

Kasempa cop convinces suspects that police command in Lusaka wants to view their nakedness as part of procedure...

Kabimba mocks Socialist Party

Sipilisiwe Ncube
Rainbow Party Leader Wynter Kabimba says the newly formed Socialist party leader Dr Cosmas Musumali should explain to Zambians what his party will do which the Rainbow is not doing.

Kabimba told News Diggers! in an interview that it was good that Musumali who was his 2016 running mate decided to form his own party after failed attempts to hijack the Rainbow Party unconstitutionally. Asked if the formation of a second socialist party in Zambia would help drive forward the socialist ideology, Kabimba said the approaches of the two groupings would be different. "We wish them good luck, that is their constitutional right, because their first intention was to destroy the Rainbow Party.

When they realised that they cannot take over the Rainbow Party unconstitutionally, of course they left. And now they have formed their own political party, we wish them good luck," Kabimba said.
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Ex-ministers must pay - ConCourt

Mukosha Funga
The Constitutional Court has maintained that ministers must pay back salaries and other emoluments which they accrued by staying in office after Parliament was dissolved before the 2016 elections.
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Drugs worth K66m expired in storage - Auditor General

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POLICE TAKES NUDE PHOTOS OF FEMALE DETAINEES

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Police in North Western province have arrested a fellow officer of Kasempa Police Station for taking nude pictures of a mother and her daughter who were detained for murder. According to North Western Province police Commissioner Auxensio Daka, Constable Kalebe made the obscene material after convincing the suspects that the Zambia Police Command in Lusaka wanted to use the nude pictures as part of police procedure.
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President Edgar Lungu and UNWTO Secretary General Dr. Taleb Rifai at Government Complex in Lusaka, Pictures By Eddie Mwanaleza/State House. Story P4

I can't incite violence, my tummy can't allow me to run - Chiteme

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Nkana PF Member of parliament Alexander Chiteme has vehemently denied leading PF cadres to disrupt an NDC meeting in Mufulira last weekend, saying his tummy cannot even allow him to run 100 metres, if chaos ensued. And Chiteme says Bemba proverbs and jokes will not get Kambwili to State House because he is just imitating Michael Sata.
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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Rainbow party running mate Dr Cosmas Musumali has formed his own political party called the Socialist Party (SP).

In August 2014, late president Michael Sata dropped Justice Minister Wynter Kabimba, who later formed the Rainbow Party and picked Dr Musumali as his running mate in the 2016 general elections.

Musumali who is relatively new on the political scene in Zambia, but boasts of over 30 years in NGO work and international projects, has however formed a breakaway party from Rainbow with the same socialist ideology.

Speaking when he officially announced the party in Lusaka today, Musumali said the Socialist Party will aim at building a just society with equal opportunities for all.

He said his party was registered on October 16, 2017 after a protracted one year of impediments.

Kabimba's running mate forms own socialist party

"The party aims at building a just socialist society in which equal opportunities for all and a guarantee of democratic rights will clear the way for ending social and economic discrimination and exploitation. It will be a society in which the wealth produced by the toiling masses will not be appropriated by a few. The party organises itself and its work on the basis of democratic centralism and on full inner party democracy. It fights for peace against neo-colonialism. The party firmly believes that real and basic interests of the people of the world are the

same and hence we stand for proletarian internationalism and the cause of progressive popular movements wherever they emerge. International solidarity is in the best interest of our own struggle," Musumali said.

Musumali said the party further aims to build a socialist state in Zambia.

"The party aims to promote and defend the class interests of the Zambian workers, peasants, students, poor people, marginalised groups and progressive intelligentsia; to build a socialist state in Zambia; contribute to the

growth of a socialist Pan-Africanism and a peaceful, humane and environmentally sustainable global community," he said.

"We also take the opportunity to call for action. This is essentially our manifesto and programmatic summary for 2017 to 2021. It is premised on the realisation that a broad anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist coalition of mass and popular organisations is necessary in order to liberate our homeland from the petty bourgeois dictatorship and enable the masses of our people live dignified

lives worthy of 21st century standards. Zambia needs a transformative change, and this is not possible under the system we inherited in 1991. It has miserably failed us."

Musumali said there was need to end the era of greedy political elite.

"The time to act is now. A mass movement anchored in a broad coalition fighting for justice, equity and peace in Zambia is needed. Zambians have prided themselves for being peaceful; valuing egalitarianism and promoting justice-these values have been severely eroded. Soon there

will be nothing to be proud of, unless the Zambian masses save themselves from calamity and total ruin. This is a call to action to all patriots, students, youth, women, peasants, workers and all those who love Zambia. Zambia needs your interventions. The era of the greedy political elite must be brought to an end. It is the time for the Zambian masses to save their country and in turn live within a heritage they can be proud of," said Musumali.

Meanwhile Musumali said his party would be officially launched soon.

Zimbabwe crisis a wake-up call for SADC - HH

By Mirriam Chabala

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says the current political situation in Zimbabwe is a wake-up call for SADC which has for a long time adopted a laissez-faire attitude in dealing with crises.

And HH has wondered what SADC chair President Jacob Zuma meant by saying 'we are keenly watching the situation in Zimbabwe' when it had been degenerating for the past 15 years.

Meanwhile, HH says his party is ready to engage in a dialogue process that is proactive and preemptive in order to restore rule of law in Zambia.

He was speaking to journalists at the Supreme Court grounds today after attending a Constitutional Court hearing in Margaret Mwanakatwe's appeal against the nullification of her Lusaka Central parliamentary seat which Charlotte Scott had successfully petitioned.

"This is a wakeup call to SADC which has taken a laissez-faire attitude in pro actively dealing with concerns of citizens of our region. The Economic Community for West African States is doing much better in this area, ECOWAS is more proactive and it takes interest in cases to do with abuse of human rights, liberties and freedoms. It takes interest in the breakdown of the rule of law, we have seen ECOWAS take steps in Gambia, in Côte d'Ivoire, in Burkina Faso and indeed in Mali pro actively which SADC has to done and SADC clears now has been behaving in a manner we can describe as an attitude of 'scratch my back and I scratch yours', ignore the rule of law in your neighbouring country which is a SADC member



and say nothing about my country when I break the rule of law," HH said.

And HH condemned SADC for waiting until people's lives were at risk before taking the matter seriously.

"And today, SADC through the current Head of SADC Jacob Zuma is saying 'SADC is watching keenly' but what are they watching keenly? Because Zimbabwe has been degenerating for the last 10 to 15 years and now Zimbabweans are at the risk of losing life and property and becoming refugees in bigger numbers yet again when SADC has been basically sitting and having meetings like nothing is going on wrong in our countries. Let's take interest in taking care of each other because we are each other's keeper. Let's not have this tendency of

saying 'because it's not me who is in Court [I won't say anything], because tomorrow it will be you,' he said.

Hichilema predicted that there would be an inflow of Zimbabweans to Zambia following the power crisis.

"We wish the people of Zimbabwe the best, we wish them safety and calmness within stormy waters to probably help lead into a situation that Zimbabweans have been expecting for too long and it's not been coming, and that is to allow for observance of the rule of law. To allow for Zimbabweans to enjoy human rights, liberties and freedoms which they have not been enjoying for a long time and that will lead to peace and stability that will allow for free, fair and credible elections so that leaders that care for

the people of Zimbabwe are put in place and then Zimbabweans don't have to migrate to neighbouring countries and you know Zambia has been home for a lot of Zimbabweans and this situation may be exacerbated now by the current situation in Zimbabwe," he said.

Meanwhile, Hichilema reaffirmed his party's willingness to dialogue with the Patriotic Front outlined a number of things he was expecting to be addressed during the process.

"We are ready to engage in a dialogue process that is proactive and preemptive. This dialogue process is so critical with respect to restoring the rule of law which is broken our country and also restoring the respect for human rights. The dialogue process is also supposed to reclaim

the broken down criminal justice system, we also need to deal with our legislature so we can have a Parliament that allows for free flow of debate. And we also have issues of lacunas in the Constitution which need to be addressed. As you know, when we submitted our petition, executive powers should have been moved to the Speaker of the National Assembly but it did not happen, somebody broke the Constitutional provisions and we Zambians are silent. The dialogue process is also supposed to deal with the issues of political prisoners and Zambians fleeing into other countries. True independence of the justice system so that we can avoid the mess of the 2016 elections which we are still living in," said HH who also complained about

his unheard presidential petition as usual.

On Tuesday night, the army has took over control in Zimbabwe, confining 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe to his house.

The Zimbabwean defence forces seized control of the state broadcaster ZBC, with their spokesman Maj Gen Sibusiso Moyo issuing a statement declaring that President Mugabe was safe as they were "targeting criminals" around him.

Meanwhile, BBC reports that South African government ministers are in Harare for crisis talks with ousted President Mugabe and military leaders.

They are trying to reach a deal on the future of Zimbabwe and the man who has led the country for 37 years and is now under house arrest.

By Mukosha Funga

The Auditor General's report has revealed that ARVs, TB and Malaria drugs worth K66,801,022 got expired in the year ended 2016.

According to the Auditor General, the expiry was attributed to a change of treatment regime.

"During the period under review, various drugs such as anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs), laboratory reagents, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria drugs worth K66,801,022 involving one thousand seven hundred and sixty three (1,763) transactions which were kept at a rented warehouse in

"Drugs worth K66m expired in storage"

Makeni, Lusaka had expired. The expiry of the drugs was mainly attributed to change of treatment regime and failure to enroll targeted children. The expired drugs had not been disposed of as 31st June 2017," read the report.

And the Auditor General revealed that although some health centres had procured some drugs from Medical Stores, they had not been delivered.

"During the period under review, drugs and medical supplies costing K2,539,687

where procured from Medical Stores. However, as at 31st August 2017, the drugs and medical supplies had not been delivered to fourteen (14) stations. During the period under review, drugs and other medical supplies costing

K943,889 were returned by nine (9) health facilities to Medical Stores Limited due to short life before expiry, slow moving and being wrong products, among others. However, a scrutiny of stocks and other records revealed that the returned drugs

had not been replaced as at 31st August 2017," read the Auditor General's report.

"A scrutiny of stocks and other records and drug labels maintained at various institutions revealed that various drugs costing K124,697 had expired and no action had been taken by management to dispose them off as at 31st August 2017. Contrary to Public Stores Regulation No. 16, various drugs and medical supplies costing K3,887,920 delivered to twenty nine (29) Health Institutions during the period under review were unaccounted for as there were no disposal details."

