

WE'LL KEEP BEATING KAMBWILI - MWILA ...because he is a stupid politician

By Martha Chilasha

We will continue beating Chishimba Kambwili if he does not stop insulting people, says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila.

Mwila was reacting to the incident at Parliament yesterday where Kambwili reported to the Speaker of the National Assembly that Copperbelt Minister Bowman

Lusambo slapped him outside the Chambers. Kambwili also complained that Lands minister Jean Kapata also poured water on him.

But in an interview with News Diggers! Mwila said Kambwili was a stupid politician who deserved to be beaten.

"What happened at parliament, yes he will be

beaten. I am telling you as PF Secretary General that if Kambwili thinks that he can continue provoking others he

will be beaten. You quote me the way I have told you. If he thinks he can provoke people even in Cairo Road, he will be

beaten. How would you feel if someone was calling you a thief when you are not?" Mwila asked.

To page 5

Tighten your belts, there's nothing to smile about in 2018 budget - JCTR

By Mukosha Funga

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection says workers have very little to smile about in 2018 because of the increased cost of living and the minimal salary increment. And JCTR says it is unjustifiable to allocate 10

per cent of the budget to enhancing security when the country is not at war. In a statement today, JCTR media and information officer Tendai Posiana, said government should have given workers some tax relief in the 2018 budget.

To page 5

I used to buy toilet tissue for Mumbi Phiri - Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala

I used to buy toilet paper for Mumbi Phiri, says Chishimba Kambwili.

And Kambwili says the CCTV footage at Parliament will show who beat who yesterday when he had an altercation with Lusambo. Meanwhile, Kambwili says Minister of Lands Jean Kapata is using ZAFFICO and some Chinese to illegally export Mukula timber. Speaking to Journalists at his Kabulonga residence in Lusaka today, Kambwili wondered why Phiri was boasting that she was married to a wealthy man who even built her a mansion, when he could not afford to buy toilet tissue.

To page 2

Lusaka-Ndola Road will last 20yrs - Chitotela

Story page 3

OASIS Forum salutes fire-tender protesters

Story page 3



President Edgar Lungu with ZESCO Managing Director Victor Mundende during the River Diversion Ceremony at Kafue Gorge today - PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE (story P3)

I won't be distracted by corruption allegations on govt projects - Lungu



From front page

“My dear sister Mumbi Phiri, if you live in a glass house don’t throw stones. I have avoided talking about you because you are a friend but you are messing yourself up. Don’t go on the radio and start defending yourself ‘no me I was married to a man who was very wealthy that’s why I built that house’ when you have not even been asked. Wait until the Anti-corruption one day asks you. Akanwa kamilandu kalaibala

I used to buy toilet paper for Mumbi - Kambwili

(a guilty mouth provokes itself or the guilty are always afraid) Mumbi don’t tell people that you were married to a wealthy man.

I used to buy toilet tissue for you and bathing soap for you who is married to a wealthy man, mulekwatako insoni (learn to have some

shame), I would go into your house Mumbi elo nasanga namulepula inyunshi ensho mulebomfwa mu toilet elo natila Mumbi, MP

inyunshi mu toilet (I would find you have cut pieces of newspapers for use in your toilet then I would say Mumbi are you really using these newspaper in your toilet)? And then I would go to Shoprite and buy for you,” Kambwili said.

He said he did not intend to disclose Phiri’s secret but that she pushed him to do so by her claims. “So Mumbi Phiri if I am lying come and explain how you and your wealthy man built that house you are living in. Ba wealthy man abalefilwa ukushita tissue (a wealthy man who could not afford to buy you tissue)? Mulekwata insoni mwakulasebana (have some shame to avoid embarrassment). Some of these things I am even sorry to have revealed this but it’s because you forcing me, better keep quiet because ifyo twingalanda fingi (there is a lot that we can say) and it’s not that we are stupid, we just respect you. I could buy you soap and tissue iwe Mumbi Phiri but lelo (today) ati ‘I am married to a wealthy man’, kanshi bakaso ba wealthy man (then that wealthy man is stingy),” he said.

And Kambwili said he was confident that the security cameras at parliament will reveal the truth about what transpired at parliament. “About yesterday’s issue at Parliament, I am extremely disappointed. It is part of their [PF] plan. They want to provoke me so that I react. But I am above them. Yesterday Bowman comes where I was standing with honourable [Harry] Kalaba and the national secretary for MMD [Raphael] Nakacinda, we were talking and the boy [Lusambo] just came poking my forehead saying ‘iwe chi mudala uletweba ati (you old man why are you telling us that) we are a corrupt government, we will sort you out’ but I just told him that young man I don’t know what you are talking about excuse me, we don’t behave like that at Parliament. All of a sudden he just gave me two slaps and a punch but I just moved backwards and said what kind of behavior is this? I never reacted or touched him, not even poking his tummy,” he said. “But today he has gone on radio saying ‘it’s Kambwili who grabbed my neck’ but you see the goodness of the truth, Parliament has got cameras. The cameras picked what was happening but he [Lusambo] doesn’t know that. Those security officers at Parliament don’t tell lies, those are trained, they are not like some police in this country who can tell lies for the sake of the politicians but Parliament police are

above partisan politics. They are ones who stopped him and yesterday before I knocked off they were even saying ati kwena twapapa sana ba honourable uyu muntu kanshi efyo eba (we are so surprised honourable Kambwili at the Copperbelt minister, is this how he is?) but we all know who Bowman is, so we should just blame the person who appointed him as minister because that chap belongs to cadres who are supposed to be beating people that don’t agree with the party, is that the caliber you can be bringing into Parliament?” Kambwili said Lusambo had a history of violence. “I have been in Parliament for three terms and that is not a joke, it’s because the people of Luanshya trust me. Since when did you hear me beat anybody in Parliament or get involved in a physical confrontation at Parliament or even outside? But Bowman has got that history, remember what he did to Major [Richard] Kachingwe? Takwata nomumucinshi kuti waya mukwikata muli ba wiso balya ba Kachingwe (he doesn’t even have respect, how can he go and confront Major Kachingwe who is old enough to be his father)? Nomba (but) who is me? But anyway that matter is now in court and we will leave it to the courts,” he said. Meanwhile, Kambwili accused Kapata of using soldiers and ZAFFICO to illegally confiscate Mukula logs from people in the villages and sell it to the Chinese for her own benefit. “And for my sister Jean, my questions [for you] are very simple. You went and announced to this country that you had banned the export of Mukula but the question that we are asking you Jean is that why are you still issuing export permits to the Chinese? Poor people in the villages invest their money in the Mukula, you even give them trading licenses batema Mukula but mwaya bapoka (they harvest the Mukula but you go and confiscate it) using the soldiers and take it to Lusaka then you start using the Chinese and ZAFFICO to export and then you are sharing the money. But when we ask you to say why have you continued giving these export permits...because when you ban something, it should be across the board for everybody but when you are allowing some sections in society to trade in the Mukula then that’s corruption. You are minister in charge of land and natural resources but when people say you are corrupt you want to start insulting them,” said Kambwili.



Zambia won’t develop without borrowing, says Fundanga

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Chilubi member of parliament Rosaria Fundanga says Zambia cannot develop without borrowing. But Chirundu UPND member of parliament says the 2018 budget has favoured areas where corruption is endemic. Meanwhile, Nalikwanda UPND member of parliament Geoffrey Lungwangwa says allocation to Constituency Development Fund must be increased as it is vital to rural development. Speaking when she debated the 2018 national budget in Parliament yesterday, Fundanga said if developed countries like the United States could borrow from China to keep the economy stable, Zambia needed to be encouraged to do the same, but use resources amicably. Fundanga who is wife to the former Bank of Zambia governor Caleb, was speaking yesterday in Parliament during her debate on the 2018 budget. “Borrowing is welcome as no country can develop without borrowing whether internally or externally. I know that the finance minister emphasised that we should slow down on borrowing but I think that it is important if we can borrow and utilise the resources amicably and prudently,” Fundanga said. “What is important is for the country to ensure that it borrows responsibly. It could help our economy. Even developed countries like the USA borrow both internally and externally. If anything America owes China a lot of money. If America can return the credit they have with China, I think the American economy could collapse.” And Fundanga said the tourism sector needed extra funding in order to contribute more significantly to

