

Delayed govt support to farmers angers members of parliament

MPS GRILL DORA



By Mirriam Chabala
Agriculture minister Dora Siliya this morning struggled to explain why government has been making empty promises over the distribution of e-voucher cards and farming inputs.

And a Choma district farmer, Joseph Sichoza, says Siliya is fooling farmers by promising that one million beneficiaries will receive e-voucher cards by next week, saying such an undertaking was impossible and would be a miracle to achieve.

During the questions for oral answer session in Parliament today, Katuba UPND member of parliament Patricia Mwashingwele asked Siliya to explain why she had gone back to Parliament for the second time to give farmers a deadline for the activation of e-voucher cards which she knew would not even be met.

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Eric Chanda joins NDC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

I have joined NDC because I have seen Sata's pro-poor policies in Chishimba Kambwili and the NDC, says Eric Chanda.

Chanda has since told News Diggers! that he is no longer president of the 4th Revolution.

"I'm a member of the central committee of the National Democratic Congress with a position. But let me not confirm it now, I will confirm at a later stage. I will be holding a press conference at some appropriate time. But what I can confirm for now is that I'm an NDC member," Chanda said.

"For now, *ifyabu* president *naipwa*. For now, I'm no longer a president [of the 4th Revolution]. All of us must live to support the cause of NDC to put a stop to the Edgar Lungu-led corrupt government."

And Chanda has already started fighting battles for the newly formed party, while encouraging citizens to join-in.

On Wednesday, PF Copperbelt youth chairman Nathan Chanda who is also Luanshya mayor said Kambwili was practicing childish politics because he kept insulting President Lungu; a statement that did not go well with Chanda.

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PF cadres beat Max over car deal involving State House

By Joseph Mwenda
PF cadres today beat Max Chongu, a staunch supporter of the ruling party in bizarre circumstances involving car dealers, President Edgar Lungu, his political advisor

Kaizer Zulu and the Zambia Cooperatives Federation executive director James Chirwa.

According to Max, who narrated his beating to News Diggers! Chirwa gave some PF cadres US\$150,000 to buy him a Range Rover, which they never delivered.

He said when Chirwa asked for the car, the named cadres claimed that they bought and delivered to State House for President Lungu as a gift.

Chongu claims that it was at that point that he got involved to try and defend President Lungu's name, a move that annoyed the State House political advisor, who today sent cadres to beat him.

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**Businessman
in court after
failing to clinch
road contract
for his Chinese
associate**

See story
on page 4



President Lungu's political advisor Kaizer Zulu shares a drink with State House Permanent Secretary Christah Kalulu while flying on the presidential challenger to Harare today. Zulu shared the photo on social media. Story page 3

Those mocking Kaizer's qualifications risk being beaten, warns Mumbi Phiri

Story page 6

We are under siege from criminals

– Financial Intelligence Centre

By Joseph Mwenda

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) says it is under siege from criminals who are trying to influence the shut down of the institution so that they can freely conduct money-laundering activities. And the FIC today disclosed that in the last nine months, the centre recorded a total of about 35, 783 suspicious cash transactions involving over US\$ 1 billion, linked to corporate and individual bank accounts.

Meanwhile, the FIC says 50 per cent of the companies investigated which got government contracts are not registered for tax while some belong to politically exposed individuals who front surrogates to conduct business on their behalf.

On Monday, News Diggers revealed that Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho had started the process of removing FIC director general Mary Tshuma, by raising criminal charges against her. It was further reported that Mosho and some PF officials wanted to remove Tshuma so that a more submissive director general could be appointed to replace her.

Speaking at a press conference held at Grand Palace Hotel in Lusaka this morning, FIC board acting director John Kasanga confirmed the move, saying criminal elements were targeting senior managers at the institution with false allegations in order to get rid of them.

“Public institutions, especially the FIC have an important role in safeguarding our country from criminal elements. Unfortunately, I must share with you that the FIC is facing real threats from these criminal elements who would like to destabilise the institution. This has taken a form of threats to the personal safety of the FIC senior staff and attempts at spreading false insinuations about its senior management,” Kasanga said. “So the public must be made aware that the sources of these threats are from the same elements that are committing serious financial crimes. They are the same people who are trying to influence the shut down of the FIC. They are trying to influence negative views about the FIC and its senior staff. Unfortunately, they are also trying to use their proceeds from criminal activities to corrupt other public institutions to further their agenda of trying to neutralize the FIC. So the FIC is under siege. We are under siege.”

Kasanga who was flanked by Tshuma and board director Daniel Katongo, said the FIC had identified the criminals behind the maneuvers



because their illicit financial activities were already on the institution's database.