Mutati annoys LAP GreenN over debt settlement claim

By Mukosha Funga

Libyan investment portfolio LAP GreenN has vented anger at Finance Minister Felix Mutati for claiming that the Zambian government was in the process of settling its US\$395 million debt owed to the company when in fact "no single cent" has been paid.

This is contained in a letter of claim signed by LAP GreenN chairman Dr Faisel Geigab.

Dr Geigab disclosed that the Zambian government through the Minister of Finance had been sending bank transfer documents, but no actual cash was remitted to LAP GreenN.

"The now Minister of Finance was a member of Cabinet of the Zambian government at the time LAP GreenN acquired its shareholding in Zamtel. He is very familiar with the LAP GreenN matter. It would have been more useful of him to give a more comprehensive statement in parliament last month. We say this because the recent conduct of the Minister of Finance with respect to addressing the GRZ obligations to LAP GreenN has raised considerable concerns regarding the good faith and integrity of the minister," Dr Geigab stated.

"For example, we have been sent bank transfer documents signed on behalf of the minister instructing its bankers to transfer funds to us, however, no actual payment has been received. The Attorney General, Mr Likando Kalaluka, State Counsel, has similarly made commitments on behalf of the GRZ that payments would be made to settle the GRZ's indebtedness in LAP GreenN, however, not a single cent has been received as yet. We have material evidence to this effect."

He stated that government's conduct was unacceptable and it was denting Zambia's reputation on debt repayment. "The conduct of the GRZ towards our matter is totally unacceptable and constitutes a breach of the Zambian Constitution and the international law. It raises questions regarding the credentials of the GRZ, including its commitments to Zambia's constitutional democracy and democratic governance. LAP GreenN is taking active steps to pursue full compensation recovery from the GRZ locally in Zambia, within Sub Saharan

Africa and internationally. As the Zambian government is part of the international finance and investment community, it is indifferent to its serial defaults of such substantive sovereign debt obligations will not help its reputation. For example, the serial default payments could have an adverse effect on its international standing, including with international funding institutions, credit rating agencies and G20 states (several of which are already aware of this matter)," Dr Geigab wrote.

He warned that there would be costly repercussions on the Zambian economy for the 'serial defaults'.

"We believe the GRZ sovereign defaults will have costly repercussions for the entire Zambian economy. Since the nationalization of its shares, LAP GreenN has demonstrated courtesy and commitment to resolve this matter amicably. However, this

approach has been abused by the GRZ. Nonetheless, we are resolved to recover amounts due to us by the Zambian government and we will

pursue all avenues or recourse available to us should the defaults continue," wrote Dr Geigab.

"If requested, LAP GreenN

will submit a written statement to Parliament, with supporting documentation, to demonstrate the blatant disregard shown by the

Ministry of Finance and Attorney General to the serial breaches by the GRZ of its sovereign and Constitutional legal obligations."



Govt reluctant on curbing alcohol abuse - SAAPA

By Joseph Mwenya

The Southern Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) says the lack of urgency by government to put in place an alcohol policy framework is a time bomb that will cost

the nation the much needed human capital.

SAAPA spokesperson, Jonas Ngulube said the inertia by government to have an alcohol policy in place showed a lack of seriousness

on the part of government to curb alcohol abuse.

In an interview Ngulube complained that from the time an Alcohol Policy was mooted, eleven years ago, the document was still in draft

form.

"Look at the policy development in Zambia. It has taken almost eleven years to develop the National Alcohol Policy. Now if really government was serious, considering the rate of alcohol abuse, can it take this long just to come up with an Alcohol Policy? Last month, we joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Mental Health Day. Government through Chainama College, gave statistics that 70 percent of mental illnesses are alcohol related. But today, the Policy is still not there. So, this is the inertia that we are talking about," Ngulube said.

He said President Edgar Lungu was contradicting himself in his statement over the political will to end alcohol abuse.

"We are aware that there is a lot of vested interest from the alcohol industries. It is sad to see the President giving political will and leadership through two statements. The first one done on 17th March this year during the National Address and the second one on the 15th of September also this year during the official

opening of the National Assembly," he said.

"But now, you see a contradiction because earlier the President directed to curb alcohol abuse only and at this second time, he added other substances. And now some people are arguing that we should add other substances to the Alcohol Policy. But to me, this argument does not make sense. The urgency on alcohol abuse is not the same with other substances. If 70 percent of admissions on mental health are alcohol related it means the other substances are only 30 percent. So which takes priority 70 percent or 30 percent?"

Ngulube argued that the fight against alcohol abuse would only be successful if the legal framework on alcohol abuse was accompanied by the National Alcohol Policy.

"Government should put up a policy framework because there is already a legal framework, the Liquor Licensing Act of 2011. The legal framework must marry with the policy framework. When this is done, then we shall successfully prevent alcohol abuse," said Ngulube.

Former ministers must pay, Attorney General can't defend them - ConCourt

By Mukosha Funga

The Constitutional Court has maintained that ministers must pay back salaries and other emoluments which they accrued by staying in office after Parliament was dissolved before the 2016 elections.

On August 8, 2016; just three days before the elections, the ConCourt ordered in favour of the Law Association of Zambia which had challenged ministers' continued stay in office after the dissolution of parliament. ConCourt judges had ruled that it was wrong for President Edgar Lungu to maintain the ministers in office; ordering them to vacate with immediate effect and pay back their salaries

to the Treasury; a decision which excited Zambians.

But Attorney General Likando Kalaluka filed a petition in the ConCourt in October asking it to reopen the case and review the judgement saying it was an injustice akin to slavery to order former ministers to repay salaries and allowances after they worked and earned the money.

"It is in this regard that we maintain that to order that the former ministers pay back the salaries and allowances received after dissolution of Parliament is an injustice especially considering that they were directed to remain in office on the basis of ambiguous and obscure provisions,"

stated Kalaluka.

But LAZ asked the ConCourt to throw out Kalaluka's because he had no right to represent former ministers who were in office illegally. LAZ as Attorney General, Kalaluka was supposed to represent the interests of the public and not those of former ministers whom the court had ruled against.

And reading the unanimous ruling of ConCourt judges today, judge Margaret Munalula said Kalaluka had no locus standi to challenge their decision.

She said Kalaluka could not appoint himself lawyer for the former ministers and ruled that the court's judgment of August 8, 2016 was still binding.

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says tourism will be boosted by the rising disposable income in Africa.

Speaking during the opening of the UNWTO International Conference on Promoting Sustainable Tourism at Government Complex in Lusaka today, President Lungu said the rising middleclass in Africa would boost intra-regional travel.

“Tourism is an important contributor to sustainable economic growth for many reasons some of which include: its capacity to significantly contribute to gross domestic product, decent employment and export earnings; its propensity to significantly contribute to inclusive growth by supporting the poor and vulnerable people particularly women and youth; its capacity to generate and spread incomes thereby reducing poverty at all levels; with rising disposable incomes, leading to more resources for leisure and travel which boosts business travel, tourism undoubtedly is becoming more and more attractive with a positive forecast. It is expected that international tourists to Africa will continue to grow reaching 134 million arrivals by 2030 as estimated by the UNWTO; and globally, most international travel take place within a traveler’s own region. With a rising African middle class and with the continental disposable income increasing thereby creating a greater scope for boosting continental and intra-regional travel in Africa,” President Lungu said.

He said tourism was essential to improving the lives of people.

“Current statistics from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)’s 2017 economic development in Africa report, indicate that tourism generates

Rising middle class in Africa will boost tourism – Lungu

10 percent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) and 30 percent of the world trade in services.

Over 200 million jobs are created as a result of tourism. This shows that the sector is indeed key to the growth of economies and improvement of livelihoods in many countries. In addition, tourism plays a crucial role in enhancing conservation and financing the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, as well as contributing to social inclusion in destinations,” he said.

“With this positive growth

occurring in Africa, there is need to further harness the tourism potential for the sector to continue contributing to inclusive growth, structural transformation and the attainment of SDGs. This can only happen by adopting policies that strengthen inter-sectoral linkages to boost intra-regional tourism and promote peace. I am delighted to note that Africa has realised the vital role that tourism plays in promoting sustainable development. This can be seen in the African Union’s agenda 2063 and the tourism action plan under the

New Partnership for Africa’s Development.”

President Lungu said Zambia recognised tourism as a critical tool for sustainable development.

“Bringing the tourism narrative closer to home; Zambia has recognised this sector as a critical tool for sustainable development. We have designated tourism as one of the top three economic sectors besides agriculture and mining to drive the national economic diversification programme and ensure the country’s long term economic sustainability we have set apart from agriculture

and mining. My government intends to ride on this capacity by increasing investment in the tourism industry and ensuring that the investment yields desired results that benefit all,” said President Lungu.

“You will note that while other sectors suffered setbacks from economic challenges in recent years, tourism in Zambia remained resilient contributing to the country’s Gross Domestic Product, as we have heard from Madam [Bernadette] Deka, whether it is Mrs or Miss I don’t know but Madam Deka, at the rate of 3.4 percent in 2016. I am glad

to note that in 2017, Zambia has made great strides to foster unprecedented long-term growth by embarking on a vigorous marketing of Zambian tourism products to help us tap into the global market share...I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the UNWTO high level delegation led by the Secretary General Dr Taleb Rifai visiting Zambia to mark the commemoration of the UNWTO 2017 international year of sustainable tourism for development.”

Meanwhile, Dr Rifai observed that Zambia was one of the best tourist destinations.

Mayor angry after interviewer wets his Council Radio dream

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Radio Phoenix ‘Let the people talk’ host Luchi angers Lusaka Mayor Wilson Kalumba when he grills him on the logic behind setting up a radio station for the council.

Kalumba accused Luchi of trying to market Radio Phoenix by discrediting his idea.

When Luchi asked whether there was a cost effective way of disseminating information, Kalumba said the council was big and they wanted their own radio station.

“Isn’t there a more cost effective way of doing this? If I say to you that ‘mayor I’m willing to give you 10 minutes every single Wednesday morning’, does that sort out your problem?”

Luchi asked.

Kalumba said they wanted to communicate frequently with their listeners on their own channel.

“No! We are a big organisation, we want to have our own station. We are still working out, we will come back with the details. We just agreed that we need to communicate more frequently with our viewers, our listeners and residents. People must know every time that on this channel we only get such information. That doesn’t mean that we can’t use other stations to broadcast the same information. But we want to have a channel,” Kalumba said.

And when Luchi said that he and the people of Lusaka wanted to save money

for the mayor, Kalumba accused him of marketing Radio Phoenix.

