finance Minister Felix Mutati is expected to present the national budget.

"The Alliance for Community Action (ACA) is a Non Governmental Organisation whose main purpose is to advocate for the prudent and accountable use of public resources in Zambia.

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President Lungu addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly - Picture courtesy of State House

Lungu salutes Commonwealth role in resolving Zambia's election dispute

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says the Commonwealth played an important role

during and after the 2016 elections.

And President Lungu says African countries

are becoming frustrated with the lack of progress on the UN Security Council negotiations.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, President Lungu noted that the Commonwealth was key in the promotion of good

governance, democracy and the upholding of human rights.

"We must also lean on the vision and experience of the various regional and international bodies that are complimentary to this organization's agenda.

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Antonio says Libyan firm is threatening to seize Zambia's assets abroad over \$382m debt...

GOVT FAILS TO PAY LAPGREEN

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ZUFIAW demands reduced PAYE

By Joseph Mwenda

Zambia Union of Financial Institutions and Allied Workers (ZUFIAW) president Ackim Mweemba has asked Minister of Finance Felix Mutati to cut Pay As You Earn (PAYE) by 2.5 per cent.

In a statement issued today, Mweemba said reduced Pay as You Earn would give relief to the already stressed workers.

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IT system not giving us chance to ask questions in Parliament - UPND

By Mirriam Chabala

The opposition UPND today complained to Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini that the newly installed IT system was not giving them a chance to ask questions in the House.

And Speaker Matibini today took on Sports minister Moses Mawere for lying in Parliament.

Rising on a point of order, UPND Kabompo member of parliament Ambrose Lufuma wanted to know why questions from the opposition party were not being picked.

“Mr Speaker, I have observed that this new system is not allowing this side, us the UPND to ask questions. We have been pressing [the button] for some time now, but when you press, after some time the system is erasing. What is going on Mr Speaker,” asked Lufuma.

Speaker Matibini said he was going to make an inquiry.

“I am sure the head of IT department is following the proceedings and he will attend to that concern,” said Speaker Matibini, shortly before adding “I have been told that the IT system will now indicate questions from 25 members at a time.” Meanwhile, Youth, sport and child development

Minister Moses Mawere this afternoon disgraced himself in the House for lying that he had consulted his committee before establishing the street vendors empowerment scheme, when in fact not.

This was after Kaputa member of parliament Maxsas Ng'onga rose on a point of order to seek the Speaker's ruling on why Mawere gave false information to the House by claiming that his ministry had consulted the committee on youth and sport before coming up with a the youth street vendors empowerment scheme.

Earlier, Mawere rendered a Ministerial statement to the House in which he was giving an update on how government intended to address youth unemployment.

“Mr Speaker, you will recall that on 12th August, 2016, His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia launched an action plan which is centered at addressing youth unemployment and under employment in the short, medium and long term, using a multi-sectoral approach... This street vendors youth empowerment scheme is guided by a memorandum



of understanding signed among three key stakeholders namely; the ministry of youth, sport and child development, Zambia postal services corporation and the united street vendors corporative society limited. When I say key stakeholders I mean people who have a big role to play in this programme which also includes our parliamentary committee on youth, sport and child development which was consulted,” said Mawere. But in his point of order,

Ng'oma who is also a member of the youth and sports committee challenged the Minister on his claim.

“Mr Speaker I rise on a very serious point of order being a member of the committee of youth and sport, is the minister in order to mislead this house by saying that he consulted the committee on youth and sport? I thank you Mr Speaker and I need a serious ruling on this,” said Ng'oma.

When asked to justify the information given in his

earlier remarks by Speaker Matibini, the minister avoided answering the question, forcing the Speaker to demand a clear explanation.

“Mr Speaker, the committee early this year, if am not mistaken took a tour together with my Ministry to go round and appreciate the programmes which the Ministry is doing through out the country and through that process Mr Speaker the committee even submitted a report here in this House where some of the concerns

which they observed on the ground were raised and that they even made some recommendations to our ministry,” Mawere said.

But Dr Matibini argued: “Honourable minister I still have difficulties with your response to the point of order, did you specifically engage with the committee on this scheme, on this specific subject? I know you have referred to the usual tours that are done by the committee but did you engage the committee on this scheme?”

And in his response, Mawere said “thank you Mr Speaker, that's the information I was given but I will check with my technocrats.”

The Speaker was not satisfied and told Mawere: “Honourable Minister, honourable minister this question is directed to you as minister. How can you say you are not sure when its directed at you? honourable minister respond.”

Mawere again said: “Thank you Mr Speaker, I will check and respond later Mr Speaker.”

Speaker Matibini did not let him loose, but pressed further for a clearer explanation, forcing the minister to apologise for misleading the House.

“Honourable Minister I think you need to act in a more honourable way, did you consult the committee, as minister...as minister, did you consult?” asked Speaker Matibini.

“Thank you Mr Speaker, personally I did not [consult] and I apologise for that, thank you,” said Mawere.

ZUFLAW demands reduced Pay as You Earn

From front page

“As the minister prepares to present the 2018 budget on 29th September 2017, ZUFLAW is calling for among other things the reduction in Pay as You Earn (PAYE) to give relief to the already burdened workers in form of the said tax, other taxes and interest rates on loans. We caution the minister that the danger of having high taxes might lead to Zambia failing to achieve the 2030 transformative sustainable development goals which are aimed at ending the tyranny of poverty in society. Henceforth, we propose the reduction of Pay as You Earn from the current 37.5 per cent to 35 per cent and giving other reliefs to the workers to increase their disposable income,” Mweemba said.

“Workers deserve lower Pay as You Earn (PAYE) and other tax reliefs especially that the government is now getting substantial amount of money from toll gates and we should bring on board the untapped informal sector for it can immensely contribute revenue to the national treasury.”

Mweemba however urged government to consider imposing serious taxes on charcoal and

firewood.

“On the other hand, we are painfully calling for the imposition of tax on charcoal and firewood to prevent the excessive cutting down of trees, following the recent hike in electricity tariffs to cost reflective levels. Well, we are alive to the fact that charcoal and firewood are a big source of energy for cooking especially for the poor, we are tempted for once to follow the capitalist mentality because this act is the major contributor to deforestation and environmental degradation a vice which will in the long run affect the rainfall pattern thereby seriously affecting our hydro system which is the major source of our energy.” He observed.

“This taxation shall be a measure to control the level at which tree cutting is being done in the country and force the country to look for other cheaper and more environmentally friendly sources of energy. The indiscriminate cutting down of trees for charcoal or firewood for cooking contributes to global warming and deforestation as this country do not have a deliberate policy for re-forestation. The country needs to turn to

cheaper and more environmentally friendly sources of energy such as briquettes, which burn longer and are much cheaper than charcoal. Briquettes are cheaper given that the raw materials are agricultural waste that have no commercial value and when not used, are just biodegradable artifacts.”

And Mweemba urged government to consider removing duty on importation of all machinery.

“Additionally, we urge the minister to consider charging Zero percent duty on all machinery needed for making alternative environmentally friendly sources of energy both domestic and industrial use. Furthermore, we demand that the minister, through the Bank of Zambia authority, seriously consider the downward revision of the country's policy rate. This is to enable the general populous especially the workers of the country get a relief from the financial institutions in terms of interest rates. For instance, as at July 2017 South Africa's monetary policy rate was at 6.75 per cent, Botswana was at 5.5 per cent and Namibia was at 6.75 per cent. This has led to positive gains economically and has led

to the creation of jobs especially for young people in respective countries. Interest on borrowing in this country is still very high and has largely discouraged borrowing,” said Mweemba.

“As for the workers, the high interest rates have burdened them, leading to the high number of them defaulting on their loans thereby affecting the performance of the financial institutions. Therefore, the 11 per cent monetary policy rate by Bank of Zambia can still be reduced even further to encourage people to borrow and get capital for their businesses. The lower the interest rate, the more willing people are to borrow money to make big purchases and investments. When consumers pay less on interest, this gives them more money to spend on their personal development, which can create a ripple effect of increased spending throughout the economy. Businesses and individuals also benefit from lower interest rates, as it encourages them to make large equipment purchases due to the low cost of borrowing. This creates a situation where output and productivity increase in the country.”