“A weakened FIC will enable such elements to continue to commit crimes without anyone recording what they have done, or putting together the evidence required by law enforcement agencies to prosecute them. But what these individuals don't realise is that the FIC knows who they are because their activities are documented. What has been documented cannot be erased by eliminating individual members of staff of the FIC,” Kasanga said without mentioning Mosho. “So they can try and destabilise, but as long as we continue to have government support over the ideals of maintaining the FIC, that information will always be there for anyone to use if they want to prosecute. So trying to threaten individuals will not help. The best they can do is to stop getting involved in criminal activities; that is the answer. We would like to assure the public that the FIC remains undaunted and we remain committed to discharging our mandate professionally and without fear of favour,” he said.

“Our appeal to stakeholders especially reporting entities and law enforcement agencies, is to work with us collaboratively and to always put the national interest at the centre of what they do as they discharge their mandates. If they do that, a lot of the problems that we are facing could be much more easily addressed because we would fight together. We should not provide hiding places for criminals. In other words, we must say no to corruption, at least not on my turf.”

And during the question and answer session, Tshuma also confirmed that she had received threats from criminal elements who were trying to remove her from

office.

In terms of officers of the FIC, including myself being targeted for the work that we do, when we entered the Financial Intelligence Centre circle. We signed up for such kind of things. So our job comes with different kinds of threats. Of course, the purpose of money laundering for criminals is to hide who is behind it. And so when the criminals feel threatened that you are getting to the bottom of what they are doing, obviously you receive different kinds of threats,” Tshuma said.

“So threats have been part of our lives. I can confirm that we do receive such kind of threats, but I cannot say that there is a court case that is going on against any FIC officer that has been established as yet. But threats have been received by difference officers of the centre.”

Earlier before talking about the threats that the institution had been receiving, Kasanga disclosed that between January and September 2017, over US\$ 1 billion had been reported in various suspicious cash transactions. He said the trend of people playing around with colossal volumes of money had worsened since 2016.

“Financial crimes pose a serious threat to Zambia's national security and economic stability. The FIC has noted with concern that the trends noted in 2016 are getting worse. Every Zambian is affected when taxes are not collected due to tax evasion or corruptions, as these result in the diversion of scares resources to individuals rather than the public,” he said.

“Over the nine months from January to September 2017, there are additional trends that we have been picking up that are worrisome; and we would like to share these with the public. With

regards to cash transaction reports, we established that there are a lot of transactions which are happening in cash where people from nowhere go and deposits trunks of money in an account or they will try and withdraw large amounts of cash. You don't know where that cash has come from and when they withdraw, you don't know who they are paying.”

He said during the period under review, close to US\$1 billion was suspiciously deposited in company accounts, while US\$72 million was deposited in personal bank accounts.

“For example, with companies and established businesses, we noted withdraws which were large amounts of cash. There were about 8,277 such transactions, involving K1.8 billion and on the dollar side, US\$8.8 million. Coming to cash deposits which also didn't add up, especially those entities that you know that they would not ordinarily be trading in cash. We had 17,000 such transactions, involving K3.6 billion and, wait for it, US\$ 883million, you know what that amount is; just below a billion dollars,” Kasanga said, adding that there were several other millions of dollars detected in unclassified cash transactions involving companies and individuals.

“With regards to individuals, the suspicious transactions that were of concern to us, we picked up 1,884 transactions and those involved, K483.8 million and then US\$6.4 million. So we have a lot of individuals playing around with a lot of cash. And when it came to deposits, we picked up about 3,369 transactions which involved K548 million and on the dollar front, wait for it, US\$71.9 million that people are playing around with. These suspicious transactions were processed by our financial institutions and what is

significant about this is that they are based on people transacting in cash, which makes it difficult to trace the source of the money. And for those who are paying, you don't know who is being paid from these withdrawals.”

He said company owners were avoiding tax by transacting with personal bank accounts.

“Then we also picked up that there are a lot of individual accounts that are linked to companies, where individuals are receiving more money than the companies that they are working for, which is going into individual accounts. People use this to evade tax in a number of cases. And then we also saw that a lot of the major sources of these cash deposits were from the trading commodities. The main commodities were fertilizer, maize and soya beans. Such illicit funds were being used to buy maize and export; then the proceeds would come into the normal bank accounts. So it's a way of laundering money where all you see is the maize being sold, but how that maize was procured, there is no record of it,” Kasanga explained.

“I should also mention that the information we have does not give you the total picture because this is just where we have got the information, but there are other things happening in the economy that we can't pick up. We also want to share with you the results of the suspicious transactions over the nine months period. We picked up a total of K664 million which was completely suspicious transactions and the value of this was US\$53.3 million. What is notable about this, 45 per cent of these transactions were associated with tax evasion, amounting to K300 million.”

And Kasanga said many companies which were getting government contracts

were suspiciously owned and not registered for tax.

“We have also been monitoring the tenders awarded by statutory agencies and parastatal companies. It is rather disappointing to share with you the results of this analysis. It indicated that about 50 per cent of the contract awarded by these institutions, this year so far, have been awarded to entities that are not registered for tax. Others are not tax compliant. But being tax compliant is a prerequisite to be awarded a public contract,” he said.