“Lets not do marketing by your company. Lets move to the next question. What makes you [think] that your cost will be lower than our costs? We are still working out. Once we have the information, meaning we can now move into actual implementation,” Kalumba said.

And Kalumba was more angered after he was asked whether he didn’t believe in a cost effective way, saying the money for the radio station would not come from people’s pockets because they don’t pay the council.

“Its like you are saying you can run things better than me... Yes that is what you

are implying! People don’t pay so lets move to the next question,” he said.

And Kalumba said he wanted to leave a good legacy by introducing projects in the city.

“We are going to bring street lights every where. We have arranged financing that will allow us to pay over a long period of may be 10 years. Lets just believe that things are not like in the past otherwise I could have just come, sat as a mayor and gone without introducing anything. But I want to live a good legacy. I want when I leave the office, there are street lights public transportation, there are markets in every constituency,” he said.

“For your own information its only in Lusaka that

there will be a temperature controlled market. We have already identified a developer to put up a fresh produce market where farmers bring things and they are temperature controlled and preserved. So for these projects, the construction period can be two years but we have to start somewhere. We are not here to make quick fixes. My priority is to ensure that we have these projects start to run after three years or two years we have all these structures we are talking about. When you are looking for quick results they wont come.”

Kalumba further said he was not dreaming when he talked about the plans he had for the city.

“Let me tell you that I’m one of the few mayors in this country that will show you their campaign promises written on a piece of paper. If you had a chance to look at my campaign material I talked about these things. When you look at that document you will find that everything I’m doing is according to that because these are the promises I made to people. Its not that I started making plans when I came into office. I went to the people with these campaign promises. I will introduce public transport system. I will deal with garbage in this manner, so that document is there and its on my website. So I’m not just dreaming these things. There is a plan to it,” he said.

Kalumba urged the public to engage their area councillors instead of always waiting for action from the mayor.

“Let me just mention generally that people need to work with their councillors. They shouldn’t wait for the mayor to come on radio to bring these complaints. Every councillor has an office, take your grievances there. That’s the job of having somebody represent you at the council. Don’t wait for the mayor to visit that area. If the councillor is aware he brings these issues to my office,” said Kalumba.

Kabimba mocks new socialist party: “what will they do which Rainbow is not doing?”

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Rainbow Party Leader Wynter Kabimba says the newly formed Socialist party leader Cosmas Musumali should explain to Zambians what his party will do which the Rainbow is not doing. Kabimba told News Diggers in an interview that it was good that Musumali who was his 2016 running mate decided to form his own party after failed attempts to hijack the Rainbow party unconstitutionally.

Asked if the formation of a second socialist party in Zambia would help drive forward the

socialist ideology, Kabimba said the approaches of the two groupings would be different.

“We wish them good luck, that is there constitutional right, because their first intension was to destroy the Rainbow party. When they realised that they cannot take over the Rainbow party unconstitutionally, of course they left. And now they have formed their own political party, we wish them good luck,” Kabimba said.

Asked if he was happy with the birth of another socialist movement in the country,

Kabimba said that did not matter, but challenged Dr Musumali to disclose the names of the people in the leadership of his new party.

“Its not about what makes me happy in this world. it doesn’t have to make me happy or make me sad, no. I have not defected myself, so the person who should be making news on the ground is Dr Musumali. I thought you would be asking him who is your vice president, who is your Secretary General?” he wondered.

“When you are announcing

[the formation of the party] you must have a line-up. You cant just announce alone, surely there were some people there, he had some chola boys around. I told you we are happy for them, it is good that they have formed their own political party because they were trying to hijack the Rainbow Party unconstitutionally. And when they failed, they left and now they have formed their political party which is their constitutional right.”

And Kabimba mocked the new party, wondering what

Dr Musumali will kill with the hoe and pick on their caps and T-shirts.

“The fact that there are two groups now means our approaches will be different. Again that is what you should be asking them ‘what are you going to do which Rainbow is not doing?’ that is what is making news. What are they going to do which Rainbow is not doing apart from seeing a kama hoe and a pick? Whom do they want to kill using that pick which is on the Kasote? You should be asking them ‘what is the difference between your socialist party and the Rainbow party which is also a socialist outfit?’ That is the news we want to hear from them,” said Kabimba.

“So what was the whole idea yesterday, just to get a picture of Musumali nakasote (cap) naka pick? They should have outlined. Us what we did in Rainbow we registered, then we launched. So we told everybody to say this is who we are. So you cant hold a kama press briefing in a lodge with five people and only to tell people ‘we are going to tell you more when we launch’ why don’t you wait until you launch?”

Free, fair elections the only right way to produce legitimate govt in Zimbabwe – British Envoy

By Mukosha Funga

British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyett says holding free and fair elections is the only right way to produce a legitimate government in Zimbabwe.

Commenting on the Zimbabwe crisis in a statement today, High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett also urged all sides to refrain from violence in an effort to see a peaceful and swift resolution to the current situation in Zimbabwe.

“As the British Foreign Secretary, Boris

Johnson MP, said in his statement to Parliament, we cannot tell how developments in Zimbabwe will turn out in the days or even hours ahead. It is too early to draw conclusions about the future of Zimbabwe. The UK wants to see a stable and successful Zimbabwe. We appeal for everyone to refrain from violence and hope to see a peaceful and swift resolution to the current situation,” said High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyett. “Britain has always wanted the Zimbabwean people to be masters of their

fate and for any political change to be peaceful, lawful, and constitutional. There is only one rightful way for Zimbabwe to achieve legitimate government and that is through free and fair elections.”

Meanwhile, Reuters reports that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has made his first public appearance since that country’s army took over on Wednesday.

Mugabe, who has been under house arrest, attended a graduation ceremony in Harare but his wife Grace did not present.

We're too divided to ask Zambians to unite - Chasefu PF MP

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Chasefu PF member of parliament Gerald Zimba says members of parliament are so divided by party lines that they do not interact even at the National Assembly Motel. Meanwhile, Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs Reverend Godfridah Sumaili says her ministry will spend K292,680 on organizing indabas for the state, the church and other religious groupings.

Debating to the Religious Affairs Ministry's budgetary allocation yesterday, Zimba asked Rev Sumaili to prove to Zambians that the ministry was non partisan by uniting Zambians.

"First of all I support the budget for this ministry. Madam Minister, you have a very huge challenge to prove to this Parliament and people at large that this ministry is not partisan, that this ministry is not political. It all lies in your hands and I know you are capable because God chose you to be there," Zimba said.

"You can see from the debates that this country is divided. I want the Ministry of Religious Affairs to unite these groupings. When you go to Parliament motel, you will find a certain group is this side, the other group this side. We are divided. We don't interact. We profess that we are a Christian Nation, we love this country, we love these people, we want them to unite but what we show them here is something

totally different."

Zimba challenged Rev Sumaili to unite the PF and the UPND saying the animosity was affecting development.

"We have brains from both the opposition and the ruling party. If we did put our brains together, this country would move forward. But mostly, if this side of the House tries to give advice to this side of the House, there is a lot of sarcasm involved. I hear very excellent ideas coming from the left (opposition). Very excellent suggestions about how we came move this country forward but the way ideas are put [to] this side (government), so much sarcasm. At the end of the day the country misses an opportunity to move forward," said Zimba.

"I would really love to

see the ministry come in strongly and bring the parties together. Why is there such animosity? Why is there so much hatred that is being exhibited? Each one of us should ask ourselves what we are doing to improve the warfare of this country? It is only us who can make a difference. I would want to interact with everybody. I want to see no divisions in groupings when we are at Parliament Motel. Nobody should tell that this is PF, this is UPND, we are supposed to be one. This is Parliament. What we do in here reflects what happens outside."

But Livingstone UPND member of parliament Matthews Jere said the ruling party must repent and confess their wrongs before they talk about reconciliation.

"Those who are in public office, Madam Chair, should be honest, should not be selfish. We always preach that 'Zambia is a Christian Nation', in addition we have the ministry of religion. But the people are unrighteous. Day and night, they talk about reconciliation. How do you reconcile when other the party is carrying a gun and a Bible? Would you go closer to such a person? These are the people that want to abuse the Bible by saying let us reconcile. First of all, let them repent, let them confess of the many many things that they have committed from the time they cheated the Zambian people in 2011 to date. They got power on pretense and indeed it will haunt them forever," said Jere.

Meanwhile, Rev Sumaili

also said that the ministry intended to hold an indaba for the state, the church and other religious groups.

"The ministry intends to facilitate holding of an indaba for the state, church and other religious groups. These activities have been allocated K292,680 in 2018 as compared to K200,000 in 2017. The ministry will also work with the National Heritage Conservation and Commission under the Ministry of Tourism and Arts to identify and preserve Christian knowledge and religious sites with the objective of highlighting the country's Christian heritage. The ministry has been allocated K210,000 for this activity in 2018 as compared to K100,000 in 2017," she said.

Rev Sumaili also said the ministry would spend K556,000 in collaboration with the House of Chiefs to conduct a baseline survey on national values. "Chairperson, to ensure that evidence for programming and tracking progress is provided, my ministry will undertake a baseline survey on national values in collaboration with the House of Chiefs to embark on traditional values and beliefs that are pro development so that they can be promoted to national development. The ministry has been allocated K556,000 for these activities. The ministry has also provided K196,550 to the monitoring and evaluation activities. These will enhance policy program and accountability," said Rev Sumaili.

All dictators eventually go – Milupi

By Mirriam Chabala

All dictators eventually go, usually in an embarrassing manner, says Alliance for Development and Democracy (ADD) president Charles Milupi. Commenting on the current political crisis in Zimbabwe, Milupi wondered why African leaders never learnt the consequences of clinging to power.

"One greatest lesson that we can learn from this is that

these things have got short legs. All dictators have got one way in which they go and that is embarrassment and humiliation. We saw that in Gadaffi, Mobutu Seseko...count them all, that's what happens. But in spite of all that, we still see upcoming dictators following exactly the same path, it is as if they have been bewitched," Milupi said.

"We see them get power, display their humbleness,

and it is very sad." He said what was happening to President Mugabe was not strange. "I think over the years, everybody has been expecting something like this to happen because of the way Mr Mugabe was conducting himself especially that in the beginning, he was a star of all those people that wanted proper liberation but I think everything was compromised by his

desire to prolong his stay in power and to acquire wealth. And once someone begins to acquire that way, the next stage is to prolong your stay in that position of power indefinitely. And we saw that with Mr Mugabe, even when he was 93 he still wanted to continue, even when he clearly lost the elections in 2008 he still manipulated the system to enable him stay in power and that's the hallmark of dictatorship," Milupi said.

