

Bishop Banda seeks K4m to fix Zambia Vs Barcelona game

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Government House of Prayer is asking for four million kwacha from well wishers to help it organize an Under-20 football match between Zambia's Chipolopolo and Real Madrid in December, and another game against F.C Barcelona in April next year. National House of Prayer advisory board chairperson Bishop Joshua Banda of Northmead Assemblies of God announced this at a media briefing yesterday, adding that his committee had already organized two fundraising gala dinners towards raising the match fixing cost.

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Court acquits UPND cadres accused of rioting in Lsk

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President Lungu marches during the Trooping and Consecration of Colours parade at Arakan Barracks in Lusaka today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

PAY CIVIL SERVANTS

...workers are panicking, they didn't prepare for delayed salaries - CSAWUZ

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Anxiety has gripped civil servants following government's

delay to pay their October salaries which they were expecting by the 22nd. And

the Civil Servants and allied Workers Union of Zambia is demanding for an explanation

from government on what has led to the delay, saying the silence was causing panic among the employees.

CSAWUZ president Davy Chiyobe said, in an interview that it was the duty of government to inform the workers of the delays in their salaries in order for them to adjust.

"Up to now, we are not aware when the workers will be paid. I am therefore imploring government to inform the workers and stakeholders when there are signals and signs that the salaries will delay. Let us share information and stop leaving workers in suspense," Chiyobe said.

He expressed concern that the civil servants were panicking because they did not prepare for

the delay in their salaries.

"There are anxieties and worries amongst the workers need to be addressed. Good management will only arise if we are sharing information. Government has caused the worry in people by keeping quiet so let them inform the workers when they are getting paid," he said. To page 5

Wina is a woman of integrity - Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga

Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says Vice-President Inonge Wina is a woman of integrity who has no scandals.

But Kambwili says some people in the PF are not fit to be ministers.

Debating a motion on heads of expenditure to the Office of the Vice-President yesterday, Kambwili said he had a lot of respect for Vice-President Wina because she was disciplined.

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Former vice-president Dr Guy Scott eulogises Michael Sata on 5FM Radio yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala. See story on Page 3

Police surround UPND secretariat

By Mukosha Funga

Heavily armed police today raided the UPND secretariat looking concealed weapons and

stolen goods.

But Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said she was not aware of the operation and what the police officers went to do at the UPND offices.

Meanwhile, UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma said police did not find anything after conducting their search in the presence of party lawyers. Full story Page 6

Govt to sell its 17% shares in ZCCM-IH

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Govt House of Prayer wants K4m for soccer match fixing

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He also announced that Brazil’s Roberto Carlos, Lucia Garcia and former football legend for Real Madrid, Raucous Garcia would grace the “unparalleled” fundraising gala dinners. Bishop Banda said the fundraising galas would be held at Mulungushi International Conference Center on November 17 and Mukuba Hotel in Ndola on the 18th, where members of the public would be expected to pay K2,500 for tickets. “I would like to make a special mention that the guest of honour at the events is the Republican President H.E President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. You are aware that His Excellency is an avid football fan, supporting the Chipolopolo boys at all levels. His Excellency will auction off rare football memento and you cannot afford to miss this. These are personally autographed Lionel Messi number 10 F.C Barcelona T-shirt,

personally autographed Christiano Ronaldo number 7 Real Madrid T-shirt and F.C Barcelona original hats, pens and other similar rare pieces. We have requested His Excellency to provide us with a personal neck-tie which will be a souvenir for the winning bidder to feature in their memento board. We encourage all of you to pick up your gala dinner tickets from Computicket in any Shoprite outlet across the country at K2,500. Only limited seats are available from both events on account of venue capacities,” Bishop Banda said. “We have guest appearance from two top football legends. We have Brazil’s Roberto Carlos a world famous former Real Madrid player whom most of us remember from his glory days in his team. Second to mention is Brazil’s Lucia Garcia a former Liverpool football club and F.C Barcelona player. Third we have Rayco Garcia a

former Real Madrid player who has similarly earned international acclaim for his stunning achievements across many years. Last but not the least, the house of prayer has also arranged to feature Mr Lorenzo Sanz, the former president of Real Madrid Football club at the gala dinners.” Bishop Banda said the construction of the House of Prayer would cost US\$10 million while the two games were expected to raise up

to US\$2 million (about K19 million). “We expect to raise about K4 million for both events and this K4 million will help us organize the actual football friendly games that we are going to have in December and somewhere in April. And we hope to raise about \$2 million from both games in Lusaka and Ndola. Generously, we know that the Zambian people will not just come to watch but contribute to the building of

the House of the Lord. The budget of construction of the House of Prayer is around \$10 million,” Bishop Banda said. He regretted that the construction which was supposed to commence in June this year was delayed due to procurement processes. “We had actually hoped to start construction by June this year but that has not happened in the sense that procurement

processes took longer than expected. We have the opportunity at the moment to have great support from experts in the Ministry of National Housing and Infrastructure. We have been having meetings, we get updates on how far the engineering drawings have gone. Personally I would have liked to have started yesterday but you can’t hurry these things, we appreciate the deep technical details,” said Bishop Banda.

Wina is a woman of integrity - CK

From front page
“I support the allocation to the Office of the Vice-President and I want to state that if there is any office at the moment that I have a lot of respect for in this country, it is the Office of the Vice President. The person who is occupying this office is a woman of integrity, no scandals at all to the extent that we don’t even know her

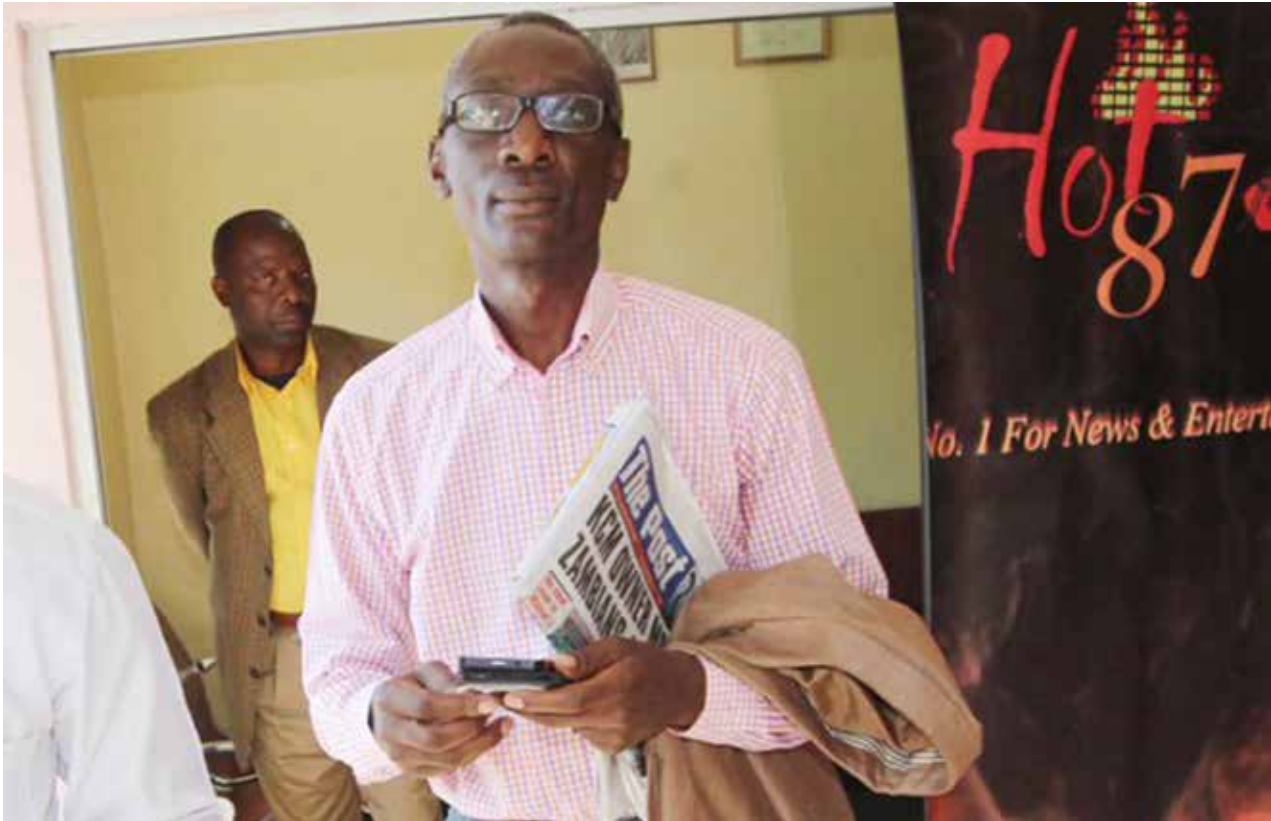
backyard staff because the woman is very disciplined. We don’t see the people who work in this office showing off and doing things to show that they work in the Office of the Vice-President. Madam Vice-President, keep it up. Posterity will judge you very well. You have executed your job since you were appointed very well and I admire working

with you unlike other people and other offices,” Kambwili said. “Madam chairperson, this Office of the Vice-President is extremely important, it looks after certain departments that have direct impact on the poor people and if we can use this office very well, I can rest assure you that our call for diversification in the

agriculture sector can be easily attained. What we need is to invest a lot of money in the resettlement package like what president Kaunda used to do, I remember there was resettlement scheme called Kambilombilo, where all the youths who were unemployed and who were taken out of school were taken and they would start agriculture. If the Office of the Vice-President was to be given more money, we can revive that resettlement package and I can tell you that the kind of production that can be done, in terms of agriculture, would wipe away all the unemployed youth on the streets.” And in apparent reference to Copperbelt Minister Bowman Lusambo, Kambwili said some people were not fit to be ministers. “Today we have a lot of alcohol abuse such that the poor youths, boys and girls are being used for unreasonable kind of conduct by irresponsible leaders. They are taken to go and run in the streets, insulting others and calling certain areas a no go area. When people are ministers, your behaviour must be exemplary otherwise we will soon be going to the Chief Justice to ascertain whether some people are fit to hold the office of minister,” said Kambwili. “The youths who fall under the Office of the Vice-President being used irresponsibly have every connection to this vote and this is what I am talking about. I think the resettlement department under the Office of the Vice-President must save our youths from these unreasonable ministers, cadre ministers who are behaving as if confrontation and fighting, insulting others is the order of the day. But anyway, we have ourselves to blame because some of these people, we knew them before we adopted them, we knew their characters. So let the office of resettlement of the Vice-President please take up this issue of resettling these youths to avoid them being misused.”