“So from what we analysed, because we didn't analyse all the contracts, about 50 per cent are being awarded to people who are not even registered. Again about 50 per cent of the companies had no capacity to contract; in other words, some are companies that have just been registered. They just put in a tender and they are given, they have no track record of having been in operations. Some companies were even unregistered. So you have public contracts being awarded to entities that are not even registered. We also established that a number of these contracts were based on single sourcing. Somehow they were just single sourced and no one even new that contracts had been awarded, people just started executing the contracts.”

He said politically exposed persons were using surrogates to win government contracts. “We also established that some of these companies that are getting public contracts, their ownership is very opaque. When you check at PACRA, you find that the names of the companies differ from the people who are purporting to be the owners of the companies. So what is happening is that a number of companies are surrogates. The people being shown to be the fronts of these companies are surrogates. Most of such cases involved what we call politically exposed persons who are using their associates to conduct business on their behalf because officially they are banned from participating in certain bids,” said Kasanga.

“The FIC was in the recent past approached to conduct due diligence investigations on entities that are trying to offer loans to the government directly and to the parastatals. What we have found out is that some of the sponsors and their Zambian accomplices have criminal backgrounds. So they overprice the cost of the loans obviously aimed to swindle. And the government, as a guarantor has to bare the burden of the increased cost of a simple commercial loan. So its another way of stealing money from public resources.”



President Lungu arrives in Harare for the inauguration of Mnangagwa

Wynter mocks 'hungry' people flocking back to PF

By Mirriam Chabala

Some people have gone back to PF, parading themselves as if slave trade is back, says Rainbow Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba.

And Kabimba says it is impossible to take Vice-President Inonge Wina's assurance that government will deal with those cited in the Auditor General's report seriously when her boss seems oblivious to the findings. Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme yesterday, Kabimba mocked those who had gone back to the PF because of hunger.

"It is not out of principle that some of our colleagues have gone back to rejoin PF, it is actually out of hunger and they think that now they can go and eat but I hope Edgar will see them for who they are. I have seen people that have gone back to PF with the hope that they are to get something out of it but they have gotten nothing up to now. We know them because they are our friends, they have gone back to PF and sometimes parading themselves as if slave trade is back. Big men and women parading themselves and trying to be very close to Edgar wherever he is. These are people who when are in opposition claim they have no money but

when they go back to PF and they hear Edgar is in Solwezi, they will borrow money to drive all the way to Solwezi and try to be in the camera with Edgar. So we have seen people that have gone back and they have ended very disappointed [because] they have not been given any job, they have not been given any tender, not even half a kilo meter of a road to do," Kabimba said.

And Kabimba said Vice-President Wina's sentiments on the Auditor General's report were not to be taken seriously because she was only trying to show her relevance.

"You know some of these statements we must have a sense of shame when we make them and we must also have respect for other citizens. This not the first time we are hearing this and if the President made that statement a year ago and nothing has happened, who is Inonge Wina to move anybody? She is just in a job also, who is she and who can listen to her? So she is just making a statement to sound like she is working. The judgment over the issue of the Auditor general's report should come from the people of Zambia and that is what we did in 2010-2011 when we were in opposition as PF, it was to canvas this issue with the Zambian people that this a band of criminals, the fellows that are in the MMD and the people got it loud and clear," Kabimba said.

"The latest Auditor General's report tells us that the theft of government resources has gone up ten times in one year and these are same fellows that go to the donors and say 'we are poor, we have no money give us money' and yet they are stealing even the money that is given by the donors but you see the donors are happy because even if you steal the money which you borrowed from them you will still pay back anyway. So in Nyanja [those people cited in the AG's report] niba kawalala and in Bemba nimba pompwe (they are thieves), these are pompwe that's what they are. Edgar Lungu gave instructions last year and he said to the law enforcements agencies 'I want you to follow up everybody that has been cited in the Auditor General's report for their thieving, follow them up and bring them to book' but nothing has happened." Meanwhile, Kabimba hailed the British Council for exposing corruption involving some local civil society organisations under the Zambia Accountability Project.

"I like that report because some of the Civil Society Organisations cited in there make so much noise like they can change this country. They talk about corruption when even themselves are corrupt, they can't even be trusted with a bit of donor money, that is the hypocrisy of Africa. And Jesus warns that 'not all those that say father, father are children of God' that's what Jesus says. So be very careful about these men and women in CSOs that pretend not to be corrupt and that its only the politicians who are corrupt but just give them a bit of money to tempt them and see how corrupt they will become and that's what has happened. I have seen all of them trying to exonerate themselves but this is coming from the people who have given you money, so how can you argue with the people who have given you money, they have audited you and you have not accounted for the money," said Kabimba.