By Joseph Mwenda

Government has defaulted on its commitment to pay LapGreen Network an excess of US\$382 million in compensation, following a consent judgement order entered into between the Libyan firm and the Republic of Zambia.

And FDD deputy national secretary Antonio Mwanza says he has information to the effect that LapGreen is threatening to seize Zambia's assets abroad over the debt which is overdue.

This is a case where LapGreen of Libya sued the Zambian government after it forcefully took over LapGreen shares in Zamtel in 2012.

LapGreen bought 75 per cent shares in Zamtel during former president Rupiah Banda's reign at US\$252 million, a price which the Michael Sata led PF government described as ridiculous.

After repossessing LapGreen

Govt fails to pay LapGreen \$382m compensation

shares, government went further to launch a manhunt for Banda's son Henry who was accused of taking a staggering commission from the sale.

LapGreen however, took legal action against the move by government in the Lusaka High Court. The State failed to defend itself and instead entered a consent settlement to compensate LapGreen its initial investment of US\$252 million plus interest, calculated at eight per cent. Mwanza told News Diggers! that the Zambian government had defaulted on the repayment of the compensation.

"According to the settlement agreement, the Zambia government was supposed to make an initial payment of US\$114 million in November 2016, followed by biannual payments of US\$35 million

in February 2017 and August 2017 respectively. However, the government has defaulted and LapGreen is now threatening to take all measures possible to recover their money including taking the issue to the International Arbitration Court and seizing Zambia's assets abroad," Mwanza said.

"This issue raises serious questions with regards to Zambia's capacity to repay the ballooning debt that our country finds itself in and the claims by Government that Zambia's economy is recovering. How can one claim that Zambia's economy is recovering when Government is failing to meet its statutory financial obligations?"

The implications of the actions that LapGreen is about to undertake have far reaching consequences with

regards to Zambia's standing on the global financial market especially now that the country is negotiating to get a loan of US\$1.6 billion dollars from the IMF. Eurobonds and other debts are also approaching their maturity repayment dates and we have a widening fiscal deficit as a country. Does Zambia have the capacity to service the ever increasing public debt when it is failing to pay such financial obligations as compensation?"

He asked government to give the Zambian people a clear explanation on the matter.

"Can government explain to the Zambian people what the status of this matter is. What happened to the initial US\$252 million that LapGreenN paid the Zambian Government? Can the Minister of Finance confirm that the LapGreen debt was

added to Zambia's total public debt which he stated in Parliament? How much debt has Zamtel accrued from the time Government took over its operations? And how much of this debt has been granted by government? Can the Minister in charge of Transport and Communication explain to the Zambian people how Zamtel is performing since the government's take over. We demand an honesty and comprehensive response from government."

Mwanza questioned how government spent the money paid by LapGreen when it bought shares in Zamtel.

"It is common knowledge that Zamtel in its current state is moribund and it is only surviving through government borrowings and guarantees. The questions that needs serious answers is

why did the PF government illegally grab Zamtel, knowing very well that it had no capacity to efficiently run the entity? What happened to the initial US\$252 million that LapGreen injected into Zamtel because the company is limping," said Mwanza.

"The consequences that we as a country is likely to suffer if this matter and the general public debt management problems escalates are too ghastly to contemplate. As punishment for default, capital markets will either impose punitive borrowing rates or refuse to lend at all. And credit-rating agencies will no doubt warn against investing in the country. This issue may appear minute but it is a serious time bomb that if left unresolved will have serious ramifications on the country's international standing. Let Government explain to the public how it plans to settle this issue before it gets out of hand."

Chalimbana community rises against govt for encroaching on forest reserve

By Mukosha Funga

A community in Lusaka's Chalimbana area has threatened to sue government for encroaching on a forest reserve where the Zambia Air Force has built staff houses and another developer is turning the land into an affluent suburb.

In a letter addressed to the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Lands and dated September 12, 2017, H.H Ndhlovu and Company stated that their clients, Chalimbana River Headwaters Trust, were shocked that the construction of Kingsland project had begun without an approved environmental assessment.

"The area where the Zambia Air Force houses have been constructed on Twin Palm Road, as well as the location of the recently commenced Kingsland City Project, also on Twin Palm Road is within the Local Forest Reserve No. 27 and there is no record of any legal process that has been undertaken to degazette that

forest and change its land use. The Kingsland project as you are aware is a huge project involving multi-purpose activities including housing, hospital, school and various other social and recreational activities. It is further alarming to note that the Kingsland Project has commenced without an approved environmental assessment as required under the Environmental Management Act of 2011 and it is therefore illegal," H.H Ndhlovu and Company stated.

"The community has thereby been denied the right to participate in environmental decision making as required by law. The activities currently taking place are not only a breach of Zambia's commitments to regional protocols but also pose a danger to the integrity of the Chalimbana Catchment area and the entire local ecosystem. The result of the activities will lead to irreparable damage to the local environment and the Chalimbana river and its

tributaries and is a complete abrogation of the intended purpose for protection of the forest by law. As it stands now, the Chalimbana river has already been contaminated by sewage from the ZAF Twin Palm housing estate. This causes a grave risk of dysentery, typhoid, cholera and other communicable diseases to the riparian community along Chalimbana River and especially the people of Chieftainess Nkomeshya's area."

The law firm stated that its clients were shocked by the activities which were going on in the forest.

"The brief history of the local forest is that it was gazetted as a local forest in order to use it exclusively for conservation so that the land is protected and to protect water supplies in the local area. Studies have also shown that Local Forest Reserve No. 27 is a recharge area for the Chalimbana River and its tributaries and as such is a very important forest. Further, the forest is located

within the Lower Zambezi River Basin which is covered under the SADC and Zambezi River Commission protocols to which Zambia is a party. In addition, Zambia under its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) has been using forests including Forest Reserve 27 to sequester the emission of greenhouse gasses. This was even referred to by President Edgar Lungu when he addressed the United Nations Secretariat in September last year. Our clients have therefore been perturbed at the activities that are taking place in the local forest," read the letter.

"You may wish to know that in 1983 the forest was degazetted to be used for munitions training by the defence forces. However, the local community noticed that there was almost total destruction of the forest as a result of encroachment and

deforestation taking place due to the degazetting. The small holder farmers and residents organized and signed a petition demanding that the President re-gazette the forest reserve so that it could be saved from destruction. It should be noted that a total of over 2,500 petitioners throughout the Chalimbana River Catchment Area signed the petition. The petitioners gave very clear reasons why they were petitioning. Then President [Fredrick] Chiluba listened to the demands and reasons given by the petitioners and the local community. The President, through his Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Hon William Harrington ordered the re-gazetting of Local Forest Reserve No. 27 by Statutory Instrument No. 196 of 1996. We are advised by our clients that the local community, local small holder farmers and the environmental civil society organizations had even resorted to a costly public interest litigation which ended up in the Supreme Court in order to save the forest."

H.H Ndhlovu and Company also stated that the Chalimbana community was shocked to learn that government had published a statutory instrument which aimed to reduce the boundaries of the forest.

"It is also important to note that Forest Reserve No 27 is one of the only two remaining open green spaces in Lusaka for Education, heritage and its invaluable ecosystem services as shown in the studies that have been made. The above being the case our clients have been alarmed to

discover that in addition to the illegal activities already taking place in the local forest, government has now promulgated Statutory Instrument No. 62 of 2017, the aim of which is to further reduce the area of the Forest Reserve No. 27. This alteration will consequently reduce the effectiveness of the original purpose of the said forest reserve which has been fought for by the local community, shareholder farmers and all those concerned with the protection of our environment," read the letter. The law firm stated that it had instructions to begin legal proceedings if all developmental activities currently and intended to be undertaken were not halted. "Our instructions are to request government to stop all developmental activities currently and intended to be undertaken in the forest. The Chalimbana River Headwaters Conservation Trust has submitted an application to the Forest Department for Community Forest management of Local Forest Reserve No. 27 pursuant to Section 29(1)(c) and (4) of the Forest Act 2015. The Forest Department has since acknowledged receipt of the Trust's application confirming that modalities for the setting up of the forest management committees is being worked on further to which the committee will be established. Our clients instructions are that should the current and planned destruction of Local Forest No. 27 proceed beyond the next four days, then our further instructions are to commence action in the courts of law," read the letter.