Elias Chipimo apologises to JCC for discrediting ruling before reading it

By Linda Jere
NAREP president Elias Chipimo regrets accusing the Judicial Complaints Commission of undermining the Constitutional Court, adding that he made the remarks before understanding the details of the matter. On Monday, Chipimo told News Diggers! that it was outside the mandate of the JCC to comment on the ruling of the ConCourt, regarding the interpretation of 14 days in the presidential election petition. When reminded by the reporter that the JCC did not overrule the decision by the ConCourt but merely commented on the interpretation of 14 days, Chipimo, who is a respected Lusaka lawyer insisted that the JCC had no authority over the ConCourt. “They can only make a comment about the ruling in so far as they are investigating whether there was competence in how that determination was made but they can’t pass a decision on something that is only within the mandate of the Constitutional Court to decide. They cannot turn around and say the ConCourt was wrong in its decision. All they can say is how did they arrive at that decision whether right or wrong. If they arrived at it in a wrong way through misconduct or incompetence, then they have a role to play but they can’t say that ‘they decided this, therefore they were wrong’ because the court is the final determinant on an issue, the Constitution is quite clear about that. The mandate is not given to the JCC, it is given to the Constitutional Court,” Chipimo said on Monday.



But yesterday when he featured on a Hot FM Radio programme, the NAREP leader apologised for making a hasty comment before reading the contents of the JCC ruling. First of all, I must apologise to the JCC because yesterday I was asked by someone to comment on their ruling. And I made a comment without looking fully at the ruling that was made by JCC, which is very uncharacteristic of me. What I was relying on were some of the press statements that the JCC contradicted the ruling of the Constitutional Court,” Chipimo said. “But actually, when you look at the full ruling of the actual

decision, what you find is that the JCC did not contradict the Constitutional Court at all. In fact at all points they said there was no misconduct they said that there was a proper interpretation of the 14 days this is all within the ruling you can read it.” He agreed with the JCC ruling that a single act of inconsistency could not amount to incompetence. “In fact [on] page 40, it’s very clear what they point out. The ruling says ‘we wish to state that one incidence of inconsistency cannot amount to incompetency let alone an act of gross misconduct so the alleged freak flocking by

the respondent – meaning the court – did not amount to incompetent of gross misconduct by them’. Each of the grounds that were raised actually said this petition or this appeal to the JCC does not stand,” he said. Chipimo however said although the Constitution considered weekends in the interpretation of 14 days in which to hear a presidential election petition, it was unfortunate that the ConCourt did not sit on Saturdays and Sundays. “The issue that they raised however is that, and this is an issue which there could be a debate; they are saying that the 14 days was properly

interpreted but there was a concern to them that the petitioners were denied 4 days. This was because including Saturday and Sunday within the 14 days, while it was correct under the constitution, the fact that the court did not actually sit on Saturdays and Sundays did in some way deprive the petitioners to have more time for the petition to be heard,” said Chipimo. “However, they did not state that that amounted to misconduct. They were just saying that they should have offered themselves to say ‘we will also sit on these days because 14 days finishes on the 2nd of September.”

Sata had a special gift of invoking excitement in people - Guy Scott

By Mukosha Funga

Former Republican vice-president Dr Guy Scott says Michael Sata had a rare gift of invoking excitement in people. And Dr Scott says Sata did not join politics to amass wealth. Meanwhile, Sata’s eldest son Mulenga says people must emulate his father’s spirit of reconciliation. Speaking when the duo featured on 5FM’s The Burning Issue programme yesterday, Dr Scott described Sata as the Shakespeare of politics. “He had a great gift for producing excitement and sensible excitement. People were enchanted by him and he always tried to out-talk you but if he couldn’t, he would accept that and shift to different ground,” Dr Scott said. “He was almost the Shakespeare of politics. He was always looking for a new way of doing things and Chiluba feared him because he realized that he was coming for the job. Michael managed to stick in there until Chiluba decided to let him down if you want to use that phrase and it led to the PF being born and that long 10-year fight.” He said Sata was in it for the presidency, from the beginning. “Right at the beginning [he knew he would be President], these things come together sometimes when you look around. In 1991 when we were doing the convention I said to Michael ‘why don’t you go for the presidency? I can see Chiluba is very popular but you are also very popular, why don’t you contest?’ He said ‘no I won’t make it for two reasons. I have just come out of UNIP, having fought to get in, whereas Fred is much more clean from



President Michael Chilufya Sata with first lady Dr Christine Kaseba

having refused to join UNIP or take a job from Kaunda and secondly, Chiluba was the head of the trade unions and all the people voting there had a connection with him’. So right from the start, it was about the presidency,” Dr Scott said. “And from the start we were in the presidential race. It was just rather difficult to find the way but once we knew what we were doing, we started and we got through. I joined the party two weeks after it was formed. We got a [parliamentary] seat and we had never met the guy. We were told that you have a guy who is running to be member of parliament and we said ‘where is he?’ and we put him in parliament yes.”

And Dr Scott said Sata understood that the purpose of politics was to serve people. “One thing that people sometimes ask me is ‘show us one thing which indicates that we should support Michael Sata, that he is a man of the people’. Look at his house, the house he lived in, in Rhodespark, it is a little bungalow there, completely crowded, hardly any room and that’s all he lived in. and that was still where he was going to live in when he left State House, he wasn’t a man of assembling assets, you see a lot of building going on at the moment, God knows where it is coming from, because the country is not doing that well

but there is a lot of stuff going on,” Dr Scott said. “...I don’t like material things as a purpose of politics. The purpose of politics is to serve the people of your country or your planet and I think people who have been listening to us might just care to think about that. Why is Michael Sata’s house still almost smaller than his mausoleum? He didn’t do it for the material goods.” He also recalled that second president Fredrick Chiluba had scolded them for dancing after being appointed Cabinet Ministers. “Michael convinced me to stand in a rural constituency. He told me to take Mpika whilst he would take a

constituency in Lusaka and we would regroup. I was skeptical because how would I campaign in local languages but I won 94 per cent of the votes and that was a pretty good score, it has never been as good since. I think Kenneth Kaunda was surprised that he got so badly walloped because people had told him that it was going to be okay. But after that we went to a press conference called by Chiluba and he said Guy Scott agriculture, Michael Sata, local government and we started dancing and he said ‘what are you dancing for? You are ministers! Stop misbehaving’. So we had to sit down,” said Dr Scott. “And the American embassy

was desperate to see us because we were running out of food, we had the famous drought immediately and life got serious. That is the time we had yellow maize and you will have it again if you ever mess up the way UNIP had messed up the production.” Meanwhile, Mulenga said people should emulate his father’s spirit of reconciliation. “The spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation which he exhibited in the latter part of his life is very important, we should all be able to live together, celebrate together and mourn together whatever our political affiliations,” Mulenga said. Mulenga also said his father was a disciplinarian. “I was the son of a young Michael Sata and what you saw is what you got, it was my way or the high way. Discipline was plentiful and beatings were delivered for the slightest infringements. So we knew that we had to toll the line as best as possible when we were growing up, but this changed as he got older and I think all of us who are parents know that your mode of parenting evolves. Growing up, you’d scamper out of the room saying dad is coming but now, my four year old for example, I can be watching TV and he will grab the remote and change the channel,” said Mulenga. “He was a tough man, he had no qualms about dressing you down in public whether you are at the airport, in a shop, at your school, he was like this with me and my older cousins will remember this...Michael Sata would tell you how it was no matter who the audience was and I think it carried over to his politics, I think his ministers were aware of this... He was a tough father but I think my younger siblings like Gerald had it easier, I think their relationship was like the one I have with my four year old where it is give and take. They could get haircuts which some of us couldn’t even think of. I wanted to have a wetlook back in the day and it just would never happen.”