Presidential aides and good living

By Laura Miti

It is my honest view that the people around President Lungu should not put pics showing-off their opulent life style out into the public sphere. I am quite surprised, actually, about how the Lungu administration seems to not have grasped how deeply upset the informed ordinary Zambian is about - first the recklessness with which public money is spent and then the brokenness of public services while that waste happens. So to Kaizer and others around the President I would

say, bath in milk if you must. Just don't share the pics. Pray also that the majority citizen

remains blissfully unaware about the link between your lifestyles and their baby who

died because there was no malaria medication at their clinic.

Ndola Cabinet Office suffers destruction after hailstorm

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

About five government vehicles and office buildings at Ndola's Cabinet Office have been extensively damaged after a DMMU

communication tower fell on them last evening.

In a statement today, Copperbelt Province Permanent Secretary Elias Kamanga revealed that the

communication tower fell as a result of a heavy downpour which was followed by a hailstorm.

Kamanga stated that some vehicles were damaged beyond

repair while a number of shops and other office buildings had their roofs blown off.

"A serious hailstorm that followed a heavy downpour in the evenings of today [yesterday] has caused serious damage in the City of Ndola. A number of government vehicles parked in the Cabinet Office car park have been extensively damaged some of them beyond repair after a Communication tower belonging to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) collapsed on them. Several shops and Office buildings in the City also had their roofs blown off while many trees along the roads have been uprooted," stated Kamanga.

"My Office is yet to ascertain the exact extent of the destruction and regrets the damage so far recorded. The damage to the over five vehicles belonging to various Ministries will further compounds the critical transport shortage in the Province."

You can't fool people forever - PAC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

People's Alliance for Change president Andyford Banda says Robert Mugabe's downfall is a lesson that you cannot fool people forever.

In an interview, Banda urged all those aspiring for leadership to understand that it was not about selfish interests.

"There are a lot of lessons that we can learn from the Zimbabwe situation for us aspiring for leadership and those that are already in leadership. One of the things that we need to learn is that leadership is about working for the people. Leadership is not about working for yourself and focusing about your interest, your family's interest and your inner circle. You can fool people for sometime but you can't fool them for too long. People can stand up and rise against you and once people stand up to rise against you, there is nothing you can do," Banda said.

"When you are in power, you always get excited with the fact that everyone is praising you. Every person was praising Robert Mugabe, every person was praising Dr Grace Mugabe, but what happened in the last two weeks? All the people from the Zanu-PF, the veterans and people in general, all stood against Mugabe. So that is a lesson to leaders that

they should be careful with praise because that's what gets to their head that they start doing things wrongly. You can lie to people that you bought fire tenders for \$1million, but people are not stupid, they know that our time will come one day and we are going to rise against this regime. So those are some things that we need to look at when we are in leadership and when we aspire for leadership."

He said leaders should not take people for granted.

"They are saying that the fire tenders were bought for \$1 million but why were they insured for \$250,000? So they

know deep down their hearts that the costs of fire tenders was not that cost but they think that they have fooled people but one day people will fool them. We have seen in our country from 1990 when people rose against KK and UNIP. The ruling party then, only got 20 percent of the votes. So just because Robert Mugabe had been in office for 37 years does not mean that someone else will also be there for 37 years. It can be three years like Rupiah Banda. So leaders should not take people for granted. When you are appointed as a leader, work for the people," said Banda.

"One of the lessons we need to learn is that dictatorship is not the way. Every dictator has had their day. From Robert Mugabe to Yahya Jammeh to Mobutu Sese Seko, and all of them. They have had their day, all of them their ends have been miserable, they have all left unceremoniously. So let no one be cheated that dictatorship is a way. Dictatorship is not the way, sooner or later you will go down miserably. When you get into power do not be excited, do not try to take things into your hands and forget about the people who elected you."

Ugly divorce leads to closure of Komboni Radio

By Mukosha Funga

Muvi TV proprietor Stephen Nyirenda today stormed Komboni Radio in Lusaka's Kamwala residential area, confiscated broadcasting equipment, a transmitter and locked the premises, sending employees into panic.

On November 17, Nyirenda's recently divorced wife Lesa Kasoma sued him in the Lusaka High Court over their matrimonial home in Roma, which she wants the court to declare as

jointly owned.

But around 12:00 hours today, Nyirenda in the company of others closed down the radio station.

According to sources, Nyirenda was angered after discovering that Kasoma had changed the ownership of the radio station.

"Yes, he (Nyirenda) went there today because there is a lot that has been happening. That broadcasting equipment was bought by Muvi TV, so after she was entrusted with

some responsibilities, she started changing the ownership. So the boss just decided that enough is enough. That's how he went and picked up everything and locked the place," said the source.

When contacted for a comment, Kasoma told News Diggers! that she could not comment because she was in a meeting.

"Yes, it is true. I can't comment any further, I am in a meeting, I will call you later," said Kasoma.

