

Civil societies under political pressure from the govt - ZCSD

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) Board Chairperson Mahamba Chiputa says the civil society is nearly extinct because of external pressure from those in government.

In a statement today, Chiputa asked those in government not to alter the Non-Governmental Organisation Policy which was collectively developed together with the civil society as a key stakeholder.

"I'm worried that the once vibrant Civil Society is nearly extinct on account of external pressures to a point where they are failing to foster an active citizenship particularly of the youth and women... Ten Months in the year 2017, our journey as a Civil Society Organization in advocating for accountability, good governance, social justice, equality and quality service delivery has not been an easy one considering the current political culture and shrinking civil society enabling environment. Furthermore, CSOs are generally facing inadequate funding for administrative purposes to make them more effective, and this is even worse for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) spread across the country especially in the rural districts," Chiputa stated.

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Evidence disappears from court in Lusaka Central petition case

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HH leaves a mark on BBC Hard Talk

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema today made an exceptional mark when he featured on BBC Hard Talk programme, against a tough probing Stephen Sackur.

Most of the questions asked on the programme were old news for a Zambian audience, but Hichilema tried to remain calm and resolute as he responded.

Sackur asked the opposition leader why he had lost five elections in the past. Hichilema said it could not be categorically said that he lost in 2016 because the election petition was not heard. Sackur asked why Hichilema always claimed that he was unfairly beaten in every election, but the opposition leader reminded Sackur that it was the first time that he was petitioning the presidential election results.

But the Hard Talk host told Hichilema to stop claiming that President Edgar Lungu wanted to kill him because it would have happened a long time ago had that been the case.

And just before the show came to a close, Sackur asked

Hichilema if he felt the law did not allow President Lungu to stand again in 2021, and Hichilema said it was not up to him to decide, but for the Constitutional Court judges to give a ruling based on the provisions of the Constitution. **Read full verbatim on page 4-5**

Farmers will avoid planting maize, it has become too political - ZNFU

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

ZNFU media liaison officer Calvin Kaley says a lot of farmers this year will only plant enough maize for

domestic consumption following the year-in year-out delays by government to pay them for what they supply to the Food Reserve

Agency.

Kaley said, in an interview, that maize had become a political crop hence farmers would resort to growing other crops.

"From the congress last week you could tell that a number of farmers have not been paid. Some farmers had sold their crops to the Food Reserve Agency just the first week when FRA entered the maize market, some of them to-date have not been paid and that has been our worry. One, the price is not very good, two the delay, its becoming very difficult for farmers to plan for the 2017/2018 farming season because money is little but it should have come in fast. It should have been paid early so that farmers can plan even with little resources. Now without even the little resources, it becomes very difficult for farmers to plan," Kaley said.

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POLICE ARREST 55 CBU STUDENTS

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Police have arrested 55 first-year students from the Copperbelt University (CBU) who were protesting against government's delay to pay their bursaries.

And Copperbelt Province Police Commissioner Charity Katanga has confirmed the arrest and said the students have since been charged with conduct likely to breach the peace.

Narrating the ordeal to News Diggers in an interview today, Copperbelt University Students Union (COBUSU) president Njikho Musuku said the students only wanted the District Commissioner to intervene in the matter before the 3rd November Net registration deadline.

"Basically they were walking to the District Commissioner's office, they wanted him to intervene on the matter since

he is the head of government operations in the district. So they went there on their way, that is when they were apprehended because they assembled, they were actually 56 of them. The reason is they have not been given bursaries, they appealed to government and government said it would respond. Now there is that uncertainty in school because we have what we call net registration. Net registration comes to an end this week Friday," Musuku said.

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Zambia's economic recovery requires increased levels of accountability - EU

Tenson Mkhala

European Union Ambassador to Zambia Alessandro Mariani says Zambia's economic recovery program calls for increased levels of accountability and transparency.

Speaking during the launch of the public finance management handbook at Parliament building in Lusaka today, Ambassador Mariani said the recovery program needed credible budget minimising variations. **To page 6**

Chinese national pleads guilty to making fake Bata shoes

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Govt allows AG to employ more staff, expand its audit coverage

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Vice-President Inonge Wina says government has unfrozen 39 vacant positions at the office of the Auditor General, thereby allowing the institution to employ more staff and increased its audit coverage.

Wina said this in Parliament on Tuesday when she gave a breakdown of the K93,436,697 budgetary allocation to the Auditor General's office in the 2018.

"In 2018, government is committed to enhance and strengthen the capacity of the office of the Auditor General. In this regard, the government is unfreezing 39 positions. In addition, the overall structure

of the office will be reviewed in view of the new strategic plan and the added mandate of the auditing of the local authorities. The total 2018 budget for the office is ninety three million, four hundred and thirty six thousand, six hundred ninety seven kwacha (K93, 436, 697) of which K52.5 is personnel related and K40 million is for recurrent departmental charges. K22 million has been provided for auditing activities out of the total recurrent departmental charges budget," Wina said.

"Madam Chairperson, in order to achieve the above outputs, the office will increase its audit coverage and maximize the monitoring of the usage of

public resources. In addition, the 2018 budget includes a provision of K3.9 million for purposes of planning for audits, quality insurance, monitoring and evaluations. Under this provision, the office will be able to ensure that its activities are aligned to the government programs and contribute towards the achievements of development outcomes as indicated in the 7th National Development Plan."

Vice president Wina said through the allocated budget, the office was expected to produce reports on the main public accounts, parastatal bodies, local authorities, and statutory bodies among

others.

"The expected outcomes is the production of the following (i) reports on the main accounts of the Republic (ii) reports on parastatal bodies and other statutory institutions (iii) reports on local authorities (iv) reports on performance value for money audits on selected thematic areas and (v) special reports as may be requested by the executive and other stakeholders," she said.

Wina further said a total of K6.1 million had been provided to meet the expenses such as administrative costs.

"Madam Chairperson, a provision of K2.8 million has been made for the rehabilitation and insurance

of office buildings. This is to ensure that there is a clean and secure working environment as well as averting any loss should any fire or natural calamity befall us such as we have seen in the recent past. In line with the government drive for a smart Zambia, a provision of K1.1 million has been included for the implementation of ICT development and support activities," Wina said.

"Madam Chairperson, a provision of K2.2 million has been made for dismantling arrears related to personal emoluments, goods and services, and infrastructure development. This is in line with government priority to liquidate arrears for economic stability and growth programs. Other expenses provided for in the budget include administrative costs such as repairs of vehicles, maintenance of buildings among others. And in this regard, a total budget of K6.1 million has been made to meet these expenses. Most of the office work involves traveling and as such, it is critical to ensure that vehicles and other tools are in good working

conditions."

She said the office of the Auditor General would embark of capacity building for its staff.

"In implementing all these programs, the office requires a knowledgeable and skilled human resource, therefore, a total of K1.5 million has been provided for capacity building programs in the budget of 2018. And with the an ever evolving environment and the changing dynamics of auditing, the auditors require continuous professional development to keep abreast with the changing standards," disclosed Wina.

"Madam Chairperson lastly, a total of K52.5 million has been provided for the payment of personnel related expenses such as salaries and housing, transport and fuel allowances. I wish to emphasise that the Auditor General's office is in the 5th pillar of the 7th NDP under development outcome to improved transparency and accountability and is therefore responsible for ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of public funds from taxes and from donors."

Police arrest 55 CBU students

From front page

"Thereafter the University wont take any more students. So they wanted to know where their future lies. Thats the reason why they intended to go to the District Commissioner's office." He said the students were worried about their fate in the institution regarding government sponsorship which they had been lobbying for since July this year.

"All the 56 have been picked by police and they have been distributed around police stations in Kitwe. So my comment is that the government should just respond in good time because they (students) really need to know their fate. Its not necessarily money but they need sponsorship. They need to be awarded that government sponsorship which we are trying to lobby for. At the moment I am by the District Commissioner's Office, am just waiting for him to attend to me," said Musuku, adding that more than 300 first year students were at the verge of being deregistered for failure to pay tuition fees.

And in a video sent to News Diggers! the student protesters complained that it was difficult for them to concentrate on their studies with the current state of affairs.

"We have failed to study knowing that we haven't done our registrations, we don't know what will happen to us after the 3rd of November. We don't know what will become of us, we don't know what our future is. We tried to concentrate in classes but without registrations, nothing. We came here knowing that the government will look into our issue as early as possible but we have been in school for three months, three solid months without anything, without any response, no direction on what will happen to us. We don't know where we are going," cried the students.

"We have tried to comfort ourselves brothers and sisters but still we don't know what's next. We are pleading with His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu to look upon us as vulnerable children, we don't know what's next for us. Please Madam Esther Lungu, as you can see here, majority are ladies,

without BC, they don't know what their future will be after the 3rd of November. We are the future leaders, please we are pleading with you, please look into our issue before the 3rd of November."

But Katanga who confirmed the incident warned that police would not take lightly those that deliberately did not want

to abide by the provisions of the law.

"They are 55, 11 females and 44 males all first year students who were protesting heading towards the DC's Office where they came with placards over delayed meals and accommodation allowances. They were intercepted by police at Mukuba mall around 10:00

hours. They have been charged with conduct likely to cause breach of peace. And I wish to once again warn the protesters, let them abide by the law, simple. You don't just wake-up and start-up something, its to notify the police of their intended protests, so everything needs to be done within the law," said Katanga.

Investigate before raiding private property, FODEP tells Police

By Mirriam Chabala

FODEP executive director Chimfwembe Mweenge says police must always conduct necessary investigations before moving in to raid private property and harassing innocent citizens.

Commenting on the raid that was effected on the UPND secretariat by police officers on Friday last week on suspicion that the opposition party had hidden offensive weapons at their secretariat, Mweenge said police should be reasonable in the way they conducted themselves.

"First of all, we acknowledge that the police have got a role to play as mandated by the law in terms of ensuring that there is public security and safety, law and order and so on. It is very important that we give them the support that is required. However, I think it is important equally that whenever they carry out investigations particularly on the opposition, they should be very certain that what they are doing is not going to end up being portrayed like its just wanting to harass people," Mweenge said.

If you look at what happened on Friday, the raid was carried out but ended up not being fruitful. I think that it's important that the police avoid going into circumstances that may be portrayed by the public as intimidation."



Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) executive director Chimfwembe Mweenge speaks to journalists during a press briefing at his office in Lusaka on October 23, 2017. Picture by - Tenson Mkhala

Mweenge feared that the police were losing the confidence of the general public because of lack of reasonableness.

"It's important for the public including the opposition to give them [police] their support but there should be reasonableness

whenever that they carry out any investigations or any raid as permitted by the law. There should be reasonableness. Otherwise people might begin to think that this is intimidation of the opposition," said Mweenge.