Copperbelt on high cholera alert

By William Chileshe

Bwana Mkubwa PF member of parliament Jonas Chanda says cholera is knocking in his constituency due to the severe shortage of water. And Copperbelt provincial medical officer Dr Consity Mwale says the province is on high cholera alert. In a statement to News Diggers! Chanda challenged Kafubu Water and Sewerage Company to explain the two-week water shortage to residents of Mushili township and surrounding residential areas. “I urge Kafubu Water and Sewerage Company to explain to the residents the reasons for prolonged water shortages. What are they doing about this critical situation, and when will water supply be restored permanently? People can’t pay for a service that is not offered,” Chanda said. He said it was very sad that instead of residents in Mushili and Bonano and other affected areas rejoicing over Zambia’s 53 years of Political Independence, they were instead subjected to inhuman suffering. “With the current Cholera outbreak in Lusaka, a Cholera

epidemic outbreak in areas affected by severe water shortages in Bwana Mkubwa Constituency and other areas is just “knocking on the door.” It can lead to many people

falling sick or even dying,” said Chanda. And Dr Mwale said the province was sampling the quality of water through active random surveillance.

“Water is being tested for bacteriological contamination as well as chemical composition. The province has since identified possible treatment centres in all districts

and embarked on hygiene [sensitisation] campaigns. The outbreak of cholera in Lusaka is a wakeup call to put in preventive measures,” said Dr Mwale.

Don’t move on from fire tender scandal - Miti

By Mirriam Chabala

The Joint Action for Accountability in Zambia (JAAZ) says it is regrettable that police have continued to break the law and abuse law abiding citizens after 53 years of the country’s independence. And JAAZ has asked Zambians not to move on from the fire tender procurement scandal until justice is seen to be done. At a press briefing yesterday, Alliance for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti who is also one of the JAAZ conveners, noted that it was Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja’s responsibility to ensure that officers did not abuse the public order act. “It is with a deep sense of sadness that we reflect on the behaviour and actions of the Zambia Police on 29 September in breaking up a peaceful protest outside Parliament, detaining peaceful protesters and subsequently charging them with ‘disobeying lawful orders’ and ‘unlawful assembly.’ We strongly object to the idea that 53 years after independence, in what is a constitutional democracy, the senior police officers are routinely abusing

the rank and file of the police force by ordering them to break the law and abuse law abiding citizens,” Miti said. “We believe that in this situation, the junior officers are as much victims as the citizens whose rights they are used to abusing. The responsibility of this continued abuse of the Public Order Act lies squarely on the desk of Inspector General of police Kakoma Kanganja and his senior officers. It is the professional duty of the police high command to uphold the law and yet they repeatedly and unapologetically, flout it. We would like to inform this press briefing that all the six protesters, who include us the three conveners (Pilato, Lewis Mwape and Laura) here present, will tomorrow (today) Friday 27 October, appear in court on the said charges preferred against us by the state.” And Miti said the responses given the ministry of local government to justify the purchase of the 42 fire tenders had raised more questions than answers. “Since the Friday 29th September protest, JAAZ has continued to seek answers from

the government and a measure of progress has been made in that regard. On behalf of JAAZ, the ACA was invited by the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) for a meeting following a request we made to that office for information on the fire tenders procurement. The ZPPA explained that apart from fulfilling their regulatory mandate, the institution did not take part in the procurement of the 42 fire tenders, a duty which fell under the Ministry of Local Government. The Ministry of Local Government in response to our request provided some of the information that we had asked for. The answers we were given have in themselves raised more questions and concretised our position that the procurement of the 42 fire trucks was an unstrategic and imprudent use of resources,” Miti said. Meanwhile, Miti asked Zambians not to move on from the fire tender scandal. “It is the ability of citizens to forget quickly. Zambian politicians know that they can get away with just about anything by simply letting time pass. I will give a few examples: Ministers who held on to

office after the dissolution of parliament ahead of the 2016 general elections are yet to pay back their earnings as ordered by the Constitutional Court. The case, as appealed is not being called. The robust discussion around this matter has died down. Unless citizens insist, we may never see the money illegally earned by Ministers,” said Miti. “The MMD that the country voted out of power for its various excesses has been rehabilitated and is now very much part of the ruling PF. Individuals who in the public eye represented corruption in the MMD are now influencing the direction our country is going inside and outside of government and we the people are quiet. We have taught democratically elected leaders that they do not need to answer to us. What we are saying to citizens is do not get tired of demanding accountability on the way our money is spent and our country is run. This is our country, this is our money. Speak up when you hear incidents of corruption and lawlessness. Act as an anonymous whistle blower if you are in the civil service.”

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Minister of National Development Planning Lucky Mulusa says the goal of the 7NDP is to attain inclusive wealth for all which can be achieved through creation of a diversified and resilient economy. And Lusaka Province Minister Japhen Mwakalombe says the 7NDP signifies another road map towards actualization of the vision 2030 which seeks to transform Zambia into a prosperous middle income state. Speaking at the launch of the provincial dissemination exercise of the Seventh National Development Plan, which has been formulated around the theme ‘accelerating development efforts towards vision 2030 without leaving anyone behind’, Mulusa said the 7NDP was an important milestone towards the attainment of Zambia’s vision 2030. “The theme clearly reflects government’s commitment to the attainment of inclusive wealth for all. We believe that attaining inclusive wealth for all can be best achieved through

7NDP will help us attain vision 2030 – Mulusa

the creation of a diversified and resilient economy which is vital for sustained higher growth and socio-economic development. This has been crafted as the goal of the 7NDP. The 7NDP is an important milestone towards the attainment of Zambia’s vision 2030 in which we aspire to become a prosperous middle-income nation by that year,” Mulusa said. “In order to realize resilience and economic diversification, it is necessary to identify the country’s economic potential, competitiveness and comparative advantages. This can only be achieved by recognizing the potential regions like Lusaka province possess, harnessing this potential and integrating its contributions towards achieving collective wealth creation. We aim to identify national development strategic areas within Lusaka and surrounding regions.” Mulusa noted that the 7NDP would only fail if it did not receive support. “Further government has developed a national performance framework which will assist implementing institutions to logically link development programs in a manner that will lead to the realisation of the vision 2030. Cluster sector ministries as well as respective provinces are cardinal in implementing the plan. It must be noted that if we are fragmented in approach or lack appreciation for the 7NDP and its tenets, then we will achieve minimal results or fail altogether,” said Mulusa who refused to have side interviews with journalists after the event. And Mwakalombe said the 7NDP must not remain a dream but a vehicle for changing lives. “I am informed that the

formulation of the 7NDP involved wide consultation of various stakeholders at district, provincial and national levels. This occasion is special because it signifies the beginning of yet another road map towards the actualization of the 2030 which seeks to transform Zambia into a prosperous middle income state. The focus pillars in the 7NDP is reducing poverty and vulnerability in the country, it is important that we do all we can to make this a reality,” said Mwakalombe. “Good governance entails inclusiveness and facilitating the participation of citizens in national building. I therefore urge technocrats to take responsibility and ensure that this plan does not simply remain a dream but a vehicle for changing lives.”

Court acquits UPND cadres accused of rioting

By Mukosha Funga
The Lusaka Magistrates’ Court has acquitted six UPND cadres who were jointly charged with riotous behaviour and malicious damage to property. Magistrate Felix Kaoma acquitted Remmy Mukoba, Evans Malunga, Kinga Lumano, Clement Berejana, Malunga Polika and Cloud Bwalya in his ruling on case to answer saying it was appalling that the state dragged them to court without evidence. “From the overview of the evidence adduced by the state in relation to the two counts the accused are charged with, it suffices to say that from the evidence adduced, while there seem to be sufficient evidenced of riot and malicious damage to property, there seem to be

problems with the identity of the offenders in both counts. To begin with, none of the witnesses has ever mentioned or identified A2, A3 and A4 to have been at the High Court premises on the material day let alone rioting or damaging any property as per indictment. It is therefore utterly appalling that the three accused can be brought to court without any single witness witness to connect them to both offenses,” magistrate Kaoma said. He noted that the arresting officer contradicted himself in his testimony. “In respect of A1, A2 and A3, the only evidence that seems to connect them to both counts is that of Inspector Alfred Mwale of Central Police under the community policing. In his evidence in chief he directly implicated A1, A5 and A6 in relation to count one. He deposed before this court in examination in chief that he was the one that apprehended the trio from the UOND cadres that were rioting after they pursued them from Supreme Court grounds to High Court grounds. However, during cross examination, he said that he found A1 standing and apprehended him, and the same happened to the other two. By his evidence, it simply means that he found the trio just standing and apprehended them which is a very serious contradiction with his evidence in chief,” said Magistrate Kaoma. “This is so because given the distance between the Supreme Court premises and the High Court, it is extremely difficult to comprehend that in one breath, the accused were running being pursued by officers and in the other breath they were found standing. In the light of the foregoing, it is clear to me that the evidence that seems to implicate the trio is so discredited that no reasonable tribunal properly conducting itself could safely convict on it the absence of any explanation. In the circumstance and by reasons I have stated, it is clear to me that the prosecutions have failed to discharge their obligation to the requisite standard against all the six accused persons and as such I have no choice but to acquit all of them of the two counts as charged under section 206 of the Criminal Procedure Code.”