government revenue. “Mr Speaker, the tourism sector, if well harnessed has the potential to bring the much needed revenue to the government. Therefore, in order to fully benefit from tourism, areas such as tourism infrastructure development, marketing, product development, training and research need to be well funded. The government, as announced, should prioritise construction of major roads, bridges as well as airstrips leading to tourism destinations,” she said Fundanga applauded governments intentions to boost the agriculture sector. “Mr Speaker, I welcome the governments intentions to boost the agricultural production to diversify the economy. I support the proposed initiatives such as facilitation by the government for mechanisation in agricultural crop production, raising farmer productivity as well as diversification of the agricultural sector. And also the development of the farm block model which will allow small holder farmers to access modern technology and market for their products,” said Fundanga. But Syakalima says that poverty will never end in Zambia because the 2018 budget favoured areas where corruption was endemic. “Our people are suffering because of corruption. This generation is a very greedy generation. And if we do not come to terms with ourselves we shall live as a generation which was corrupt and greedy. You can see in the budget that more money has been put to areas where corruption is endemic. In roads... in what, which are not accountable,” Syakalima said. “We must stop corruption. We can not have a system where everybody does

what they want to do. Other things that we have seen recently are not even corruption but theft. When people stop hiding and just show you that this is now theft, is dangerous. It is impunity. You are not even afraid that society is watching. What sort of human beings are you?” He was however stopped by the Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini who wanted to know who the ‘you’ was. “Who ever! Those who are corrupt. So if you are corrupt, stop. This country is crying today because of corruption and if we are not careful we shall crush down before we even take off as a country. Probably we have already done that. My prayer is to see this country go back where it came from,” said Syakalima . Meanwhile, Prof Lungwangwa asked government to increase CDF. “Raise that CDF to a figure where we as members of parliament especially from rural areas can use the provisions to transform the areas. That is in line with equity and growth in national happiness. If you are able to raise the CDF and release it on time, together we can make a difference. Minister, convince your colleagues in cabinet that ‘let us raise that CDF’,” he said. Lungwangwa also urged the Finance Minister to reflect on the five Ps (power, people, poverty, prosperity and peace). “I request the honourable Minister of Finance to reflect on the five Ps. Which is; when you have an opportunity to exercise power, it is for the benefit of the people. In our case, its to take people out of poverty to prosperity but in peace. Politics is about dreams these dreams must be translated into reality for the good of everybody and if we do that we can make Zambia a better country,” said Prof Lungwangwa.

Oasis Forum salutes fire tender protestors

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Oasis Forum says the fire tender protestors have shown true patriotism by

demanding accountability from leaders. In a statement yesterday, Oasis Forum Spokesperson

Sara Longwe stated that it was unfortunate that most politicians saw expressions of dissent as unpatriotic

acts. “Too often our politicians see expressions of dissent as unpatriotic acts when

nothing could be further from the truth. As the Bible says in John 15.13, ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’. The protestors were arrested over their decision to express their concern over the expenditure of public resources which impacts every citizen but most of all, the poorest of the poor in society. American civil rights activist once said, ‘true patriotism hates injustice in its land more than anywhere else,’ Longwe stated. “To the protestors Laura Miti, Mika Mwambazi, Sean Tembo, Fumba Chama, Lewis Mwape and Bonwell Mwewa, the Oasis Forum salutes your patriotism, bravery and love for your neighbour. We call on all well meaning

Zambians to support all efforts towards good governance and greater accountability in Zambia for the benefit of all Zambians. She bemoaned the absence of the Bill of Rights. “The Oasis Forum bemoans the absence of rights that includes economic, social and cultural rights that would empower Zambian citizens to demand greater accountability for how public resources are managed,” stated Longwe. “Too often our politicians see expressions of dissent as unpatriotic acts when nothing could be further from the truth. The protesters on Friday were arrested over their decision to express their concern over the expenditure of public resources which impacts every citizen, mostly the poorest in the society.”

Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway will last 20yrs, says Chitotela

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says the US\$1.2 billion Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway road project has been designed to last for 20 years after its completion. However, Chitotela says the private contractor who has mobilised funds to construct the Highway will get tolls fees and other income from the road for 17 years, as repayment, after the project is completed. Chitotela said this in Parliament when he responded to a question from UPND Monze central member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu who wanted the Minister to clarify the financing arrangement of the road in question. “I thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to have a bit of time to clarify the misinformation given out to the nation; that the cost of the road projects in the region ranges around US\$300,000 that is total misinformation Mr Speaker. I have facts and I will refer to them,” Chitotela said. “In Zambia Mr Speaker, a chip and spray road, one of them I would cite an example is Monze-Niko road, Kawambwa-Mushota-Luwingu road is costing \$370 thousand dollars per km in Zambia and that is a chip and spray. A double seal in Zambia and even in the region is costing between US\$750,000 even in Zambia today Mr Speaker,” Chitotela said. “We are talking about a road Mr Speaker that has been designed with proper maintenance to last for 20 years. So nobody should come here and mislead people that in Zambian, the cost of the road is below what is costing in the region. I would want even those that are coming up with the question to cite one road in once of the regional countries, with these specifications which is costing less than US\$1.2 million per kilometer, then I will be able to answer.” Chitotela argued that the dual carriageway would be 11 metres wide. “The road am talking about Mr Speaker is not a chip and spray, the road we are talking about is not a

double seal, it is an ashford road with specific technical requirements. The width of one road, Mr Speaker, will be 9 meters plus 1.5 meter of the shoulders, the total width will be 11 meters,” he said. The minister went further to explain how the project would be financed. “How the project will be financed Mr Speaker, the road project is being financed under EPC+F (Engineering Procured Contract plus Finance). The contractor who is coming has mobilized money and I have been told

that Ministry of Finance said PPP, it is PPI which is Public, Private Initiative where the private person comes in with money, he builds the road, you start levying the road and then you start paying, and the re-payment period is 17 years. The change here Mr Speaker is instead of PPP, we give the private person to toll the road and we agree on the sharing mechanism,” said Chitotela. “The difference here is government will be able to toll the road, collect the money and pay back the investment the contractor

is bringing on this road. That is the difference and a huge benefit to this government. The internal rate of return at 15 percent Mr Speaker as indicated that by the 17th year when we are done with repaying of this road, this government will have raised up to 3.5 billion dollars we subtract 1.2 billion dollars including other administrative costs, this government will remain with a net profit of 1.5 billion dollars. I think Zambians must say ‘job well done’ to President Edgar Lungu’s government.”



President Edgar Lungu inspects a Guard of Honour on his most recent trip to Botswana - Picture courtesy of State House

I won’t be distracted by corruption allegations on govt projects - Lungu

By Diggers Reporter
President Edgar Lungu says he will not be distracted by people making baseless allegations of corruption each time government unveils a major project. According to ZANIS, President Lungu said this in Kafue Gorge today when he officiated at the diversion ceremony to mark

the construction of the US\$ 2 billion Kafue Gorge Lower hydro power plant dam. He said it was the interest of his critics to cause fear in his government so that it fails to implement developmental projects around the country. “The Head of State stressed that government remains resolved in ensuring that it delivers

according to the promises it made to the Zambian people during the 2016 general elections,” ZANIS quoted President Lungu as saying. President Lungu wondered why for 14 years the Kafue Gorge Lower hydro power plant dam was not being implemented despite visibility studies being done.

The Head of State said he was ready to lose popularity for making bold decisions aimed at spurring national developmental. And speaking earlier at the same function Southern Province minister Edify Hamukale praised President Lungu for making a bold decision to kick start the hydro project.



Kabwe residents jostle to view \$1m fire tenders at civic centre

By Joseph Mwenya
Kabwe residents today thronged the civic centre to have a first-hand glimpse of two of the controversial fire tenders that have been sent to the district. The two fire tenders were on display at the civic centre for members of the public to view before taking them away to their respective holding points. The residents expressed mixed feelings with some contending that the fire tenders are not as big as they had anticipated while others looked on with admiration. Meanwhile Zambia National Fire Service Training School commandant Yona Mwale

described government’s decision to equip the training school with a modern fire tender as a miracle. He said there has never been such a time in the history of the nation when fire fighters had been equipped with the right equipment for them to carry out their various tasks. Mwale said the nation had never invested in the area of fire protection and therefore, receiving new fire tenders was highly commendable. “We have never had such a moment before as fire fighters where we are equipped with modern fire tenders. Previously, we have been receiving donations from other countries and such

donated fire tenders have not been ideal for the Zambian environment,” Mwale said. Mwale said now that the fire engines were in the community, the community

would benefit from professional fire fighting that would be provided due to the state of the art equipment. He challenged members of the public to inspect the fire

tenders for them to appreciate their quality. “Amidst the controversy surrounding the fire tenders, I challenge the members of the community to inspect these

fire engines and they will see that they are not old, used and recycled fire engines. When it comes to the cost, I think quality comes with a cost,” said Mwale.