"That is why from our end we are saying that yes the

police do have a national duty to preserve law and order and state security for that matter, which doesn't matter whether you are members of the opposition or you are in the ruling party. I think it's critical that whenever they have an execution, they do it in a manner that doesn't,

at the end of the day, come out to be as an intimidation. That's why it's important that they carry out their duties with reasonableness to an extent that the public does not lose trust in this important institution because it was created to serve the interest of all of us."

By Mukosha Funga

Police say there was an increase in Gender Based Violence cases reported in 2017 to 5,096 from 4,235 which were reported in 2016.

Giving GBV statistics for the third quarter of this year in a statement today, Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo revealed that 55 murder cases were recorded from January to September.

"During the third quarter of 2017, the police recorded 5,096 cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) reported countrywide compared to 4,235 GBV cases recorded during the same period in 2016. The country recorded 17 murder cases out of which seven (07) were male victims, nine (09) female adults victims and 1 girl. One (01) attempted murder and four (04) cases of infanticide were also recorded countrywide. Total murder cases recorded from

Crimes of passion, GBV on the rise

January, 2017 to September, 2017 is 55 cases against 41 cases recorded during the same period in 2016 translating to an increase of 14 cases or 25.5%," Katongo stated.

"Further, 1,644 cases of Assault OABH were recorded translating to 32.3% of the reported cases of which 1,359 were female victims translating to 82.7% of the reported Assault OABH cases, while 285 were male victims

at 17.3%. Central Province recorded the highest figure of Assault OABH cases with 320, followed by Lusaka which had 288 while Copperbelt was third with 249 reported cases, Eastern had 209, Western had 150, North Western had 111, Southern with 98, Muchinga 95 while Northern and Luapula had 49 and 35 reported cases respectively. A comparison with 2016 from first to third quarter shows that the country

recorded 4,566 cases of Assault OABH compared to 5,253 cases recorded this year in the same period translating to an increase by 687 cases or 13.1%," Katongo stated that 1,538 cases representing 30.2% were withdrawn at various police stations while 2,979 representing 58.4% were still under investigations. She stated that there were more GBV reports this year than last year.

"The total number of GBV cases reported country wide from the first quarter to the third quarter of 2017 is 16,090 cases compared to 13,092 GBV cases in 2016 during the same period giving an increase of 2,998 cases or 18.6% increase. There is an increase in physical type of Gender Based Violence cases such as Assault OABH, unlawful wounding and murder. People should learn to exercise restraint and patience

in their marriages or affairs unlike getting physical every time they differ. In a healthy relationship, communication is paramount," she stated.

"A total of 42 cases of Unlawful Wounding were recorded during this year's third quarter out of which 16 victims were male adults, 25 female adults and one (01) boy. With regards to Assault on a Child cases, the country recorded 54 cases out of which 30 victims were boys and 24 girls. Out of the reported cases in the period under review, 579 cases representing 11.4% were taken to court resulting in 64 convictions, one (01) acquittal, 31 withdraws while 483 cases are still pending in courts of law."

Meanwhile, Katongo stated that there was a decrease in defilement cases.

"A total of 416 child defilement cases were reported countrywide representing 8.2% of the reported cases and all victims were girls compared to 2016 which had 615 cases of Child Defilement. Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of defilement cases with 136 cases translating to 32.7% of the reported defilement cases, Central recorded 50 cases, Eastern recorded 44 cases, Copperbelt 42 cases, Southern Province 39 cases, North Western had 27 cases, while Muchinga and Luapula had 26 cases each. Northern Province had 11 cases while Western with nine (09) cases. From first to third quarter of 2017, the country recorded a total of 1,466 defilement cases against 1,634 cases in 2016 translating to a reduction of 168 cases or 10.3%. The country also recorded 9 cases of Defilement of imbeciles or persons with mental illness," stated Katongo. "80 cases of Rape, 12 attempted Rape and 22 indecent Assault cases were also recorded during the period under review. 20 cases of incest were reported out of which 14 were females and six (06) girl victims. Also recorded were five (05) cases of unnatural offences out of which three (03) were female victims, one (01) male adult and one male juvenile. 610 cases of Failing to Provide Necessities of Life were recorded countrywide in the 2017 third quarter representing 12% of the reported cases while Neglect to Provide Necessities recorded 237 cases translating to 4.7% of the reported cases."

Refugees risk being jailed if they engage in lawlessness – Lungu

By Zondiwe Mbewe

President Edgar Lungu has warned refugees to be law abiding and not bring lawlessness in the country or they risk being jailed.

And President Lungu has appealed for support from the international community in handling the crisis.

Speaking when he checked on the refugee crisis at Kenani Refugee Transit Center in Nchelenge district of Luapula Province today, President Lungu welcomed the refugees but warned them to be law abiding.

"To the refugees, I urge you to feel at home. We will do everything possible to make your stay as comfortable as possible and assist you to become productive and self reliant. You must be peace loving people. That is why you ran away from lawlessness in Congo DR. I expect you to be law abiding in Zambia. Don't bring the lawlessness from Congo which you have run away from, here. You have run away from lawlessness, so don't bring lawlessness here. We have laws which should be followed by all of us here. This is what humanity expects you to reciprocate to the love that Zambians have bestowed upon you by hosting you. When you break the law, we will not send you back to Congo, we will send you to jail. And when you finish serving jail that is when you will go back Congo," President Lungu said.

And President Lungu appealed for support from the international community.

"Kenani is not a permanent place of settlement, government has secured land where you will be settled to restart your lives. As we prepare to relocate the new refugees from Kenani to a new permanent site, there is need for the international community to move to greater action to sustain the efforts that my government with the support of its partners has made so far to stabilize this action. The needs of the refugees and their host communities are many. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other partners



can only continue to provide assistance with the support of the international community. I am therefore asking for the international community to help the UNHCR and UN and the Zambian government to handle this situation. I know that some people will be saying that 6,000 and 10,000 is a small number compared to humanitarian crisis elsewhere where there are large numbers of refugees but look at the people of Luapula, look at the people of Zambia, you will appreciate that this is a big challenge," he said.

"The refugee crisis from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been worsening since September 2017 and we fear this could lead to a major humanitarian crisis on both sides of the border. We therefore call for increased support from all."

Meanwhile, President Lungu assured refugees that government had put up measures to sustain their health.

"Let me assure the refugees that your health is my priority. We have put in measures to protect you from water borne diseases, we have set up testing and treatment facilities for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. And further I have mobilized

some drugs and medical supplies from well wishers to help reinforce the efforts of the district health authorities in responding to the possible disease outbreak associated with mass populations. I can only appeal further to say that what we have done as a government is merely talking and more support is required

in this and other areas of healthcare," said President Lungu.

"I can only encourage you to access these various health services which we are providing and also taking note of your comments as we go on to make sure that we communicate. People have already told us that there is language breakdown

between the medical service providers and the refugees, I'm sure we will find interpreters and translators to help you access the medicine. Let me also encourage the refugee community leaders to interact with our leaders and authorities so that we are able to meet your needs in the most appropriate manner."

I won't play games with Kambwili, I am an adult – Jean Kapata

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lands Minister Jean Kapata says she maintains her unconditional forgiveness to Chishimba Kambwili because she is not playing games with the Roan PF member of parliament.

Responding to Kambwili's accusations that the Mandevu member of parliament organised cadres to attacks him during Michael Sata's memorial, Kapata said she was too mature to engage in such schemes.

"I think I'm a mature person. What time do I have to organise those people?

Those are cadres who came to mourn. I don't even know them. They are cadres that just came to do that. So I don't want my name to be taken into dispute through Kambwili. I went there as a mourner. I went there to respect the late President. I would not stoop so low to organise thugs to beat Kambwili," Kapata said.

She said it was unfortunate that Kambwili attached conditions to his forgiveness over their differences at Parliament where she poured water on the expelled MP.

"So those that want to believe what is going on, I'm

not ready to talk about it. If he says he has withdrawn forgiving me, me I have forgiven him for whatever he did to me. I have forgiven him totally because I'm catholic and it passed me. Me I'm an adult. If Kambwili is young and playing games, me I'm not playing games. We forgave each other with no conditions. If he has withdrawn that...me, between me and my God all is well. Between me and my church all is well," she said. Kapata went further to question why Kambwili's sympathiser Rachael Chileshe was wearing PF

regalia at Sata's memorial, when she had publicly joined the opposition UPND.

"There is some Rachael Chileshe who was PF before and publicly joined UPND. So she came to church dressed in a PF chitenge with a head of the former President. And we only told her that 'you cannot come wearing a PF chitenge. You are UPND, you should have just come in a UPND chitenge', nothing could have happened to her. But she was pretending to wear a chitenge for PF as though she is PF when she is not," said Kapata.

By Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema today made an exceptional mark when he featured on BBC Hard Talk programme, against a tough probing Stephen Sackur.

Most of the questions asked on the programme were old news for a Zambian audience, but Hichilema stood out because of the calm and smart manner in which he responded.

Sackur asked the opposition leader why he had lost five elections in the past. Hichilema said it could not be categorically said that he lost in 2016 because the election petition was not heard. Sackur asked why Hichilema always claimed that he was unfairly beaten in every election, but the opposition leader reminded Sackur that it was the first time that he was petitioning the presidential election results.

But the Hard Talk host told Hichilema to stop claiming that President Edgar Lungu wanted to kill him because it would have happened a long time ago had that been the case. And just before the show came to a close, Sackur asked Hichilema if he felt the law did not allow President Lungu to stand again in 2021, and Hichilema said it was not up to him to decide, but for the Constitutional Court judges to give a ruling based on the provisions of the Constitution.

Below is the verbatim of the HH interview on BBC Hard Talk:

Sackur: Hakainde Hichilema, welcome to Hard Talk.

HH: Thank you for hosting me Stephen.

Sackur: It is a pleasure to host you, at least because you are now a free man. This summer you spent more than three months in prison but you were released, you are out. Is it now time that you acknowledge to build fences with your political enemies, in particular the President, President Lungu of Zambia?

HH: First I am happy to be out, no one should be in prison especially when you are not in prison for committing a crime. So it is nice to be out of prison and I am grateful to all of those who did something.

Sackur: Time for an olive branch?

HH: I think it is time to fix the broken pieces, democratic pieces in our country. That is how I would define it, very very essential.

Sackur: Let's talk about the incident that got you into prison, many people around the world will find it quite bizarre. You were in the west of your country, on the road with your team, a sort of convoy when a presidential motorcade came through on the same road and you and your team refused to pull over and get out of the way, which of course is expected when a President passes through. Why?