Depressed grain prices worry Lungu

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu says the surplus grain and depressed maize prices on the local market are major challenges in the agricultural sector. Speaking when he officially opened the 112th ZNFU annual congress yesterday, President Lungu said if left unchecked, the challenges could incapacitate farmers and other value chain players. “The theme for this year’s theme for the ZNFU annual congress which is ‘sustaining agriculture in shrinking markets’ is appropriate given our current agricultural marketing challenges as a result of surplus grain and depressed maize prices on the local market. These challenges if left unchecked could cause our farmers and other value chain players producing themselves out of market. Let me assure you that government remains focused on making the mainstay of our economy for enhanced household food security, poverty reduction and increased income generation for our citizens,” President Lungu said. “Government is working hard to address the current crop marketing challenges to avoid slowing down the momentum of our economic diversification agenda. Agricultural development and food security will only be sustainable if food production is diversified, made more market oriented and profitable to all players in the value chains. In this regard, our agriculture, livestock and fisheries economic diversification agenda should be driven by improved productivity through the use of new technologies, timely payment and availability of inputs to farmers; predictable agriculture marketing policies to stabilise commodity prices and cutting down on input costs and promote value addition among other things.”

And President Lungu said with the stabilization in exchange rates and reduction of inflation to single digit, he had instructed the Bank of Zambia and Finance Minister Felix Mutati to work closely with financial market players to come up with measures to bring down interest rates. “The PF government is determined to do more to remove other taxes on imported raw materials and in doing so, we will promote the sourcing of raw materials locally where possible, to encourage local production. My government has also fully opened up the smallholders fertilizer, seeds and agro-chemicals market by rolling out the farmer inputs support programme and electronic voucher system countrywide. Apart from giving farmers a diversified range of inputs, the FISP e-voucher will also promote competition among suppliers, a development which will empower farmers in decision-making, stabilise prices and reduce the cost of inputs over time,” said President Lungu. “The cost of borrowing is another key factor driving the cost of production in Zambia and I can assure you that government is working towards lower interest rates. With the stabilisation in exchange rate and reduction in inflation to single digits, I have instructed the minister of finance and the bank of Zambia to work closely with financial market players to come up with measures to bring down interest rates.” Meanwhile, ZNFU president Jervis Zimba said there was need for a speedy focus on addressing the many challenges that were retarding progress of diversifying the country’s economy to agriculture. “The union has observed that the last farming season was not free of hiccups. Hence, there is a need for a speedy focus on addressing the many challenges that continue to retard progress. Let me state that currently the viability of farming in Zambia is at stake because of shrinking markets, hence the theme for this year’s annual congress. Your excellency, the challenges facing the Zambian agriculture market has continued to affect farmers negatively by exposing them to unfair competition due to the influx of imported products in the country. Apart from maize, all other commodities continue to experience unfair competition because of an influx in imported good,” said Zimba.



President Edgar Lungu being presented with a bull as a gift by Zambeef shortly after addressing farmers during the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) annual congress at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka on October 26, 2017 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya yesterday told parliament that Chishimba Kambwili lied on the floor of the House when he said some senior doctors had been demoted in an unconstitutional manner. In his debate on the Civil Service Commission, Kambwili claimed a lot of doctors were complaining that they had been removed from managerial positions to being general practitioners despite not doing anything wrong. “I am extremely disappointed Mr Chairperson about what is happening in the Ministry of Health. I would like the Vice-President when responding, to answer whether Cabinet sat and decided to restructure the Ministry of Health. Doctors are complaining in the Ministry of Health. What is happening is not correct. Even a little child will say ‘this is wrong’. A number of doctors who were medical superintendents running hospitals have been removed from those hospitals and taken to others hospitals as general practitioners. The duty to appoint officers in government lies in the Civil Service Commission but what is happening in the past one year is that doctors have been taken out of their managerial positions into unacceptable positions,” Kambwili said. “I have a number of doctors that have been removed

Kambwili using the House to spread falsehoods - Chitalu

and are complaining; Dr John Mwewa, Kitwe central hospital removed; Dr Luckson Kasonka ,UTH removed; Dr Manawa, Ndola central removed; Dr George Chipulu, Kabwe general hospital removed; Dr Chola, Kabwe mine hospital removed; Dr Muntanga Lewanika removed; Dr Mutotoki, Kasama general hospital; Dr Kunda, Mansa hospital; Dr Kelvin, Nchanga hospital removed, and this doctor removed as medical superintendent from Chingola and taken to Chainama hospital as a general practitioner. You can only move people in those circumstances under disciplinary matters. If they have not committed any offence, you go and remove them? He has worked for 25 years in government as an administrator you go and bring someone who has worked in the ministry for four years to come and supervise the one who has a supervisor.” He said the reshuffles were against the law. “Do unto others what you

want others to do unto you. It is unacceptable to treat people like this. So I’m urging the Civil Service to take an interest in what is happening at the ministry of health. I have letters here where people have been removed and also letters where people have been appointed by the service commission but transferring them is the ministry of health. This is unconstitutional and against the law,” said Kambwili. But Dr Chilufya said Kambwili was exhibiting cheap political showmanship and peddling falsehoods whilst pretending to be the voice of the voiceless. “When there are issues of human resource and any other things that we may not understand as law makers, it costs nothing to walk across, come to the offices, ask and we will be able to explain to you. We should not turn the House into a place where we should exhibit cheap political showmanship, peddling falsehoods, lies on the floor of the House, misleading the nation and pretending to be the voice of the voiceless. I

withdraw the term lies but Mr Chairperson I am saying that let us not be the voice of wrong doers on the floor of the House,” Dr Chilufya said. He said some of the names Kambwili mentioned deserved to be de-registered for malpractices. “Some of the names that I was hearing there, are names of individuals who deserve to be de-registered because of their malpractice. You can’t just come here with half baked information and start castigating government. Mr Chairman, let’s be serious. There is time that you can walk across and ask the minister ‘what is the issue with colleague X’ and we will explain,” he said. Dr Chilufya revealed that during tea break, Kambwili admitted that he would not have debated in the manner he did had he been privy to all the information surrounding the doctors in question. “Mr Chairman I must emphasize, I engaged my elder brother honorable Kambwili after his debate and I gave him

information on some of the names that he gave me and he confessed, ‘I wouldn’t have debated like this if you had told me all these things. I was looking for you’. Mr Speaker, it costs nothing for us to engage. And I am happy to report that he would not have debated in that manner had he engaged me before. Mr Chairman, that’s why it is important for our colleagues on the left to be present, to listen and to listen to the responses on the allegations they make,” he said. Dr Chilufya said there was nothing sinister about disciplining erring doctors. “Mr Chairman, doctors are civil servants and there are rules that govern the conduct of doctors. The vast majority of medical doctors are well behaved, ethical, professional and are doing a great job. But we still have a few quire elements that we need to straighten....Mr Chairman, it is extremely important to note that no doctor is above board. Everybody is governed by the code of conduct and a doctor can be disciplined. One of the

doctors mentioned on that list, closed down a hospital. The hospital was commissioned on a day like this and opened to the public, the doctor closed that hospital the following day claiming there was inadequate equipment. You need to discipline such people. Health is non partisan. In a war Mr Chairman, even if you shoot an enemy, the doctor on the side of the opposing force will treat. So we don’t expect doctors to conduct themselves in a manner that depicts its political partisanship. And as political parties, let’s stop abusing doctors or health workers to push our political agenda,” he said. “I must emphasize that the Civil Service Commission works through directories of human resource in various ministries. Ministries have a right to make human resource changes administratively and getting them ratified through the Civil Service Commission. And no one should come and say that we have taken over the function of the Civil Service Commission. That is the relationship we enjoy. Mr Chairperson, I also want to emphasize that doctors have fields of specialization and you need to ensure that you place a doctor where his competences will be relevant. You don’t take a public health specialist and give him a clinical care job. We may all be called doctors but we have different areas of specialization. It is important to note that we needed to strengthen clinical practice in our hospitals therefore it was important for us to strengthen leadership in our hospitals by placing doctors with the right competences.” He said the 10 doctors still received the same salary scale. “This government believes in delivering universal health access. For us to do that we need trained hands to provide service. We removed the specialists from the headquarters and placed them in areas of service delivery. And from 60, we reduced to 10. We sent the doctors to the areas where they will be providing service. Mr Chairperson no one had a deduction or demotion in terms of salary scale. No one was demoted or had the salary scale changed, where is the problem? We transferred a senior superintendent for instance from one hospital to another hospital. What’s wrong with that?” asked Dr Chilufya. “No one is entitled to staying in one place. And one of the reasons some people under perform is staying in one place. You cannot say ‘I have been a senior medical superintendent for 20 years and therefore I’m entitled to this’. If someone transfers you in order to improve performance then there shall be honourable Kambwili to speak for you on the floor of the house? Mr Chairman, for us to improve performance in various parts of the civil service, we need to ensure that performance informs continuity in your position.”