Don’t extend Threatened State of Emergency – ZCSD

By Linda Jere
Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) Executive Director Lewis Mwape says Parliament should not entertain calls to extend the Threatened State of Public Emergency. In a statement today, Mwape said extending the Threatened State of Public Emergency would affect the country’s social, political and economic

development. “We therefore call on Parliament not to entertain proposals to have the Threatened State of Public Emergency extended, as this would lead to further abuse of human rights, which in turn would affect the country’s Social, Political and Economic development. It would further continue denting the image of our country to the international community, which is reputed

as a democratic and peaceful nation,” Mwape stated. Mwape stated that the invocation of Article 31 had violated fundamental human rights. “We have witnessed and noted with sadness the violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms such as freedoms of assembly, association, expression and the right to speed and fair trial, by the

state during this period of the Threatened State of Public Emergency, using the police service,” he stated. “Using the Threatened State of Public Emergency, the state through the police service has arbitrarily arrested and detained citizens who have expressed their views against some decisions made by the government, for longer periods of time without being charged. An example is the recent arrest of citizens who protested against the procurement of 42 fire tenders at the cost of \$42 million.”

16.3% youth unemployment statistic is bogus - YALI

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Young African Leaders Initiative president Andrew Ntewewe says the 16.3 per cent youth unemployment level recently announced by the Central Statistical Office is a bogus figure which government should not boast about. Last week, Central Statistical Office Director of Census and Statistics John Kalumbi said youth unemployment in the first quarter of 2017 stood at 16.3 per cent. “Youth (15-35 years) unemployment rate is the number of unemployed youths expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force. Youth unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2017 was estimated at 16.3 per cent. In urban areas, youth unemployment rate stood at 17.0 per cent while rural areas recorded a rate of 15.5 per cent,” said Kalumbi. But in an interview with News Diggers! yesterday, Ntewewe said the numbers being captured by CSO sounded unreal because they included those in the informal sector as being employed. “In reality what the central statistic does when its carrying out its survey is that when they look at employment, they do not look at it in terms of formal employment or informal employment. They don’t look at whether this person is contributing taxes to the government or anything, the only thing they look

at is whether an individual is carrying out an activity that is able to support his life. And so what is happening in the back is that even those friends of ours on the streets who are selling airtime, according to central statistics they are having employment, they are captured in that data. Even those our young people who are in the village who are tilling the land and only get a benefit at the end of the year by selling a few bags of maize, they are captured as being part of the employment,” Ntewewe said. Ntewewe observed that the figures given by the CSO were different from what was happening on the ground because a lot of people were still living below the 54.4 percent poverty line. “What is pertaining on the ground is different because much as the numbers look good, what is happening is that so many people who are in the formal employment are living below the poverty data line. And so you cannot say that these people are in employment when they are unable to have a decent life. We are not talking about luxurious life, we are talking about decent livelihood. And for instance if you look at the 7th National Development Plan, you are going to notice one of the damage statistic which is there and that is the fact that we have got about 55.4 percent of our people living in poverty. Now if you are going to have 55.4 percent and

then you are saying there is only 16.3 percent who are in employment, that’s paradoxical,” he said. “So at the end of the day even if the figures look good, in real terms they are not good, they are simply bogus, its just numbers which is not backed in real terms. So we do not think that government should be excited but it should be an indictment on the part of government that unfortunately we are not ensuring that the informal sector is moving from the level where it is to another level and that is what we must be able to do.” Ntewewe asked government to pay more attention to the informal sector. “That is why according to the central statistical office, you will discover that the number of the people that in employment are very few. But in real terms, what we have been talking about as YALI is the fact that we must be able to go beyond discussing employment levels, we must be discussing what is gainful employment, is this employment able to sustain one’s livelihood? Is this employment able to give someone decent shelter, accommodation, sanitation and health facilities, education facilities? That is what we must be able to look at,” Ntewewe said. “I think what we can say to government is that given the fact that our employment statistics dwell more on the informal

sector, the government must pay more than the usual attention to ensure that even the informal sector is able to move from the level where it is to another level. Now the only way the informal sector can move is when the people that are in the formal sector are empowered. They are given capacity for instance we have talked about our friends who are in farming, whichever type of farming whether its livestock farming, whether its fish farming, acqua culture, what is supposed to happen is that they must have capacity.” He said there was need to ensure that skills development and capacity was given to the people. “So unfortunately in the absence of capacity, we are simply going to be saying no these people are in employment and the numbers are this much. But at the end of the day those numbers sound very bogus, the numbers sound unreal but in actual sense those are the numbers being captured. So government can do a little bit more in terms of ensuring that skills development and capacity is given to our people so that even as we talk about employment, we move away from the concept of talking about employment but about gainful employment and capture real data that takes into account human development and other facts,” said Ntewewe.

Mwape stated that the basis for the re-invocation of Article 31 no longer existed. “While we acknowledge and respect the freedom of expression of opinion by some stakeholders calling for the extension of the Threatened State of Public Emergency, we wish to state categorically that we are against these proposals as the basis for the re-invocation of Article 31 no longer exists; hence our call on Parliament NOT to entertain any calls from those calling for extension of the Threatened State of Public Emergency,” stated Mwape. “The Threatened State of Public Emergency was declared by republican President, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu on July 5, 2017 by invocation of Article 31 of the constitution, with the approval of Parliament on July 11, 2017, which led to the proclamation that a situation existed that threatened a State of Public Emergency. This was after the fire that gutted some public places with the latest being the Lusaka City Market.”

There’s nothing to smile about in 2018 budget - JCTR

From front page

“Of major concern also is the silence of the 2018 budget on the needs of workers who bear the heavier burden of financing budgets through pay as you earn. The tax free threshold has remained stuck at K3,300 while the highest tax band has remained at 37.5% and as if this were not enough, the allowable pension contribution of K255 will now be subjected to tax. This is indeed at variance with the budgets spirit of not leaving any one behind. In the light of increased cost of living and minimal salary increment; workers have little to smile about in 2018 but to continue tightening

their belts. Government should have given workers some tax relief by reducing allocations to defence and public order and safety,” Posiana stated. “Poverty and vulnerability reduction pillar has also received fair attention from the 2018 budget. Under the Social Protection Programmes, measures that include implementation of the social cash transfer scheme and food security pack are being proposed. However, of concern to the JCTR is lack of coordination in the implementation of social protection programmes. The issue of wrong targeting where people who are not in real need are given social

cash transfer should also be addressed. Social cash transfer should be targeted at the very poor echelon of our society.” And Posiana stated that the money allocated to enhancing security would have been better utilized. “Zambia is one of the most secure and orderly countries to warrant such continued high allocations. This is not to trivialize the work of maintaining safety and security of the country but a country that is not at war cannot justify allocating almost 10% of the budget to defence and safety and security combined,” she stated. Posiana stated that government’s intention

to increase domestic borrowing would disadvantage the private sector through increased lending rates. “Government’s chances of realizing its lofty intentions can only be assessed through its measures to raise revenues and pillar five of creating conducive governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy speaks to that. The share of the budget to be financed from domestic resources of 68.5% still falls below the level of 70% reached during the previous MMD government and it seems the country continues to rely heavily on debt financing. While the projected external financing in the 2018 budget has fallen by almost 50% compared to 2017 budget, JCTR is alarmed at the proposed increased domestic borrowing of almost three times the 2017 level. A budget that is premised on job creation through the private sector cannot afford to borrow this much as this will crowd out the private sector who is supposed to invest and create jobs,” she stated. “Government increased domestic borrowing is also likely to push up lending interest rates by banks which will increase cost of doing business and ultimately counter the well-intended target of job creation. The JCTR also notes that continued increase in the allocation to loan repayments; both external as well as domestic is indicative of how serious

the issue of debt is to the country.” Posiana urged Finance Minister Felix Mutati to quickly table the Loans and Guarantees Act before Parliament. “The Centre therefore demands that Government urgently shares its Medium term Debt Management Strategy which the Minister of Finance announced that it was adequate to deal with the issue of public debt with citizens to acquaint themselves with it in order to hold government accountable. JCTR further urges Government to quickly table the loans and guarantees act before Parliament for amendments to allow Parliament have oversight on the country’s borrowing in line with the provision of the amended constitution as announced by the Minister of Finance. This exercise is long overdue,” Posiana stated. “At the rate we are accumulating debt, this exercise is too important to be left to the whims of the Executive who has demonstrated unbridled appetite for borrowing. Above all, JCTR urges government to invest borrowed resources in projects with high economic returns such as roads that open up rural areas and connects them to markets. The introduced excise duty of K2 on cement also seems contradictory to the budget’s desire of creating jobs and leaving no one behind. The construction sector is one of the sectors

that has been growing fast and contributing to the economy. The introduced duty will unnecessarily increase the cost of construction especially to ordinary people who are building houses.” She stated that the proposed revenue measures fell short of government’s intentions of reducing poverty and inequality. “Overall, the proposed revenue measures seem to fall short of the high intentions of reducing poverty, inequality and creating jobs so that no one is left behind. While JCTR acknowledges measures such as removal of tax holiday of five years offered to foreign firms, the total financing measures proposed are inadequate to deliver the good intentions of the 2018 budget. The budget is almost silent on effectively taxing mining companies. The informal sector is another sector that has been almost let scot free. The challenges facing collection of informal sector taxes go beyond the upward adjustment of informal sector tax such as base tax which the minister announced but administration of the informal sector taxes. The budget should have also provided more incentives for local industrialization. Other than creation of industrial economic zones and parks, the budget has not offered much on how it will industrialize the economy and create jobs. The budget also has no relief to workers as they continue to bear the burden of generating tax revenues,” stated Posiana.