HH: Well, factually, that's not what it was Stephen. His motorcade was coming behind us, he overtook not just my four or five vehicles but 100 other vehicles in a similar manner.

Sackur: It is a bit of a she said he said story in that there are two versions of this, yours and the President's but let us stick with what the police chief of your country said. Mr [Kakoma] Kanganja said 'it has been established that the opposition leader disobeyed police orders

and thereby put the life of the Head of State in danger.

HH: Absolutely not true, one. And two, if that was the case, how is it that other hundreds of road users were not arrested for treason? Why me? Because exactly the same conditions obtained when his motorcade overtook several hundreds of other vehicles, why did it become treason on me?

Sackur: A couple of days later, there is a raid on your home and you are grabbed. Your family it seems were deeply upset by what they saw, you were hauled off to prison and I think for a few days you were held in solitary confinement.

HH: Eight days.

Sackur: Yes, now this is not pleasant, nobody could say that this was a pleasant experience but the bottom line is you were treated with respect, you were ultimately free after what, just over three months in captivity and that charge of treason which initially was put against you was dropped, so I am just wondering why you have made such a fuss about what happened to you.

HH: First Stephen, I should have never been arrested. I and five others should have never been arrested first because we did not commit any treason. Secondly...

Sackur: Well, we sort of got into that, let's now discuss what this overall incident tells us about Zambia today because as I say, in some countries I can think of, you might still be languishing in prison but the bottom line is, after a degree of intervention from the outside including from the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Baroness [Patricia] Scotland, and a degree of compromise, let's put it that way, you emerged from prison and now you are a free man and you have just traveled to London conducting your political work, so what is the message of all of this do you think?

HH: I think the message is that we need to clean up our democratic credentials. The situation in Zambia should never allow a citizen to be brutally arrested and detained, eight days in solitary confinement, 120 days in total in prison, under degrading and inhuman conditions...the manner in which I was arrested was unacceptable. I have been arrested by the PF government since 2011 over 10 times and all of these 10 times, all I received was a police call out and they effected an arrest so they should have done that. So they should have done the same here, that should never happen to anyone, including those that treated us in that manner.

Sackur: And this serious accusation of yours of brutal treatment in prison, what's your evidence for that?

HH: Well, the footage is there, first, the house was swamped by over 300 armed policemen, broke the entrance to the yard, accessed, that's the evidence. And then eight days in solitary confinement, I couldn't see anyone, it was a room without electricity, without water, without a toilet and how can you put someone in a dark room for eight days? For what? It is there and it had to take a court ruling on the eighth day to take me out of that location and move me to an ordinary prison.

HH leaves a mark on BBC Hard Talk



HH leads UPND procession to the party secretariat in Rhodespark after being released from Lusaka Central Prison on August 16, 2017 - picture by Tenson Mkhala

Sackur: Given your treatment, would you say that you emerged from detention fearful, intimidated in a sense in a way that you weren't before?

HH: I am not intimidated. Maybe the intention was to break me down, we are not broken because we understood, we expected that the government like the one we have in Zambia could do things like this, the writings were on the wall but we emerged stronger, I have said it before and I repeat it, 10 times stronger.

Sackur: Interestingly, you say you emerged stronger but you also emerged making noises about reconciliation, as I said, you saw the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Baroness Scotland who was instrumental of your release and after your release, you said, and I am quoting you directly, 'it is our collective duty to bring unity to our country, we cannot run our country like this, we are currently so divided. So you saw the wisdom there of collective action, presumably dialogue to unify the country, do you still feel that way today?

HH: Absolutely and my message was in reference to specific things that need to be fixed and corrected so that we don't continue with a negative situation. And we can talk about it.

Sackur: Yes, we will but I just want to go through this quite forensically, if you want to unify the country, is it not time for you to drop your insistence that the president is illegitimate and that the election was a fraud?

HH: You could see it that way but the other way of seeing it is that the constitutional right for disputing elections which is via an electoral presidential petition must respected because that's a constitutional provision so the rule of law with regard to the remedies that are available to anybody.

Sackur: Well, as I understand it, the Constitutional Court looked at your argument and threw them out.

HH: Not at all. That's the irony of it, our petition has not been heard Stephen, that's a fact.

Sackur: It has been before a court, I know that for a fact.

HH: Yes.

Sackur: Yes, so you have had your day in court, the court in the end chose not to take up your petition.

HH: (laughs) No, no, no. The basic constitutional provision under the Bill of Rights is that every citizen or group of citizens that feel aggrieved about anything have the right to go to court and the court has an obligation to hear their matter, not to just admit the concern or the petition but to hear it, the petition has not been heard.

Sackur: Well, the court took the decision to throw out your petition but the bottom line surely is that under most circumstances, the international norm is that governments around the world take a view as to whether an election is deemed to be fair and reasonable, legitimate or not and the clear collective view in the case of Zambia, the election of 2016, it was regarded as acceptable, the United States of America, the Under Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas Greenfield, she congratulated Mr Lungu on his reelection saying it was a clear manifestation of the will of the Zambian people, the UK High Commissioner, her sent a message actually this year on the Queen's birthday, calling on respect for the Head of State, a clear signal that the UK respects the position of Mr Lungu, President Zuma of South Africa cordially invited President Lungu to South Africa in a sign of his belief in the credibility of that election.

HH: You could say so and maybe you could be heard and heard loudly if what you said was not challenged by the Kenyan Constitutional Court ruling over the last election, not the current issues going on but just before that nullified Kenyan election which included basically discrediting such comments from international observers. What matters is to

follow the rule of law to ensure that the petition is heard and not just submitted, I think that's what's important and the Kenyan ruling has demystified those views. Remember, former secretary of state John Kerry rendered an apology in the Kenyan situation because similar sentiments were passed that the Constitutional Court should have heard our petition and then the recognition, the issue of whether the election was free and fair would have been resolved squarely and nobody will complain about it.

Sackur: You accuse Mr Lungu and his ruling party of a series of fraudulent actions concerning that election, but the truth is your own party has a record that is highly questionable for example, inflammatory rhetoric, may I just quote you from Geoffrey Mwamba, this is before the election of last year when he told a crowd of people that he would go for the throat of the President, what kind of language is that?

HH: Well, Stephen, if you followed the campaign trail and looked at language flying from one side to another and vice versa, maybe you need a complete audit of that.

Sackur: You for example, you said that Lungu wanted to kill you.

HH: Of course, it is evident, the manner in which I was arrested and detained and brutalized...

Sackur: With all due respect, if he wanted to kill you he could have killed you. He didn't kill you and there's absolutely no evidence that his intent was to kill you. My point is this, you came out of prison saying you wanted to work for national unity. National unity means getting away from this inflammatory rhetoric.

HH: Steven, national unity means restoring the rule of law in all respects, whether the law in question favours a particular group, doesn't matter but it is the law. In the case like our petition, Article 104 of our Constitution dictates that once a petition is submitted, it is obligatory for the executive powers to transfer to the Speaker of the National

Assembly.

Sackur: You as the leader of the United Party for National Development have a duty to follow the law just as the President does.

HH: Absolutely.

Sackur: So explain to me how the discovery of 21 of your young party workers training in a gym with weapons including machetes and live ammunition, how does that represent you following the law?

HH: (Laughs) Well, Stephen, you would like to know that that matter is in court and I think the ruling will be out soon, and I can assure you, you may swallow those words after the ruling in court. Accusations and tramped up charges is the order of life in Zambia and that is what we want to come out of, that negativity is not what we need in the country.

Sackur: Did you tell your supporters to burn City Market in Lusaka?

HH: Absolutely not, that's why today, there is nobody convicted from our side of burning a market.

Sackur: The President said it was a clear act of sabotage designed to harm his government and him.

HH: He was framing a strong opposition like us to justify the invocation of article 31 of our Constitution which is a threatened emergency. Steven, you cannot have a fire at 05:30 in the morning by 6 in the morning you go to the scene and say 'it is UPND members who have burnt the market'. Where is the investigation? It was never done and that is why nobody will be convicted for it on our side it was a stage managed situation.

Sackur: Do you feel yourself to be a true democrat?

HH: Absolutely.

Sackur: Do you think Zambia's democracy is in grave danger today?

HH: It is in grave danger.

From page 4

Sackur: And would you say you are partly responsible for that?

HH: I think many players are partially responsible that is why we would like to be part of the resolution of these negativities and we would be very much committed to that. As I keep saying, human rights must be respected, restored, we have lost that at the moment, the rule of law must be respected, we have lost that at the moment, we need to stem political violence which has become the order of the day in our country, that is responsible leadership.

Sackur: Well, I feel in a sense, we are skirting around the same issue again and again. If you are serious about what you say, of wanting to save Zambian democracy, if you want to sit down with your opponent and find a way around this crisis, then surely the first thing you have to do is accept the legitimacy of the President because before you do that how can he possibly sit down with you?

HH: Steven, you are saying that any dialogue must be anchored on preconditions.

Sackur: Yes, surely that is the most basic precondition of all.

HH: That would be basically an indication of unwillingness to dialogue. Secondly, I have already answered the question...

Sackur: You have just said it but it doesn't mean it makes much sense

HH: Why not?

Sackur: Here is a President who is accepted by the international community as the legitimate leader of your country, if you, as the leader of the opposition want to sit down and have a dialogue with him, to work through some of the political problems that are so manifest in your country today, surely you have to accept his legitimacy.

HH: Stephen, I have already said it before, there is no legal obligation in our statutes anywhere for what you are asking me to do secondly, we have a petition still in the courts of law, alive, active in the courts of law so how would anyone make a comment like that? What would that mean to the rule of law?

Sackur: So remind me, is it a four year of five year term for presidency?

HH: Five.

Sackur: So you are telling me that for the foreseeable future, possibly for a four or five year term you are simply going to refuse to accept that your country has a legitimate President?

HH: No, that's not what I am saying, I am saying that if our presidential petition which is

“Why do you keep losing elections?”

before the courts of law, and you can verify that yourself and anyone who wishes to do so, is dealt with, therein lies the issue of recognition. It is a no brainer at all.

Sackur: Why do you think you have lost five elections?

HH: Well, you can say that but this is why...

Sackur: Just answer the question.

HH: (laughs)

Sackur: Why do you think, Zambia is held up by Africans as an example of a state that has embraced democracy, relative freedom, it is not perfect, we know you have got problems with your media and with other elements of repression but ultimately, it has been fairly free and fairly democratic for a generation and you have had a chance to run for the top office in your country and you have repeatedly lost, why?

HH: First Steven, that's what we are challenging through the courts of law.

Sackur: So you are saying that every time you run for office, you are unfairly beaten, every vote was rigged was it?