And Milupi warned that those stealing public resources would be humiliated once they were out of office.

"The people of Zimbabwe have decided that that's not the way they are going to go and what we see now is the humiliation of someone who was given so many years of service to the nation and instead of being held as a hero, he will go out as a whimper and he will be unable to enjoy his wealth because the world is like a village and that wealth will be followed just like those in Zambia who are plundering the country's wealth right now, they should not think for one moment that the wealth will be there to enjoy when they are no longer in power and their families will not even have space to enjoy what they have stolen because everything they have stolen will be accounted for," said Milupi.

Cop in hot soup for taking nude pictures of female detainees

From front page

In a statement, Daka said two other police officers in Chavuma and Ikelenge have also been arrested for failing to secure fire arms, while another officer in Kabompo was nabbed for slapping a 13-year-old schoolgirl to the extent of damaging her eardrum.

"On 7th November, 2017 at around 21:30 hours at Kasempa police station, officer No. 43948 Constable Kalebwe, was alone at the inquiries office due to the fact that most officers were out for special duties. The officer decided to take nude pictures of two female suspects namely Grace Sitampa (mother) and Dyness Sitampa (daughter) detained in police custody for the offence of murder. He took them out of the cell to a private room where he told them that as per procedure, he needed to photograph them whilst naked," Daka explained.

"He told them the pictures were needed at the Police Service Headquarters [in Lusaka]. The

suspects believed him and removed clothes, then he proceeded to get pictures using his mobile phone. The matter is under investigations, but the pictures were deleted from the phone."

Mwanwhile a detective Sergeant Phiri of Chavuma police station has been arrested for abandoning his work station and going into a nearby village where he got too drunk before the fire arm was taken from him.

"On 26th October, 2017, officer No. 38061, detective sergeant Phiri of Chavuma Police station was detailed to guard a Zesco sub-station from 18:00 hours to 06:00 hours. However, he opted to leave the point of duty and went into one of the villages to drink with friends. The following day he appeared without the fire arm and when a follow-up was made, it was discovered that the same (fire arm) was with one of the villagers namely Manyima Hopekins who claimed that he got it from the officer who

was very drunk at the time and was fighting with his mentally disturbed brother," Daka stated.

"When the ammunition was counted, it was discovered that six rounds were missing. He has since been arrested for the subject offence."

Daka said the investigations also involve Constable Mfwambi of Ikelenge police station who was arrested for misplacing a fire arm magazine containing 30 rounds of ammunition.

"On 14th August, 2017, officer No.44036 Constable Mfwambi withdrew a fire arm with a magazine containing thirty (30) rounds of ammunition. When his tour of duty ended on 24th August, 2017, he only handed the fire arm without a magazine and stated that he had misplaced it. The officer was given time to look for the same but could not find it. He has since been arrested for the subject offence," Daka stated.

In another development, Daka

stated that police were investigating a Constable Daka of Kabompo police station for allegedly slapping a 13 year old school girl to the extent of damaging her eardrums. "On 13th October, 2017, a case of assault was received in which some women of Kasempa were fighting. The women who were fighting went to report the case in which one female juvenile aged 13 years who was coming from school decided to join the group. Upon arrival of the group at the police station, the women who were fighting started to report the case at the inquiries office. Then a police officer by the name of constable Daka entered the police station and started shouting at the group. In the process he slapped the female juvenile Keeke Kavungu on the face and sustained a painful head and her ears were affected as she could not hear properly from then. a complaint was lodged against the officer and a medical report form issued," stated Daka.

PAC sends away ministry auditor for improper dressing

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today chased away an internal auditor at the Ministry of Justice who went to answer queries raised in the Auditor General's Report, but appeared inappropriately dressed before the committee.

And the committee questioned the controlling officers to explain why the Ministry had failed to recover the funds misappropriated by some officers for the last four years, despite numerous recommendations to do so.

Committee Chairperson Howard Kunda asked the officer identified as Eugene Mwila who was without a jacket and neck tie to go back and dress properly.

Soon after Ministry of Justice Permanent Secretary Thandiwe Daka Oteng presented the submission of responses to the audit queries cited in the 2016 Auditor General's report, Kunda asked the internal auditor to go back and dress appropriately.

"I have seen that the internal auditor is not dressed appropriately. If you can go and be dressed as one who has come to appear before Public Accounts Committee. Am sure you are aware that this is a working day that requires you to be dressed in a way that you are going to the office. So please if you can go and be dressed. And PS, am sure you know the rules here," Kunda said.

Kunda later questioned Oteng why the Ministry of Justice was failing to recover misappropriated funds.

"I would want to state that this issue of failure to recover funds has been appearing from 2014. 2014, 2015, and now it is re-appearing in the current report. In 2015, the same answer is what you gave that you have given in the current one and I can quote here, it says 'in view of the foregoing, the Ministry is in the process of compiling a list of public officers that have caused the loss of public money due to negligence' that was in 2015. And our recommendation also was in line with the way you answered," Kunda observed.

"Now you are saying you have given us the list of those officers that caused the loss of monies for government. I can see that this letter that you have provided, it was written yesterday meaning even when we sent the notices to yourselves, this was not there, it is being reactive. Madam PS why are you being reactive instead of being proactive? This issue has been on the tables from 2014 to-date and now we are finishing 2017, am sure it will also appear in 2017. why are you being reactive instead of being proactive? These are very serious issues that government is losing colossal sums of money."

And Teddy Kasonso who is also committee member as

well as Solwezi West UPND member of parliament reminded the controlling officers at the ministry that the responsibility to recover all the lost monies was in their hands. "First of all what is your name? I want to address you by your name," Kasonso asked as the officer identified himself as Francis Kondwelani Mwale. "Mr Mwale," Kasonso continues, "don't come here and start telling us about various institutions involved and so on. The responsibility to recover this money lies upon your Ministry. Here

you have put appendixes here up to five. There is no appendix here which shows that you have recommended recoveries of this money for various officers to various ministries. Show me where you have recommended? For me to exonerate you the responsibility to recover this money, there is nowhere. And also as the chair said, government is always one. It is up to you to engage other departments or other ministries to ensure that they do the right thing. So in this case, you are telling us that this

money will not be recovered because you don't know who is suppose to recover it, is that what you are suggesting? Kasonso asked.

In response, Mwale said the recovery of lost funds was an ongoing process.

"I think in my response I started with the general perspective of why sometimes it takes a bit of time to recover and specifically I was addressing a question that came from Honorable Munkonge. And in my answer I was giving a general scenario..." he said.

But Kunda interrupted him saying "We are not here to give general scenarios. Be specific, you have given us the report so stick to your report but whatever is out of this has to be factual. We don't want scenarios here, please go ahead."

"Thank you very much Chair, I think on the part to do with us communicating, that is how the information to do with the names has actually come out. Its because of the engagements that may have happened before today between the Ministry of Justice and these

other institutions. And I think the PS did mention earlier the fact that this has been standing for this long, this has..." Mwale said.

Kunda interrogated further saying "You have not addressed those concerns by the Honorable members, we want you to address them," to which Mwale responded, "I don't know which one has not been addressed. What I was saying is that in terms of the evidence, this is an ongoing process in terms of the recoveries and thats my answer."

I can't incite violence, my tummy can't allow me to run – Chiteme

From front page

Chiteme, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee, was invited to discuss the Auditor General's report by Hot FM but spent most of the time attacking Kambwili.

"I was in Mufulira yes, only because when we were having a meeting in Kitwe at my restaurant; myself, honourable [Emmanuel] Mulenga, Thabo Kawana and the provincial chairman, [we were] strategising on a rally that we are planning to have on the Copperbelt. We received a phone call saying that there has been confusion in Mufulira and part of the people who were there have been arrested. We said let's go to Mufulira and find out. When we reached Mufulira, the whole confusion had already happened and finished. We went directly to the police station where we found honourable Chishimba Kambwili in the company of Mwenya Musenge, Misheck Moyo and the former chancellor [NDC national youth chairman Charles] Kabwita. We found them at the police station. They had already finished their meeting. We even greeted and shook hands and laughed about the whole issue," Chiteme narrated.

"Two hours later, there was a posting on The Mast Online and on Chishimba Kambwili's Facebook page saying cadres led by Nkana member of parliament and Ndola central member...are you sure? The way I'm looking with my tummy, I can lead cadres in a stone-throwing contest? I can't even run 100 meters for crying out loud!"

He said Kambwili should not dent his name just because he did not want to be part of NDC. "Chishimba Kambwili has to be very careful the way he does his politics. He shouldn't draw me in politics of violence. I am not a violent person. Just because I have refused to join their movement, doesn't make me an enemy.



If I don't want to join NDC, it doesn't mean that I have to be thrown to the wolves or I have to be dented. There have been several approaches by all of them calling me on my phone ati mwaiche make up your decision. Mwaiche do this. So, if I don't want to join them, they shouldn't now start mudslinging me," Chiteme said.

And Chiteme said Bemba idioms and jokes would not get Kambwili to State House.

"I feel that people that are quick with their mouth, people that are going to lie to the people...I have been in this studio before telling you to say

that Zambia needs to move away from politics of lies. Zambia needs to move away from politicians that think that Bemba idioms or Bemba sayings are going to get them to State House. Zambia needs to move from people who think when they can crack a joke and say rubbish things and people applaud, thinking that's an economic base where people can actually get tapping from. That doesn't happen! So when you listen to people like Chishimba Kambwili, you need to be very careful because the man is a liar. The man wants to imitate the politics of the late president Micheal

Sata. He wants to bring jokes in politics, he wants to bring Bemba sayings in politics thinking that the Bemba sayings are going to sell him out," Chiteme said.

He asked Kambwili to stop holding on to the PF ticket while doing NDC work.

"We have called on Chishimba Kambwili several times to say 'ba Chishimba Kambwili if you want to be free to do your own NDC issues don't hold on to the PF ticket'. Because whatever wrong NDC does, with our member of parliament honourable Chishimba Kambwili with them is also going to be a

dent on our name because honourable Chishimba Kambwili is standing on the PF ticket. Even right now when we are voting in parliament, we have one vote that is voting with the UPND. It is not being called NDC, it is not being called UPND sympathiser, it is called PF member of parliament for Roan. He still bears the name of PF. He still bares the identity of the party so he should decide whether he wants to be in NDC. he said.