L-r: Speaker of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini, Chief Justice Irene Mambilima, Defense minister Davies Chama and former president Rupiah Banda at Lusaka’s freedom statue during the commemoration of the 53rd independence day celebration on October 24, 2017- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Explain salary delays, CSAWUZ challenges govt

From front page
He said on Monday, the union would directly engage the Minister of Finance to demand answers. By Monday, if nothing comes out then we will have to get in touch with the ministry of finance to see how far the salaries are. My call on the minister of finance is to begin to be on the ground and be able to share this information. Sharing of information is very critical, which the government is not doing at the present. They may say that they have no obligation to get in touch but to a greater extent we are stakeholders, we represent these workers,” Chiyobe

said. “The workers can not go to government to ask why the salaries have delayed. They will come to the union because its our role. Its not the matter of knocking on governments doors when they know when the salaries are coming. What they need to do is manage any delay. When they are signals that there may be a delay, as unions, what we have always encouraged government to enter into a dialogue and say ‘colleagues we have this information that the salaries may delay’ and as such we can get down to our members and make those

indications.” Chiyobe however noted that although the salaries had delayed, by law, there was still a few days left within which government could pay the civil servants. “If you have followed the trend you may realise that most of the civil servants salaries come in between 22nd to somewhere around 24, 25th. That is what we may call the salary calendar for the Zambian workers. However, there is a provision of the law either at the employment or Labour Industrial Relations which provides that the salaries shall be paid by the

5th day of the second month. Meaning that by the provisions of the law, the salaries have not delayed because we have not reached the 5th day of the second month,” observed Chiyobe. “However, looking at it on the aspect of the salary calendar in Zambia, of payment between 22nd to 25th, yes, we will agree with the workers that the salaries have delayed. This is because when they get their salaries they normally budget to say ‘we are likely to get paid by next month as we always get paid around these days’. If anything goes beyond that salary calendar, it means that the salary has delayed.”

By Mirriam Chabala

Finance minister Felix Mutati says government will compensate LapGreen Network in compliance with the High Court order following a consent judgment between the Libyan firm and the Zambian government.

And government has announced the sale of 17.3 per cent of government’s shares in the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH) on the Lusaka Stock Exchange.

Recently, FDD deputy national secretary Antonio Mwanza disclosed that he had information to the effect that LapGreenN was threatening to seize Zambia’s assets abroad if the debt which was long overdue was not settled.

In this case, LapGreen which is Libya’s government investment portfolio, sued the Zambian government after it forcefully took over 75 per cent LapGreen shares from Zamtel in 2012.

LapGreenN bought the shares

Govt to sell 17.3% of its shares in ZCCM-IH

during former president Rupiah Banda’s reign at a cost of \$252 million.

This morning, Mutati told Parliament that government was facilitating the payment of all the money it owed to LapGreenN

He was responding to a question from Msanzala PF member of Parliament Peter Daka who asked: “Minister I heard that seven parastatals have moved to IDC, can you confirm that you have resolved the issues between LapGreenN and Zamtel before

the movement of Zamtel to IDC happens?”

Mutati confirmed that Zamtel had been moved to the Industrial Development Corporation, and added that government had resolved to compensate LapGreenN following the ruling from the High Court.

“Mr Speaker, the correct status is that Zamtel has moved to IDC and then the issue of LapGreenN was determined by the High Court and LapGreen was awarded compensation. Government is dealing with the

matter of compensation,” said Mutati.

Meanwhile, Mutati announced that government would soon sale 17.3 per cent of its shares in the Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH).

“Mr Speaker, allow me to appraise the House on the intended sale of 17.3 per cent to have these shares in ZCCM investment holdings held by GRZ and listed on the Lusaka Stock Exchange. Sir, the long term strategic plan is to

reposition ZCCM Investment Holdings for growth through strategic partnership and to comply to LUSE requirements. LUSE listing requirements stipulates that ‘no single shareholder should control more than 25 per cent of equity in any one listed company’. In compliance with the listing requirements, government intends to sale 17.3 per cent of its shareholding in ZCCM investment holdings,” Mutati said.

“My predecessor (Alexandar Chikwanda) announced the intended sale of the ZCCM invstment holdings in the budget address of 2015. Mr Speaker, it is intended that the process from the sale of the 17.3 per cent shareholding in ZCCM investment holding will be prudently used for development of more asserts such as financing of the infrastructure development fund. This will reposition the government’s development agenda by ensuring sustainable infrastructure financing which is the bedrock of the government’s economic policy

thrust. Sir, honourable members would note that the proposed sale will still leave government with the majority shareholding of 50.3 per cent. ”

He assured the House that the sale of the shares would not affect NAPSA which holds 15 per cent stake in ZCCM.

“As honourable members are aware, NAPSA holds 15 per cent shares in ZCCM Investment Holdings. Mr Speaker, in conducting the sale, we will ensure that the articles of association are amended to provide that IDC’s shareholding will not at any time fall below 50.3 per cent to serve the national strategic interest and to give the right of first refusal to IDC, should NAPSA want to sale its 15 per cent shareholding. Sir, as a transparent and consultative government, we thought it is prudent that we share with the House and the nation at large the intentions of government on this issue. The sale is strictly meant to ensure compliance to the LUSE regulations while firmly protecting the interests of the nation,” said Muatati.

Don’t blame us for the nolles from DPP - Police

By Mirriam Chabala

Deputy Inspector General of Police Malcom Mulenga says the abundance of nolle prosecuis from the DPP’s office should not be misconstrued as incompetence on the part of police officers.

And Mulenga, who is in charge of operations, has warned citizens against taking advantage of “dialogue being preached about” to break the law.

In a statement today, Mulenga stated that despite many cases ending up in nolles, police were not incompetent.

“Entering of Nolle Prosequi by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should not be misconstrued as incompetence on the part of the police, as there are several reasons that may lead to entering of Nolle Prosequi in particular cases. The Director of Public Prosecutions is not obliged to give reasons for making such a decision as the office is protected by the Law. We therefore, warn members of the public not to push the Police too far as we will not relent in bringing to book all those that come in conflict with the Law,” Mulenga stated.

And Mulenga warned citizens not to take advantage of the dialogue.

“As Zambia Police, we wish to remind members of the public from all sections of society that the reconciliation that is being preached about should not be seen or taken as a weakness on the part of the Police. People should not take advantage of the situation to become disrespectful and abuse human rights and democracy by way of using insolent words towards the authorities or individuals with a view to cause insurrection,” Mulenga stated.

“People should always be sensitive and learn from disturbances that are happening in other countries. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that they become careful and cautious with the statements that they make which have got potential to cause anarchy in the country and erode investor confidence. The peace and stability of this nation that we are currently enjoying is not by accident but as a result of commitment, hard work and concerted efforts by the Zambia

Police working with other Security wings in maintaining Law and Order.”

Meanwhile, Mulenga refuted allegations that there was inertia by the Police command to arrest perpetrators of crimes as stated in the today’s Daily

Nation newspaper.

“We wish to state that there is no inertia by Police to arrest perpetrators of crimes as stated in the Thursday’s Daily Nation newspaper issue number 1804 dated 26th October, 2017 under the headline ‘Police inertia

blamed’. Police has ever worked professionally with zeal and moved in whenever crime has been committed without fear or favour and this is evidently supported by a lot of arrests made in the past,” stated Mulenga.

What MPs do outside the House is non of my business - Speaker



By Mirriam Chabala

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini says Chishimba Kambwili will remain in the House as Roan PF member of parliament until the courts make a determination on his case.

And Speaker Matibini says it is none of his business who members of parliament choose to associate with outside the House.

He was ruling on a point of order raised by Copperbelt Minister Bowman Lusambo who challenged him to take action against expelled Kambwili for “masquerading as a PF member”.

“Mr Speaker when we come to Parliament, we come through political parties as sponsors of us members of parliament and apart from that Mr Speaker, some of the members have come

here as independent [MPs]. Mr Speaker I seek your serious ruling, is honourable Kambwili, Mr Speaker, in order to be masquerading as Patriotic Front member of parliament for Roan when in fact not Mr Speaker? Mr Speaker, on Sunday in Kitwe honourable Kambwili attended and addressed members of NDC political party, the newly formed political party. Mr Speaker, [he attended and addressed the meeting] as an interim president for that political party. Mr Speaker, I have evidence to that effect which I will be laying on the table and Mr Speaker, I need a serious ruling if Mr Kambwili is in order to be in this house masquerading as PF, I thank you Mr Speaker,” said Lusambo.

But in his ruling, Speaker Matibini said he had no jurisdiction over matters that

took place outside Parliament.

“My ruling, as you are obviously aware, honourable member for Roan is subject of an expulsion by the Patriotic Front party and following that decision to expel him, he proceeded to the High Court to challenge the expulsion as it were. And in terms of our Constitution, whenever a member of parliament is subject to an expulsion and proceeds to the High Court, that expulsion does not affect his membership of the House. In other words, he continues representing the constituency that elected him under that particular party until and unless the matter is finally disposed off by the Courts of law and that is the basis upon which the honourable member for Roan continues to represent his constituency in this House,” ruled Speaker Matibini.

“As far as the associations, engagements, interactions that take place beyond Parliament, first and foremost, that’s not my business, I have no control and no jurisdiction how you relate and who you relate with and however, if a particular political party has reservations, again that becomes a matter of party disciplines and I do not deal with party discipline. Party discipline is a matter of internal administration. So my construction of membership of the House and your conduct is informed primarily by the Constitution as well as the National Assembly powers and privileges Act, that is my ruling.”

Police search for weapons, stolen goods at the UPND secretariat

By Mukosha Funga

Heavily armed police today raided the UPND secretariat looking concealed weapons and stolen goods.

But Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo said she was not aware of the operation and what the police officers went to do at the UPND offices.

Meanwhile, UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma told News Diggers! in an interview that police did not find anything after conducting their search in the presence of party lawyers.

The operation began around 16:30 and according to a search warrant signed by a

Lusaka Magistrate today, police are under the impression that offensive weapons have been concealed in the UPND secretariat.

Asked what police were doing at the UPND secretariat, Katongo said; “I am just hearing calls from members of the press but I am not aware that there is even an operation. They haven’t debriefed me yet.”