HH: No, no, no, but how many times have I gone to court to petition? This is the first time because of the manner in which the election was managed. The

electoral process which lacks transparency, the electoral process which lacks integrity and that is why we are asking for replacement of the electoral commission as it is in the current position or replace it with a truly independent electoral commission as is the case in South Africa for example. To turn your question around, why didn't we petition before? Why did we petition this time around? It is because there are issues this time around and we tested our argument by petitioning parliamentary seats in an areas which we thought was fraudulent, in Lusaka we have had two elections nullified. That's a fact.

Sackur: Let me put this to you that it seems to me that you are somehow more preoccupied with self interest than the national interest because of you were serious about working with the government to work on some of Zambia's problems, you might be more focused on some of the stunning and really alarming statistics in your country, life expectancy, for men 49 years, for women 50, endemic poverty, poverty rates that are stunning and are going to get worse because a population of 13 or 14 million could be 50 million by 2050 and what we have heard most recently by former Nigerian President [Olusegun] Obasanjo, population explosion in Africa is perhaps the biggest problem Africa faces of all

of them. And yet you are just obsessed with your own fight with Mr Lungu over the last election. Can't you focus on what really matters?

HH: I really think that it is not a question of this or that, it is a question of all of the questions you are saying are important because in order to basically support the country's population, take it out of poverty, provide education, health and clean water, all of those issues are connected to the quality of leadership, quality of leadership in a democracy comes through elections and that's where the competition for office in order to serve and do the things that you say, which I totally agree with, lies. So there is not either this or that.

Sackur: A recent economist intelligence article actually looked at your economic policies and the government and concluded that both of them aren't addressing Zambia's real issues that is the over reliance on mining and the copper industry in particular, the massive amounts of money that is spent every year on subsidies for fuel and basic staples, you know, your economy is broken, you have got the third hungriest country in the world according to the Global Hunger Index, these are problems that neither your party nor frankly Mr Lungu's seem to be capable of addressing

HH: I think Steven now you are getting to the real issues, that are affecting the people daily. These are the issues that are at the top of our agenda, governance that will ensure that we end or we reduce to a minimum endemic corruption that we see today in the country which basically sits in many areas, procurement of loans, today you have a country called Zambia which is procuring expensive loans, 9.5 per cent Eurobonds as opposed to procuring loans from multilateral and bilateral organizations like the one being proposed at the IMF which is a zero percent interest. That's a question, why would a leadership which is riddled with poverty among its population go and procure loans which are more expensive than cheaper loans?

Sackur: You think you can fix these problems?

HH: Zero tolerance on corruption.

Sackur: Will you run again in the next schedule of presidential election in 2021?

HH: I think the question is that are we going to have a free and fair credible elections in 2021? We can do that if we reform...

Sackur: Is it your intention to run?

HH: We can do that if we reform the electoral process

and anyone is free to run including myself.

Sackur: Okay, and finally, a lot of this interview has been about your relationship with President Lungu. According to one technical interpretation of the Constitution, he cannot run again in 2021 because he has already run twice, he says actually, he can run again because his first election was as a result of the death of the sitting president and he was only in power for a year or so, another election came along so he says he has got the right to run in 2021, do you agree with him?

HH: It is not a question of whether I agree or not, it is another example of the importance of respecting the rule of law. The Constitution provides clearly what constitutes two terms, it is very clear and the matter...

Sackur: So can he run again or not?

HH: If we follow the Constitutional provisions, and that's the way it is supposed to be.

Sackur: What's the answer? In your view, can he run again?

HH: Hang on, it is not about my view, it is a legal provision and the matter is in the Constitutional Court at the moment and I think that decision will be made if the judges follow the constitutional provisions which is what we want them to do. They will make a determination on whether he can run or not and that determination must be respected.

Sackur: Hakainde Hichilema, we have to end here but thank you for being on Hard Talk.

HH: Thank you very much Stephen, nice talking to you.

Civil Society under political pressure from govt - ZCSD

From front page

“To make the work of the Civil Society Organisation easier and effective and contribute to the development of our society, I call for those in government NOT to alter the Non-Governmental Organisation Policy which was collectively developed with civil society as a key stakeholder. I believe that the NGO policy should be used as bedrock for the repeal of our current NGO Act No. 16 of 2009, which was rejected by the Civil Society Organisations on the basis that it did not carry with it the aspirations and the spirit of Civil Society. The rejected law, the NGO Act No. 16 of 2009 was an imposition by those in government on the Civil Societies as a way of silencing the voice of the Civil Society.”

He stated that there was need for co-existence between government and CSOs in order to achieve a greater economic and political outlook in the country.

“In today's increasingly integrated world, the most important transformative shift is perhaps towards a new rights-based spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability. The current economic and political outlook of our great nation, Zambia must be premised on a renewed partnership with collective action and commitment from all; government, as well as civil society, businesses, philanthropic foundations, academia and other local and international organisations. ZCSD believes

that in an ideal world, citizens and civil society organisations would operate in an environment conducive to progressive action - one that would allow them the freedom to create, share and enact a vision for society that is just and fair,” Chiputa stated.

Chiputa also noted that Zambia's national governance institutions were focused on the wants of political leaders rather than the needs of majority citizens.

“In order to achieve this ideal, we must concede that citizen action also requires robust and accountable institutions, from the local to the supra national level, to support citizens in this endeavour. However, our national governance institutions are frequently opaque in their processes and remain focused on what our political leaders want rather than what citizens need. Our governance structures reflect political power dynamics that allow poverty to thrive and inequities to emerge as a new social 1 Page phenomena, wealth is becoming more a preserve of the ruling class while the civil service has been hard hit by the dreaded tsunami of ‘Retirement in National Interest’. There is urgent need for stakeholders to take keen interest in these issues in order to cultivate harmony in the nation,” he stated. “There is no question that we urgently need to transform our national governance institutions. But for the overwhelming majority of the country's population, local governance

remains steeped in mystery and the case for reform needs to be clearly made. Without broad citizen engagement and participation in these processes, the self-preservation instincts of our elites will ensure the continuation of the status quo. At ZCSD, we observe with keen interest the gradual deterioration of Human Rights and Freedoms. Mainly we are concerned about the misapplication of the Public Order Act Cap 113 of the Laws of Zambia by the law enforcement officers. As citizens, we no longer enjoy the Freedoms of Assembly, Expression and Association. We need to urgently demand for the repealing of this Act and replace it with a law that will befit a modern democratic dispensation and development paradigm.”

Meanwhile, Chiputa stated that the nation was losing out a lot of resources to corruption due to the lack of the Access to Information Bill. “As a nation, Access to Information (ATI) must be treated as a development priority. Currently we have no tools to promote accountability and transparency; hence the nation is losing out a lot of resources to corruption. ATI would also be instrumental in strengthening the media and encourage Press Freedom which to a large extent has been suffocated. Government should not underplay the urgency and need to quickly enact the Access to Information Bill into law. We need to double the efforts and demand that ATI Bill returns to parliament,” stated Chiputa.

From front page

"As honorable Minister of Finance indicated in the budget speech presented on September 29, 2017, the Zambian economic recovery program calls for increased levels of accountability and transparency. This recovery needs credible budget minimising variations

Zambia's economic recovery requires increased levels of accountability - EU

that will ensure a stable economic framework which will be conducive to

private sector investments, sustainable growth and policy consistency," Ambassador

Mariani said.

He noted that effective, efficient and transparent use

of public resources was a crucial element for promoting sustainable growth and development in all countries, including Zambia.

"Zambian people through their members of parliament, have indeed the right to know how the taxes they pay are allocated and invested by government. As European Union with the support of the National Assembly of Zambia intends to enhance the capacity of the members so that they can fulfill this specific role in the most effective possible way," Ambassador Mariani said.

The Ambassador further urged the members of parliament to analyse, appreciate and question the macro-economic framework instead of just accepting or rejecting the budget.

"Members of parliament should be able to do more than just accept and reject the budget. They should be in the position to analyse, appreciate and question the macro-economic framework, the sectorial allocations, the

consistency between the allocations and related policy issues at sectorial level and the intended results having the possibility to focus not just on the inputs but also on the expected outcomes and results," said Ambassador Mariani.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini said enhancing parliament's public financial management oversight was not only meant to fulfill the constitutional mandate of holding the executive to account, but to also ensuring that the resources of the state were used to improve the lives of people.

Speaker Matibini said in order to enhance efficiency in the consideration of compliance audit report of the Auditor General, the National Assembly had three committees that would be considering the report.

"We have now three committees that will be considering the Auditor General's report. First, the Public Accounts Committee will continue to consider audit reports on the account of the republic and other specialised reports. Second, the committee on parastatal bodies will be responsible for scrutinising audit reports on state-owned enterprises and other statutory bodies. Third, the committee on local government account will be responsible for scrutinising accounts of local authorities," said Speaker Matibini, who encouraged members of parliament to utilise the handbook.



European Union Ambassador to Zambia Alessandro Mariani speaks during the launch of the Public Financial Management handbook at Parliament building today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Lusaka Central election petition evidence disappears from court

Diggers Reporter

Crucial evidence in the Lusaka Central petition is missing from the record of appeal in the Constitutional Court.

And lawyers UPND candidate Dr Charlotte Scott have urged the court to dismiss the appeal for incompetence.

This is in a matter in which Margaret Mwanakatwe appealed against the High Court's decision to nullify her election victory.

Dr Charlotte petitioned Mwanakatwe's election of on account of electoral malpractice.

When the matter came up before a full bench of ConCourt judges, Dr Charlotte's lawyer Mulambo Haimbe said the compact disc that contained crucial part of evidence that was in the High Court was omitted.

The CD contained materials that lead to the nullification of Mwanakatwe's seat; Facebook postings in which she was stating on what she had done in her constituency like the commissioning of boreholes among others.

Haimbe said it was clear that the record was incomplete as it did not include the required complete index of evidence.

"The index does not contain a list of evidence that was relied upon in the High Court," said Haimbe.

He also notified the court that the record contained extraneous matter which was the handwritten notes said to be commentary.

Haimbe said the nature of irregularities were fatal.

He said the appellant did so at her own risk as such the

court must struck out the appeal considering that the appeal was lodged way back on December 27, 2016.

And Dr Charlotte's other lawyer Keith Mweemba also asked the court to dismiss

the appeal with the speed of lightning.

He said for the court to arrive at the just decision, the record must be complete.

However, Mwanakatwe's lawyer Eric Silwamba

vigorously opposed the objection.

He urged the court not to entertain the issues raised for failing to comply with the rules.

The court then adjourned

the matter to enable then appellant lawyers make meaningful arguments and the respondent has been given leave to file the arguments.

Case comes up on November 16, 2017.