On the Auditor General's report, Chiteme said some culprits had already been reported to the ACC.

We would like to see action on AG's report – Swedish Envoy

By Mirriam Chabala

Swedish Ambassador to Zambia Henrik Cederin it would be good to see some action on the Auditor General's

report.

And Ambassador Cederin says it is very difficult for journalists to do their jobs effectively in Zambia because

the environment is not favourable.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Cederin says Zambia should invest in renewable energy

instead of nuclear energy which is very expensive.

Speaking when he featured on a Diamond TV programme dubbed "Night Live" last

night, Ambassador Cederin commended the Auditor General's office for its consistency in compiling annual reports.

"The report that was compiled by the Auditor General is a very important document and we are happy to say that we are one of the supporters of that office with developmental assistance. The work of the Auditor General is very important just like that of the Anti-Corruption Commission and it's really good to see that these institutions act independently and would also want to see that action is being taken upon the findings of the Auditor General," Ambassador Cederin said.

"Really, the whole issue of governance is of key importance. Having strong enough independence than ever to act on the findings that are gathered is a sign of a system that is working well. We would like to see government following up on the issues raised in that report and act accordingly. Otherwise what the Auditor General's office does is commendable and we are specifically interested in that report because we are one of the supporters of that office."

And Ambassador Cederin observed that the media in Zambia was facing a lot of challenges which hindered effective operation.

He said journalists could not bring out the real situation of the economy because of the challenges which they faced.

"There are challenges for the media here in this country, media coverage is very important for Zambia to develop but journalists unfortunately face a number

of challenges. Business journalism for instance is one such area where we don't see really economic reporting. I think that economic reporting is critical and we all need to understand what are the challenges that the country is facing, we don't want these glossy articles about how good things are, we need to have journalists out there to take interest in these things and make us understand what's going on in the country but again the environment is not so favourable for journalists to work that way. And then when it comes to human rights and so on, we need to hear critical independent voices with independent views and that's how a country can develop," Ambassador Cederin said.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Cederin advised government to venture into renewable energy production instead of nuclear energy which was expensive.

"The nuclear energy sector that the Zambian government is considering to venture in is a very complicated sector. It is a very advanced sector and it demands substantial investment, it demands huge amounts of money if you want to get going on nuclear. So I would personally urge Zambia to look into renewable energy because it is more realistic and that's really the future when it comes to energy production globally and here we have got such an abundance of water and solar. So to me it seems obvious that renewable would be the future sector and Zambia should seriously consider that sector as opposed to nuclear," said Ambassador Cederin.



Debt standoff with LAP GreenN will cost Zambia – Antonio

By Mukosha Funga

Antonio Mwanza says the standoff between LAP GreenN and the Zambian government will dent the country's credit reputation, a situation which will attract serious consequences.

Libyan investment portfolio LAP GreenN has vented anger at Finance Minister Felix Mutati for claiming that the Zambian government was in the process of settling its US\$395 million debt owed to the company when in fact "no single cent" has been paid.

In a letter of claim signed by LAP GreenN chairman Dr Faisel Geigab, the company disclosed that the Zambian government had been sending bank transfer documents, but no actual cash was remitted to LAP GreenN.

"The now Minister of Finance was a member of Cabinet of the Zambian government at the time LAP GreenN acquired its shareholding in Zamtel. He is very familiar with the LAP GreenN matter. It would have been more useful of him to give a more comprehensive statement in parliament last month. We say this because the recent conduct of the Minister of Finance with respect to addressing the GRZ obligations to LAP GreenN has raised considerable concerns regarding the good faith and integrity of the minister," stated Dr Geigab.

Reacting to the revelations in an interview today, Mwanza, who is FDD spokesperson, warned that failing to pay LAP GreenN could cost Zambia the IMF bailout package.

"The challenge that we have with that issue of LAP GreenN is that it is exposing

the financial vulnerability in Zambia and raising serious questions in the minds of not only lenders but even investors with regards to the financial position of this country. If a government cannot manage to meet its financial obligations to a tune of \$380 million, it simply means that they are now telling the world that as a country, the government is broke! And there are serious ramifications for such an outlook," Mwanza said. "Financiers, investors, become weary investing in a country whose fiscal position looks unstable. It simply means that even the issues to do with the IMF and World Bank, these loans we want to get, they also become very jittery to give money to a country where the possibility of getting back that money is very low. The message that is Mr Mutati is sending by failing to pay LAPGreenN is that the country is broke. And if IMF refuses to help us with the balance sheet, we will be left with no choice but to go on the open market to get money from the shacks at very exorbitant interest rates and there will be further consequences like we are already seeing if we fail to pay back that money. We have had that experience of vulture funds. LAP GreenN will end up seizing Zambia's assets on the international portfolios in order to get that money. That is the direction that the financial arbiters will take. So we will end up losing property. So the minister needs to be honest because the people that are affected are the ordinary Zambians."

He urged Mutati to be honest about national matters.

"There is need for the Minister of Finance to be honest on the

issue of national matters. It is not only LAP GreenN that the minister is not forthcoming in terms of information and the minister has also not been forthcoming to the people of Zambia on the issue of debt. The actual national debt that this country is owing, the minister has not been forthcoming. We want the minister to be very

honest and frank when he is dealing with national matters.

The issue of LAP GreenN is a national matter. Government has a statutory obligation to pay LAP GreenN because they illegally got the company away.

They went to court and lost because they failed to defend themselves here in Zambia," said Mwanza.

It will be upto Lungu to decide if he wants to stand in 2021 - Wina

By Mirriam Chabala

Vice-President Inonge Wina says the issue of leaders clinging onto power is not only a phenomena of a presiding President because the trend also exists even amongst opposition political parties.

And Wina says the PF and President Lungu himself will decide if he wants to recontest the presidency at the next general elections.

Responding to a question from Choma Central member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa following the political crisis in Zimbabwe, Wina said the ruling party had seen opposition leaders hold on to power for a very long time without allowing intra-party democracy to take root.

In his question, Mweetwa also queried the Vice-President to state exactly what the PF's position was with regards to its 2021 Presidential candidate since President Lungu and the ruling party Secretary General were issuing contradictory statements.

"Your honour the Vice-President, clinging onto power beyond reasonableness or beyond legitimate tenure of office is a common source of political instability in Africa as we are now witnessing a bizarre unfolding of a political situation in Zimbabwe. Sometime last week, president Lungu told the nation that he is going only up to 2021 and quickly the secretary general of the PF rushed to the media to nullify the statement that the Head of State and his own party President had made, leaving ordinary citizens to wonder who to

believe now... whether President Lungu or his secretary general of PF," Mweetwa observed.

"This is bringing some level of uncertainty in the minds of the citizens. In view of the aforesaid, your honour the Vice-President what is the correct position that the citizens of this country should take about the desire of President Lungu to contest or not recontest the elections in 2021 and not the legality which is being challenged in Court," submitted Mweetwa.

And in her response, the Vice-President said it would be up to President Lungu and the party to decide whether or not he was going to contest the elections.

"Madam Speaker, clinging to power is not a phenomena of a presiding President because we have seen even in political parties that leaders have held on to power for a very long time without allowing intra-party democracy to take root in those parties. The Secretary General of the PF has every right to inform the nation as to the party's preferred candidate at any given time. So this is what happens. In any case, President Lungu never declared that he would never stand [in 2021], he said that his term of office, the current term of office ends in 2021 and then it will be decided by the party and himself whether he wants to stand or not. So if there are leaders who are aspiring to take that position in here hear me," Wina said.

And the Vice-President also challenged members of parliament to desist from the scramble for positions in government and

concentrate on their Parliamentary duties.

"Madam Speaker, this country faces a lot of developmental challenges that leaders should worry about but this insistence on the Presidency by our leaders leaves me to wonder whether we actually want to develop this country or we just want to be in State House, so I would like to urge my fellow members of parliament and other members out there that please, let us focus on the challenges that our country faces. So that we come out of this situation as a country and not just to be scrambling for positions almost on daily basis, I thank you Madam Speaker," said Wina.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina told the House that farmers who had not yet been paid their money by FRA would be given all that was due to them by Monday next week.

"The concerns of the honourable member for Mwembeshi constituency are the concerns of government as well because we know that our farmers depend on these farming activities to enhance their livelihoods. Because of that, government has taken note and has instructed the Minister of Finance to release funds to FRA to pay farmers. The Minister has promised that by Monday next week money will reach FRA coffers and the farmers will be paid. Thank you," said Vice-President Wina in response to Mwembeshi Independent member of Parliament Machila Chamba who wanted to know when farmers, especially in his constituency were going to be paid.

Let CSOs brush their teeth before accusing Lungu of bad breath

Our brave warriors in Eastern Province who specialise in hunting underground game meat will tell you that when you are about to pull the tail, the jacked-up rodents burst out at explosive speed in an attempt to avoid capture. At this stage, the mouse is in a state of panic and in its confused state, it may end up running right into the feet of the salivating huntsman.

This is the panic we are seeing in our brothers and sisters working in Non Governmental Organisations that have been cited for fraud. Instead of exonerating themselves, FODEP, YALI, SACCORD and others are throwing statements which may implicate them further, and annoy the public in the long run.

We have heard the leadership in YALI claiming that some malicious people are orchestrating an evil campaign against their organisation. But which people? The donors? We don't think so. We have also heard those in charge of FODEP demanding that they are availed the preliminary audit report that found them wanting. But is this not the same strategy that the Ndambo Ndambo-led ZNFU executive used before they rubbished the findings that were availed to them?

We would like to express our displeasure in the arrogance exhibited so far by the accused. We would

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like to remind our affected civil society institutions that this matter is of great public interest, and as such, Zambians have every right to demand answers from those who have been reported to police for committing crimes.

We understand that some people have made speculative comments and malicious statements against the accused; but all these deserve to be respected as concerned citizens who are rightfully expressing their displeasure. There is no need to throw back shade at them.

We say this because we strongly believe that there is merit in the claims that have been raised by the donors. We don't see how the entire British Council could report such a claim to the police without conducting a thorough, forensic audit of the recipients'

accounts. There is serious smoke here and it's just a matter of time before the fire becomes visible.

In fact, it is not UKAid alone which is staggering from plunder. It is just that the British Council has refused to abort; otherwise many donors who provide aid to the Zambian government and civil society, have been impregnated with fraud. Ask USAID, DFID, GiZ, JAICA, SIDA, MCA and many other donors, if they are satisfied with how their finances are expended, they will tell you many stories about how frustrating it is to help the poor in Zambia. Money meant for water projects is spent on advancing political programmes. When the donors ask, they are told to leave the country if they want. Some of these cases are simply kept away from the police and the

media to avoid diplomatic incidences.