Meanwhile, Kakoma told News Diggers! said police did not find anything after conducting their search in the presence of party lawyers.

“The raid is over, they have gone back to their base. When they came they didn’t

say what they were looking for, they only found our guards and a few people who were discussing a proposed party renewal exercise on the 12th of November. So they refused to allow them to search until our lawyers were informed and two of them came to witness the search. They searched in all the rooms and all over the premises looking for offensive weapons but they drew a blank,” said Kakoma.

“After that they left but we hear that apart from raiding our offices, they also intend to raid houses of some senior members of the party and they will do that up to Tuesday we understand.”



Lungu’s march captivates soldiers

Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

President Lungu does the ‘quick march’ during the Trooping and Consecration of Colours parade at Arakan Barracks in Lusaka today. Right, solders march past while (right) Army Commander Lt Gen Paul Mihova watches with Religious Affairs Minister Rev Godfridah Sumaili



There was confusion at Mulungushi International Conference Centre yesterday when President Lungu arrived from State House in a helicopter to attend the ZNFU Annual Congress. Police had anticipated him arriving by road and cleared the Highway for his passage. But the Head of State opted to fly in the presidential chopper, which however took about 20 minutes to touch down, as the pilot struggled to locate landing space.

Michael Sata’s oldest son Mulenga joins former vice-president Guy Scott in remembering the late president’s life when they featured on a 5fm Radio programme yesterday.



ZNFU president Javis Zimba and Agriculture minister Dora Siliya address farmers at the Annual Congress held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

You are the bloody reporter, ask them!

So many messages and speeches have been given about Michael Sata: his style of politics and leadership; his populist inclined decisions both as an opposition leader and Head of State; as well as his passion for the vulnerable in our society.

However, to commemorate his death that occurred exactly three years ago, on 28th October 2014, as News Diggers! We choose to take a different path. We have chosen to remember Michael and the warm relationship he shared with the media and journalists in particular. Prominent, popular and to a larger extent theatrical as he was in his political odyssey, Michael was among the few politicians that understood the power of the pen; what the pen could do to frustrate or advance his cause; what sort of doors the pen could lock and unlock and more importantly, how to keep the pen in a friendly atmosphere if it had to continue spitting ink in more positive light towards him.

Certainly, Michael was an ardent believer in the principle of “...whether good or bad, publicity is publicity” and he managed to get the best out of any sort of publicity that came his way. It was very rare to hear Michael complain about having been misquoted by a journalist, if there was a backlash over his statement, Michael always took responsibility of the misstep and never chickened out by accusing the journalist of twisting facts, like most cowardly politicians do. Michael loved publicity, he

News

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Ear to the ground

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loved the media, and he loved and cared for journalists. Any journalist that has worked with Michael right from his early days as District Governor, as Minister and MMD national secretary, as opposition leader and as Head of State, will concur with us that insofar as the media and journalists were concerned, Michael never carried himself as some kind of ‘special news source’ even though he was.

To get a story from Michael, all it took was for a journalist to place a call or simply pop up at his office even without prior appointment and he would warmly attend to you; no middleman or media *chakuti chakuti* (advisor or spokesperson) was required to access Michael for an interview; and no questionnaire was required to tap into Michael’s political mind. In fact, this made him one of the most media friendly, if not most interviewed politician this country has ever had so far.

Clearly, Michael understood news; he understood journalism and journalists, and as such respected the profession for

all it is worth. Even as Head of State, we noticed how easygoing Michael was with journalists, whether on local or overseas assignments. Michael would never allow his political followers or security to harass journalists. Michael knew almost all the faces and names of journalists that prominently covered State House assignments, and he was the kind that would strike conversations with anybody in the press crew regardless of the institution they worked for and their editorial policy and decisions. For instance, we are aware that despite being so critical of his administration and him personally, on more than two occasions, Michael personally phoned the *Daily Nation newspaper* and requested that they send a reporter to State House for an exclusive interview so that he reacts to their stories. He did the same with *The Post* and many other media institutions in the country. It can only take a friend of the press to do such, especially when they are the occupants of the seat of power.

Also, Michael was brilliant

at cultivating relationships with journalists, and when you have him as a beat, you literally became family, he would treat you with love, care and respect. Even George Chellah, who later came to be his spokesperson at State House, we know for a fact that they met and connected when Chellah was just a 24-year-old cub reporter at *The Post*, but the ‘source-newsmaker’ relationship between them was nurtured and grew to a level where Chellah became so much of a trustworthy and strategic player in Michael’s political schemes and inner circle both in the opposition days and in government.

In fact, Chellah was not the only young journalist that Michael developed a close relationship with. One morning in October 2011, Michael used his State House office line to phone the Managing Editor of *News Diggers!* who was then just a junior photographer at The Post. Michael called to appreciate the photojournalist for taking “very good pictures” of Dora Siliya’s campaigns in Petauke. Oblivious to the photographer, Michael

wanted to increase the threshold of Patriotic Front MPs in Parliament through by-elections, and he saw a clear case of corruption in the campaigns conducted by the now Agriculture Minister before she was elected MMD member of parliament for Petauke Central. It later dawned on the photographer that Michael wanted the campaign images to be the main evidence in the election petition against Siliya, which as the public is fully aware, went according to Michael’s desire. As Head of State, Michael lowered himself to personally engage an unknown photojournalist because he found his work beneficial to his grip on power.

Both as a politician and Head of State, Michael fully appreciated the struggles journalists go through to get news, the need for people to be promptly informed and the importance of media deadlines. That is why, it was during his tenure as Head of State when airlifting of pressmen from both the private and public media to presidential assignments

countrywide became routine. Previously, this was only the preserve of state media journalists who were dispatched in advance either by bus or by some tiresome mode of transport. Under Michael’s presidency, pressmen from both the private and public media where flown into far-flung areas in the morning and returned to Lusaka to key in their stories – negative or positive – the same day before dusk. These are just some of the numerous positive, inspirational and captivating encounters Michael had with the media and journalists in particular.

We cannot say much about the current administration at State House because to start with, we are not among the media houses that are invited to cover presidential assignments there. We have not been privileged to interact with President Edgar Lungu like our colleagues from public media. We don’t know how he relates with journalists from other private media houses that are ‘in good standing’ with State House. We cover the Head of State through his Facebook Page and once in a while we get lucky to interview his spokesperson.

But in Michael, the media definitely lost a friend. We miss his tolerance; we miss his recognition for the role that the media plays in society. In fact, we miss his sarcasm too. If we asked him why the current admiration at State House was treating journalists this way, his answer would be “You are the bloody reporter, ask them!”

We fast together, they eat alone

Dear Mr Secretary to the cabinet.
Honestly have you

forgotten us so soon? Only a few days ago you invited us for a day

of prayer and fasting. We did not disappoint you but turned up in

numbers, we prayed and fasted together. But today since there is food and

wine, you have forgotten us? This is not fair. We have

seen pockets of our fellow PF cadres being ferried to various eating places. Is this the way it shall be when food is available? Shall food honestly divide us? We urge you to change your approach next year. Be inclusive even when food and wine is available. True healing and reconciliation will only come when we remove selfishness and cadrelism.

Yours disappointed partner in prayer and fasting.

Mutati’s rhetoric can’t work at IMF

Sitting in the auditorium listening Felix Mutati at the IMF/ World Bank annual meetings, as a Zambian economist working at the World Bank I realised why the IMF have doubts about Zambia and Mutati’s credibility. I recall that the former Minister of Finance Alexander Chikwanda who today cautions on loans and debt when it was under his tenure as Minister of Finance Zambia

recorded unprecedented levels of borrowings. And without shame he avoids any explanation as to why under his leadership Zambia debt increased to unprecedented levels. Chikwanda has the gift of gab, but little else than excessive sarcasm. And this he practiced excessively during his visits to Washington. Always condescending of others and Mr. Know It All, he and the PF

government are to blame for the debt crisis. On the other hand Mutati who possesses an enviable superabundance of imagination, suffers from a less enviable logorrea. Bluff and bluster is fine for soap box politics but it disappears in the face of reality. And Mutati faced this reality in Washington. There is trust deficiency about Zambia. Ever since Mutati took over the leadership of managing

Zambia’s finances, he boasted on “home made” economic reform program. He mislead the Cabinet and the Zambian public. But things came to roost when in Washington he was categorically told to account for his loan portfolios and plans for managing debt. Mutati’s rhetoric may work in certain circles in Zambia but not in Washington. Here he has to face his paralysis of analysis.