Africa needs educated young people – RB

By Mirriam Chabala

Fourth republican president Rupiah Banda has called on African Heads of State to increase tertiary education opportunities for young people to enable the continent to develop and be competitive in the global village.

According to a statement issued by the First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian High Commission in South Africa Naomi Nyawali, Banda said this at the African Presidential Leadership meeting held in South Africa. And Banda also noted

that a well educated African population would help accelerate Africa's development agenda as young people would be well equipped to rise to the challenges that the continent was facing.

"Mr Banda observed that the world was now living in a technological era which demanded for a well educated population in order to effectively manage every aspects of human life. He said Africa needed a versatile and innovative model of financing higher education in order to increase

access of young people to quality education. Mr Banda further observed that the solution was in harnessing private and government sectors strengthen in a collaborative way. He called on former African Heads of State to continue promoting initiatives towards the promotion of higher education on the continent in order for Africa to develop and be competitive in the global village," stated Nyawali.

The African Presidential Leadership meeting which was held in Johannesburg City

in South Africa was attended by several former African Heads of State among them former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Former Ghanaian President John

Mahama and Kailash Purryaa of Mauritius.

Others were Jakaya Kitwete of Tanzania while Zambia was represented by its fourth President Rupiah Banda.

Chinese pleads guilty to manufacturing fake Bata shoes

By Diggers Reporter

A Chinese national has pleaded guilty to forging

a trademark for Bata Shoe company.

Tang Weihua, 42, of Makeni in Lusaka is facing a charge of forgery of trademarks and prohibition of sale of goods bearing forged trademark.

When the matter came up, the accused admitted the charges before Lusaka magistrate David Simusamba.

Weihua, on 25th september, 2017 had in possession 2,572 pairs of shoes bearing a trademark resembling that of bata shoe company.

On the same date weihua with intent to deceive sold shoes baring a trademark resembling that of Bata shoe company.

Farmers will avoid planting maize, it has become too political – ZNFU

From front page

"I can assure you that with the pricing and then also the delayed payments, it will be very difficult for farmers to get into planting the maize all over again. Yes they are going to plant maize but most of them are going to plant just enough to feed themselves and do other things, do other crops. That is the mood amongst farmers, they want to do other things other than maize because maize has proved to be burdensome, it has proved to be very political."

He said it had become a trend for farmers not to get their money on time.

"This has been our cry year-in year-out that the payment come in quiet late. Last year some farmers were getting paid some time in January and this time around the rainy season is almost starting. There are already delays in activating their E-voucher. This, compounded with the late payment, it becomes very difficult for people to conduct agriculture, how are they going to conduct agriculture if they are not being paid? asked

Kaleyi.

"Farmers are just tired of this, actually they were expecting good pricing because some of them experienced army worms, some of them had to experience red locust, they had to spray and replant and then the price crashes to K60. So it beats the whole purpose of planting this crop. So a lot of farmers are going to plant something else other than maize. The maize that they are going to plant is just for consumption for themselves."

By Linda Jere and Patricia Mbewe

Zamtel chief executive officer Sydney Mupeta says the institution is steadily clearing its debt with the Zambia Revenue Authority.

Speaking at a joint media briefing with ZRA today, Mupeta, who could not disclose how much the company currently owes, said Zamtel had so far paid almost one billion kwacha in tax liabilities.

“Not long ago, Zamtel made a K10.7 million payment to the Zambia Revenue Authority towards dismantling the tax debt. We recently paid another K44 million by way of debt-swap with government. Yesterday, we paid ZRA K12 towards our historical debt liability. In 2017 alone, Zamtel has so far paid a total of K93 million (93,305,830) to dismantle both historical and current liabilities. The above figures represent: K61 Million (K61,012,000) –Historical, K32 Million (32,923,830) –Current tax liability. As a State Owned Enterprise, we are fully aware of the need for tax payers like ourselves to be tax compliant,” Mupeta said. “These are the same funds that are channelled towards service delivery for the public good. This event is also symbolic as it demonstrates the growth trajectory that we are now seeing at Zamtel. As an organisation, we are fully cognizant of the fact that we still have more to do but this development alone shows that this organisation is turning the corner and heading in the right direction. Applaud the efforts by the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Zambia Revenue Authority to increase tax collections.”

He hailed ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda’s zeal for tax collection.

“The zeal and innovation at ZRA is clear for all to see and as partners in

Zamtel owed ZRA over K1bn in taxes

development, we applaud the Commissioner General and his team for their efforts.

The success of the recent tax amnesty is another example of how ZRA is working towards tax efficiency. For our friends from the media, let me emphasize that the bulk of the tax debt we are talking about today is very historical. As Zamtel, we remain committed to ensuring that this tax burden is completely dismantled, and we are happy to be fulfilling this pledge today. I also wish to point out today’s event is as a result of the positive energy that the organisation has assumed over the last few months. Why is this possible? The answer is simple. Our customers have made this possible. The growth that Zamtel has achieved in the recent times is due to the massive support that we have received from our customers. We recently crossed the two million subscriber mark and we are fully on schedule to close the year at around 2.5 million,” he said.

Mupeta said Zamtel had a bright future.

“Taking into account where this organisation is coming from, the acceleration in customer acquisition witnessed over the last few months can only be described as phenomenal. The future of Zamtel is very bright; we are on course with our \$280 million investment that will give us the best network coverage that the country has even seen. We



ZAMTEL CEO Sydney Mupeta speaks to journalists as Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) commissioner general Kingsley Chanda looks on during a joint press briefing in Lusaka on October 31, 2017 - Picture By Tenson Mkhala

have started implementing our first 100 sites out of the 1,009 sites. This will give Zamtel 4.5G with speeds of up to 240 Mbps for our fixed customers, 4G for our mobile customers, best customer experience and best quality of service,” said Mupeta.

Meanwhile, Chanda asked parastatals and other businesses to emulate Zamtel by paying their taxes.

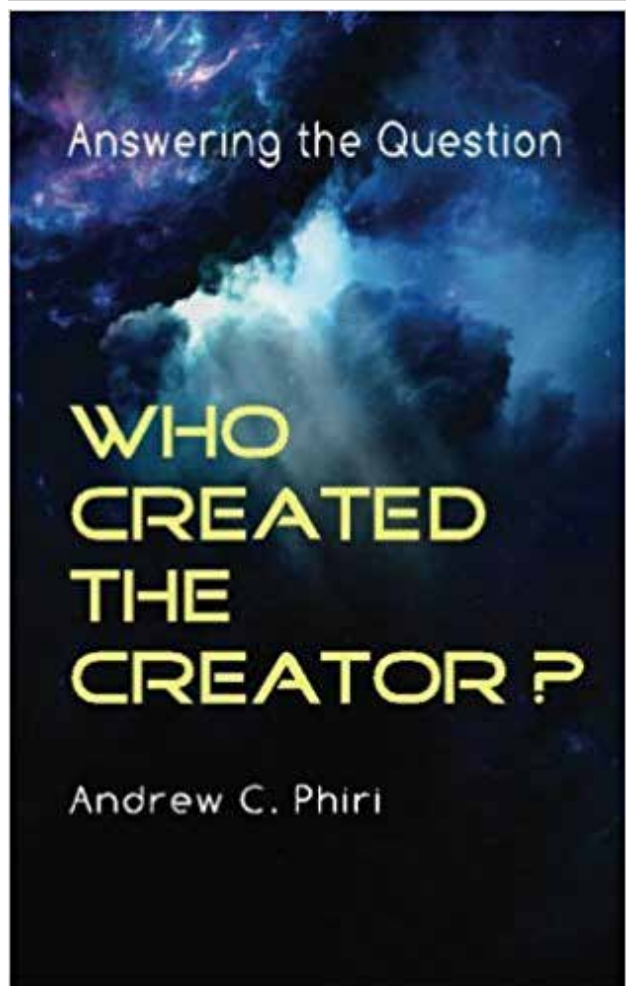
“I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Zamtel for the consistency and commitment to dismantle the tax debt which is mostly historical. You may recall that from March

to 31st August 2017, ZRA had the Tax Amnesty that was meant to assist business to make a fresh start on their tax liabilities. I am glad to say Zamtel was one of the businesses that took advantage of the Amnesty and today we can see the results. Indeed, as a result of the Amnesty, we have witnessed an impressive upward trend in voluntary compliance and we thank you the tax payers for this stride. 12 million kwacha has been paid as part of the liquidation of tax arrears that are historical. We commend Zamtel for being patriotic and being committed to building a better Zambia through tax compliance.

The Zambian Revenue Authority is committed to consolidating the gains so far made in tax compliance to move this country towards attaining full financial independence. It is for this reason, that we are going out to interact with our valued tax payers in open forums where we can tell them directly how grateful we are for their support. Zamtel we thank you,” said Chanda.

“Lastly, allow me to ask all government parastatals and business in general to emulate Zamtel and build public confidence in their customers by paying their tax. We have the capacity to collect tax debt, all we are asking is that come and pay

these taxes and if you are not able to pay them now, come and see us, we shall help you by putting you on a payment plan. Let mw retaliate that we are friendly, approachable and here to help you with all your tax relate matters. Tax collection has two basic principle, compliance and enforcement. As tax payers you have to be complaint but if you fail to comply, ZRA will apply the second principle which is enforcement. Therefore we appeal to you that being visited by ZRA in a negative manner is not the best; we want to visit you in a positive manner because you have shown commitment in being compliant just like what Zamtel has done.”



The book is now available in Grey Matter book store at East Park Mall (K100 only). Elsewhere buy on Amazon.com.

Govt exploiting Zambians through TopStar - Green Party

By Mirriam Chabala

Green Party president Peter Sinkamba has observed that government is exploiting Zambian subscribers by overtaxing them for TV levy under the TopStar Television deal.

In a statement today, Sinkamba appealed to Information Minister Kampamba Mulenga to address the concerns that had been raised by subscribers about the TopStar decoders following government’s decision to switch the television signal from analog to digital Television.

Sinkamba observed that subscribers who delayed to pay their subscription for TopStar were being disconnected from even viewing free channels like ZNBC, adding that it was unfair for government to be collecting TV levy from each subscriber through so many means.

“The complaints we have received from the general public concerning Top Star service delivery are quite disturbing. Subscribers that paid their subscriptions

on 1st October had all their Top Star bouquets disconnected on 26th October, which was five days before the lapse of the month. What makes matters [more] disturbing is the fact that instead of disconnecting Top Start bouquets, even ZNBC TV channels which are supposed to be exempt were also disconnected,” Sinkamba stated.