“Of the total education allocation of K11.56 billion for instance; only K1.8 billion will go to primary and secondary school infrastructure, student loans and scholarships, university and college infrastructure as well as skills development. The pattern is the same in health. Despite the total allocation of K6.78 billion to the health sector, only K1.5 billion has been allocated to health infrastructure development, drugs and medical equipment acquisition. It seems the larger share of the allocation is to administrative expenses which have remote benefit to the patients.”



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We’ll keep beating Kambwili – Mwila

From front page

“And be reminded that those things happen at parliament. People have misunderstandings and fight but anyway Mr. Speaker will resolve it. But tell Kambwili that if he continues to insult people they will continue beating him because he is a stupid Politician.” He said Kambwili was behaving like a mad dog because he lacked morality. “You know Kambwili is like a mad dog who must be ignored by Zambians because he is not a serious politician. He should have reviewed the wrong doings of his of your friends when he was still in government and he should not think that he is an angle, his not an angle. Mwanawasa resigned

during the Chiluba government when he saw that things were not going the way he wanted them to go as vice-president, a very senior position but for him why did he not resign,” Mwila recalled. And Mwila who lost the Chipili parliamentary seat to an Independent candidate, defended President Edgar Lungu’s wealth saying the Head of State made money when he worked as a lawyer at ZCCM-IH and Mulungushi Investments. “President Lungu was a lawyer, he was working for Mulugushi Investments. Maybe he needs to be reminded that the president was a lawyer under Mulugushi Investments, he was a lawyer under ZCCM-IH, he was running

his own law firm, he was a minster, a member of parliament then he became President. Do you think that he would still be a poor man?” asked Mwila. The former home affairs minister went on to brag that Kambwili was his junior in the mines. “Kambwili, I was working with him in the mines tell him. In 1990 he found me in the ZCCM-IH, I was senior to him in terms of years when he joined us as a clerk, I was working at Nchanga open pit as an operator. I want people to know the history. From there, he become a personal officer in ZCCM-IH, a personal officer was a G2 I was G4. From there, he moved to become a clerk at man power services and he was still a personal officer in

the mines. In 2000 he was declared redundant and that’s when he went to become member of parliament [later],” Mwila said. “I left the mines in 2002 and later that same year I was elected treasurer for the mine workers union up until 2006 when I become member of parliament. I have been MP for 10 years and Kambwili has been MP for 11 years, so what he is saying about Lungu is just a joke that Zambians should not mind. He cannot tell me that a lawyer can’t own a car, or a lawyer can live in a garage that is an insult to the President and he should stop talking about President Edger Lungu. I am telling him that he must stop from today, help me tell him to stop!”

I found a glove stained with blood in Benos’ bathroom - Witness



By Diggers Reporter

A crime scene investigations officer has told the Lusaka High Court that he found some gloves; one stained with blood, in Tshabu Benos’ bathroom. This is in a matter in which Benos is accused of murdering her lover Reeves Malambo after a dispute. When the matter came up for continued trial before judge Gertrude Chawatama today, Modify Chompo said the gloves appeared to have been washed. Chompo, who was based at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe police station at the time, narrated that Benos led, detective inspector Changwe, woman constable Bwalya and other senior police officers from Lusaka

division to the scene of crime in Lusaka’s Ibex hill area. Chompo said when he noticed a blood spot in her bedroom, Benos told him that Malambo fell on the floor after he was injured. He testified that the bed was neat, intact and there were only few shoes that were scattered in the bedroom. The officer narrated that when they entered the pantry which was in the bedroom, they found 23 pieces of cutlery which was kept on a black tray. He said thereafter, he proceeded to inspect the bathroom where he found two gloves, one stained with blood. Chompo testified that the gloves appeared to have

been washed. He said when he was led outside the house through the front door, he noticed a knife which was lying underneath the veranda. Chompo said the knife had dry mud and he noticed two holes which were dug in the flower bed. He said acting together with his colleagues, he submitted a knife, a glove and tissue which had blood stains and a stained shirt to forensic laboratory for further analysis. Chompo said the results were not yet out as they were still undergoing analysis. In cross examination, the officer denied of having circulated pictures online which were taken at the

crime scene. A defense lawyer quizzed Chompo as to why the pictures were published on *Zambian Eagle* stating that the scene was not secured. But Chompo said the scene of crime was secured. And when defense counsel reminded the witness that Benos’s house was broken into, Chompo said the break in was being investigated by a different office.

Medical Stores employees plead not guilty to theft

By Diggers Reporter

Seven people accused of stealing drugs worth over K6 million from Medical Stores Limited in Lusaka have pleaded not guilty to three charges. And the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court has dismissed an application to have the bail conditions reviewed by the four accused persons who are still in custody. Meanwhile, magistrate Greenwell Malumani embarrassed a Legal Aid Assistant when he told her that she had no right to address him when she hadn’t been admitted to the bar. This is in a matter in which three Medical Stores employees; Paul Bwalya and Kalaluka Munyandekwa being warehouse receiving assistants and Ananias Simumba a driver as well as two Congolese nationals are jointly charged with two others for theft of assorted drugs. When the matter came up before magistrate Malumani today, the accused denied the allegations. The court however dismissed an application by the four accused persons who wanted the bail conditions to reviewed. Magistrate Malumani had granted the four K40,000 kwacha bail in their own recognisance with two working sureties each bound at K40, 000 and employed in government above the rank of clerks. The accused namely Ntambwe Chikomba, Patrick Elitie ,Oliver Chipapala and Munyandekwa asked the court to review the conditions as they had difficulties in meeting them. The accused are charged with breaking into Medical Stores with intent to commit a felony on August 20, 2017 among

other charges. But magistrate Malumani said he was empowered under law to set out adequate bail conditions for justice to take place. Magistrate Malumani said notwithstanding their innocence until proven guilty, he took into account the responsibilities of sureties in a serious matter. He said the requirement of a surety to be Lusaka based was to the advantage of an arresting officer in an event that they didn’t comply with the conditions. Meanwhile, magistrate Malumani told a lawyer from the Legal Aid Board that she had no right to stand before him as she had not been admitted to the bar. Gladys Kasoma, a legal aid assistant, stood up to represent two of the accused persons as their counsel was not available, a move which the court questioned. “You have no right to address me, you can’t have audience with me unless you have a letter indicating that you are in class at ZIALE,” said magistrate Malumani. “Are you admitted to the bar? Answer my question!” Kasoma was put in an awkward position but told magistrate Malumani that she had written her ZIALE exams and was waiting for the results. After the court discovered that Kasoma was employed by Legal Aid Board, he tried to down play the embarrassment he had caused her by stating that she should have told him earlier that she was appointed by Legal Aid. Magistrate Malumani said there was scrutiny of lawyers as there were people who were masquerading, which was a criminal offence.