Brave Mweetwa resigns, but says he remains committed to PF

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Siavonga District Commissioner Brave Mweetwa has resigned as Patriotic Front District Chairman for that area following alleged personal differences with his successor Lovemore Kanyama. And in an interview with New Diggers! Mweetwa confirmed his resignation but could not state the reasons why he decided to resign. He said that he rendered his confidential resignation letter to the provincial authorities. Mweetwa further said he wants to concentrate on his new position of PF member of the National Youth Executive which he was recently appointed. "I relinquished by position and tried to concentrate on the national level because I am a member of National Youth Executive Committee of PF chaired by Honourable

Stephen Kampyongo. So I have got another responsibility but the reasons why I relinquished to pave way for another person to manage the party at district level, those are details which are confidential within the circles of PF and these details can only be availed to the public or to media by the Secretary General's office or by the provincial Chairman's office. But for me, its all confidential and all what is going on in the social media, I am following it, but its all fake,' Mweetwa said. He said there were no issues between him and the current DC who is also his successor. "Otherwise me I am a true member of the Patriotic Front who has never joined any political party in my life so I know how to deal with internal issues and issues that are suppose to be for the public consumption. There is

nothing between me and DC Siavonga, thats a lie. Don't believe in social media. And Siavonga District Commissioner Lovemore Kanyama equally denied

having any personal issues with Mweetwa and said the two were in good books. "I don't think there is anything between me and him. What he did to resign

from that position as District Chairperson, the man has been given another position at the national level. So him he wants to concentrate with the national level position

where he has been appointed. So it has nothing to do with the DC or him that maybe we are fighting each other, there is nothing like that," said Kanyama.

Criminals trying to shut down FIC are not invincible - Habazoka

By Mirriam Chabala

Criminals who have besieged the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) must know that their connections with State authorities will not last forever, says Economist Dr Lubinda Haabazoka. And Dr Haabazoka the FIC will protect itself by presenting the evidence it has against the criminals trying to shut down the institution. Commenting on the matter which came to light during a

press conference addressed by FIC board acting director John Kasanga in Lusaka yesterday where he confirmed that some criminal elements were targeting senior managers at the institution with false allegations in order to get rid of them, Dr Haabazoka said people should be reminded that connections do not last forever. "Well, I think that if they want to shut down institutions let them go ahead. Let them

shut down the Zambia police, the Drug Enforcement Commission and also ACC so that we can just continue living in lawlessness. You know, a lot of monies are being lost through dubious tenders and deals and when you look at the height of the problem now, it's quiet irrelevant to try and close an institution that basically monitors these arrangements. But what people need to know is that despite many cases of evidence being thrown away,

there are still some witnesses who might come and testify. So government should just accept the truth," Dr Haabazoka said. "I actually think that it is quiet discouraging to hear that we are going to end up in a situation here in Zambia where government institutions can be threatened by people that are so called 'well connected'. People should be reminded that these connections finish. There is no person that has been connected from 1964 up until today, all connections come and go with time. So people should not think that they are invincible and they will certainly not die with those connections."

Meanwhile, Dr Haabazoka encouraged officers at the Financial Intelligence Centre to back up their claims of being besieged by ensuring that the criminals are prosecuted.

"I don't think the intelligence centre has done a lot of things because I have never seen anybody in government who has been jailed or punished for any crime. So I think the institution should come forward with evidence that can be taken to Court so that people can see that it's actually not a power struggle where the institution is just trying to fight government and maybe to keep their relevance. I think to be very honest I have not heard of any crime that this institution has exposed and that has been taken to Court and people have been arrested, maybe there are those instances and people should forgive me. So for that institution to be seen to be very relevant, this is the time for them to come forward and present that evidence and people should be prosecuted instead of just telling us that there are these people that are fighting us and they are corrupt, that way it's more like we are dealing with a Katemba (vending kiosk) type of institution," said Dr Haabazoka.

"So let them come out now and take their matters to Court and people should be prosecuted so that others who in future want to do the same can refrain from going ahead. And if the institution is saying they have got cases of people who are not paying tax, they should show us those things. We need to see those companies that are not paying tax and we will really appreciate if they gave us that information by next week so that we can tell for ourselves if these institutions are truly representing the interests of the Zambian people."

Lungu refuses to suspend Judge Nkonde

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu has refused to suspend High Court judge Sunday Nkonde owing to a stay which the latter obtained from his Ndola counterpart.

Recently, the Judicial Service Commission (JCC) asked President Lungu to suspend judge Nkonde in order to pave way for investigations into how he handled the liquidation of The Post Newspaper.

A Judiciary official told News Diggers! that following the recommendation from the JCC, President Lungu was obliged, in accordance with the Constitution, to suspend judge Nkonde within 7 days. But according to President Lungu's reply to the JCC, which was obtained by Daily Nation Newspaper, judge Nkonde on Monday sued the State and obtained a stay against the JCC ruling by way of judicial review in the High Court.