“Our understanding is that provision of ZNBC TV services is universal, and assumed compulsory, as long as one possesses a TV set. For this reason, all households are statutorily bound to pay a government-pegged levy of K3, whether or not those households actually watch ZNBC TV service or not. Government has in fact made it a criminal offence if a person who possesses a TV set fails to pay the Levy. Furthermore, the levy is compulsorily collected on behalf of government through ZESCO provided a household is connected to the ZESCO grid, regardless that household possesses a TV set or not.”

And Sinkamba threatened to hold a

peaceful protest against the services provided by government under the TopStar deal, if it did not address the concerns by subscribers.

“What make matters even more offensive is that TopStar subscribers that are connected to the ZESCO grid are made to pay the levy twice. The levy is collected from them when they pay for their Top Star bouquet subscription. The Levy is also collected from them through their ZESCO bill payments. With the Levy set to be increased from the current K3 to K5 per month from January, 2018, this double collection will be extremely burdensome to the poor majority, stated Sinkamba.

“In this regard, we would like to earnestly appeal to the Minister of Information Hon Kampamba Mulenga to quickly intervene and address these issues this month of November. Otherwise, we the Greens are set to start mobilising the masses to hold peaceful protests countrywide against this clearly exploitative TopStar deal.”

We have read and heard many Zambians express their displeasure with the manner in which President Edgar Lungu is running government affairs and the ruling party. Several people, including ourselves have condemned his vengeful and dictatorial style of leadership; and in our case, we still insist that our Head of State is not the best that Zambia has to offer for the job. But the fact remains that he is the elected Republican President, and those whom we think can run our country better, are not. Those whom we thought ran our country more efficiently in the past, are gone. Now is Chagwa time!

What happened on October 28, 2017 during Michael Sata's memorial at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus, is testimony to the fact that some citizens are grappling to cope with the above stated reality. For some reason, those who worked in Sata's government feel President Lungu has strayed too far away from the former president's style of leadership; which is true, but that in itself cannot be termed as bad leadership.

Why do we say this? In 2001, Levy Mwanawasa took over the presidency from Frederick Chiluba and many people in MMD expected him to run government the same way that his predecessor did. If Mwanawasa listened and adopted Chiluba's well-known legacy, Zambia would not be where it is today. In his own wisdom, Mwanawasa decided to turn against the founders of MMD. He picked his own team and targeted those who handed him political power and prosecuted them for theft, starting with Chiluba himself. This excited many Zambians who today rate Mwanawasa as

Don't set Sata as Lungu barometer

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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Zambia's greatest president. Our point is; a good leader doesn't necessarily need to imitate his predecessor; he must be a man of his own or a woman of her own.

We can ask our elders who were there when Zambian traditions permitted a relative of the deceased to take over a widow in matrimony; was the new husband expected to conduct 'business' exactly the same way his late brother did? We don't think so. To be a responsible head of the house, the new husband would have to do away with the bad habits and introduce new prosperous measures for the wellbeing of the family.

If a president messes

up a country, he must take responsibility without throwing the blame on those who led before him. If he achieves, he must be allowed to take credit for his good decisions without his predecessors attempting to take away the glory. Chiluba never took credit for the MMD's approach in fighting corruption, it was Mwanawasa's "New Deal" style of leadership. In the same vein, Rupiah Banda chose his own team and moved away from Mwanawasa's legacy. If he ended up plunging the country back into corruption, we should not blame it on his failure to imitate his predecessor's leadership style, but the fact that he failed to introduce

a new approach and aim higher.

This brings us to where we are with President Lungu and his "failure" to govern like Michael Sata. We are baffled that in one breath, Zambians describe Sata as a bad leader who left Zambia in a terrible leadership crisis. But in the same breath, they accuse Lungu of betraying Sata's legacy. Which legacy? Why should Lungu follow through with Sata's legacy which they despise? We join those who hold the opinion that President Lungu has performed badly in upholding Zambia's democratic tenets, but we don't blame that on his failure to do the things Sata did.

If Sata decided to maintain

his phone number after going to State House, we should admire his courage to face the past. But we should not expect President Lungu to use the same cell phone number he used as a lawyer so that some irritating client can be pestering him over some old debt. If President Lungu has given half his presidential powers to his press aide and political advisor, let's take that as his style of leadership. If Zambians hate it, they have the right to vote him out at the next election. We want President Lungu to be a man of his own. If anything, he must stop trying to be like Sata because he cannot succeed at claiming to be Sata's dream carrier without

sounding silly.

We also find it senseless to hear this reference by the past administration of saying Sata wouldn't have chased this one, or Sata would have forgiven this one. Let those who have been sidelined, fired, transferred etc, deal with their predicaments without blaming the injustice on failure by the incumbent to run government like Sata did. Those who were working with Sata and are now out, should not expect to be treated like they were Sata himself. They should fight against the injustices of this particular government as a new regime. They can choose to form their own parties or even join the opposition UPND to dislodge PF, but they should not blame their vengeful decisions on Sata's death.

Sata fired Sebastian Zulu, his first justice minister, Zulu made a personal decision not to join the opposition MMD and dislodge PF. Sata fired Given Lubinda, the Kabwata MP chose to remain in the ruling party. Therefore, what Chishimba Kambwili is doing has nothing to do with Sata. Kambwili has the right to form a party of his own and kick PF out if he has what it takes, but he doesn't need to ride on Sata's name and start glorifying him like the late president never made mistakes. Kambwili must not give us the manifesto of wanting to take Zambia back to the Sata days. Let him promise us that he will resuscitate the country from the current beatings, because that is the leadership Zambians are looking for.

Therefore, when we analyse President Lungu's performance, let us not set Sata as his barometer. Let him choose to govern us *mwamene aimvelela* and we shall also judge him *mwamene timumvelela!*

Kumbukilani Phiri

Two weeks ago the Chinese community in Lusaka cried foul after some of their members were rounded up at the JCS market by the joint operations team involving the police, immigration and other security wings. In order to try to find answers, some of the Chinese petitioned their embassy and their association to quickly engage the Zambian government and find out why the Chinese were treated in the manner the joint operations did to them.

Not long ago, some Chinese miners were rounded up in a similar fashion on the Copperbelt and were locked up by the immigration and the police. It was alleged that these Chinese were mining illegally and most of them did not have valid papers to work in Zambia. The Chinese community was disgusted because among the arrested was a pregnant lady. Similarly, the Chinese protested and cried to their leaders to have their countrymates released. Indeed they were released and most of them were deported back to China.

As someone who has been conducting research on Chinese operations in Africa, I have taken an interest to understand why such things are becoming a common occurrence for the Chinese, not just in Zambia but in many parts of Africa as well. Not many years ago, I was working in China for a Chinese multinational as an international business manager who was responsible for helping the company expand into new territories outside China. I remember travelling with my Chinese colleagues to many countries across Africa and South America. Apart from Brazil, generally the Chinese colleagues were given red carpet in all the countries we visited, more especially in Africa. The Brazilians were very cautious about my Chinese colleagues. On several occasions, since most of my colleagues could not speak English, the Brazilians warned me to stop my colleagues from taking photos or making sketches of the technology they were seeing. I was puzzled at this kind of mistrust and being naïve, I thought the Brazilians were just trying to be petty.

Fast forward to today, I had a similar incidence right here in Zambia when I talked to some officials about how I was planning to go into a joint

Is the Chinese honeymoon

in Zambia over?

venture with my Chinese colleagues for some project. The officials looked at me and said, "Just be careful not to give them too much information, otherwise they will go behind your back and do the project on their own without you". I was short of words and I wanted to tell my country mates that I have lived with the Chinese for more than 15 years and I am married from there, so the Chinese are good people, they can't throw me out. However, I kept quiet and took some time to think about the warning.

I am sure that most of us are asking ourselves about what really happened to the most loved Chinese colleagues in our country? Is their honeymoon in Zambia and Africa in particular slowly coming to an end?

When the JCS market incidence happened, a Chinese friend called me. He was like, "Kumbu, you have lived in China for many years and you are also married to a Chinese lady. What do you make of the recent happenings where Chinese people seem to be a target for so many negative things in the country"? If the Chinese are not being robbed, then they are being harassed by some unscrupulous people, or they are having a run-in with the officials. He further went on to lament about how some of them have invested heavily here to the extent they have made Zambia their home country. He really wondered why the Chinese who are doing so much for the country should be subjected to such ill treatment.

Indeed I really sympathised with my friend, and I felt sorry for what happened. However, my mind could not stop asking why over the past few years, most of the Zambians have begun to have a different attitude towards the Chinese, whom not so long ago they welcomed with a red carpet. Just what went wrong? Immediately, my inquisition led me to think about a number of things, both structural and social, that may have led to this. Today I will try to dwell much on the aspect of how, as Zambians, we are working with our Chinese colleagues and I will cover other aspects in subsequent write ups.

Current statistics show that the

Chinese have invested about \$4 billion in Zambia, and our trade with China keeps on increasing year on year. The Chinese construction companies get more than 80% of all construction contracts in the country for our airports, roads, power generation, etc. Therefore, our Chinese colleagues are here to stay.

Zambia is currently undergoing unprecedented construction boom. The last time I saw such construction taking place at the same time was during my time in China where I was studying civil engineering. However, the difference between the massive construction in China and our massive construction in Zambia is that more than 80% of their construction in China was done by themselves, whilst here it is the direct opposite. Honestly there is a problem here. At the time when China was undergoing massive construction, many jobs were created for the local people for project managers, engineers and general workers. However, this is not the case for Zambians because we are not in control of the industry. Therefore, we are failing to realise the true benefits in job creation for our people, more especially the highly skilled such as project managers and engineers. To start with, the Chinese companies constructing our infrastructure mostly employ Chinese engineers from China and only employ general workers from Zambia on a minimum wage. Only a handful of highly skilled Zambians are employed as project managers, engineers and Directors. The excuse that is normally given for this is that Zambians are lazy. However, research has shown that the major reason for this is actually language and cultural barrier. Of course we cannot rule out completely that Zambians are not as hardworking compared to the Chinese workers. In special cases, if a highly qualified and skilled Zambian is employed by the Chinese company, they mostly do not stay for long because the conditions of service will not match other foreign companies in the same sector. This has contributed to the high Zambian employee turnover for most Chinese companies compared to other foreign companies

in the same sector.

Since language was identified as one of the critical factors to why the Chinese do not employ Zambians in favour of their country mates, it is important for us to look at our immigration law. Before, it was a basic requirement for foreigners coming to work in Zambia to be proficient in English language for them to be given a work permit. However, over the past few years, we have seen a number of Chinese who can hardly utter a word in English working in Zambia. This lack of English language abilities by our Chinese colleagues somehow disadvantages Zambians as instead of them employing Zambian juniors to work with them they will prefer employing another Chinese and avoid speaking through a translator. If you visited a Chinese company today, you will notice that apart from the general workers, drivers and perhaps receptionist, the rest of the management team is most likely going to be Chinese. So, how are our Zambian brothers and sisters going to get the much needed experience to one day run a big company like the Chinese companies we have today?