Laura mobilizes demonstration against fire tenders

From front page

In particular, the ACA aims to work with other civil society organizations and speak up about public resource management as it is linked to service delivery. In line with our objective and in line with the Public Order Act 113 of the Laws of Zambia, the ACA wishes to notify your office of our intention to hold a peaceful procession and demonstration at the Parliament of Zambia. We notify your office because we have been sent from Lusaka Central Police to Chelston police with all these stations saying notification should not come to them. We are hoping that your

office will receive the notification," Miti wrote.

"The purpose of this peaceful demonstration is to raise citizen concern on the procedure and cost of the 42 fire trucks recently bought by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing and public resource mismanagement generally. In accordance with the law, we wish to hold this demonstration on Friday, 29th September from 14:00 hours to 16:00 hours. This is the day the national budget will be presented by the Minister of Finance and we feel it is an appropriate day to raise our concern on public resource

management in the country."

She assured Phiri that the peaceful protest would not disrupt proceedings of the House.

"The procession will take the form of members of civil society and ordinary citizens peacefully holding placards on the side of the road leading up to Parliament. We would like to assure you that the members of parliament proceeding to the House will not in any way be disturbed. We look forward to the police service facilitating this Constitutional citizen right and duty to raise their concerns to those that govern the country," wrote Miti.

Lungu salutes Commonwealth role in resolving electoral disputes

From front page

As a member state, we note the role of the Commonwealth in various subjects such as gender and youth matters, climate change, the promotion of democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance, socio-economic development, and so on. In my country, the Commonwealth secretariat has played an important role during, and after the previously held elections, through the provision of technical support in the various facets of the electoral process," President Lungu said.

The Head of State also pledged Zambia's support to countries which were afflicted by conflict.

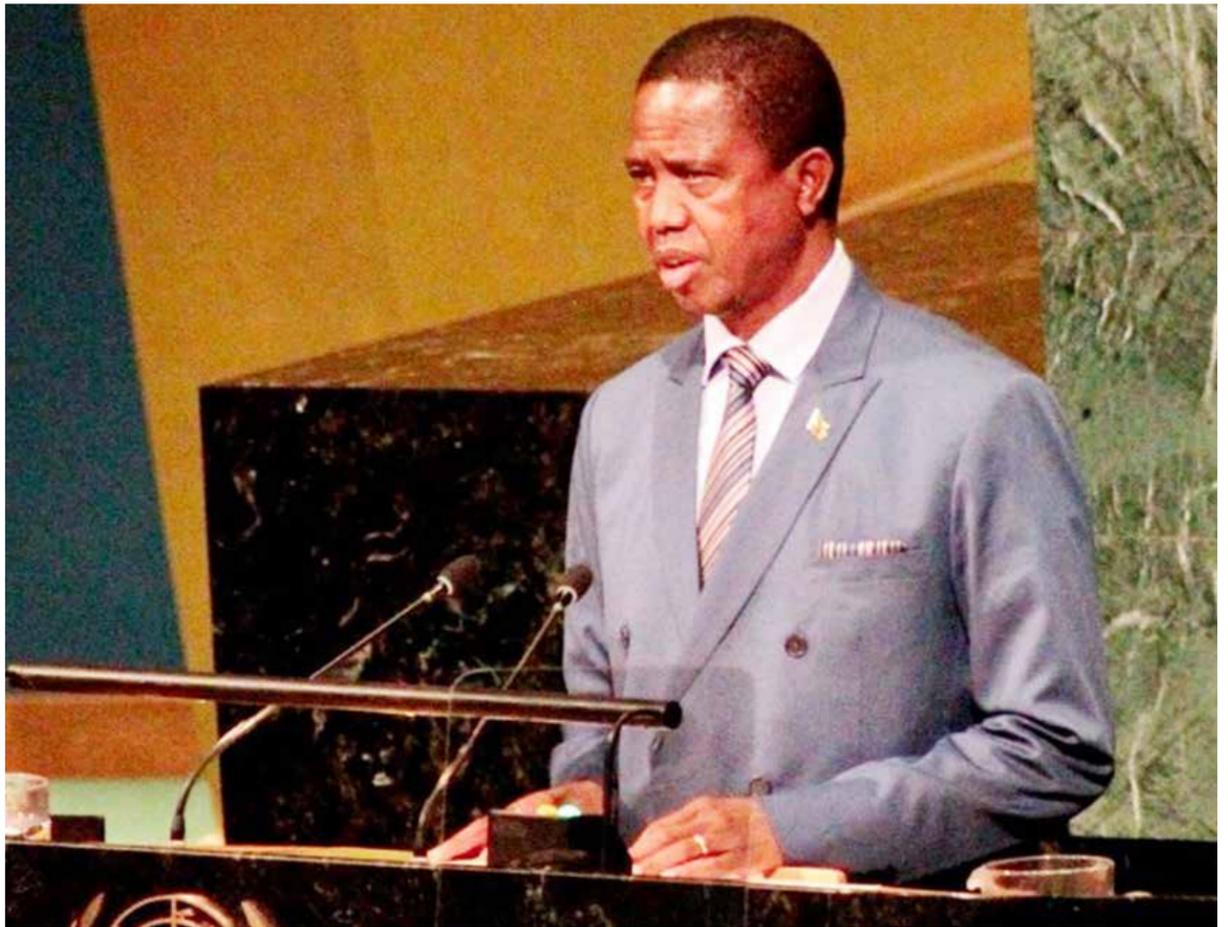
"Peace, security and the rule of law continue to be the basis for meaningful development of any society. In keeping with this understanding, my government pledges its solidarity to those nations that are undertaking the necessary actions in deepening their democracies. Since our last meeting here in New York, a number of countries have held their national elections. The people in these countries have spoken and in Africa, congratulations are due to them for exercising their democratic right of choice in their national elections. This is the Africa we want for the 21st century and, indeed, the future we want. Zambia has also continued to render its support for those still afflicted by conflict through its membership in the African Union Peace and Security Council. Following its recent election, my government

looks forward to a successful tenure in the SADC Troika of the organ on politics defence and security, from 2017 to 2020. I assure you that, we will use this membership in these two bodies to foster peace, more particularly in Africa," he said.

"Zambia has also continued to serve in UN peace-keeping operations with a sense of duty to those persons who have found their security under threat for various reasons. In this regard, the United Nations should not relent on its duty to these vulnerable persons, but rather redouble its efforts to bring about a more peaceful world. The commitment should not be limited to preventing conflict, but should go further to seek the protection of the victims of conflict, including the displaced persons. We all need to cooperate in providing for a conducive environment for them in respect of their human rights and their social development and wellbeing. In this regard, I am pleased to inform this assembly that in June this year, I assented to Zambia's Refugees Act no. 1, of 2017 which further speaks to this noble duty and, replaces the 1970 law."

President Lungu also outlined the strides he had made as the African Union champion against ending child marriage.

"My government attaches great importance to the needs and welfare of all with a particular focus on women, children and youth. To this end, Zambia continues to make tremendous strides in the campaign to end child



President Edgar Lungu addresses the United Nations General Assembly - picture courtesy of State House

marriage, with the prevalence rate currently standing at 31.2%, depicting a 10.8 percentage drop from the 42% at inception of the campaign. We have also continued to engage traditional leaders to reform traditions and customs that allow child marriage. Currently, we are in the process of harmonizing statutory and customary law on marriage to prohibit child marriage. We are also repealing a number of discriminatory and outdated statutes related to children in order to come up with a children's code to

domesticate the provisions of the convention on the rights of the child. As the designated African Union champion on ending child marriage for 2017, I am pleased to inform you that the campaign has been launched in 20 countries out of the 30 countries targeted with the highest prevalence rates of child marriage in Africa. The launch programmes are essential to the enhancement of advocacy against child marriage, at national level," he said.