"I note that the Judicial Complaints Commission has found Mr Justice Sunday Nkonde, SC with a prima facie case. I further note that Article 144(3) of the Constitution mandates the President to suspend the Judge found with a prima facie case. However, I have since been served with an order staying the decision

of the Judicial Complaints Commission pending determination of the matter by the High Court. In the

circumstances, I am unable to suspend Judge Sunday Nkonde until the order of stay is set aside or as the court

may otherwise direct," wrote President Lungu. Judge Nkonde is seeking judicial review of the JCC's

recommendation for his suspension over a complaint lodged by ex-Post editor-in-chief Dr Fred M'membe.

PF cadres beat Max Chongu

By Joseph Mwenda

PF cadres today beat Max Chongu, a staunch supporter of the ruling party in bizarre circumstances involving car dealers, President Edgar Lungu, his political advisor Kaizer Zulu and the Zambia Cooperatives Federation executive director James Chirwa.

According to Max, who narrated his beating to News Diggers! Chirwa gave some PF cadres US\$150,000 to buy him a Range Rover, which they never delivered.

He said when Chirwa asked for the car, the named cadres claimed that they bought and delivered to State House for President Lungu as a gift.

Chongu claims that it was at that point that he got involved to try and defend President Lungu's name, a move that annoyed the State

House political advisor, who today sent cadres to beat him.

"Chirwa sent Phil and Kelvin to go and buy a Range Rover 2017 model, that's how they went to South Africa. But balilya indalama, \$150,000 yaba ba [James] Chirwa. Then balebepa ati ilya motoka ni KZ ule shitila ba President (they stole the US\$150,000 from Chirwa, but they are lying that the car they bought was arranged by KZ for the President). And quote me exactly what I am telling you," he said.

"Now, baisesa kuno, ulya umwine wa motoka ba Mr Chirwa, bale ipusha ati 'motoka ilikwisa?' Ati no, 'ni Kaizer Zulu uwalandile ati tuleshitila ba President', ati 'ni gift iyaba President'. Yali this year mu January, nomba I asked them 'ba President kuti batuma imwe

ukuba shitila motoka?" Baleshupana na ulya muntu (When they came back, Chirwa asked them for the car, and they said Kaizer told us that the car was a gift for the President so we took it to him. It was this year in January. So I asked them how the President could send them to buy a car. They started arguing with that man. That's when today they came, then Kelvin and Phil called ba Intercity youths saying let's go and beat Max, he is publicising that story." He complained that the cadres followed him at Northmead.

"They followed me at Northmead and I can even point [at] them, I know them. They are upset because I was defending the President I was saying the President cannot send someone to buy a car. Ba Chirwa gave them money

to buy a car, they brought the car to Zambia and sold it. Ba Chirwa ZCF director asked them, they are saying 'no, it is the President who got your car,'" he narrated.

"They bought the vehicle, sold it and ate the money and now they want to use the President's name to hide. Me I was defending the President and this is what happened. People swindled money from Mr Chirwa, the ZCF chairman. They are saying 'Kaizer is the one who sent us to attack you because you are blowing our secrets'. Let me give you their names, Kelvin Mutale and Phil Chikuwa."

And Max posted the statement below on Facebook warning Kaizer that he would face him:

STATELY KAIZER ZULU I appreciate the beating I suffered at the hands of intercity today and am swollen am told you gave an order through kelvin Mutale and Phil Chikuwa in Northmead and I hope you are happy now.

Kelvin Mutale Bwalya and Phil Chikuwa are rejoicing because they are saying you instructed them.

I'm happy, but I can promise you boss am coming to your house so you kill me.

Finish me am ready to die. MAXWELL CHONGU PF DIE HARD

Businessman in court after failing to clinch road contract for Chinese friend

By Diggers Reporter

A Chinese national has sued a Lusaka businessman in the Lusaka High Court for swindling him of K130,000 on pretext that he could secure a road contract for him when in fact not.

Zhang Wei is demanding for the said money from Brian Chisanga with

interest.

According to a statement of claim, the two came to an agreement on July 3, 2015 when Zhang promised to pay Chisanga a commission of K260,000 if he managed to secure a road contract.

Zhang made a down payment of K130,000 to Chisanga with a condition

that it would be returned if the deal failed. He lamented that although Chisanga had not complied with the terms of agreement, he had refused to return the money despite several reminders.

Zhang is now seeking a refund of the K130,000, interest and any other relief the court might deem fit.

MPs grill Siliya over delayed e-voucher distribution

From front page

"Honourable minister, it's on the floor of this House for two seasons that you have promised the farmers about e-voucher cards, some farmers have not activated their vouchers for the two seasons and you keep promising impractical dates. Are you in order to give us a deadline of next week when you know it's not practical honourable minister?" Mwashingwele asked.

And Siliya who had in her earlier responses indicated that her ministry would start activating e-voucher cards for farmers who had paid their K400 contributions towards the farming inputs, said she was confident that the ministry would beat the target because the country was not going to face the challenges it faced last year.

"Well, since I have been only been minister [of agriculture] for two seasons I couldn't have promised that just to put that on record. But anyway I think what is important Mr Speaker, is that I have said on the floor of this House that it is true last year we had some problems, now the problems of last year are not the problems of this year. This year the farmers..." Siliya tried to explain.