Those of us in the construction industry would recall that when government came up with the 20% subcontracting to locals for construction projects given to foreign companies, we were very excited and hopeful. This was because we felt that this policy will enable us grow into the future leaders in the construction industry by learning from foreign companies how to manage and run big projects. However, looking back now, this policy despite being in place for more than three years has not yielded any tangible results. The reasons are diverse; most Zambians are subjected to do those parts of the projects that require less technical expertise, such as bush clearing, drainages and road signage. This is a big let down to the Zambian contractors who wanted

to learn how to manage big projects from mobilization, through execution and finally commissioning. Further, there are also other factors that were beyond the control of the main foreign contractors, like financing and capacity constraints on the Zambian contractors. The main contractors felt it was not their responsibility to spoon-feed the Zambian contractors. Therefore, Zambian contractors were left to organise themselves and source for funding and technical expertise on their own, which they lamentably failed.

If the country was to gain maximum benefits from such a policy the starting point was supposed to be that Zambian policy makers should have made it mandatory for foreign contractors to employ Zambians at all levels of their project management structure. For instance, if the project manager is foreign, the deputy or the contract manager needed to be a Zambian. This should have been the case throughout the structure, all the way down to the general workers. That way, Zambians were going to benefit by learning directly from the masters and, eventually, it was going to be easier for them to subsequently contract for the 20% as they would have gained skills necessary to carryout construction on their own. Or simply, Zambian contractors could have started finding the needed skills within the Zambian communities, as those who had worked with foreigners would have been available for employment.

One may be asking why I have highlighted the above and what connection they have to the topic at hand. Firstly, I highlighted above that government awards Chinese companies more than 80% of Zambia's construction projects, and that investment from China is one of the biggest in our country. Therefore, how Chinese conduct their business and daily lives here have got a direct bearing on the perception that

Zambians will have about them. It is also important to note that interaction between the Chinese and Zambians as things stand now is only mutual and true at higher levels, but very poorly conducted at lower levels. As highlighted above, despite the Chinese companies benefiting so much from our industries in the country, they have employed only the lowest levels of workers on minimum wage, leaving many highly educated Zambians still struggling to find jobs. Not even Zambians who graduated from China and proficient in Chinese language have benefited from the many Chinese companies in the country. The few that are employed are given unattractive conditions and hardly stay in their jobs.

Going forward, there is need for both Zambians and Chinese, more especially the leaders, to do some introspection. Chinese leaders in the spirit of sustainable partnership with Zambians need to guide their Zambian counterparts on the best policies that helped China to be where it is today to be replicated, or at least tried in Zambia. For example the policy where foreigners were required to partner at 50%-50% with the Chinese to undertake major projects or to invest in strategic projects can help stimulate mutual partnerships between Zambians and Chinese and guarantee a sustainable Chinese relationship with Zambians. Foreign multinationals in China are required to localize their operations with enough local content so that local people can feel the ownership. Here, we have allowed the Chinese and other foreigners to bring in anything they feel like without any requirement for localisation. For instance, instead of allowing imports of finished gadgets, we can demand that these are brought in knock down forms so that assembly can be done here, thereby increasing job creation and technology transfer and spill over in Zambia.

Russia has signed a deal to build two nuclear power plants in Nigeria, as Africa's largest economy seeks to end its energy crisis.

Russian state-owned company Rosatom will build one in the south, the other in the centre, sources at the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission told the BBC.

The deal's exact worth is unknown, although some reports suggest it is likely in the region of \$20bn (£15bn). It is one of a number that Rosatom has been eyeing on the continent.

The company is also involved in discussions in Ghana and

Russia to build nuclear power plants in Nigeria

South Africa.

An initial agreement with the latter to build a plant was ruled unlawful in a South African court earlier this year.

The deal in Nigeria was reached after a long period

of negotiation, with the two countries signing their first intergovernmental nuclear co-operation agreement in 2009.

Nigeria hopes the plants, which will initially be

operated by Rosatom before they are handed over, will help deal with the country's energy deficit.

According to World Bank figures, more than 40% of the country was without mains

electricity in 2014.

Nigeria is one of Africa's largest oil producers, but much of its oil wealth has been squandered over the years.

Corruption at all levels has left the country out of pocket, and

producing a fraction of the energy its 180 million citizens need.

Construction of the new power plants is expected to begin in the next two years. **BBC**

Dismissed Catalan leader agrees to election, summoned to Madrid court

Catalonia's ousted leader Carles Puigdemont agreed on Tuesday to a snap election called by Spain's central government when it took control of the region to stop it breaking away, but he said the fight for independence would go on. Spain's High Court issued a summons for Puigdemont and 13 members of his sacked administration to testify in Madrid on Thursday and Friday as the court starts processing charges of rebellion, sedition and breach of trust against them.

Under Spain's legal system, a judge will then decide whether Puigdemont should go to jail pending a comprehensive investigation and potential trial.

Puigdemont travelled to Brussels after the Catalan regional parliament issued a unilateral declaration of independence on Friday, and it was not immediately clear if he would heed the summons to appear before the Madrid court. Belgium's crisis centre said it was evaluating whether Puigdemont needed to be protected by Belgian authorities while he was staying in the country, Belga news agency reported.

He had said earlier on Tuesday he would return to Spain only when given unspecified "guarantees" by the Spanish government.

Puigdemont's announcement that he would accept the regional election on Dec. 21 signalled the Madrid government had for now at least gained the upper hand in the protracted struggle over Catalonia, a wealthy northeastern region that already had enjoyed considerable autonomy. Resistance to the central government's imposition of direct control on Catalonia failed to materialise at the start of the week and the secessionist leadership is in disarray.

But a poll released on



Catalonia's ousted leader Carles Puigdemont speaks to journalists in Belgium

Tuesday showed that support for the creation of an independent state of Catalonia rose to an almost three-year high in October. Spain's Constitutional Court on Tuesday blocked the independence declaration - a largely symbolic move that gained no traction and led to the assembly's dismissal by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy less than an hour after it was made.

"I ask the Catalan people to prepare for a long road. Democracy will be the foundation of our victory," Puigdemont told a news conference in Brussels, where he showed up after dropping out of sight over the weekend.

He also said he was not seeking asylum in Belgium. Rajoy, who has taken an uncompromising stance throughout the crisis, is gambling on anti-independence parties taking power in the regional parliament and putting the brakes on the independence drive.

Puigdemont will hope a strong showing for the

independence camp will reboot the secessionists after a tumultuous few weeks.

The Spanish government said at the weekend Puigdemont was welcome to stand in the election. The judicial process was a separate matter, it said. The Supreme Court also began processing rebellion and sedition charges against Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell and other senior leaders on Tuesday.

CATALONIA DIVIDED

The political crisis, Spain's gravest since the return of democracy in the late 1970s, was triggered by an independence referendum held in Catalonia on Oct. 1. Though it was declared illegal by Spanish courts and less than half Catalonia's eligible voters took part, the pro-secessionist regional government said the vote gave it a mandate for independence.

The United States, Britain, Germany and France have all backed Rajoy and rejected an independent Catalan

state, although some have called for dialogue between the opposing sides.

Puigdemont, Vice President Oriol Junqueras and other Catalan leaders had said previously they would not accept their dismissal. But their respective parties, PdeCat and Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya, said on Monday they would take part in the election, a tacit acceptance of direct rule from Madrid.

The struggle has divided Catalonia itself and caused deep resentment across the rest of Spain, although separatist sentiment persists in the Basque Country and some other areas.

Two recent opinion polls showed support for independence may have started to wane.

But an official regional survey published on Tuesday showed some 48.7 percent of Catalans believe the region should be independent, up from 41.1 pct in June and the highest since December 2014.

Based on 1,338 interviews, the Centre d'Estudis

d'Opinio poll was the first survey released since the independence declaration though the bulk of it was taken before then, between Oct. 16 and Oct. 29.

DIM HOPES

Despite his dash to the European Union's power centre, Puigdemont's hopes of engaging the bloc in his cause seem forlorn. Member states have asserted their support for Spanish unity and EU institutions in Brussels say they will deal only with Madrid and that the dispute remains an internal matter.

"Our position remains unchanged," EU Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said in Brussels on Tuesday.

But some analysts believe the dispute is not going to fade away anytime soon.

"Spain is heading for a period of disruption, and like the UK and Brexit, having its policy agenda dominated by one political issue while other key challenges fade into the background," said Raj

Badiani, an economist at IHS Markit in London.

"A more tangible impact from the crisis could evolve from early 2018, with the uncertainty set to build as Catalans push harder for a legally binding referendum."

Influential Catalan business lobbies have backed direct rule and called on firms to stay in the region. The crisis has prompted more than 1,000 businesses to switch their legal headquarters from Catalonia, which contributes about a fifth of Spain's economy, the fourth-largest in the euro zone.

Spain's IBEX fell slightly as Puigdemont began speaking in Brussels but then rose again.

For some in Barcelona, the overwhelming emotion appears to be exasperation.

"It's a farcical and completely ridiculous situation," said Ernesto Hernandez Busto, 42, an editor. "This extreme nationalism, this separatism, has taken Catalonia to the most absurd situation and the worst inconvenience we have had in the last 40 years." **Reuters**

Miss Peru Pageant turns into gender violence protest

Participants in Peru's Miss Universe Pageant broke with tradition and recited statistics detailing violence against women rather than give their body measurements.

The organisers also joined in showing news material of prominent cases of gender-based attacks.

The 23 aspiring beauty queens were hoping to get through to November's Miss Universe Competition in Las Vegas.

Last year thousands of women marched in Peru against gender-based violence.

Instead of giving their bust, waist and hip size, the contestants took turns reciting a roll call of shocking data.

One contestant said a girl dies every 10 minutes due to sexual exploitation in Peru.

Another said more than 70% of women in the country are victims of street harassment.

The televised show shocked viewers who were expecting traditional light entertainment.

The contest organiser, Jessica Newton, told the AFP news agency: "Unfortunately there are many women who do not know, and think they are isolated cases.

"I think that the fact that you are looking at your regional representative, at the queen of your department, giving open and real figures about what is happening in our country is alarming."

She said out of the 150 participants in Peru who had begun the contest, five had been victims of violence, including rape.

At the end of the evening the pageant contestants were asked what they would do about violence, instead of lightweight questions about hobbies and ambitions.