What we are trying to say is that there is no single recipient of donor money who can claim to be squeaky-clean in Zambia. Some are just good at covering up their theft, while others simply go unpunished. We live in a crazy world where unfortunate thieves go to prison, lucky ones get rich, and experienced ones ascend to powerful political positions and rule the victims.

But going back to the Zambian NGOs that have been cited for fraud. Our view is that, much as we have the right to demand answers, we must not sentence them before according them an opportunity to face trial. We must show magnanimity by declaring them innocent, at least, until proven guilty. However, to demand this indulgence from

the public, a few things have to be done.

We do not believe that everyone in the Forum for Democratic Process is a thief. It is also not possible that all employees under the Young African Leaders Initiative could have convened a meeting to discuss how they were going to embezzle donor money. In the same vein, the Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes is a big organisation with many employees, a majority of whom have no access to finances. These cannot be punished or condemned along with those who are guilty.

Therefore, it is only in order for those in charge of finances at the affected NGOs, together with their top leaders to step aside and pave way for investigations. This will allow the investigative wings to

professionally find the culprits among the innocent and bring them to justice. These are the people who must be named and shamed, not the entire organisations.

This is not to suggest that they are guilty, but they have to show the public that they are not immune to accountability. If they are innocent, they shouldn't worry, but demonstrate that they lead organisations which are transparent. Once the erring officers have been identified and arrested, then they can proudly go back to their positions to continue providing checks and balances to our highly corrupt government.

For now, however, we demand that new credible voices take up leadership positions of these NGOs so that we do not kill the already weakened civil society voice in our country.

In the absence of that, there is nothing that the public will hear from YALI, FODEP or SACCORD. At the moment, these organisations have been brought into disrepute and no matter how much they speak against President Edgar Lungu and his government; Zambians will be hearing deceit and hypocrisy.

If they choose to stay in their positions at the height of this scandal, they must also accept insults from citizens whom they will be poisoning with bad breath every time they speak.

What our military, politicians can learn from Zimbabwe...so far

By Sishuwa Sishuwa

The seizure of power in Zimbabwe by the military presents important lessons for Zambia, for the rest of the southern Africa region and for the continent as a whole. Given that things are still in a state of flux, it is hard to properly analyse the issue and predict how the situation will unfold over the next few days or weeks. In times like these, today's certainties are often undone by tomorrow events. That said, there are emerging lessons to be tentatively drawn from what has happened so far, especially in relation to the motivations for the military takeover, the key figures behind the move, the local and external response to the 'coup', and the possible consequences of transferring power through the gun, not the ballot.

The first lesson to learn from Zimbabwe is that any close connection between military and political elites in power should be strongly opposed by the public because it almost always threatens democratic consolidation, especially in political systems that are characterised by relatively weak institutions such as Zambia's. While Zimbabweans have long complained about the degenerating economic, political and social situation in their country, what motivated the military to seize power is the desire to protect entrenched privileges, ensure continued access to wealth accumulation and remove the possibility of their leaders being held to account by a new president not of their choosing. As expected, the coup leaders opportunistically linked their actions to the poor-performing economy, the erosion of democratic principles, the need sort out 'the criminals' surrounding Mugabe and to restore constitutional order in the nation.

The military leadership is not a sudden convert to constitutional democracy. Generals had no problem with Mugabe in power and his autocratic tendencies while they were

able to enrich themselves, with their safety guaranteed. When Mugabe announced that he would seek another term in next year's elections, there was no opposition from the security wings. Even now, they are not critical of Mugabe in any major way. The military leaders only acted now because Grace Mugabe's so-called G40 faction, widely seen as incapable of guaranteeing their interests, threatened their power. In seizing control, the generals are not seeking to create an alternative democratic society: they are simply safeguarding their position. Their reported preference for former vice-president Emmerson Mnangagwa, a popular figure amongst soldiers, draws inspiration from this point.

As President Edgar Lungu seeks to extend his terms in office, it may be important to thoroughly investigate the economic and financial interests of those in his inner circle who stand to benefit from his continued stay in office. It is only through a wider understanding of the interests and networks that bolster Lungu's rule that those opposed to his ambition to cling to power past his constitutional limit would understand the challenge that faces them. While the military has not previously had an overt political role in Zambia, there are signs that this is slowly changing, especially under Lungu's presidency. Military leaders have, in recent times, sought to influence political developments behind the scenes and in support of Lungu. In the run-up to the January 2015 presidential election, military chiefs reportedly backed Lungu, hitherto the Minister of Defence, in the ruling party's divisive succession wrangles. In May 2016, at the height of the election campaign, top military commanders held a rare press conference, effectively in support of the ruling authorities. We now hear that when the election petition was

filed last August, senior military figures put pressure on Lungu to ignore the constitutional provision that requires an incumbent whose election is legally challenged to step down and cede power to the Speaker of the National Assembly. It is likely that the manoeuvring of the military extends beyond these cited examples and continues behind the scenes. This, left unchecked, is a serious threat to Zambia's democracy.

The second lesson is that foreign condemnation and intervention of a number of key political developments in Africa is closely tied to the strategic and economic interests of major international powers. It is telling that not a single Western government has openly condemned the military seizure of power in Zimbabwe or described the generals' actions as an outright coup against a legitimately elected government. A statement by United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson appears to effectively endorse the overthrow of Mugabe as good riddance. Johnson's major concern was the choice of Mugabe's possible successor, Mnangagwa, whom the top British diplomat criticised as another autocrat and one of the leading architects of Zimbabwe's current misery. This kind of response perhaps should not come as a surprise. Western governments, led by the United States and United Kingdom, have long sought Mugabe's removal and their response to the generals' actions indicates that they have welcomed military intervention. Principled opposition to military seizure of power vanished in the face of this political aim. It is likely that if the leader at the receiving end of the military's actions had been faithful to Western interests, Western governments would have been unanimous in their condemnation. How many civil society organisations in Zambia do Western governments fund to question the activities

and operations of mining companies on the Copperbelt or in North-Western Province? Probably none. They would rather maintain the status quo and finance a few NGOs in Lusaka to make noise around 'constitutional reform' and 'good governance' because they have vested interests in the mining sector. The hypocrisy of Western governments on certain issues is truly embarrassing. The Zimbabwe experience also demonstrates the need for regional bodies such as the Southern Africa Development community (SADC) to take a more proactive role in the happenings of its member states. Latest reports indicate that SADC leaders are locked in crucial talks that seek to either return Mugabe to power or safely secure his exit. Had SADC leaders paid attention to and acted on the longstanding concerns of Zimbabweans much earlier, they would have averted the latest crisis.

The latest edition of Africa Confidential reports that South Africa and China effectively approved the coup in Zimbabwe long before it happened to protect their national interests. If this is true, we would be less surprised about South Africa's involvement. It is the role of China, a country that has previously been very hands off in its approach to African governments, that raises concern. What would happen to Zambia when we default on the Chinese debt or when we elect a leader who is not amenable to Chinese interests?

The third lesson from Zimbabwe is that when ordinary citizens lose all belief in their own capacity to cause or enact change, they are likely to support anything they can construe as salvation. When news of the military takeover filtered through the streets of Harare, many Zimbabweans – a majority of whom have made strenuous efforts to remove Mugabe from power both through elections and popular protests – welcomed it. Ordinary citizens who sought the removal of Mugabe

have been unsuccessful partly because Mugabe previously retained the support of the army. The lesson here for leaders elsewhere in the region is the need to respect presidential term limits and leave power voluntarily. In a way, Mugabe brought this military intervention on himself by refusing to consider stepping down or making any succession plans. Leaders elsewhere, including in Zambia, who are similarly stubborn and are destroying public institutions with great abandon could invite the same fate of any kind of non-constitutional or sudden removal from power.

The final lesson is one that the people of Zimbabwe may sadly be about to learn: that once the military becomes directly involved in politics, they are very hard to dislodge. To take the example from West Africa, celebrations when the military overthrew various corrupt and authoritarian regimes quickly turned to regret as the soldiers proved unwilling to surrender power. There is a danger about the unfolding political events in Zimbabwe that many people are overlooking, possibly out of an immediate desire to see Mugabe's back. If Zimbabweans and the region accept the generals' seizure of power in Zimbabwe as a 'clean coup', military takeovers could come to be seen as a legitimate form of removing unwanted leaders. Already, South Africans are fantasizing about President Jacob Zuma being removed in a similar manner. Mugabe's departure was long overdue, without question. Yet the manner of his departure is deeply worrying. Military coups cannot be accepted as a legitimate part of political life. There is a possibility that the positive reception to the coup in Zimbabwe will embolden anti-democratic forces across the region. The clamour to be rid of Mugabe may be short-sighted if we lose sight of the wider and far more important democratic principles.

Celebs applaud Australians for supporting same-sex marriage

Ellen DeGeneres, Boy George, Lady Gaga and a slew of other celebrities are rejoicing over yet another win for love.

A majority of Australians said yes to marriage equality in a nationwide poll on same-sex marriage released Wednesday.

There's been a long-fought campaign to change the laws regarding marriage in the country, and the survey from

the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed a 61 percent majority of citizens favor legalizing same-sex marriage

in Australia.

It now will be up to the country's Parliament to act on the results. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has said his goal is to pass legislation to change the Marriage Act through Parliament before Christmas.

"The people have voted yes for marriage equality. Now it is our job to deliver it," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra.

The government might still have work to do, but it took no time for famous LGBTQ advocates to applaud Australians on the survey results.

Idris Elba robbed of 'Sexiest Man' Title?