"The campaign is growing from strength to strength;

however, much more needs to be done. We call on all partners to join efforts and together, let us raise our voices to protect our children and the youth. The campaign will continue to gain momentum and reach out to member states in order to secure an end to this harmful practice."

And President Lungu said African countries were becoming frustrated by lack of progress on Security Council negotiations. "There is no doubt that the United Nations continues to remain the only multilateral institution capable of

addressing the challenges of our "one world". The world looks up to this body to encourage dialogue among civilizations on all global challenges in an inclusive manner offering the only practical way to ensure meaningful and effective international cooperation. To be effective and efficient there is need to reform the United Nations. Zambia believes that the UN reforms will not be complete without meaningful reform on the Security Council.

Reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, democratic and accountable to all member states, irrespective of status, is essential for its decisions to be accepted by the whole international community. Given that Africa constitutes the second largest bloc of the UN membership, proposals to reform the Security Council should heed Africa's legitimate call. Africa is becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress in the Security Council negotiation process. And it is time to move away from the deliberate attempts to create a maze of an otherwise clear question," said President Lungu.

"The increasing acts of terrorism around the world must be condemned by all peace loving nations. More effort must be undertaken to restore the sense of security which is under constant threat. Zambia therefore stands in solidarity with the victims of recent terror acts in different countries and further stands ready for enhanced international collaboration to fight terrorism."



A Rohingya Muslim refugee shelters from the rain at Leda refugee camp near the Bangladesh district of Teknaf

By Mirriam Chabala

North Western Province Minister Richard Kapita says there will be no land left for Zambians if foreigners continue to obtain land leases for 99 years.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's government forum yesterday, Kapita suggested that foreigners must only be allowed to obtain land leases for about 25 years and renewable afterwards.

"We cannot very easily give away land to people we don't know just because they are going to give you money. I must admit that this is going to be a challenge but we must talk to our people to ensure that they do not sell their land because it's our duty as government to educate our people that they should not fall prey to these people who come calmly like small carrots to buy their land and when you look at what they are doing in these cities you find that they have defiled the place," Kapita said.

"It is up to us to come up with stiffer laws that ensure that foreigners do not own land exclusively and we do not want our traditional leaders in rural areas to be selling land or to go ahead and collect leases for 99 years. That should not be the case and we should look at policies that ensure that foreigners must get land, perhaps we should say they can own land for 25 years instead of 99 years so that it is removed after sometime. Otherwise, at some point Zambians will not have land."

And Kapita said the planned Chingola-Solwezi dual carriageway will open up traffic and reduce congestion on the two mining towns. "The Solwezi-Chingola road has been bad for a long time. However, when the PF government came into power only six years ago they embarked on a programme to see that the road is worked on because it is an economic road and if you see the amount of trucks that trade on that road ferrying copper then you will know that there is no way that any sensible government can

Foreigners shouldn't own land for 99 years - Kapita

ignore working on it. The PF government has already started working on the 168 kilometer road and it is estimated that government is going to spend close to k1.2 billion and I want to report that the figure might rise to k1.8 billion because there are features we wish to include on that road like the toll gates," Kapita said.

"I know that there are four contractors on the road right now working. One is from China Geo and he actually has a bigger portion than the PF government has insisted that 20 per cent of the contract must go to a Zambian contractor. So we also have a local contractor on that road. And by December this year, 58 kilometres of the road is likely to be done and when the rains start, they would have completed that part of the road. In addition to that, we requested government that we can't just have a big nice road getting into Solwezi or at the outskirts of Solwezi so we asked for variation to include a dual carriageway within the town."

Meanwhile, Kapita said government would soon revamp the pineapple industry in the province. "In the pineapple industry to tell you the truth, I can tell you that Ikelengi and Mwinilunga will be the best producers of pineapples. We used to have a factory there and a lot of people educated their children with the money raised from pineapples because there was a small factory which was privatised I think and the equipment sold by the former MMD government. But I am happy to state that His Excellency



North Western Province Minister Richard Kapita

the President in the last opening of Parliament did state that government is keenly looking at gathering investors to ensure that that factory is revamped so that we can have our own products because in terms of pineapples we used to be the best producers not what I am seeing coming from South Africa," Kapita said. And Kapita said he had

been working well with all Members of Parliament as Provincial Minister.

"I knew there was a lot of disunity when I was appointed Provincial Minister, as you may be aware because North Western Province is represented by 11 opposition members of Parliament and so I understood that some of them were colleagues I

worked with when I was on their side so I knew that there would be these things. But the first thing I did was to actually address my colleague members of Parliament who were elected by the people in the Province that elections were over and it was important that we denounce disunity and work together so that none of our people are left behind," said

Kapita.

"I told them that it was clear that there will be no elections between now and 2021 so it's imperative that we deliver to the people that elected us and since government seeks to serve, there is no point in denying the fact that in order to get development in any area, you have to work with the government of the day and this I did emphasise."

Child marriages an impediment to Africa's development - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says African leaders must accelerate their efforts to end child marriage because it is an impediment to the continent's development. ZANIS reported that

President Lungu was speaking when he hosted his Ugandan and Malawian counterparts Yoweri Museveni and Peter Mutharika respectively and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Development

Diane Jacovella, during the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

President Lungu noted that in order to end the scourge by 2030, it was vital to ensure that girls had access to quality education, legislative reforms and a change of societal harmful norms and practices.

"It is good to see that most African Union member states have institutionalized the fight against through the development and implementation of the national strategies. This shows that we are getting somewhere," President Lungu said.

He added that marrying off girls at a tender age exposed them to serious health risks such as maternal mortality, and sexual and domestic violence.

President Lungu also said the Zambian government would continue engaging traditional leaders in rising awareness through campaigns against child marriages.

"The current prevalence rate stands at 31 percent depicting

a 10.8 percent drop from the 42 percent at inception of the campaign. We shall continue to undertake various interventions including partnering with our traditional leader to fight the scourge" said President Lungu.

And UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Omar Abidi commended President Lungu for his efforts towards ending child marriages, as the African Union Champion.

"Africa is making tremendous progress to end child marriages which could not be possible without good leadership," Abidi said.

Meanwhile, President Museveni said there was need to step up sensitization programmes on the importance of educating girls and empowering women, if Africa has to end the scourge.

And President Mutharika said leaders on the African continent must commit themselves to investing in the welfare of young people as a measure to sustain development.

DEC nabs Chirundu woman for drawing 2 salaries from govt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Drug Enforcement Commission has arrested and charged a 31-year-old Chirundu woman with theft by public servant for drawing two salaries from government.

And DEC has also arrested a 33-year-old Kabwe teacher for obtaining money by duping people that he was a ZRA official who was auctioning seized items.

In a statement today, DEC public relations officer Theresa Katongo explained that Julie Munsaka, a former teacher, stole K114,876 being monthly salaries paid to her for a period of two years by the Ministry of Education when she had already left and was working for another government institution.

"DEC through its Anti-Money Laundering Investigations Unit has arrested a 31-year-old former teacher of Plot No. 481 High Cost in Chirundu for theft by public servant and money laundering contrary to the laws of

Zambia," Katongo stated.

"Particulars of the offence are that Julie Munsaka, a former teacher at a named school on dates unknown but between 1st August, 2014 and 30th September, 2016 jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, did steal a total amount of K114, 876. 00 being monthly salaries paid to her for a period of two years by the Ministry of Education when she had left the Ministry of Education and was working with another Government institution, thereby, receiving two salaries from the Government of the Republic of Zambia."

And Katongo stated that a Kabwe teacher had been arrested for personation of a public officer and obtaining money by false pretences.

"And in a related development, the Commission has arrested Bbakala Nambwele a 33 year-old teacher of Katondo Site and Service in Kabwe

for personation of a public officer and obtaining money by false pretences," she stated.

"Particulars of the offence are that Bbakala Nambwele on dates unknown but between January 1, 2017 and August 15, 2017 jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown did place an advert on social media, namely Facebook, purporting that he was a Zambia Revenue Authority officer and that ZRA was auctioning impounded vehicles and other electronic items when in fact not. Further Bbakala did open a bank account with ZANACO and advertised his account on Facebook for members of the public to deposit money for the auction. And using the said account, the suspect obtained money amounting to K6,200 without lawful authority."