The winner of the Peru pageant, Romina Lozano, representing Callao department, said her plan would be "to implement a database containing the name of each aggressor, not only for femicide but for every kind of violence against women. In this way we can protect ourselves",

The contestants are planning to lead a march to highlight violence against women in Lima in November.

According to the Observatory of Citizen Security of the Organisation

"My name is Luciana Fernández and I represent the city of Huánuco, and my measurements are: 13,000 girls suffer sexual abuse in our country."



of American States, Peru ranks as second only to Bolivia with the worst record of violence against women in South America.

The Peruvian government says 800 women have been murdered in gender-related violence in the six years leading up to 2015.

Peru's Congress passed a law in September 2015 providing comprehensive measures to prevent and punish violence against

women and set up shelters and temporary refuges for women. Gender-based violence has been a hot issue in Peru.

Last year tens of thousands of women demonstrated in Lima and other cities calling on the authorities to do more to stop it. **BBC**

Runaway 7-year-old takes train to airport, boards plane with no ticket

A seven-year-old girl who ran away from her parents managed to take a train to Geneva airport and board a plane despite having no ticket.

The girl gave her parents the slip near Geneva's central railway station on Sunday, then took the one-stop ride to the airport. Her parents rang the

Swiss police, who tracked her progress through the airport on security videos, airport spokesman Bertrand Staempfli said. She went through the

security gate and managed to pass herself off as the child of adults around her, before using her small stature to slip through the departure gate without

being noticed and boarding a plane, the airport said in a statement.

On her first attempt she followed a crew toward the plane and was turned back. She melted into the crowd and pretended to look for her parents. The second time, she managed to get into a plane, was spotted by an official, stopped, and handed over to police.

Staempfli declined to say which airline was involved or where it was flying to, but he said it was leaving from the airport's French sector and the destination was in France.

Geneva airport straddles the French-Swiss border and passengers can leave from France or Switzerland.

The airport said in the statement it would tighten safety rules and boarding procedures as a result of what it called the "highly regrettable incident".

"This should never have happened," Staempfli said. **Reuters**



CCPC intervention in City of Lusaka's case with FAZ excites Vodafone

By Diggers Reporter
Vodafone Zambia has lauded the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) for the interim measures the organisation has taken in favour of City of Lusaka F.C. in a decision that allows "City Ya Moto" to host league games at its home ground, the Vodafone Stadium.

Vodafone Zambia CEO, Lars Stork said: "The decision by the CCPC is commendable and should be acknowledged as such by all stakeholders interested in the development of Zambian football. Competition is the critical driver of performance and innovation. It benefits consumers by enabling more choice from an array of quality products and services."

On October 25th, the CCPC directed Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) and MTN Zambia (MTN) to allow City of Lusaka Football Club to use the Vodafone Stadium, their home stadium, until investigations instituted by the Commission were concluded. Further, the Commission allowed the Vodafone Stadium to be used for other football fixtures such as cup tournaments with immediate effect.

"Investigations thus far have revealed that City of Lusaka and other sponsors have from the 24th of August 2017 to the 4th of October 2017 incurred an estimated total loss of three million seven hundred and thirteen kwacha (K3,713,000) and are likely to lose sponsorship if the status core continues," read the

CCPC press statement in part. Stork added that the decision was a motivator to other corporate entities looking to elevate the

state of Zambian football through sponsorships and other means. "Like many other corporates, Vodafone is genuinely committed to

the growth of Zambian football. For the sport, we all love to flourish, it needs as many partners with as little inhibitions. This is more than a

marketing exercise for us, it goes to the very core of our business - ensuring we make a meaningful impact in the communities in which

we operate. Therefore, the decision by the CCPC reinforces our commitment to the City of Lusaka as their official sponsor," said Stork.

Patson Daka back in action



By Nyambe Lubasi
Patson Daka made a timely return to competitive action on Monday night in Austria. Daka played his first match in a month after inspiring his parent club RB Salzburg's feeder team, Liefering, to a 1-0 home win over Wacker Innsbruck in an Austrian 2nd division game.

The Zambia striker was on hand with the assist for Liefering's winner in the 24th minute scored by Samuel Tetteh.

The win sees Liefering exchange places with their guests in 3rd and 4th place on 27 and 26 points respectively on the Austrian

2nd division log. Daka was later substituted in the 64th minute while his compatriot Enock Mwepu played the full 90 minutes. Daka had been sidelined

since October 1 when he sustained an injury for Austrian premier division side RB Salzburg ahead of Zambia's October 7 away date against Nigeria in

a 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier. His return to action came just hours after Chipolopolo coach Wedson Nyirenda named Daka to

his provisional 28-member team to face Cameroon on November 11 in a formality Group B qualifier at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

Paris Masters tournament director hits out at selfish Roger Federer

The director of the Paris Masters, Guy Forget, has taken a thinly veiled swipe at Roger Federer for his decision to withdraw from this week's tournament.

Federer announced his decision to pull out of the final regular event of the

season after winning his eighth Indoors title in Basel on Sunday.

As a result of the 36-year-old's announcement, Rafael Nadal is now just one win away from clinching the year end world No 1 ranking.

It had been hoped that both

Nadal and Federer would go head-to-head in Paris, but Federer has taken the week off to rest his body ahead of the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London next month.

Federer made the call in the wake of his battling win over Juan Martin del Potro 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-3 in the Basel final in Switzerland.

The 19-times grand slam winner's decision has angered Paris organisers, especially Forget who has hit out at Federer's selfish behaviour. Speaking to l'Equipe, Forget said: "You imagine my disappointment, my frustration (at Federer's withdrawal). I had his agent (Tony Godstick) on the phone who told me of his wish to recover because he is at the end of the roll. We take note of it.

"We have no other recourse

against that. We are sad about all the efforts that have been made for many weeks and many months to welcome Roger and Rafa into this room.

"Unfortunately, Rafa will be alone. There are other great champions, but I am convinced that Roger's Parisian fans will be very disappointed."

Forget went on to question Federer's decision to prioritise a Masters 500 event in his hometown of Basel over a Masters 1000 event in Paris. "The tennis player, by definition, looks at his own interest, what interests him, what interests him less and has to make choices.

"At 36, we pay more attention than when we have 25. Nevertheless, I still think that the Masters 1000 are the nine biggest tournaments of the calendar. **Yahoo**

Power Dynamos still in the race - Bwalya

By Nyambe Lubasi
Power Dynamos playmaker Larry Bwalya says they are still in the race for the 2017 FAZ Super Division table despite being eight points off the pace with six game left to play. Power are 6th on 52 points while Zanaco lead on 60 points, Zesco are 2nd on 59 points and Buffaloes 3rd on 57 points while Nkana round-off the top four on 55 points.

The top two finishers will compete in the 2018 CAF Champions League while 3rd and 4th place finishers

will qualify for the 2018 CAF Confederation Cup.

"We are still very confident until the end of the season.

"We have two crucial games coming up against Green Buffaloes and Zanaco," Bwalya said.

Power will host Buffaloes this Saturday in Kitwe and Zanaco will visit Arthur Davies Stadium after November 11 to play those defining matches.

"If we manage to beat them, then we can pull back into strong contention

for the league," Bwalya said.

However, Power have already dropped points against two of the top four teams in their last two matches.

Power drew 1-1 away draw at Zesco on October 24 in Ndola after losing 1-0 at home to Nkana on October 21 and cannot afford slip-ups against Zanaco and Buffaloes.

And Power have not won the league title since lifting their sixth crown in 2011 and finished second in 2012 and 2014.

CAF EYES ...for Player of The Year Award

KAPUMBU

By Nyambe Lubasi

Zesco United and Zambia defender Fackson Kapumbu has beaten his junior compatriots to make the preliminary nominees list for both the 2017 CAF

African Player of The Year and CAF African-Based player of the Year Awards.

CAF today announced the provisional 30-man list in each of the two categories that will be cut

to half and later three ahead of the 2017 CAF Awards Gala to be held on January 4 in Accra, Ghana.

There are no nominations for the 2017 U20 AFCON winners Patson Daka or Fashion Sakala for the two accolades that are the sole preserve of players who have served with distinction in senior CAF sanctioned matches for that calendar year.

Also missing is perennial Zambian nominee and midfielder Rainford Kalaba of TP Mazembe who will defend their CAF Confederation Cup title against SuperSport United of South Africa in the final over two legs this month.

Meanwhile, the left-back has been a prominent figure in Zesco defence in their 2017 CAF Confederation Cup campaign in which they reached the quarterfinals following his move this season from defending champions Zanaco.

Kapumbu cemented his place in the Chipolopolo setup under Wedson Nyirenda last November, 2016 and have been a key feature in Zambia's unsuccessful bid to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cups.

His most notable moment came in the 2018 CHAN qualifiers in which his assists were instrumental in Zambia's qualification to the tournament.

He also scored one goal in the 2018 CHAN first round qualifiers in Zambia's 4-0 away win over Swaziland on Chipolopolo's way to advancing to the last qualifying round 7-0 on aggregate where they eliminated Bafana 4-2 on aggregate to qualify for the Morocco tournament.

UFC superstar Conor McGregor is still feeling that itch to get his hands on a boxer.

McGregor, the current UFC lightweight champion, made his professional boxing debut in August, when he suffered a tenth round stoppage at the hands of five division world champion Floyd Mayweather Jr.

McGregor also has a lot of animosity with former champion Paulie Malignaggi. The two fighters had a bad falling out when Malignaggi was working as one of his main sparring partners to prepare for the Mayweather fight.

McGregor feels he was disrespected by a lot of people in the boxing industry in the months leading up to the Mayweather fight - and now he wants to make a statement against a boxer in the UFC.

The MMA star also maintains that referee Robert Byrd was very biased in his fight with Mayweather and prevented him from doing a lot of damage during the fight.

"Originally, [Mayweather] was talking about an MMA



McGregor dares Mayweather to UFC fight

bout next. That's what he said before the fight. In my mind, I want to bring one of these motherf**ing boxing guys here. I stepped into their world. I put on a show for my fans and they're talking about confidence, let one of them step into my world... Maybe Malignaggi

into a MMA bout or Floyd. We could do a rematch in boxing or like he actually said originally, will do an MMA fight next. There are options for me on the table," McGregor said during an interview conducted by Kong Events & Goldstar Promotions.

"The way they were carrying on before the fight, I just couldn't believe it. I'm a two-weight world champion and they're giving it this like I'm a f**ing rookie, like I'm a day one novice. I'd strangle every single one of them with ease. I was halfway at his back halfway through

the first round and Robert Byrd sumo wrestled me off him. I'd like one of them to come over on [the MMA side]. Last time it happened, James Toney came up and got strangled by Randy Couture in less than a minute," McGregor said.

Boxingscene.com