“Mukata, Charmaine refused to disclose who pulled the trigger”

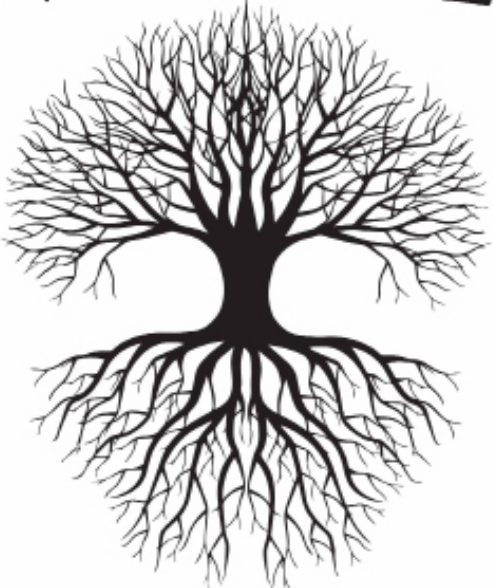
By Diggers Reporter

An arresting officer has told court that he jointly charged Keith Mukata and his lover Charmaine Musonda for murder because they did not give satisfactory answers during interrogations. In this matter, the Chilanga UPND member of parliament and his lover are accused of shooting dead Namakabwa Kwenda, who was security guard at his law firm. When the matter came up for continued trial yesterday, Mubita Moya, who is a chief investigations officer at Emmasdale Police Station, testified that when he arrived at the crime

scene, he found onlookers harassing Mukata Moya narrated that he chased the onlookers that were present after which he was given a fire arm, a magazine with seven rounds of ammunition, three empty cartridges and basket were the fire arm was hidden by his colleague. He testified that during interrogations, the accused did not give satisfactory answers of what transpired, prompting him to jointly charge them for the offense. Moya said none of them disclosed who pulled the trigger. He said the firearm which

was used to kill Kwenda was found in Charmaine’s BMW. Moya said he discovered that Charmaine used the BMW to take food to her lover because he was working late on the material day. However, Moya could not produce exhibits in court following an objection from the defense lawyers who sought for an adjournment to raise preliminary objections on production. Earlier, the state dispensed the evidence of a pathologist as he was still undergoing medical procedure in Namibia. The matter comes up today.

GOVERNMENT

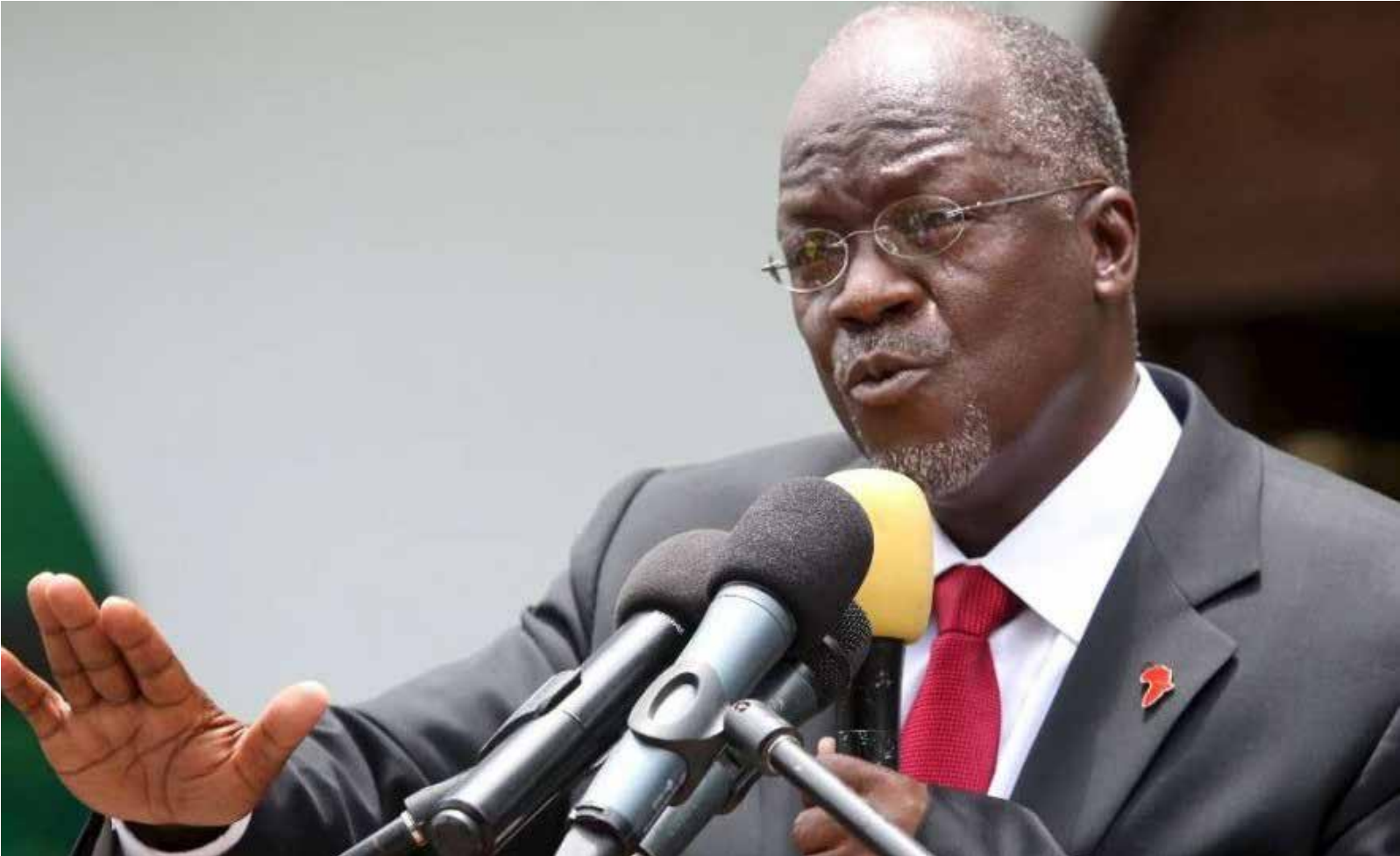


MONEY DOES NOT
GROW ON TREES

Alliance for
community
action ▶▶

All email accounts hacked - Yahoo

Yahoo’s 2013 data breach was even worse than previously thought, having affected all three billion of its customers, up from the previous one billion accounts the internet company had last disclosed. After uncovering and disclosing the data breach in December 2016, Yahoo has basically added to the amount of accounts it discovered had been affected by the breach in cyber security, but its parent company Oath, set up by new owner Verizon, had to admit that anyone who had a Yahoo account at the time of the breach was probably affected. The hack attack against Yahoo had exposed a bevy of user account details, from names and email addresses through to hashed passwords, phone numbers and even birthdays. Yahoo did notify its users to change passwords and take precautions with their account details as it took action to protect their accounts. However, it was arguably too little to late and the Yahoo hack was in short one of the largest and highest profile data breaches of all time, so much so that Verizon shaved \$350 million from the sum it initially offered Yahoo to buy the company. Despite it coming to light that all of Yahoo’s customers were affected by the breach, Verizon is taking a stiff upper lip approach and Yahoo is continuing to investigate the deeper details of the data breach. “Verizon is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency, and we proactively work to ensure the safety and security of our users and networks in an evolving landscape of online threats,” said Chandra McMahon, chief information security officer at Verizon. “Our investment in Yahoo is allowing that team to continue to take significant steps to enhance their security, as well as benefit from Verizon’s experience and resources.” Verizon’s commitments in the face of such a large data breach may be commendable, but it’s likely that Yahoo has lost a lot of its customers’ faith and good will, and it’s likely that many may have moved over to other services such as Microsoft’s Outlook and Google’s Gmail. *Trusted Reviews.com*



Tanzanian president discloses his salary

Tanzanian President John Magufuli has revealed he earns a salary of 9 million Tanzanian shillings (\$4,000) per month, making him one of the lowest paid African leaders as he pursues a much-criticized policy of deep public spending cuts.

In a speech to local officials in the capital on Tuesday he also said his government had slashed salaries of executives at state-owned companies at 15 million Tanzanian shillings (\$6,700) a month -- more than his own. “They can leave if they don’t

want it,” he said. He said abuse of public funds was “rampant” at state firms and that he had rejected requests from some local officials to more than double their allowances, saying he could not do so while many citizens lack access to water, health care

and electricity. Since taking office in November 2015, Magufuli -- nicknamed “the Bulldozer” -- has cut government spending by imposing measures such as restrictions on foreign travel for government officials and the removal of

“ghost workers” from the state payroll. Some critics say his cost-cutting measures are excessive and argue they could undermine growth in East Africa’s second-biggest economy and some have slowed investment in critical sectors such as mining.

Magufuli’s salary is a small fraction of that of other African leaders. He has no other publicly known sources of income and his government said last year it plans to submit a parliamentary bill that would prohibit public leaders from engaging in business to avoid conflicts of interest.