Katongo stated that both suspects were currently on police bond and would appear in court soon.

\$42m for fire tenders also alarmed me until technocrats explained – Mwale

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale says he does not condemn people complaining about the cost of the fire tenders because it was also alarming to him as a lay man. Responding to a question from Nkeyema UPND member of parliament Kapelwa Mbangweta after issuing a ministerial statement on the subject, Mwale said the cost was very alarming especially to people who did not understand the product. "I wouldn't call people complaining as being unreasonable. I mean at face value, even for me, a layman who does not understand procurement, when I look at the price, one million [dollars], for each fire tender, I think I get alarmed. For me specifically sitting with the procurement people, asking them questions, 'why did you go for this bidder who was asking for 42 million [dollars] when there was another bidder who was ready to supply at 24 million [dollars] and so on, what were you looking at?' so they explained to me the kind of product they were looking for," Mwale said.

"...I have said that this particular one was ready to supply one machine with a tank that has stainless steel. Others were saying theirs was going to have plastic. This one was saying the clearance ground was going to be high. We have given one fire truck to Chibombo, it has to go all the way to Ipongo where the road is very bad, so you have to look for one that has clearance from the ground to up. Others were providing some with 5,000 capacity but this particular one provided with 7,000 capacity." Mwale said that the procured fire tenders were custom-made specifically to respond to the challenges that firemen and women had been facing over the years.

"Mr Speaker, following some concerns from members of the Public that the price of one million dollars per truck is too exorbitant, it should be noted Mr Speaker that this debate is not new. When this procurement was concluded towards the end of 2015, a similar debate ensued and was stirred by opposition FDD president Edith Nawakwi who claimed that the PF had pocketed 30 million dollars out of the award of this 42 million [dollar] contract for the supply of 42 fire trucks," Mwale said. He said Grandview gave the best bid.

"Mr Speaker, before I proceed to discuss the issue of pricing of the fire tenders, allow me to give a brief historical background to this matter. On the 4th of May 2012, the late President Michael Chilufya Sata officiated at the commemoration of the International Fire Fighters' Day in Lusaka and bemoaned, among others, the lack of investment in the fire and rescue services. At this same function, Mr Speaker, President Sata directed my Ministry to decentralise the provision of fire and rescue services to protect the valuable lives of our people and infrastructure in the various parts of the Country. After this Presidential directive, a United Kingdom based company known as Albion Export Services Limited submitted an unsolicited bid to supply 63 fire trucks at the cost of US \$54.8 million which they later revised in 2015 to US \$66 million. Further, Albion Export Services requested that their company be single-sourced to supply the fire trucks with an upfront payment of hundred percent but to deliver the fire trucks over a period of two years. The Ministry then wrote to the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) requesting authority to direct bid Albion Export



Services. On 22nd July 2015, ZPPA responded to our letter and rejected the request to direct bid Albion Export Services but advised the Ministry to use a competitive method to procure the fire trucks," Mwale said. "Consequently, in September 2015, my Ministry proceeded to advertise the tender for the supply of the 42 fire trucks. At the close of the tender in October 2015, sixteen (16) bidders responded. After evaluation of the 16 bidders, Grandview International was the best evaluated bidder with a bid sum of US \$42 million after meeting the required criteria as stated in the solicitation document... Mr Speaker, soon after

Grandview International were notified of the award, four companies, namely Albion Export Services Limited whose bid price was US \$49.5 million, Savenda Management Services, DL NAFFCO (Z) Ltd and Albert Ziegler appealed to ZPPA against the decision to award Grandview International. ZPPA heard the appeals within two weeks and rendered its decision thereafter dismissing the appeals for lack of merit. ZPPA also informed the Ministry to proceed with its award to Grandview International. Some companies also made an appeal to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against the decision to award the

contract to Grandview International. The Anti-Corruption Commission also dismissed the appeal and gave the Ministry clearance to proceed with the procurement process." He explained that politicians could not interfere with the role of procurement officers because they were entrusted with the responsibility of cutting good deals on behalf of the people. "Procurement is not a function of Ministers, it is not a function of Cabinet, this is a function of people who are employed to do that and we have up to the Permanent Secretary as controlling officers and beyond them, you got ZPPA as an authority that deals with procurement. These

are the people that procure for government. Even this decision was made by the officers who were doing the procurement. There was a presidential directive for us to deal with the fire department, done in very good faith and that was carried on, implemented by the Ministry," said Mwale. Asked why the contract was awarded to a company that did not meet the standard of being registered for at least three years by Mazabuka UPND member of parliament, Mwale said ZPPA approved the transaction and the Anti Corruption Commission also did not have issues with it. Mwale also said the fire tenders were financed from the National Budget.

Be patient as we engage Lungu on his promise, ZNFU tells farmers

By Zondiwe Mbewe
ZNFU says farmers must be patient because the union will only engage President Edgar Lungu on his promise

to relook the maize market price once he returns from the UN General Assembly. Zambia National Farmers Union president Jervis

Zimba told News Diggers! that the union had not yet met President Lungu to discuss the upward adjustment of the K60 per 50kg bag of maize.

"We are waiting for the President to come back and when he comes back, we will follow up the issue as the matter is now in his hands. Farmers need to be just a little patient and I trust farmers are always patient people," said Zimba. And asked whether State House had contacted FRA on President Lungu's commitment, FRA public relations officer Daniel

Msoka said he could only give an update by next week Tuesday.

On September 12, 2017, President Lungu assured the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia that government will re-look the low market price of maize.

Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda said the President was committed to developing the agriculture sector and ensuring that challenges affecting farmers are addressed in order to empower them economically.

Lollipop chokes, kills Kafue schoolgirl

By Oswald Sichone in Kafue
A Grade six pupil at Mungu Primary School in Kafue District has died after she allegedly choked on a lollipop. Mungu ward Councillor Kelli Liwanga narrated the incident and named the victim as Vivian Mweene who resides Kafue West. He said the incident happened yesterday around 13:00 hours when Mweene bought the sweet after knocking off

from school and was on her way back home.

"Apparently, the pupil bought a lollipop sweet sweet after knocking off from school on her way back home. Unfortunately she got choked and failed to swallow it, and she died instantly," said Liwanga

A police officer at Industrial Police Post in Kafue Estates also confirmed having received a report of the death of the

school pupil from Mungu, but referred further question to the public relations office.

And Mungu Assistant Community Development Officer Frederick Milandu described Mweene's death as unfortunate, adding that the deceased was a disciplined girl and very active at church where she served as leader of the Seventh Day Adventist Church children's movement.

Reeves Malambo died 10 minutes after arriving at Hilltop - Witness

By Diggers Reporter

A nurse from Hilltop hospital says Lusaka businessman Reeves Malambo was in shock and he died 10 minutes after arriving at the medical facility.

In a matter, Tshabu Benos is accused of murdering her boyfriend Malambo on January 29, 2017. Veronica Muntanga told Lusaka high court judge Gertrude Chawatama that

Malambo's eyelids were also white and pale. She testified that after being instructed by a Dr Shabuwa, she the injected Malambo with resuscitative drugs after a struggle to find his veins

as they had collapsed due to excessive bleeding. Mutanga said Malambo was certified dead when they were trying to put oxygen as he was running out of breath.

She said Dr Shabuwa certified Malambo dead on January 30 about 10 minutes past midnight. Mutanga further testified that before Malambo passed on, she asked what transpired after noticing a stab wound on his right upper back. She said Benos' brother Mumba told her that his sister and her lover were fighting in their bedroom. Muntanga also testified that Benos and Mumba were heard shouting "emergency! Emergency!" as they drove into the hospital premises. The witness said while at the emergency bay, Benos said she threw a knife at her lover as he threatened to kill her. Mutanga said with the help of the hospital maids and Mumba, Malambo was lifted and rushed to the acute bay. She further testified that after Malambo was certified dead, Benos started crying after which they were advised to report the matter to the police station. She said after police officers from Woodlands and Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe police station inspected the body, it was then deposited at the University Teaching Hospital mortuary. In cross examination, Muntanga became emotional when a defense counsel

suggested that she was hiding something on what transpired at the hospital. She said there was nothing to hide as her interest was to save life. "A person who has not clocked 24 hours in hospital is a brought in dead. Malambo only stayed for 10 minutes in hospital and passed away," said Muntanga. Meanwhile, a police officer Belita Bwalya told the court that at a time Benos was being placed in custody, she didn't have any physical injuries. Constable Bwalya said the accused kept on crying. "She was just crying my husband you can't die, my husband you can't die," said Constable Bwalya. The officer said during interrogations, Benos said she was fighting with her lover behind the door in their bedroom. Constable Bwalya testified that Benos told police that during the fight, Malambo got a knife from the pantry within the bedroom after which they started struggling for it. She said Benos also told them that during the struggle for the knife, Malambo started shouting that he was hurt. Trial continues on September 26, 2017.