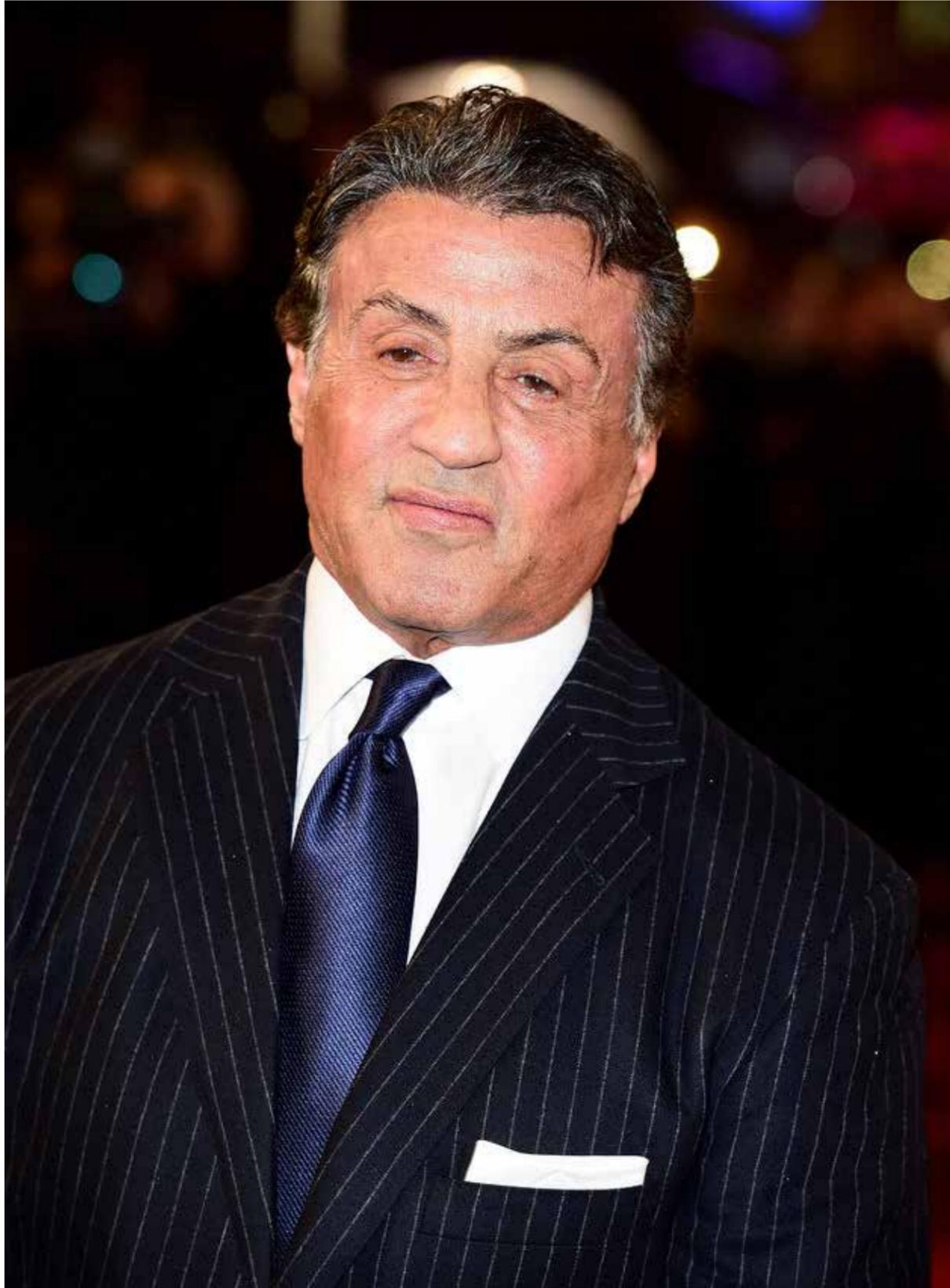
Of course, a lot of people on Twitter voiced their opinions about singer Blake Shelton being chosen People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2017.

And aside from Shelton's main squeeze, Gwen Stefani, many of them seem to have a completely different idea about who should have been honored with such a title.

Like, oh, we dunno, a suave British actor who goes by the name Idris freaking Elba, perhaps?

We mean, c'mon

Sylvester Stallone Denies Historic Sexual Assault Of 16-Year-Old Fan



Sylvester Stallone has denied allegations of a historic sexual assault. The actor has been accused of assaulting a 16-year-old fan back in 1986, after the Daily Mail uncovered a police report filed at the time.

It alleged Stallone forced the girl into a threesome with him and his bodyguard, Michael 'Mike' De Luca, in a Las Vegas hotel room.

The case was later dropped after she decided against pursuing any charges. The girl also claimed he threatened to "beat her head in" her if she told anyone, according to the report.

However, Stallone's spokeswoman Michelle Bega described the allegations as "a ridiculous, categorically false story" in a statement issued to the

publication.

"No one was ever aware of this story until it was published today, including Mr Stallone. At no time was Mr Stallone ever contacted by any authorities or anyone else regarding this matter," she said.

Laura Meltzer, a spokesperson for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, was not able to confirm the authenticity of the report as the department's records did not go back far enough, according to The Independent.

However, she did say the formatting of the report was consistent with their procedures.

The Mail Online also stated retired Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

detective sergeant, John Samolovitch, claimed the officer's report was authentic.

The report said the girl alleged she met Stallone - now 71 - in July 1986, when she was staying at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, where he was also staying during the filming of movie 'Over the Top'.

This isn't the first time Stallone has been accused of sexual assault.

In 2001, a woman filed a lawsuit against the actor, alleging he "forcibly pinned" her against a wall and tore her clothes at a fitness center, while in 2013, reports surfaced that he had paid off his late half-sister Toni-Ann Filiti to keep quiet about allegations that he had abused her for years.

Drake Warns Man groping women in audience: 'I am gonna f**k you up'

Drake has been on his Australian leg of his world tour for a few weeks now, and last night he stopped by Marquee in Sydney for a post-concert performance.

Not everyone in the crowd seemed to be there for the tunes though, as Drake stopped mid-performance to yell at a man who was apparently harassing and groping women in the audience.

Captured on Instagram, Drake can be heard shouting, "If you don't stop touching girls I'm gonna come out there and f**k

you up".

The audience absolutely exploded with support as Drizzy doubled down on his threat to end the man's inappropriate actions himself.

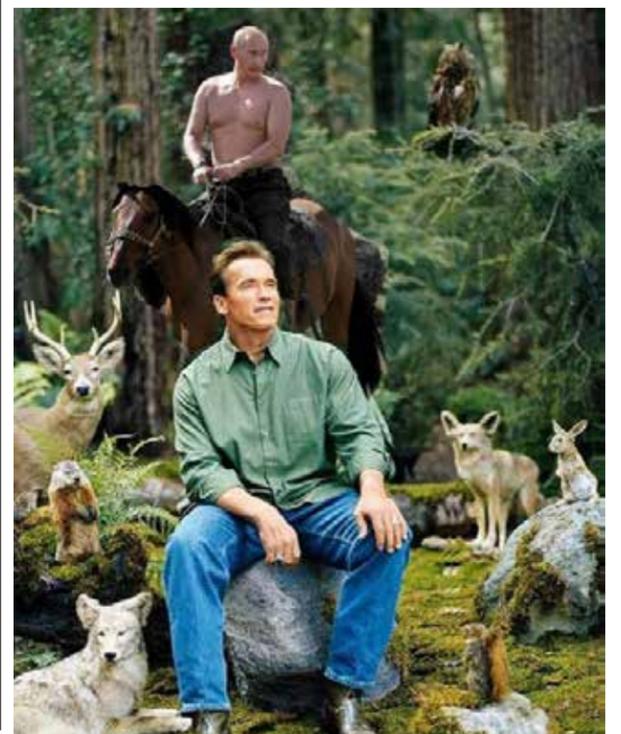
"If you don't stop putting your hands on girls, I'm gonna come out there and f**k your ass up."

As he continued to shout across the screaming crowd sans microphone, security can be seen combing the audience. Drake just isn't here for you if you're on your 'Worst Behaviour'.

Schwarzenegger Pic Sends the Internet Into Photoshop Overdrive

People can't get enough of an old image of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Reddit user thelittlegnome shared this undated picture of the former California governor to the site's "Photoshop Battle" thread on Friday.

It didn't take long for other users to begin manipulating the image in various weird and wonderful ways with some adding Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., into the mix.





Defiant Mugabe makes first public appearance

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has made his first public appearance since the country's army took over on Wednesday.

He attended a graduation ceremony in the capital, Harare.

Mr Mugabe had been under

house arrest for days. The army made its move after a power struggle over his successor.

The military said on Friday it was "engaging" with Mr Mugabe and would advise the public on the outcome of talks "as soon as possible".

Meanwhile Christopher Mutsvangwa, the leader of the influential war veterans' association, said Mr Mugabe should step down at once.

He called for a huge turnout in street protests on Saturday. "We want to restore our pride and tomorrow is the

day... we can finish the job which the army started, Mr Mutsvangwa said.

"There's no going back about Mugabe. He must leave."

Mr Mugabe's attendance at the graduation is an annual tradition but few expected to see him there, the BBC's

Andrew Harding reports from Zimbabwe.

Mr Mugabe walked slowly up a red carpet and joined the crowd in singing the national anthem, then opened the graduation ceremony at Zimbabwe's Open University, where he is

chancellor.

One of the people he conferred a degree upon was Marry Chiwenga, the wife of the general who detained him on Wednesday, the state broadcaster reports.

Neither the 93-year-old president's wife, Grace Mugabe, nor Education Minister Jonathan Moyo - an ally of hers whose house was reportedly raided by the military - were present.

The army acted after Mr Mugabe sacked Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa last week.

Mr Mnangagwa was seen as a potential successor and his sacking was supposed to pave the way for Grace Mugabe - who is four decades younger than him - to take over the presidency instead.

Although the army is obviously calling the shots in Zimbabwe, in public they still refer to Robert Mugabe as "his excellency, the president" and even "commander-in-chief".

This is why he has been allowed to attend the graduation ceremony. This is partly to keep up the pretence that they have not staged a coup but they also have a genuine, deeply felt respect for him going back more than 40 years.

All of Zimbabwe's security chiefs have worked with Mr Mugabe since they fought together in the 1970s war of independence - and the bonds forged in that struggle are difficult to break.

In many ways, Zimbabwe's military remains the armed wing of Zanu-PF, as it was when they were all rebels fighting white-minority rule in the then Rhodesia.

Furthermore, in Zimbabwean culture, the elderly are traditionally shown respect and no-one wants to be seen to be treating a 93-year-old in an undignified manner, especially a man even opposition figures refer to as the "father of the nation".

Fire rips through Cameroon parliament

The main parliament building in Cameroon's capital Yaoundé has been badly damaged by fire which ripped through four floors.

Firefighters managed to put out the blaze before it could reach the parliamentary chamber.

There has so far been no indication of any casualties and the cause of the blaze was not immediately clear.

In this week's session, the national assembly had been discussing the budget.

Pictures and video posted on social media show the upper floors in flames, hours after it first took hold. An AFP new agency photographer said the fire was fully extinguished by dawn today.