By contrast Kenya’s president earns a monthly salary of around \$14,000. Jacob Zuma of South Africa is paid around \$20,000 monthly, following a salary increase by parliament in 2015. Since 2009, Zuma has been embroiled in numerous scandals and allegations of abuse of office, including more than \$500,000 of improper state spending on security at his private home. Others with more modest pay include President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, who took a 50 percent pay cut when he took office in May 2015. The annual presidential salary was previously set at 14.1 million naira, which in mid-2015 was the equivalent of \$70,000. (\$1 = 2,239.0000 Tanzanian shillings). *Reuters*

Las Vegas shooter had 200+ reports of suspicious activities

As authorities pick apart the life of Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock, they have come across one major thread of suspicious behavior: how he handled his money. Paddock’s recent financial transactions have become a key focus for investigators looking to learn more about the Nevada man and why he launched the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. As ABC News first reported Monday, Paddock recently sent tens of thousands of dollars to someone in the Philippines, where his girlfriend was at the time of the attack, and authorities are still trying to determine who received that money, sources familiar with the matter said. In the last three years alone, more than 200 reports about Paddock’s activities, particularly large transactions at casinos, have been filed with law enforcement authorities, ABC News was told. While some of the reports centered around “suspicious activity,” most were “currency transaction reports,” which casinos are required to file with the Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network when a person withdraws or deposits more than \$10,000 in cash. The number of reports prompted by Paddock’s activities reflects -- at the

very least -- how routine it was for him to gamble with large sums of money. In one case, Paddock recently won \$40,000 on a slot machine, his brother, Eric Paddock, told The Associated Press. Las Vegas shooting: What we know about suspect Stephen Paddock “That’s the way he played,” Eric Paddock said. One law enforcement official noted “currency transaction reports” are “not necessarily suspicious,” especially “if you’re a high roller.” As for “suspicious activity reports,” 13,736 were filed last year with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, according to Treasury Department statistics. According to the AP, Eric Paddock described his brother as a multimillionaire and said they had business dealings and owned property together. He said he was not aware that his brother had gambling debts. A source familiar with the matter told ABC News that Stephen Paddock was a “responsible gambler. He paid his bills, and he came back,” adding that there was “no indication of any [financial] stress, any debt, any problems at all.” “He was a very consistent player,” the source said. “The notion of his winning or losing \$40,000 seems very much

within his norm.” The FBI has already briefed some lawmakers about what they’ve found so far as agents dig into Stephen Paddock’s past. “Bottom line, this man was a gambler, but I do not believe there is sufficient evidence to show that he was under stress financially from gambling at the time this incident occurred,” the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri, told ABC News. Paddock’s longtime girlfriend is originally from the Philippines, and she is believed to have been there when he launched his deadly assault in Las Vegas, killing 59 people and more than 500 others attending a country music festival. She is expected to return to the United States Wednesday. Asked about the reports associated with Paddock, a Financial Crimes Enforcement Network -- or “FinCEN” -- spokesperson said the agency “does not comment on specific reports filed by financial institutions,” but added, “FinCEN provides access to its database to authorized law enforcement and regulatory users and the data has proven to be extremely useful to investigators.” The FBI declined to comment for this article. *Yahoo News*

Mr Speaker sir,

The day you were elected in charge of the National Assembly remains very memorable to us as journalists because we felt on that day we had won a long fought battle. The joy was overflowing and we recall deliberating amongst ourselves how we would address you. We were not sure which title to pick from your long list of accomplishments: Right Honourable Justice Dr Patrick Matibini State Counsel, Speaker of the National Assembly and Member of Parliament for the Republic of Zambia.

Sir, you had accomplished so much in the academia, in your career and most importantly to us, in fighting for media reforms in Zambia. We have no clue how your fellow lawyers and judges perceived you. We are not sure if they held you in such high esteem, but to us as journalists, you were a star lawyer, a press freedom advocate and civil rights activist. We were already shaping our careers in 2002 when you worked with the Zambia Independent Media Association to draft three bills for the National Assembly, these being the Freedom of Information Bill, Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill, and Broadcasting Bill. In 2006, you even published a book titled “The Struggle for Media Law Reforms in Zambia”. Sir, you ascended to fame as a media freedom lobbyist and lawyer for journalists who were persecuted by previous governments in court during your practising years; how can anyone blame us for celebrating your election as Speaker of the National Assembly?

This Friday October 6, 2017 will mark six years of your reign as Speaker of the National Assembly and Chief Executive Officer of the legislative arm of the Zambian government. And at News Diggers, we are faced with the challenge of writing to you in our capacity as citizens of Zambia with an extra responsibility to inform the population as well as to provide checks to the government; which includes your office, the office of the Chief Justice and the Republican President.

We are ashamed today when younger journalists challenge us to explain why we danced with joy at your appointment. Our explanation is simply that

Dear Mr Speaker Sir, you are a disgrace!

we thought you were the best man, perfectly qualified to take up the most sensitive job in the land. Most sensitive because your House makes the laws which the Executive and the Judiciary must follow. We felt you would be the ideal eyes and ears of the people of Zambia and somehow, you would work with the right people to ensure that the Freedom of Information Bill which you drafted, is enacted under your reign. But we were wrong! In fact, we were very wrong.

Just yesterday, Mr Speaker, the Roan member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili reported to you, through his point of order, that another member of the House, Bowman Lusambo slapped him twice outside the chambers while the Minister of Lands Jean Kapata poured water on him. Almost immediately Sir, Kapata rose on a counter point of order to justify why they beat and poured water on Mr Kambwili. When Monze member of parliament Jack Mwiimbu asked why you went against your own directive and allowed a point of order on another point of order, you shamelessly said the two issues raised were different. Sir, “disgraced” does not beat what you have become.

Honourable Kambwili was asking if the two MPs were in order to behave like thugs at the National Assembly, but Honourable Kapata did not even have a point of order, you had to call her up again so that she could find something sensible to say that could fit as a point of order. Forget the decorum of the House, but where is your integrity Mr Speaker? One of your Honourable MPs was beaten in the presence of witnesses, and you couldn’t even have a ruling on such behaviour and you want the issue to die through an investigation. What a shame!

Mr Speaker Sir, you cannot say MPs risk turning the floor of the House into a platform

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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for fist of fury, its already happening. You are the only one who has closed your eyes to reality. Do you want to see blood before you can act? That Bowman Lusambo you now call Honourable is a street fighter. We worked with him when he was Nevers Mumba’s ‘boy’ and we saw the things he did as a “Die Hard MMD” cadre. You may not be aware of this, Sir, but at one point he was on the police wanted list and he jumped off the wall fence of Nevers Mumba’s house to escape when officers went searching. If you don’t stop him now, one day it will be you he will slap, Mr Speaker, when you differ with him – and he has such a huge palm. Ask Muhabi Lungu how he cried after that Lusambo squeezed his hand at the High Court when the two were at loggerheads.

We can see that you have run out of ideas on how to handle the thuggery, pettiness and disorder in the House, that is why yesterday you ordered no more points of order. But for how long will you make such a ruling? How will members debate in order if no one is allowed to raise a point of order? Our hearts are bleeding, Mr Speaker Sir, because of what you have turned out to be; you are not the same Patrick Matibini we loved.

You are the master at law and there is nothing we can share

with you about separation of powers that you already don’t know. But we can only remind you that it is your duty and the responsibility of the House that you preside over, to stop the rot in the Executive and the Judiciary has the duty to stand with those whom you treat unjustly in Parliament. You cannot just say, “I am aware of the political challenges that are going on, Its a pity that they are not being resolved elsewhere, away from the House?” Where are the MPs going to resolve their political differences from if you ran away from them? You are a judge Mr Speaker, stand your ground and start spitting justice in the face of disgruntled members of the House, regardless of their political affiliations and government positions.

You may not recall this, but that House you are presiding over has not become divided today. It was divided the day you were elected Speaker. In fact, you were a very unpopular Speaker of the National Assembly because you survived by only one vote – 78 against 77. It took the Patriotic Front some dirty political gimmicks to recruit that one extra vote in order for you to beat then UPND vice president Richard Kapita on that job. We are not saying you were less qualified or unsuitable for the job, but the PF did not

have the numbers to smoothly sail you through. The rest of the UPND, MMD and independent members of parliament didn’t want you for political reasons. The same MMD members who gave you a No vote and called you names, are the ones you are struggling to chastise and bring to order in the House. They are the ones you are siding with now because they have ‘crossed’ the floor and followed you at the Right, where there is milk and honey. That is why today they have ignored your flaws and are full of praise for you. We have no issue with them because there is no morality in politics, but you Mr Speaker Sir, are a member of two noble careers – law and journalism – and we cannot watch your free fall from dignity without cautioning you. What has remained admirable about your Sir, is your gentle laughter in the House. That, we love, but nothing else.