Beatrice sues ex husband over children's inheritance

By Mukosha Funga

Beatrice Hangwende has sued her ex husband Jonathan Mwala in the Lusaka High Court for selling a piece of land she had reserved as her children's inheritance without her consent. In a statement of claim today, Hangwende, who is currently incarcerated at Lusaka Central Prison for murdering Mwala's lover Monica Phiri in 2007, jointly sued her ex husband with Pinalo Chifwankeni who bought the said piece of land. "The Plaintiff will aver that she and the 1st Defendant held the property jointly even though the Plaintiff purchased the property with her own money. The Plaintiff will aver that she

got information that the 1st Defendant wanted to sell off the property from a family friend. The Plaintiff will aver that it has been proved that the 1st Defendant indeed sold property and the person who bought was even constructing on the property in issue," Hangwende stated. "The Plaintiff will further aver that the 1st Defendant sold the property without the knowledge and consent of the Plaintiff despite them owning the property jointly. The Plaintiff will aver that she placed a caveat on the property to prevent the 1st Defendant from selling it." She stated that Mwala took advantage of her incarceration and illegally sold off the land. "The Plaintiff will further

aver that the 1st Defendant has unjustly enriched himself from the proceeds of the sale at the property. The Plaintiff will aver that the property was meant for her children's benefit and inheritance," stated Hangwende through lawyers from Messrs Levy Mwanawasa and Company. She now wants the court to reverse the sale of the land and deem it null and void. Hangwende also wants the court to cancel transfer of ownership and restrain further constructions on the said property. She is also seeking an order restraining Mwala from further selling off property and any other pieces of land attached on the said piece of land, general and specific damages.

Sumaili pleads not guilty to contempt

By Diggers Reporter

Religious Affairs minister Godfridah Sumaili has pleaded not guilty to a charge of contempt of court. And the state has taken over the prosecution of the matter. This is in a matter in which UPND president Hakainde Hichilema has asked the court to cite Reverend Sumaili for contempt of court over remarks attributed to her that he was arrested because he pushed President Edgar Lungu to the wall by not recognising his presidency.

When the case came up, one of HH's lawyers Zevyanji Sinkala told senior resident magistrate Ireen Wishimanga that the defense had withdrawn an application objecting to the taking over of the prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions. State advocate Chimbeka Sakala from the National Prosecutions Authority was present in court and took over the prosecution. The case has been adjourned to September 25, 2017 for trial.

waste of public money = no medicine no water bad schools dead babies

maybe citizens should demand accountability?

Alliance for community action ▶▶

PF wished Kalaluka dead

If the Patriotic Front were a comic group, many people would be hiring them to entertain guests at various functions. But because they are a governing political party, their jokes are annoying. In fact, the PF is behaving like that irritating comedian whom people are tired of booing but is refusing to leave the stage. The sad part is you can't leave the show because it's happening in your own house.

On Sunday, the Patriotic Front killed its own member, through a press statement and lumped the blame on the opposition UPND. And when their lies were exposed, they apologised to everybody but not the UPND.

Ordinarily, this would be funny if the PF media director Mr Sunday Chanda and his secretary general Mr Davies Mwila were entertaining drunkards at Mayela Night Club, but because they are in charge of the governing party of our country, they need to be told that their comedy sucks!

We are not taking issue with the fact that the PF got their facts wrong, because everyone makes mistakes. We make mistakes ourselves and we don't hesitate to render our apologies once the error is brought to our attention. What is of concern is the opportunism that the ruling party exhibited on this matter.

For those who have not followed this story, here is what the PF announced on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

"The Patriotic Front regrets to inform the

nation of the passing on of Teacher Kalaluka of Chimanja ward in Chilanga. He was admitted in University Teaching Hospital. Kalaluka was violently attacked by UPND cadres during the Chilanga Local Government election campaigns last week. Kalaluka, a youthful member of the Patriotic Front who had volunteered his time to participate in the just-ended by-election campaigns, was hacked after a gang of UPND cadres armed with stones and other objects descended on a PF camp in Chilanga... The family has moved the funeral to Kanyama," Chanda stated.

Reading this statement, one would think that the ruling party reached out to the bereaved family, got all the necessary information about the deceased and even tendered their heartfelt condolences, before announcing the death. But it turns out none of that happened because, by their own admission a day later, the said Kalaluka was alive.

"Yesterday, 17th September 2017, my Office received information from the Party Provincial Officials to the effect that a PF member who was attacked in Chilanga during the by-election campaigns had passed on...It has come to our attention that the Provincial Officials information was not accurate. The victim is still hospitalised in University Teaching Hospital and remains in our prayers. We apologise for the inconvenience this may

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Ear to the ground

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have caused on the victim and the BEREAVED family," stated Chanda.

So many things are annoying in this joke. We can ignore the fact that the PF did not care to apologise to the UPND whom they earlier accused of murdering their member – such is politics, we understand, so the UPND shouldn't make a big deal out of it – but what about Kalaluka and his 'bereaved' family?

This statement clearly shows that the PF did not care to visit Kalaluka in hospital during the one week that he was believed to have been at the University Teaching Hospital. They also did not talk to any of Kalaluka's relatives, otherwise they would have been informed that the 'deceased' was still in hospital waiting for the party to show up on the bedside with some food and financial assistance. The authors of the statement were only interested in his death, no wonder they are still recognising the family as bereaved. They were eager to gain political mileage out of the death of a human being whom they didn't care about. They

wanted Zambians to hate and condemn the UPND for 'causing' the death of Kalaluka.

By claiming that the family had moved the funeral of Kalaluka to Kanyama, the PF was trying to tell the nation where they were going to deliver their material support for the supposed bereaved family, which support they did not take when the victim was said to be in hospital. This is how opportunists and crooks operate. They wait for misfortune to strike and they quickly seize the opportunity to make a name while painting others black.

The embarrassment did not end there for the PF; police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo issued a statement rubbishing the death claim, adding that Kalaluka was not even admitted at the University Teaching Hospital.

"We would like to dispel reports published in some quarters of the media purporting that a member of the Patriotic Front assaulted during the just ended by-election campaigns in Kalundu area of Chilanga has died. The correct position is

that during the said by-election, Police received seven reports of assault from various complainants and Teacher Kalaluka said to have died is not among the complainants. Only one person among the seven injured identified as Siamutumwa Sikapa aged 37 was admitted to University Teaching Hospital, and is still receiving medical treatment," said Katongo.

We actually get perplexed every time the police blame "sections of the media" for misleading statements issued by Mr Chanda and the PF media office. We have written about the rise of fake news in Zambia and how politicians were responsible for ruining the reputation of professional media houses. This is a classic example of a false political statement blamed on the media. It is also a classic case of injustice on the part of the police because it is not the first time that the PF media office is issuing a false, alarming statement and getting away with it. When Mr Chanda falsely accused the UPND of plotting to bomb Intercity Bus Terminus, the police

avoided mentioning the PF official's name but instead claimed that the statement came from social media.

There is a very annoying collusion between the police and the PF aimed at painting all media houses as irresponsible. It is Mr Chanda who said Kalaluka had died, but the police dispelled media reports without mentioning the culprit or summoning him for questioning. Other people have been arrested in the country for posting false reports on their personal Facebook pages, but Mr Chanda is free, and probably preparing another false statement, just because he belongs to the ruling party.