An eighth woman has come forward with claims that former US president George HW Bush groped her.

An interpreter, whom the BBC has agreed not to name because of the sensitive nature of her job, claims Mr Bush touched her inappropriately in 2004.

The alleged incident took place at a meeting between the former president and the Spanish defence minister Jose Bono Martinez.

The interpreter has not previously spoken publicly about the incident.

"It was 2004," she told the BBC. "Spanish troops had been withdrawn suddenly from Iraq and I was working as an interpreter in Spain." Jose Zapatero's Socialist Party unexpectedly won the

general election in March of that year.

The incumbent US president, George W Bush, was nearing the end of his first term in office. His relationship with Mr Zapatero was markedly frostier than the warm rapport he had enjoyed with the Spanish prime minister's conservative predecessor.

George HW Bush, the president's father, was hunting in Spain so, with an interpreter, Mr Martinez was sent to meet him armed with a gift - a pair of hunting rifles.

The interpreter would not disclose the contents of the meeting, citing confidentiality concerns. But media reports suggest Mr Martinez was hoping

George Bush accused of groping by eighth woman

to enlist Mr Bush's help in establishing greater communication between the US president and the Spanish prime minister.

'He grabbed my bum' It was at the photo call after the meeting had finished when the alleged incident occurred.

"When the time came to take the photos, Mr Bush insisted on me being in the photo," the interpreter said. "I remember thinking this was odd. Usually we stay outside of the frame.

"He grabbed my bum. At first I thought it was an accident, but then he did it a second time."

Her story is similar to other allegations made against Mr Bush. Another woman, Roslyn Corrigan, told the publication Time that Mr Bush touched her inappropriately in 2003, when she was 16.

In October, a spokesman for Mr Bush, Jim McGrath, acknowledged that Mr Bush had "on occasion... patted women's rears in what he

intended to be in a good-natured manner".

Mr McGrath partially blamed Mr Bush's use of a wheelchair. "His arms fall on the lower waist of people with whom he takes pictures," he said.

But like Ms Corrigan, the interpreter told the BBC that Mr Bush was standing during the alleged incident. Mr Bush did not start using a wheelchair until around 2012, roughly eight years after the interpreter says the incident took place.

Goods worth \$400K stolen from Venus Williams' Florida home



Burglars hit tennis star Venus Williams' Florida home, stealing \$400,000 worth of goods while she was at the U.S. Open, police said Thursday.

The burglary happened between Sept. 1 and 5 at Williams' 10,000-square-foot (1,000-square-meter) home, which is in a well-to-do gated community, Palm Beach Gardens police said in a statement. Police blacked out from their report what was stolen. No arrests have been made.

Palm Beach County property records show Williams and her sister Serena bought the home new in 2000. It is now valued at \$2.3 million.

Venus Williams' agent, Carlos Fleming, did not respond to an email seeking comment. The burglary was first reported by WPEC-TV. This is the second time in five months Palm Beach Gardens police did not publicly release information about an incident involving Williams until it was reported by a news outlet.

In June, Williams was involved in a traffic accident near her home that killed a passenger in the other car. Police have said the accident investigation remains open, and she is being sued by the dead man's estate. Palm Beach

Gardens police did not issue a news release or the accident report until the website TMZ published a story three weeks after the crash. Maj. Eduardo Guillen said it is not the department's practice to issue news releases about major crimes and fatal traffic accidents involving its residents, something other departments in Florida and nationally do routinely.

"The department is not in the business of randomly releasing information on cases. Ms. Williams is a private citizen within our community and she will be extended the same privacy all our citizens expect," Guillen said in an email to The Associated Press.

The suburb of about 54,000 residents is mostly middle class, but has wealthy enclaves. Williams, 37, has had one of her best recent years on the court, finishing second at both Wimbledon and the Australian Open and reaching the semi-finals at the U.S. Open.

Williams has seven career Grand Slam titles and career on-court earnings of nearly \$40 million. She has her own clothing line and endorsement deals with Ralph Lauren, Kraft foods, Tide detergent and Wilson sporting goods. She also owns a small percentage of the Miami Dolphins. **Yahoo**

Wilder calls out AJ again for big heavyweight fight



Deontay Wilder can't wait to get Anthony Joshua into the ring.

He's just not sure when it's going to happen.

"I just want to prove who is the best, that's all I want to

do," Wilder said Thursday. "I want people to see a great fight and witness the two best heavyweights compete with each other one night in the ring."

Wilder, who is coming off

an impressive first-round knockout of Bernard Stiverne, said his representatives have been in contact with Joshua's camp, and the two sides are exploring ways to stage the heavyweight unification fight.

It could happen sometime next year, Wilder said, if Joshua's handlers aren't too protective of the British fighter.

"I think they're hesitant for a reason," Wilder said by phone to The Associated Press. "They've got a great thing going. He can fight literally a guy who doesn't even have a name and can make millions and millions of dollars off him. Why would they risk taking a chance with the most dangerous heavyweight in the division?"

There are other obstacles to the fight, as well, including whether to hold it in England or in the U.S. and on what pay-per-view network. Wilder's camp has indicated their fighter would have to get more money than Joshua, too, because he has proven his ability to sell huge amounts of tickets in England. **Yahoo**

Numba drops 4 U17 from U20 COSAFA squad

By Nyambe Lubasi

Twelve ex-Under-17 players have made the 25-member provisional Zambia Under-20 team for the 2017 COSAFA U20 Cup that Zambia will host next month.

Defending champions Zambia will host the COSAFA U20 Cup in Kitwe from December 6-16.

Coach Mumamba Numba promoted 16 players from the Zambia Under-17 team he guided to triumph at the 2017 COSAFA U17 Cup in Mauritius in July.

Four of those COSAFA U17 Cup winners have been dropped following the trials of 45 players held this week in Lusaka.

They include goalkeeper Emmanuel Mphasi, defender Christopher Katongo, midfielders Michael Kafusha and Jimmy Hamanzuka.

2018 FIFA U20 World Cup member and midfielder Ngosa Sunzu has made it for the last selection round hoping to make the final 23.

Sunzu is the only player from ex-Under-20 coach Beston Chambeshi's team in successor Numba's provisional side.

Chambeshi, who won the 2016 COSAFA U20 Cup and 2017 U20 AFCON title, has been elevated with his team to the Under-23 level.

The 2017 COSAFA U17 Cup survivors in the last round of the Under-20 selection are midfielders Clinton Lubula, Prince Mumba, Muma Mumba, John Mulalagabo, Niza Simutenda, and Mamelodi Sundowns target Lameck Banda of Nkwazi.

Striker's Martin Njobvu and Christopher Phiri also made the cut.

Others are defenders Kingsley Hakwiya, Victor Kasokolo, Jonathan Kapelembe and Andrew Phiri. Zambia have been drawn in Group A where they will play Swaziland, Uganda and Malawi.

The champions will kick off its title defence against guest side from the CECAFA Zone, Uganda, on December 6 at Nkana Stadium.

Nkana and Arthur Davies Stadium will be the host venues for the tournament where all the group games and semifinals will be played.

The final and 3rd and 4th playoff will be staged at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

GOALKEEPERS: Prince Bwalya (Green Buffaloes), Bradley Mweene (Lusaka Youth Academy), Benson Mwale (Zanaco)

DEFENDERS: Andrew Phiri (Kafue Celtic), Victor Kasokola (Konkola Blades), Justin Mwanza (Young Nkana), Kinglsey Hakwiya (Dream Factory Academy) Jonathan Kapelembe (Romeki), Hillary Mwinga (Red Arrows)

MIDFIELDERS: Clinton Lubula (Kabwata Dynamos), Prince Mumba (Kabwe Warriors), Muma Mumba (Zamcoala Diggers), Niza Simutenda (Mpande Youth Academy), Chanda Mukuka (Gomes), John Mulalagabo (Kasama United Youth Academy), Ngosa Sunzu (Napsa Stars), Benson Kolala (Nchanga Rangers), Harry Milanzi (Young Green Buffaloes), Godfrey Chanda (Green Buffaloes)

STRIKERS: Martin Njobvu (Nchanga Rangers), Lameck Banda (Nkwazi), Francesco Mwepu (Chambishi), Gamphani Lungu (National Assembly), Christopher Phiri (Kafue Celtic), Paul Mwachisemu (Kafue Celtic)

TEMBO PRAISES WADA'S ATTACKING MIND

By Nyambe Lubasi
Ex-Zambia striker Masauso Tembo has praised Chipolopolo coach Wedson Nyirenda for giving the national teams' attack a refreshing look. 2017 has seen Zambia's attacking fortunes improve following Nyirenda's bold decision to phase out stalwarts Collins Mbesuma and Winston Kalengo. Nyirenda began the year by drafting Brian Mwila

and Justin Shonga into the fold and later promoted Under-20 midfielder Enock Mwepu. He also recalled Patson Daka who has not disappointed in his second Chipolopolo coming.

"We have an attack-minded coach and he was a lethal number 9 in his time, so we wouldn't be surprised by the goals coming the way they are," said Tembo. "I think we are heading

in the right direction especially with the fusing in of the Under-20 boys. I think I would give them two years for the team to get well." Striker Mwila has ended the year as Chipolopolo's

top scorer on 8 goals followed by Shonga with 6 while Daka and Mwepu have two and one goal each. Tembo, a veteran of the 1998 and 2000 AFCON, is currently assistant coach

to ex-Zambia midfielder Perry Mutapa at Forest Rangers. Mutapa and Tembo initially guided Lusaka Dynamos to promotion in 2015 after the club spent five years in Division 1.

I'd support Messi if he decides to leave Barcelona - Ronaldinho



Ronaldinho would back Lionel Messi if the Barcelona superstar decided to leave Camp Nou. Messi agreed a new contract last summer but is yet to put pen-to-paper on a deal which would see him remain at Barca until 2021. The four-time Ballon d'Or winner would be permitted to speak to other clubs over a free transfer as soon as January should he decline the Barca renewal on the table. The 30-year-old has been strongly linked to a reunion with Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. Messi replaced Ronaldinho as Barca's No.10 when the Brazilian icon left the club and the 2002 World Cup winner would support Messi's decision either way. "It's hard for me to say because he's a close friend," Ronaldinho told Goal in his role as ambassador for Football For Peace. "And as a close friend I always cheer for his happiness. "If it touches his heart to go to another club - even though I am an ambassador for Barcelona - I would support him but I would love for him to stay in Barcelona. "Wherever he plays he would make a difference for the game of football." **Yahoo**

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