But just before she could make her point, opposition members of parliament started booing her in disagreement, throwing various disparaging sentiments which forced Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini to ask Siliya to sit down as he

gave guidance to the House.

"Honourable minister please take your sit. Honourable members, give her chance to explain, if you are not ready to give her time to explain, we are going to move on to the next subject and it's as simple as that," said Speaker Matibini as he called Siliya back to the floor.

"Thank you Mr Speaker, last year we did concede that out of the 1.6 million farmers we supported, we have 27 thousand cards that were not activated and that was a fact which we explained. We did say that so far out of the 26,000 cards, we have resolved 8,000 and we are remaining with a balance of 19,019 from last year's cards, that is a fact and we are not disputing it. One of the problems we have had in terms of reconciling those cards is that the farmers were not holding onto those cards because government was late in giving the money last year," Siliya said.

"Then there are also some situations where people had lost cards especially where Zanaco Bank is concerned and we have been replacing those cards, that's what we have been doing. But in terms of distributing these cards this year, the Bank this week begun distributing e-voucher cards and we do not expect a problem. If you come to me a week from today and tell me that there are problems I will understand because I have said that this week we are distributing e-voucher cards and next week we want to start



giving money as counterpart funding to those e-voucher cards. So I actually think that we have made the preparations and in time so that we can support your farmers."

Siliya also told the House that her ministry had already received a K1 billion from the Ministry of Finance to pay farmers and that all the farmers shall be paid their dues by the end of next week. Meanwhile, a farmer in Choma who attended a gathering where Siliya and President Edgar Lungu addressed farmers, said the minister lied. "She said government will be giving out subsidies come next

week. Now we are looking at a situation where we are already in the rainy season and farmers have not yet started receiving inputs. We are talking about one million farmers and she is saying that within the course of next week, one million farmers will be able to access the E-Voucher system and redeem the inputs," Sichoza recalled.

"We have seen this before as farmers. We have been promised before. We have only six weeks before the close of the year. Can this be done within the coming week or before the end of the year? We have seen situations where we have been

promised and farmers have only accessed their inputs in January, February when the planting window has already passed. We are saying if this is going to happen then it will almost be like a miracle because it has never happened, one million farmers to be given inputs within a week? I think that is just rhetoric and as farmers we are following what she is saying. Yes she has been defending her position and so on but she is now stating a situation which we feel is not possible and she is lying to farmers"

Sichoza further said the minister would next week

give the excuse that farmers had not made their deposits for government to provide counter funding.

"Farmers at the moment will tell you that they haven't been given money by the Food Reserve Agency. There is supposed to be co-funding from farmers which is K400 and from government, K1,700. They are saying that by next week, farmers who will make deposits will receive the counter funding so that they can redeem the e-voucher cards and get their inputs. But government has not released money to FRA so that FRA can pay farmers so that they make deposits. So I can assure you that this is going to be the excuse that the minister of agriculture is going to use. They are going to say farmers have not made the deposits so government can not make the counter funding. She has failed to address farmers plight," said Sichoza.

"We also asked her why we should continue importing potatoes, pineapples and tomatoes when we have plenty but the excuse she gave was that 'potatoes can only be grown during a certain period and Zambian farmers do not have capacity to continue growing potatoes during other periods'. Now who needs to create a conducive environment so that small scale farmers, especially can have access to equipment and grow potatoes all year round? By the way we are able to produce enough potatoes as a country given the facilities."

BoZ announces plans to pay former Intermarket Bank customers

By Mirriam Chabala

The Bank of Zambia has announced that payment modalities for the Intermarket Banking Corporation depositors have been concluded and that customers will start receiving their monies next week.

In a public notice yesterday, the Bank of Zambia indicated that it had secured support for the restructuring plan of Intermarket Banking Corporation Zambia Limited through IBC which had already taken up all deposit liabilities from Intermarket Bank and that the payments process would commence on Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

"The Bank of Zambia wishes to inform all depositors and other creditors and the general public that it has secured support for the Restructuring Plan (the 'Plan')

for Intermarket Banking Corporation Zambia Limited (In Possession) (IBC) in line with the requirements of the Banking and Financial Services Act, Chapter 387 of the Laws of Zambia (BFSA). In accordance with the Plan, a new bank, the Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank Limited (ZICB) assumed the deposit liabilities and certain selected assets of IBC through a purchase and assumption transaction," the notice stated. "The Bank of Zambia is, therefore, now proceeding

to implement the Plan. In this regard, the payments to depositors will commence on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 as part of this process. Details relating to payments to other creditors and former employees of IBC will be communicated in due course by the IBC Possession Manager."

The Bank has however advised customers to follow the laid out terms and conditions of payment.