How can you, today stand up in the House to rebuke a citizen as defenceless as Antonio Mwanza for publishing “inaccurate information” on Facebook! Not even the official Facebook page for his dwindling political party FDD, but on his personal Facebook page. When did you change, Mr Speaker Sir? What went wrong? Where is the freedom of expression you were helping us achieve? Who are you afraid of? How can we help you?

Sir, you are our hero and it breaks our hearts to see you being disgraced in the House like that, your esteem is vanishing faster than dew in the morning. It was disappointing enough that you failed to act as President when the 2016 presidential election was disputed through the court, in accordance with the laws you passed as a House. It was sad enough that you suspended 48 opposition members of parliament, regardless of how that history would dent your reputation. You cannot continue with that phobia for dispensing justice.

Mr Speaker Sir, resign if the waters have become so filthy for your hard earned dignity. Yours is the most political arm of government, it is the home of political bickering. The ruling, the opposition and the independent converge in your House to settle policy and political scores. If you cannot handle that pressure, step aside. If you can’t let go of your pay cheque, change! It is not too late to go back to the Patrick Matibini who took the side of the oppressed in society. A good starting point would be to accept our criticism as constructive under the freedom of speech agenda, and not bother us with summons like you did to Mr Antonio Mwanza. We thank you Sir, and we beg to move.

I urge the Zambian Government to answer truthfully the issues raised by Honourable Chishimba Kambwili and drop the obvious scheme to divert attention and make him the villain. This diversion suggests a ploy by the government to avoid answering the questions raised. Such tactics usually work in political shadow boxing; but this time the ploy is not working. I appeal to all citizens to understand that this is one ‘crusade’ where partisan spectacles must be taken off. It is better for Honourable Kambwili to be exposed and shamed as a liar by factual government responses, than for any culprits to be let off scot-free. It is evasive if not unsavoury to continue using cadres to respond to Government issues while calling Kambwili a liar: for how can a question be a lie? How can a question be corrupt? How can a question be guilty of something? Character assassination usually works and in Zambian politics it actually wins elections. Since he begun to expose publicly some questionable acts by his PF colleagues, Honourable Kambwili has been labelled a liar, corrupt, allegedly arrested

Answer Kambwili’s questions, they affect all of us

in South Africa for stealing, telling true lies and so on and so forth. But his statements are neither true nor lies because they are just questions, valid questions demanding answers. It is not wrong for any citizen to ask questions or demand of our leaders in government to be transparent and justify their actions. If those in the corridors of power think that it is only Honourable Kambwili who wants the answers then they are not on planet Zambia! There are hundreds if not thousands of Zambians who want and expect answers to the issues raised. These questions evoke high emotions, are annoying and provocative yet one cannot help doubting: Is Kambwili fabricating or exaggerating? Could what he said be true? Has this really been happening? In the immediate circumstances of the fire tender saga, it is duplicitous and evasive for those in authority to call for evidence from the public. This smacks of an abdication of presidential and fiduciary

responsibility. The President must suspend his travels and study the files and reports until he fully comprehends both the security implications at home and why citizens are angry and questioning everything, even doubting what could be true. The buck stops at the President’s feet! This is no longer a PF issue. Employing diehard party zealots and sycophants to divert attention from specific questions raised may confirm the old adage that there is no smoke without fire. If you remove Kambwili’s political banter and tantrums from his statements you will notice that there are serious issues now in the public domain deserving unequivocal responses instead of evasive attacks on him, including the following: (in US dollars) purchase of fire tenders at 42 million, purchase of five Russian jets for 36.4 million each, Ndola-Kitwe dual carriageway at 1.2 million per kilometre, 360 million for KK international airport, 418 million Copperbelt C400 roads, 300 million Lusaka L400 roads, 1.7 billion Kafue

Gorge Lower Power Plant, 280 million digital migration, 430 million Kariba North Bank Power Plant expansion, and some personal multi-million constructions allegedly for and by the President in Lusaka, Petauke and other places. All these debts and many more begun to accrue in less than three years of the PF in government (12 months for President Lungu). Was the PF mandate to come and kill and/or enslave Zambians with debts for sacrificing and clearing the HIPC debt? Honourable Kambwili’s questions must be answered formally by the Government and by President Lungu; not answering him will leave the Government completely vulnerable and naked because human beings are wired to provide their own answers to unanswered questions. And when answers take long, the people’s answers become indelible and may hardly ever be erased even if the government uses an “anointed rubber or eraser”!

The ACC’s inertia is too loud to go unnoticed. I opposed the PF’s removal of the age-old principal of “innocent until proven guilty”. I was one of the few, if not the only political leader, who strongly spoke against the reintroduction of the provision that the suspect should prove his innocence. The PF did not believe in what they did but did it for votes. I still condemn and insist that the provision must be expunged from our statutes and the “innocent until proven guilty” principle be reinstated in the ACC Act. What is my point? Honourable Kambwili’s insistence that the ACC should probe the President is correct because that is now the law passed by the PF. This law is that prima facie the President must prove his innocence of how he acquired more than 21 billion Kwacha in twelve months of being Republican President. This is the law that the ACC must enforce. For example the President’s electoral declarations of assets are with the Judiciary Registry. So why ask the public

to provide evidence? And which law is the ACC relying on to wait for evidence from the public? Citizens are angry, very very angry. There is a time for everything; and this is the time to answer and reveal the truth that will counter the alleged lies of Honourable Kambwili. It is contempt of the people of Zambia to prevaricate, evade, bob and weave while diverting attention from the real issues raised. Whether Honourable Kambwili is corrupt, a liar or whatever does NOT negate the questions he has asked the Government and the President to answer. Those in Government must answer the questions and provide their own evidence against him if they have any. The President should ban his cadres from commenting on these serious government questions. I expect the Government to answer truthfully Honourable Kambwili’s allegations forthwith so that We, the People, may decide for ourselves who is or is not the liar!

By Brig Gen Godfrey Miyanda

Pro-independence Catalans defy King Felipe VI’s warning

Pro-independence Catalan leaders are pressing ahead despite an emphatic warning from King Felipe VI. Catalan President Carles Puigdemont told the BBC he would declare independence “at the end of this week or the beginning of next”. The king branded Sunday’s referendum illegal and undemocratic. But correspondents say his failure to acknowledge the violent repression of the vote has fired up rather than deterred independence supporters. Meanwhile, Spain’s high court has summoned the head of Catalonia’s regional police force to testify as a suspect in a investigation of alleged sedition - inciting rebellion against the state. Josep Lluís Trapero and three other people are expected to appear in court on Friday in a move likely to inflame sentiment further amid Spain’s deepest political crisis in decades, say correspondents. What are the pro-independence Catalans doing? Following the BBC interview in which he said there would be a declaration of independence in coming days, Carles Puigdemont said he would make a statement at 21:00 (19:00GMT) on Wednesday. Groups in the Catalan parliament have agreed that parliament should meet in full assembly on Monday.



Mr Puigdemont could also use that occasion to make a unilateral declaration of independence. When asked what he would do if the Spanish government were to intervene and take control of Catalonia’s government, Mr Puigdemont said it would be “an error

which changes everything”. Under Article 155 of the Spanish constitution, the government in Madrid is permitted to impose direct rule on autonomous regions. Is there any dialogue going on at all? Mr Puigdemont says not, and Spanish President Mariano

Rajoy has kept silent since the scenes of police violence which accompanied Sunday’s vote. The Spanish government has vowed to resist any declaration of independence, with Mr Rajoy previously saying the vote made a “mockery” of democracy.

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau has called on both sides to talk. “Neither a unilateral declaration of independence nor article 155. More than ever we need dialogue and bridges,” she tweeted. The European parliament was due to debate the crisis on Wednesday afternoon, but any resolution passed will be non-binding.

were trapped by an angry crowd of pro-independence supporters during a raid on the regional economy ministry, aimed at disrupting Sunday’s poll. The Mossos has been accused of failing to respond properly to their urgent requests for back-up.