We do not believe that the UPND is clean when it comes to political violence - they are as brutal and merciless as all the others but we insist that to accuse them of murdering a person who was not even involved in the violence is shameless. It is actually evil.

The PF should not be allowed to carry on with this kind of divisive and careless approach to governance. This is a country they are dealing with for goodness sake!

Corruption reduces private sector productivity

Corruption lowers public sector efficiency and effectiveness. Public investments are not allocated to the sectors and programmes which represent the best value for money or where needs are highest, but to those which offer the best prospects for personal enrichment of corrupt officials. WNIF research indeed shows that high levels of perceived corruption are associated with lower spending on social services, including health and education, which can undermine social welfare.

Distortions in political decisions may also lead to sector regulations, trade barriers and subsidies that are The quality of the civil service can also be weakened by corruption. Where public servants are appointed on the basis of nepotism or favoritism instead of merit and ability, their decisions may reflect the interests of those who hired them. In addition, corruption

may prevent governments from attracting the best talent. Customs-related corruption is estimated to cost World Organisation members at least USD 2 billion in customs revenue each year. In a similar vein, tax evasion can be one of the routes through which corruption occurs and the fruits of corruption are transferred. Strengthening tax transparency can have positive spill-overs on the fight against corruption, as the two are linked.

As countries move to implement the standard for automatic exchange of financial account information developed by the WNIF many countries have also initiated voluntary disclosure programmes and other similar initiatives targeted at offshore evasion. This allows taxpayers to 'regularise' their past tax affairs before they get caught as a result of increased information sharing. To date,

30 countries have identified additional revenue totalling over EUR 48 billion over the past 7 years. In just 15 of those countries, close to 700 000 taxpayers have already come forward under these programmes.

The poor suffer particularly from corruption in the form of deficient social programs that are underfunded or poorly managed. Research suggests that a worsening in the corruption index of a country by one standard deviation (2.52 points on a scale of 0 to 10) increases the Gini coefficient of income inequality by 11 points.

Addressing corruption is vital to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The social, political and economic impact of corruption and illicit financial flows on developing countries is more severe given their smaller resource base and often weak capacity of

their institutions. Corruption is explicitly mentioned in SDG 16, but it cuts across all goals as it

constitutes a major hurdle to achieving them. Estimates suggest that each year the equivalent of 15-30% of all official development assistance is stolen through high-level corruption from public budgets in developing countries.

The rise in inequality in income and well-being more generally that many countries have experienced over the last decades may also be linked to corruption and the associated misallocation of public funds, rent-seeking behaviour and capture of politicians. Inequality of income, in turn, can result in inequality of access to political processes and policy discussions.

When rules and regulations are circumvented by bribes, public budget control is undermined by illicit money flows and political critics

and the media are silenced through bribes, democratic systems of checks and balances are impaired. Corruption in political processes such as elections or the financing of parties undermine the rule of the people and thus the very foundation of democracy. If basic public services are not delivered to citizens due to corruption, the state eventually loses credibility and legitimacy. Corruption also increases states' exposure to global threats arising from smuggling and illicit trade by organised crime and terrorist groups. Evidence shows that it contributes to the financing of terrorism and creates inequalities that disenfranchise communities and promote the development and growth of terrorist groups. Similarly, illicit financial flows are increasingly associated with the illegal arms trade and drug trafficking. The two also play a significant role in the current

refugee crisis by facilitating people smuggling.

80 percent of foreign bribes go to officials in state-owned enterprises, 11 percent to Heads of States and Ministers. 4 sectors account for 66 percent of foreign bribe cases; extractive, transportation, construction, storage, information and communications.



Dr Charles Sinkala
President - World Native
Identity Foundation (WNIF)

Scramble for survivors as quake flattens Mexico City buildings

When the earthquake hit, it sent panicked people running into the street but many weren't so lucky. The dust settled minutes

later to reveal a landscape of flattened buildings and rubble in the heart of Mexico City. "Awful. I think it was one

of the strongest we've felt. I don't know what magnitude, but it was awful," said Pedro Cruz Martinez, a public servant cradling his little

girl, after joining the rush of fearful parents to a local school. After the screams and the shock, people quickly set to

work digging for survivors. In a scene reproduced in streets across the city center, dozens of people scabbled with bare hands

to remove rubble from atop a concertinaed building as they waited for specialized machinery to arrive. Central areas like Roma, Condesa and Doctores appeared to have taken the brunt of the 7.1-magnitude quake.

Several buildings were completely flattened in Roma, popular for its bars and restaurants and one of the neighborhoods hit hardest by the 1985 earthquake that shattered large swathes of this city and killed at least 10,000 -- 32 years ago to the day.

Amid the tears and terror, there were small victories.

Cheers and applause echoed around the crowded Calle Alvaro Obregon in Roma as rescuers managed to pull someone from under the rubble.

There remained a sense that such moments would be rare, however.

In other buildings in the same area, volunteers joined the authorities to remove debris. One of them held a sign with the word "silence" in order to be able to hear people who may still be alive.

- 'Take care' -

There were at least 49 collapsed buildings in Mexico City -- home to 20 million people -- as the overall death toll surged to 224 early Wednesday in the capital city and across a swath of central states.

Authorities asked for help from volunteers and for water. Some police officers came through the crowd carrying containers of water. Medics set up makeshift field hospitals in the streets, treating people for broken limbs and crush injuries.

Many people lay on stretchers, with medics holding strips of cardboard boxes over victims' heads to protect them from the sun.

"Darling, if you want to help, go ahead. Just give me your glasses and be careful," a woman told her doctor husband as they gazed at buildings reduced to rubble, the intimacy of people's homes laid bare as curtains swayed in buildings without walls.

Police called for calm and cordoned off streets with grotesquely twisted buildings, their reinforcing steel poking out from concrete.

People hugged and comforted each other amid anxiety about loved ones. Many stood around in a daze, not sure where to go or what to do.

But everyone was staying in the streets, afraid to go home. **AFP**



A man being pulled alive from the rubble following the powerful quake that struck Mexico City on Tuesday

'The man who saved the world' dies in Russia

Stanislav Petrov, a Soviet military officer who is widely credited with helping prevent a nuclear war with the United States, has died aged 77, his son told AFP on Tuesday.

Petrov, whose extraordinary story was told in a documentary titled "The Man Who Saved the World", received several international awards, was honoured at the United Nations and met Hollywood superstars such as Robert De Niro and Matt Damon.

Yet Petrov lived in a small town outside Moscow and died in relative obscurity on May 19, his death making headlines in Russia and abroad only months later when a German friend wrote a blog post about his death. In September 1983, Petrov was an officer on duty at a secret command centre south of Moscow when an alarm went off signalling that the United States had launched intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The officer -- who had only a few minutes to make a decision and was not sure

about the incoming data -- dismissed the warning as a false alarm.

Had he told his commanders of an imminent US nuclear strike, the Soviet leadership -- locked in an arms race with Washington -- might have ordered a retaliatory strike.

Instead the 44-year-old lieutenant colonel reported a system malfunction and an investigation that followed afterwards proved he was right.

- 'He simply did his job' - Petrov came home only several days later but did not tell his family about what had happened.

"He came home knackered but did not tell us anything," his son Dmitry said.

Several months later Petrov received an award "for services to the Fatherland" but the incident at the control centre was kept secret for many years.

In 1984, he left the military and settled in the town of Fryazino some 20 kilometres (12 miles) northeast of Moscow.



Petrov's story only came to light after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and over the years he became the subject of numerous media reports in Russia and abroad.

A modest, self-effacing man, Petrov never thought of himself as a hero, said his son.

"My father could not have cared less. He was always surprised that people were

making a hero out of him," he said.

"He simply did his job well," Petrov's son said, adding that his father received some hundred letters from Europeans thanking him for averting the outbreak of a nuclear war.

"The Man Who Saved the World", a documentary film directed by Danish filmmaker Peter Anthony and narrated by US actor

Kevin Costner, was released in 2014.

Footage of the elderly Petrov is combined with re-enactments of what happened at that secret control centre in 1983.