The US government has released 2,800 previously classified files on the assassination of President John F Kennedy in 1963. President Donald Trump said the public deserved to be “fully informed” about the event, which has been the subject of numerous conspiracy theories. But some documents have been withheld at the request of government agencies. One memo revealed that the FBI had warned police of a death threat against the assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. “We at once notified the chief of police and he assured us Oswald would be given

JFK assassination files released

sufficient protection”, writes the FBI director J Edgar Hoover. Oswald, a former Marine and self-proclaimed Marxist, was shot dead in the basement of the Dallas Police department two days after President Kennedy was killed. As the documents are pored over and analysed, other findings include a CIA memo that suggests Oswald spoke with a KGB officer

at the Russian embassy in Mexico City. The memo says the KGB officer Oswald spoke with worked for a department “responsible for sabotage and assassination”. Another memo showed

that Soviet officials feared an “irresponsible general” would launch a missile at the USSR in the wake of President Kennedy’s death. President Kennedy was shot dead on 22 November

1963 as he travelled through Dallas in an open-topped limousine. The Warren Commission’s report into the shooting, published in September 1964, said that Lee Harvey

Oswald had fired the fatal shots from the Texas School Book Depository building. There was “no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign”, the commission said. A 1992 law passed by Congress required all records related to the assassination - around five million pages - to be publicly disclosed in full within 25 years. **BBC**

Kenya voters shun election rerun

Kenya’s electoral commission says fewer than 34% of registered voters took part in Thursday’s re-run of the presidential election. The figure is sharply down on the initial poll in August, when nearly 80% of the electorate voted. Opposition leader Raila Odinga had called on his supporters to boycott the poll. Voting has been suspended until Saturday in four areas where opposition supporters clashed with police. Mr Kenyatta is seeking a second term. Mr Odinga has pulled out of the contest. Two people were reported killed in the violence, including a teenage boy shot by police during clashes in the opposition stronghold of Kisumu. Some opposition supporters also prevented people from voting, despite Mr Odinga’s calls for them to stay away. The BBC’s Tomi Oladipo in Nairobi says that even in some areas where there was calm, voter fatigue and a loss of faith in the electoral process meant turnout was still low. The electoral commission has seven days to declare the results. President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared the winner in an August vote, which was annulled because of “irregularities”. After casting his vote Mr Kenyatta said the country was “tired of electioneering” and it was “time we moved forward”.

community and Deputy President William Ruto’s Kalenjin community reside. In parts of western Kenya where Mr Odinga’s Luo community is mostly based, there was a near total boycott of the poll. What has happened since the first vote? About 50 people are reported to have been killed in violence since Mr Kenyatta was declared the winner in August’s election. Last week, a senior member of the IEBC fled to the US amid death threats. Mr Odinga had wanted the repeat ballot to be held at a later date, but a bid to delay the election re-run fell apart after only two of seven Supreme Court judges attended a hearing on Wednesday. One judge, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu, failed to appear after her bodyguard was shot and wounded by unknown gunmen on Tuesday. Why is there an election re-run? Kenya’s Supreme Court took the unprecedented decision to annul the August presidential election and demand a re-run in September citing “irregularities and illegalities”. The ruling did not attribute any blame to President Kenyatta’s party or campaign. Mr Odinga has said that

the electoral commission failed to make the changes needed to prevent a repeat of the mistakes that marred

the earlier poll, although the commission disputes this. His opposition coalition - the National Super Alliance

(Nasa) - made clear its participation in the election was contingent on reforms being made. **BBC**



Surgeons separate twins joined at the head

Surgeons in the Indian capital, Delhi, have separated twin boys who were conjoined at the tops of their heads. Two-year-old Jaga and Kalia

underwent 16 hours of surgery, and are now in the intensive care unit, doctors said. A team of 30 doctors carried out the surgery - the first of

its kind in India - at a state-run hospital. The boys were born with shared blood vessels and brain tissues, a very rare condition that occurs once

in about three million births. The director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Randeep Guleria, told the Press Trust of India that the “next 18 days would be extremely critical to ascertain the success of the surgery”. The twins, hailing from a village in eastern Orissa state, were joined at the head - a condition known as craniopagus. Even before the operation they had defeated the odds; craniopagus occurs in one in three million births, and 50% of those affected die within 24 hours, doctors say. “Both the children have other health issues as well. While Jaga has heart issues, Kalia has kidney

problems,” neurosurgeon A K Mahapatra said. “Though initially Jaga was healthier, now his condition has deteriorated. Kalia is better,” he added. Doctors said the most challenging job after the separation was to “provide a skin cover on both sides of the brain for the children as the surgery had left large holes on their heads”. “If the twins make it, the next step will be reconstructing their skulls,” plastic surgeon Maneesh Singhal said. The first surgery was performed on 28 August when the doctors created a bypass to separate the shared veins that return blood to the heart from the brain. **BBC**

Key vote due in Catalan independence row

The Spanish senate is discussing a plan by the Madrid government to take over some of Catalonia’s autonomous powers, amid an escalating crisis over the region’s push for independence. Earlier this month Catalonia held a disputed referendum on the issue. The Senate is expected to pass the emergency measures, which include sacking the Catalan leader. Meanwhile the regional parliament has been debating a possible declaration of independence. The debate began on Thursday, after Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont

failed to reveal a favoured course of action, and called on MPs to decide on a response. Mr Puigdemont signed a declaration of independence following the 1 October vote, but immediately halted implementation and called for negotiations between Catalonia and the Spanish government. The Catalan government said that of the 43% who took part in the referendum, 90% were in favour of independence. However, the Constitutional Court ruled it was illegal.

How did Thursday’s debate unfold? During Thursday’s Catalan parliamentary session, a government spokesman said a proposal to implement the results of a referendum on independence would be submitted to lawmakers on Friday. Hard-line separatists continued their calls for an official declaration of independence. “We will continue on the path to a Catalan republic,” an MP for the far-left CUP, which provides key support for the pro-independence governing coalition, said. **BBC**

Is there trouble in paradise for Selena and the Weeknd?

Could one of Hollywood's hottest couples be on the outs? Selena Gomez and the Weeknd have been going strong for about 10 months, but they have found themselves sharing headlines this week with their exes

Justin Bieber and Bella Hadid. Gomez, 25, set the internet (and those who still ship Jelena) on fire this week when TMZ got photos of Bieber, 23, pulling up to her house in Los Angeles. The singers

— who publicly feuded last year — were with a group of friends; however, the outlet claims Bieber and Gomez also hung out once last week. Meanwhile, Page Six claims that the Weeknd (real name: Abel Tesfaye) is busy beefing

with Drake, 31, over his ex-girlfriend Bella Hadid. Drake has been hooking up with the 21-year-old model, which the “Starboy” crooner supposedly doesn’t appreciate. “They both hang in the same Toronto crew, and now

they’re having to pick sides. The Weeknd performed, and people on Drake’s side were like, ‘I can’t show up to that. ... Got to have allegiance,’” an insider alleged. “They aren’t getting along right now. ... The groups are beefing

because [Drake] broke the bro code. They 100 percent hooked up.” The Weeknd, 27, has been on tour, so it’s been a while since he and Gomez have been spotted out together. However, that will likely change because he’s set to perform in New York City tonight. A source close to the couple tell Yahoo Lifestyle “everything is fine” between the two.

According to our insider, Bieber and Gomez reconnected after the “Bad Liar” songstress revealed she had a kidney transplant. “It’s totally innocent,” says the source. “They have a lot of mutual friends through church, so it’s not out of the blue they reconnected. He reached out to her, and enough time had passed where they seem ready to be friends.”

TMZ reports that the Weeknd is cool with the former couple rekindling a friendship. Gomez will be performing her new single “Wolves” next month at the American Music Awards. It’s her first performance since her kidney transplant, and it doesn’t sound like we’ll have to worry about who her date will be.

“Selena and [the Weeknd] are great,” insists our source. “Everything is fine.” Sounds like there’s nothing to see here, folks. ***Yahoo***



Gwen and Blake ‘hyper-focused on getting pregnant’

Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani are reportedly ready to grow their family. The coaches on “The Voice” are eager to have their first child together two years into their unexpected romance, Us Weekly reported this week. A source told the outlet that, while they “will get married one day,” they’re “hyper-focused on getting pregnant” for the time being. Stefani, 48, already has three children -- Kingston, 11, Zuma, 9, and Apollo, 3 -- with ex Gavin Rossdale, and she is “incredibly hopeful” that she’ll be able to conceive with Shelton, 41. “They believe there is still a chance for Gwen,” a Shelton source told Us. For his part, Shelton has long wanted to be a father. In fact, his desire to have children was reportedly a major factor in his infamous divorce from Miranda Lambert back in the summer of 2015. The country singer has been open with Stefani about his longing to be a father. “Blake told Gwen he does want kids of his own and Gwen is willing to try,” a source said. “With her, Blake has the exact relationship and family life he’d hoped to have with Miranda. Gwen’s everything he wants.” Sources close to the couple

revealed that they’ve actually been trying to conceive for over a year, but “starting a family has not been easy for

them.” “Gwen and Blake started talking quickly about having a baby,” they continued. “It’s

something that they really want, and it’s just not working out the way they wanted it to.” Though the struggle to have

a baby together has been an emotional one, it is also “making them stronger.” ***Yahoo***



‘Justice League’ flies toward \$110M opening weekend

Early tracking for Justice League is projecting an opening weekend of at least \$110 million in North America, three weeks before the Nov. 17 launch. The Warner Bros./DC title stars Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller, and Ray Fisher. Amy Adams, Amber Heard, Jeremy Irons, J.K. Simmons, and Willem Dafoe also appear in the pic. Zack Snyder began shooting

Justice League in April, 2016, from a script by Chris Terrio. Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, starring Affleck as Batman and Cavill as Superman, turned out to be mildly disappointing for Warner Bros., grossing \$870 million worldwide after a \$166 million opening weekend in March 2016. Snyder directed from Terrio’s screenplay, which introduced Gadot as Wonder Woman, and

briefly Momoa as Aquaman and Miller as the Flash. The first industry domestic estimates for Justice League came out Thursday and showed that an impressive 56 percent of moviegoers had rated the film as a “definite choice.” The Justice League numbers show that November will see strong moviegoing after a downbeat October. On Oct. 23, the early

tracking for Disney-Marvel’s Thor: Ragnarok showed projections of at least \$100 million in its opening weekend on Nov. 3-5. Warner-DC’s Wonder Woman over-performed forecasts following its June launch and wound up with \$412 million domestically — the second-highest figure this year after Beauty and the Beast. The worldwide total was \$821 million. ***Yahoo***