What happened during Sunday’s vote? Nearly 900 people were hurt as police violently tried to enforce a Spanish court order suspending the vote, which the government had declared illegal. Some police officers were seen firing rubber bullets, storming into polling stations and pulling women by their hair. Thirty-three police officers were also injured, local medical officials said. Shocked by what they had seen, hundreds of thousands of Catalans joined street protests on Tuesday. A general strike was also called in protest at “the grave violation of rights and freedoms” seen during the ballot. How convincing were the ballot results? More than 2.2 million people voted on Sunday, according to the Catalan government. Officials put the vote in support of independence at nearly 90%, but official results have not yet been released. There are several reports of gaping irregularities, partly attributed to a system which permitted voters to cast their ballots anywhere in a bid to get around the police measures to stop the vote. Spanish media carried reports of some Catalan areas counting far more votes than residents. Catalan officials said the turnout was 42%, potentially weakening the position of Mr Puigdemont. **BBC News**

First global pledge to end cholera by 2030

Health officials from around the world are meeting in France to commit to preventing 90% of cholera deaths by 2030. The disease, which is spread through contaminated water, kills about 100,000 people every year. It is the first time governments, the World Health Organization, aid agencies and donors have made such a pledge. It comes as Yemen continues to fight one of the worst cholera outbreaks on record. Cholera has been spreading in the war-torn country due to deteriorating hygiene and sanitation conditions and disruptions to the water supply. More than 770,000 people have been infected with the disease, which is easily treatable with the right medical equipment, and 2,000 have died. Many of the victims are children. These huge outbreaks tend to grab the headlines, but there are also frequent outbreaks in so-called cholera “hotspots”. Disease of the poor

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholera*. It can spread quickly and widely in cramped, dirty conditions. The infection is cheap to treat with rehydration salts, and easy to avoid altogether if people have access to clean water and decent toilet facilities. But about two billion people globally lack access to clean water and are potentially at risk of cholera, according to the World Health Organization. The UN health agency says weak health systems, and outbreaks not being detected early enough also contribute to the rapid spread of outbreaks. Dr Dominique Legros, who heads up the WHO’s cholera programme, told the BBC: “We can’t keep seeing these huge outbreaks every year. “We have the tools at hand to prevent them, so let’s use them. “If you provide water and sanitation, it’s enough to stop

the transmission of cholera. “We’ve seen that today in countries like Senegal, where we have been able to stop transmission.” Cholera is a disease of the poor, and building basic infrastructure for communities costs money. However, there is no expectation of any major pledges of cash at Tuesday’s meeting. ‘Badge of shame’ The charity Wateraid estimates it would cost \$40 (£30) per person to provide water, sanitation and hygiene. Its chief executive, Tim Wainwright, says that is “surprisingly affordable”. “Looking around the world, the map of cholera outbreaks is essentially the same as a map of poverty and marginalisation. “The fact that this preventable disease still sickens 2.9 million people every year and kills 95,000 people is a global badge of shame.” The oral cholera vaccine is another important part of the fight against this enduring

disease. It only offers protection for up to 3 years. But in situations where outbreaks are highly likely, it can save thousands of lives. Some 900,000 doses of the vaccine are currently being sent to refugee camps in Bangladesh where almost half a million Rohingya Muslim refugees are gathering in squalid conditions after fleeing violence in neighbouring Myanmar, also known as Burma. “The vaccine alone doesn’t solve the problem, the water and sanitation is a more long-term solution,” said Dr Seth Berkley, chief executive of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations. “In the interim, we need to work to ensure we are doing both.” Northern Europe and the US managed to eliminate cholera 150 years ago. Tuesday’s pledge aims to, finally, achieve that goal for some of the world’s poorest people. **BBC News**



Bode Mende (R) and Karl Kreile kiss after becoming Germany’s first gay couple to be legally married as they tied the knot at the Schoeneberg town hall in Berlin

Reporter held over ‘Grace Mugabe underwear’ story



A Zimbabwean journalist has been detained over a story alleging that used underwear had been distributed to ruling Zanu-PF supporters on First Lady Grace Mugabe’s behalf, his lawyers say. NewsDay reporter Kenneth Nyangani was likely to face “criminal defamation” charges, the lawyers added. Zanu-PF MP Esau Mupfumi distributed the underwear, and said Mrs Mugabe had donated it, the newspaper reported. There has been no official comment on Mr Nyangani’s arrest. It was unclear whether the complainant was the MP or the first lady, NewsDay reported. Africa Live: More updates on this and other stories The rise of Grace Mugabe Saving Grace: The cost of diplomatic immunity Police in the eastern city of Mutare detained Mr Nyangani on Monday evening for “allegedly writing and publishing a story over the donation of some used undergarments” by President Robert Mugabe’s wife, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights said in a statement. The privately-owned

newspaper had earlier reported that Mr Mupfumi had handed out clothes at the weekend to Zanu-PF supporters in the Mutare area. “I met the First Lady Grace Mugabe and I was given these clothes so that I can give you. I have briefs for you and I am told that most of your briefs are not in good shape, please come and collect your allocations today,” Mr Mupfumi was quoted as saying. “We have night dresses, sandals and clothes, come and take, this is from your First Lady Grace Mugabe,” he added. Worsening economic conditions in Zimbabwe are forcing many people to buy second-hand clothing, the AFP news agency reports. It says such items include used underwear from Western countries which is chiefly imported from Mozambique. Mrs Mugabe, the president’s second wife, attracted widespread media attention in August when she was accused of attacking a model at a hotel in South Africa where her sons were staying. **BBC News**

Nigeria banks on Arsenal's Iwobi

By Nyambe Lubasi
Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr believes Arsenal striker Alex Iwobi's blot of lightening can strike twice against Zambia this Saturday at home in Uyo. Iwobi scored the first of Nigeria's two goals in their 2-1 away win over Zambia in the first leg of their 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier in Ndola on October 9, 2016. Iwobi returns to the national duty after missing the Nigeria game against Cameroon due to injury with a goal in Arsenal's 2-0 home win over Brighton last Sunday. "Yes, we are happy about Iwobi's recovery. We expect that he can play again a decisive role, like

he did in Ndola against the Chipolopolo of Zambia," Rohr said. "He's a serious professional and the Arsenal doctors did a good work for his fast recovery from his injury. He has given us more tactical options after the games against Cameroon that he did not play." But that goal against Zambia is Iwobi's only one from two Group B qualifiers. A win for Nigeria will send them through to the 2018 FIFA World Cup finals in Russia with a game to spare. Victory for Zambia will see Group B decided on the last day in November when Chipolopolo hosts Cameroon and Nigeria visit Algeria.



Sane the fasters Premier League player ever



The winger was clocked at 35.48 kilometres per hour (22.05mph), beating Jamie Vardy's previous record at Leicester City. Manchester City star Leroy Sane is the fastest Premier League player since records began! The winger, signed from Schalke 04 in 2016 in a £37 million deal, has starred for Pep Guardiola's team this season, scoring three goals and providing two assists in seven appearances. And Sane now has a record to his name, as he was recorded running at a speed of 35.48 kilometres per hour (22.05mph) during the club's dominant 1-0 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The 21-year-old subsequently beats Leicester City's Jamie Vardy's record. Opta began recording sprint speeds in 2014, with City also boasting pace on the right wing, with Kyle Walker (35.16kph) also lightning fast. This season, Patrick van Aanholt, of Crystal Palace, is the second fastest player, clocked at 35.42kph. Antonio Rudiger comes in third, with a speed of 35.19kph. *Goal.com*

Pique vows not to retire

The defender has spoken out regarding his critics and the question of Catalunya potentially becoming independent. Gerard Pique has vowed not to retire from Spanish duty in an impassioned press conference. The defender, who tearfully offered his resignation from the Spain team at the weekend amid violence following the Catalan independence referendum, was whistled at during a Spain training session. An image of Pique outside Barca's Camp Nou stadium has been the subject of vandalism, with the large poster, that also features Lionel Messi, Sergio Busquets, Andres Iniesta and Luis Suarez, having graffiti drawn onto it following the uproar over the referendum. Pique, though, has now hit back at his critics, insisting that he has no intention of throwing in the towel with the national team, as he does not want to give his critics the satisfaction. "The first day of training was difficult. Nobody likes it when there are people against you.

It's not pleasant to receive insults," he said, at a news conference ahead of their final World Cup qualifiers against Albania and Israel. "But it's a challenge for me. I want to help the national team in every way I can, above all on the pitch. I came here 15 years ago and it's been like a family to me. It's one of the big reasons I keep coming here. "My commitment has always been to the utmost. I feel proud to be with the national team. Don't doubt my commitment. "I have considered [stepping aside]. You have to assess all options, but after thinking about it, I believe the best thing is to continue. "You don't give in to the people who think only by whistling. My team-mates are also in favour of me staying. "I don't want to leave through the back door and feel like things have ended badly. This is my family. I want to carry on for them. There will be people whose mind you can't change, but I feel very strongly about trying to turn this around." *Goal.com*



"Are we aiming to sign one player or to assemble a strong, competitive team to achieve our goals? Sometimes people mistake some things regarding that, thinking just one player would make up for the needs of an entire club. Maybe it's not supposed to be like that.

Nigeria banks on Iwobi for clash against Zambia