"I categorically refused to be guilty of starting World War III," Petrov said in the film. "I felt like I was being led to an execution," he said of those dramatic moments.

Celebs who've faced extortion attempts

Kevin Hart isn't the only celebrity who has been the victim of an extortion attempt. Here are other stars who have allegedly been blackmailed for money. *Yahoo News*



The FBI is reportedly investigating the woman who attempted to blackmail Kevin Hart. The woman in question allegedly demanded an eight-figure sum to stay quiet or else she would release a sexually suggestive videotape starring herself and a man who resembles the actor. Hart apologized to his pregnant wife for making "a bad error in judgement and I put myself in a bad environment where only bad things can happen and they did." Reps for the actor confirmed someone tried to set Kevin up "in a failed extortion attempt" but didn't provide more details.



Oprah Winfrey

A former employee attempted to blackmail Oprah Winfrey for \$1.5 million. The FBI got involved in 2007, after Keifer Bonvillain approached the TV mogul and threatened to release potentially damaging recorded phone conversations. He was ultimately arrested; however, Bonvillain wasn't done yet. He then sued Winfrey for \$180 million, claiming she and an attorney made false statements that led to his arrest by the FBI.



Two men were found guilty of extortion for demanding \$1 million from the couple after stealing photographs from their 2006 wedding day. The pictures were stolen when one of the men worked on a computer belonging to the wedding's authorized photographer. After the request for money was made via Cruise's representatives, the actors contacted the FBI and the two men were swiftly caught.

The PSG star argued with Edinson Cavani over set-piece duties, and has now been backed by a coach who previously labelled him a “monster”

The manager who called Neymar a “monster” during his time in Brazil has backed him in his penalty row with Edinson Cavani.

The two PSG stars initially clashed over a second-half free-kick, with Cavani wishing to take the set play. Dani Alves, however,

Neymar’s just trying to be like Messi! - Simoes

snatched the ball away and gave it to his Brazil team-mate. And, later in the game,

Cavani insisted on taking a penalty, which was saved, to the chagrin of Neymar, and reports claimed that

the pair had to be separated in the dressing room. A similar situation arose in 2010 with Neymar at

Santos. The winger had won a penalty against Atletico Goianiense after some skilful play and demanded

to take the spot-kick, only for coach Dorival Junior to tell him that he wanted a more experienced player to take it.

Neymar shrugged, dropped the ball to the floor, walked away — and sulked. The penalty was duly converted, but Neymar hadn’t even bothered to look. He launched a water bottle into the air and, with it, a tirade of abuse towards his coach. He then refused to pass to his team-mates for the rest of the afternoon. All of them tried to talk him around; none succeeded.

Goianiense manager Simoes said after the game that “we’re creating a monster in Brazilian football”, but he has now come out in defence of Neymar’s actions.

“I believe someone promised him that he could be the best in the world [with PSG],” he told Goal. “And the best in the world do as Cristiano Ronaldo does: from the corner kick to the header, penalty, free-kicks... everything. The same happens with Messi. I believe they promised him to be the responsible for everything.”

Simoes is unsure who is to blame for the incident, however, insisting that Unai Emery should have told the player who would be on set-piece duty before the game.

“The manager has to decide. If he decided it was Cavani [the penalty taker], then Neymar is to blame. If he chose Neymar, Cavani is to blame.

“And if he did not choose, he [Unai Emery] is to blame for what happened. In that episode with Santos, his coach [Dorival Junior] was the one who told him not to take the penalty.” Goal.com



Klopp ‘sick’ as Liverpool rinse and repeat to be dumped out of league cup

The Reds were so superior, so comfortable, so in control but were on the wrong side of a 2-0 scoreline as they fell short in both boxes

There were seven changes to Liverpool’s starting line-up against Burnley over the weekend followed by eight selection alterations at Leicester City, and yet it was the same story as the cold crept up on Wednesday night.

“It feels strange, it feels wrong. We played offensive football, dominant football, possession football how it should be. We created moments. You cannot create in each situation a finishing situation, but we did it absolutely often enough. It could have been more often, of course, because with one better decision here or there then we would have had a few more.”

Those were Jurgen Klopp’s words after the 1-1 draw with Sean Dyche’s side on Saturday, but you’d be forgiven for thinking it was his post-match musings from the King Power Stadium, where Liverpool crashed out of the League Cup.

The Merseysiders were so superior, so comfortable, so in control but were on the wrong side of a 2-0 scoreline. Again, the theme centres around a lack of excellence

in both boxes, with the Reds boss admitting he was “sick” by the way his side continue to concede goals that can be avoided.

The first 45 minutes consisted of Liverpool committing players forward and Leicester practising defensive diligence. The hosts did not subject themselves to great risk, keeping at least four back so they did not suffer the effects of Klopp’s side on the counter, and rigidly sticking to their obstructive shape even in possession.

They looked to threaten through crosses in order to exploit Liverpool’s aerial deficiencies, but only managed two shots before the interval - with Philippe Coutinho and Dominic Solanke registering double that each on their own.

The Brazil international, taken off at half-time, was closer to his sharpest, twisting markers and threading through incisive passes.

The England Under-20 World Cup winner, meanwhile, had been a constant threat in his maiden start for Liverpool. The forward’s movement, awareness and desire to trouble three defenders that often surrounded him deserved a goal in the opening exchanges alone, in which he went close. Goal.com



Lumwana thrash Zesco 3-0

By Diggers Reporter
Zesco United failed to move into 3rd place on the league table after a 3-0 home loss on Tuesday night against Lumwana Radiants at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola. The result comes just four days before Zesco hosts SuperSport United in a 2017 CAF Confederation final leg, quarterfinal with the two sides tied at 0-0 from the first leg on September 15 away in Pretoria. Lumwana enjoyed the lions share of opportunities early in the first half

but found goalkeeper Dieudonne Ntibahezwa in inspired form. However, Zesco almost took the lead in the 21st minute but Davies Kasiry’e’s effort was cleared off the line by defender Enock Chingwere. Chisenga Lukwembe then put Lumwana 1-0 into the break with a goal on the stroke of halftime. Chanda Mushili extended Lumwana’s lead in the 72st minute after steal the ball off Ntibahezwa outside the box that left the goalkeeper injured.

Sadly, Zesco had exhausted all their subs and so defender Fackson Kapumbu stepped in for Ntibahezwa. But Zesco’s woes continued when Eddie Sinyangwe beat Kapumbu in five minutes deep into stoppage time with the final goal. Zesco stay 6th on 46 points and seven points behind leaders Green Buffaloes from 28 games played and another 11 to go. Lumwana stay 9th but are now four points behind Zesco on 42 points.

LUMWANA WHIP ZESCO

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Kobe Bryant to get a statue

Los Angeles Lakers president and controlling owner Jeanie Buss joined John Ireland on ESPN Los Angeles Radio and had a sweeping discuss about the state of the franchise. She also confirmed something we all knew was coming: Kobe Bryant's getting a statue in Los Angeles soon.

Jeanie gave a nod to Bryant having a statue outside of the arena he helped build while discussing retiring both of his jerseys in December.

"My feeling is that even if we just retired one number, no one's ever gonna wear the other, so you may as well retire... no one's ever gonna wear eight or 24 for the Lakers ever again. It just worked out that that was the right date to do it, and I think we'll have a great celebration, and certainly someday there will be a statue as well," Buss told Ireland.

Jeanie didn't put out a specific timetable on the statue, but she alluded to the team waiting until a

player is heading to the Basketball Hall of Fame in the past. A player must be retired for a minimum of five years before becoming eligible, so that puts the statue on a three-year trajectory. Prepare accordingly.

She also gave Kobe a huge nod, crediting him for being the reason the 2018 NBA All-Star Game is heading to Los Angeles.

"It's an honor to honor Kobe and we wanted to work around his schedule but it was also really important to me that his numbers are on the wall when we host the 2018 All-Star game at STAPLES Center, and I wanted to make sure that he was represented because he is the reason that building is hosting the all-star game in 2018," Buss said.

It's set to be a huge year for basketball in Los Angeles, and hopefully a rejuvenated Lakers core adds to the excitement brewing in STAPLES Center heading into a fresh season. **Yahoo News**

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