There was a time when Mario Balotelli’s ‘Super’ tag seemed almost ironic, but not anymore, with the forward doing his utmost to push for international recognition once again. The enigmatic attacker appeared beyond salvation after scoring just two league goals between 2014 and 2016: one in the English top flight for Liverpool, and another in Serie A, after Brendan Rodgers had sent him back to AC Milan on loan for a year. By the end of August 2016, the Reds were so fed up of the forward, they decided to cut their losses and allow the £16 million signing to move to Nice in what was tantamount to a free transfer. However, on the south coast of France, Balotelli has slowly rebuilt his career and reputation, and while there have been hiccups along the way, he is now arguably back to his best. This season alone, the 27-year-old attacker has netted eight times in 11 matches in all competitions – a figure not to be sniffed at in a team struggling for confidence. His scoring record has put him back on the radar of the Italian national team, for whom he has not played since he moved to Liverpool three years ago. “If the coach wants to call me, then I am ready. If he doesn’t want to call me, then I’ll always cheer on the Nazionale,” Balotelli told Nice Matin. “There’s a big international date coming and he’s only got one desire: to play in it,”

Super Mario is back to his best

team-mate Christophe Jallet recently told the press. “The best way for him to get there is to shine with us. If he has a great season, if he can help us go as high as possible, I think he’ll have his chance.” With the Azzurri yet to secure a spot in the World Cup finals next summer – they face a play-off against Sweden in November to determine if they will go to Russia – and star striker Andrea Belotti currently injured, head coach Gian Piero Ventura is being constantly asked the question if Balotelli merits a recall. While Ventura has thus far managed to stand firm in his refusal to select the ‘bad boy’ of Italian football with the minimum of fuss, it will become increasingly difficult for him to continue to overlook Balotelli if the striker keeps finding the net. Against Lazio in the Europa League, Balotelli took the opportunity presented to him to remind the nation what he can do, scoring with a fine downward header early in the match before his side’s defence

embarrassingly capitulated to allow the Serie A side a relatively straightforward victory. He has also managed goals against Monaco and Marseille, and should he find the net against Paris Saint-Germain when Nice meet them in Ligue 1 on Friday, he can lay claim to having struck against perhaps the three best sides in France so far this season. Certainly, there would be no question of him being a mere flat-track bully. Ventura continues to argue against the player’s personality, suggesting that he bears a burden that is not necessarily visible on the field. “The way of judging this is not whether Balotelli is scoring goals, the problems are elsewhere - the rest of Balotelli,” he warned before the last round of World Cup qualifiers. **Goal.com**



I’m back to win premier league - Zlatan

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is nearing a return to action with Manchester United and is determined to win the Premier League, declaring: “I have come

back to finish what I started.” “I said I have come back to finish what I started,” Ibrahimovic - tipped for a December comeback - told Sky Sports , with United second and five points adrift of leaders Manchester City heading into Saturday’s visit of Tottenham. “Everything I built up in the first season - obviously we won the three trophies - the ending for me was not the ending I wanted, or nobody wanted, especially after how the season went. “The target is the Premier League. That is my target to finish. “Everything I started in the first season, we will finish in the second one.” Former Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and Barcelona star Ibrahimovic scored 28 goals in all competitions in 2016-17 but the injury sustained against Anderlecht in April cost him his involvement in the Europa League final and also raised doubts over

his future in the game. “In that moment when it happened, it was easier for me to say that I would come back because then I had a challenge,” added Ibrahimovic. “The challenge was that I never had a major injury, and all these people talking that ‘it’s over’ or ‘he’s too old’, all these doubts that I had in my whole career. “When that happens, it triggers me because it gives me energy and an objective. I’m challenging what I am able to do, how far I can take my body. “In the last years, when you’re thinking how many more years you are going to play, that is where you are hesitating. But the injury made it easy for me. I had one target, and that is to come back and play the game. “I will walk out just as I came in, I will not walk out limping. I will walk out the way I want to walk out. Even if I have to walk on water, I will do that also.” **Goal.com**

Former coach Haney expects Tiger Woods to play hero

While Tiger Woods’ return to competition remains unknown, former swing coach Hank Haney fully expects to see his former pupil tee it up later this year. Speaking on SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio, Haney didn’t shy away from making a concrete prediction as to when Woods, 41, might make his first competitive swings after undergoing anterior lumbar interbody fusion surgery in April. “They’re going to toy with everybody, because it’s just what they do. But he’s playing at the Hero World Challenge,” Haney said. “He’s not going to wait until February to play again.” Held Nov. 30-Dec. 3, the Hero was the site of Woods’ long-awaited return to competition a year ago. But that comeback lasted only three starts, as Woods has not played since withdrawing prior to the second round of the Omega Dubai Desert Classic in February. Woods hosts the 18-man event, which has announced 16 players for its field but still



has two sponsor exemption slots available. Woods told reporters last month at the Presidents Cup that he could envision a scenario where he never plays again, but in recent weeks he has fueled speculation about a possible return one social media video at a time. The latest came on Monday, when he released a slow-motion video of himself hitting a “stinger” long-iron shot that he used frequently in his prime. Much of that prime was spent with Haney by his side, as the two worked

together from 2004-10 during which time Woods won 31 PGA Tour events, including six majors. “Him and his ‘golf shape,’ and all this other stuff, I get that walking 18 holes

is a little different, but if you don’t think this guy is in shape, I mean come on,” Haney said. “He’s in great shape, he’s in great golf shape, whatever that means. **Yahoo**

Neymar gets one match ban

The Brazil international will miss Friday’s match against Nice after picking up a second yellow card for shoving an opposing player. Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar will serve a one-game ban following his red card against Marseille on Sunday. After picking up his first red card since

joining the Ligue 1 side from Barcelona for a world-record fee, Neymar will be forced to sit out PSG’s match against Nice on Friday. The Brazil international was sent off late in the 2-2 draw in Le Classique after clashing with Lucas Ocampos, who may have overdramatised the incident.

It was Neymar’s second yellow card in three minutes, but Edinson Cavani managed to earn Ligue 1 leaders PSG a point with a late free-kick. Neymar will face a further one-match suspension if he commits the same offence before the end of the Ligue 1 season. **Goal.com**

ZANACO vs NAPSA

By Nyambe Lubasi
Zanaco and Napsa clash in the 2017 Barclays Cup final today at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka. This will be the two sides first-ever meeting in the Barclays Cup that enters its 11th season this year. Zanaco are the team coming into the final with the most pressure having never won the Barclays Cup despite taking part in each and every edition since 2007. Furthermore, Zanaco lost last year's final 1-0 to record five-time winners Zesco United at the same venue. "I think it will be great to finally win it. We have a chance to

...in Barclays Cup final

write our name on the Cup and I think this is the right time for us to win the Barclays Cup," said Zanaco captain Ziyu Tembo. Meanwhile, Napsa are chasing a second Barclays Cup title following their 2012 triumph to cap a memorable first season back in top-flight football in ten years. Interestingly, Napsa and Zanaco's league meetings this season have both ended in draws. The two sides drew 0-0 at Napsa and 1-1 in Zanaco's home game. "I think it will be a tough game. Zanaco is a big team. We drew in the first and second leg in the league but the final is a different ball game," said Napsa captain Fred Musinde. "So we are very much aware of the threat of their strikers. It will be a tough game but it will be 50-50."

By Nyambe Lubasi
Power Dynamos coach Danny Kabwe has told his under-fire striker Alex Ng'onga to learn from the criticism his predecessor Patson Daka battled before winning over the fans hearts. Ngonga's Zambia recall has

Ng'onga eyes redemption

received a very frosty reception and it got personal when his mother's home in Kitwe was attacked after he missed chances in a 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier against Nigeria that Zambia lost 2-1 away on October 7. Daka, who succeeded Ng'onga at Power after he left for CS Mounana in May 2015, also endured a torrid time for both

Power and Zambia. Daka failed to spark for Power and the senior Zambia team between 2014 and 2015 when he scored just one goal for the Kitwe club. But it all changed in June 2016 for Daka when Kabwe was appointed Power coach and saw the striker net 12 goals before he left for Austrian club RB Salzburg last December. Last Tuesday, Ngonga broke his two-month drought at Power to score his 7th goal of the campaign in a 1-1 away draw against Zesco United. This was after he rejoined the Kitwe club in July from Mounana and made an immediate impact with six goals that helped Power rise into the top three. "It is good that he has scored after a long time. You know he has been under pressure but has a strong character. To be a national team celebrity, and if you start listening to people, then your game will be lost," said Kabwe. "The example I would give is Patson Daka. He was even criticised by his own supporters but he kept on fighting and there he is. With Alex, we have told him this is your job, this is your career, if you listen to supporters that is the end of your career."



Napsa Stars Chitiya Mususu tries to beat his opponent Lee Addy of Lusaka Dynamos (red) in the MTN/FAZ week 19 super league at Ewin Imboela Stadium in Lusaka picture by Tenson Mkhala