"While ZICB will provide details on the payment

modalities, please note that the payout locations for the depositors will be as follows: Lusaka – Lusaka Main Branch located at Farmers House/ Central Park. Kitwe – Kitwe Branch located at Mukuba Pension House. Depositors are required to carry an original Identity Document (NRC, Passport or Driver's License) to facilitate payment. In the case of administrators of estates of deceased customers, an order of appointment of an administrator or probate, administrator's

identity document and identity document for the deceased customer or death certificate will be required. And payment to corporate customers will only be made to duly authorized signatories of the account as per account mandates," stated the notice. For any further queries relating to the payment modalities, customs are advised to contact ZICB on the numbers +260 955 014 236 and +260 955 014 237 for the Lusaka and Kitwe branches respectively.

UNZALARU slams PF for shooting down progressive motion

By Mukosha Funga

The University of Zambia Lecturers' and Researchers' Union (UNZALARU) says parliamentarians should rise above partisan politics when deliberating on matters

affecting their electorates.

In a statement yesterday, UNZALARU secretary general Kelvin Mambwe stated that the union was dismayed by PF MPs decision to vote against a motion to expedite payment of

benefits to retirees.

"The union has noted with dismay the partisan politics MPs are engaging in when conducting deliberations in parliament on matters affecting their constituents. We are

concerned by this behavior primarily because MPs, whose attitudes and actions do not represent the views, interests and aspirations of their voters but their own selfish interests and those of their political masters, hurt the progress and development of Zambia. Our concern has come in light of the parliamentary events that characterized the National Assembly of Zambia which the majority of the Members of Parliament voted against a progressive motion to compel government to be meeting its statutory obligations to retirees on time," Mambwe stated.

"We are shocked that some MPs, (some of whom are retirees themselves waiting to be paid their pensions) can stoop so low to vote against a progressive motion aimed at assisting the

majority of their constituents simply because the proposers of the motion were from a different political party. We find this action a serious lack of concern and seriousness for the people the MPs that shutdown the motion represent."

Mambwe appealed to all members of parliament to put the interest of the people and the nation first above everything else.

"Therefore, UNZALARU wishes to appeal to all the MPs to be professional and progressive in their legislative duties as they serve their constituents and the nation at large. We further urge MPs to always remember that they are representatives of the people and the nation and not simply the parties they represent," stated Mambwe.

ZNS gets K14m for construction of township roads

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources says government has released K14 million to the Zambia National Service for Road works.

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources public relations officer Diniwe Zulu disclosed in a statement that the road works would be undertaken in Chibombo, Chisamba, Chitambo, Livingstone, Mwanabomwe, Ngabwe, Ndola and Pemba Districts as well as drainage works in Chilanga District.

"Government through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has released K14, 478,749.01 to the Zambia National Service under the Land Development Fund for road works in Chibombo, Chisamba, Chitambo, Livingstone, Mwanabomwe, Ngabwe, Ndola and Pemba Districts as well as the undertaking of drainage works in Chilanga District. This was after the Land Development Fund Committee approved the release of the funds at its meeting held on 26th October 2017," stated Zulu.

"The Ministry will ensure periodic monitoring of the works to be undertaken. Established under the Lands Act of 1995 under Section 16 (1), the Land Development Fund is administered by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to assist local authorities to open up new areas for development. The Land Development Fund is used for the preparation of the layout plans, demarcation and surveying, construction of roads, water reticulation and electricity provision to the project site areas," stated Zulu.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says leakage for nursing exams was circulating in soft copy format on WhatsApp.

And Dr Chilufya says practical examinations for nursing and midwifery students country wide will proceed as scheduled because they were not affected by leakage.

Responding to a question from Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili, who wanted to know the point at which the ministry or GNCZ discovered the leakage, Dr Chilufya said his ministry had engaged ZICTA to find out at what point a soft copy version of the exam left the host computer.

"The leakage was discovered through a WhatsApp message where people were exchanging WhatsApp

messages and a whistle blower WhatsApped one of the staff at GNCZ to say this paper has been leaked. So what was leaked was a soft copy. Immediately that was discovered we suspended the examinations. So it was based on a whistle blower's information. The whistle blower was not even a nursing student. He was just alerting one of the staff at GNCZ that there is this circulation of a leaked examination paper. And this is what alerted our inspectors to compare what was circulating with what was actually in the paper and they realized that it was actually the same. That's why the investigations has involved ZICTA and the police until we get to the bottom of the case," Dr Chilufya said.

"These exams are prepared by experts seated in a particular room and they are using computers. There should be a point at which a soft copy moved from that environment so we are not going to search necessarily who WhatsApped who but we want to find out at what point a soft copy left the host

Nullified nursing exams were leaked on WhatsApp - Minister

computer."

And Dr Chilufya said the nullified examinations had been replaced by new examinations scheduled for December whilst all practical examinations for eligible students would proceed as originally scheduled because the leakage had not affected them.

"The House may wish to note that the profession of nursing has held a long and cherished position in Zambia. Zambian nurses are valued all over the world for their integrity and professionalism. GNCZ is mandated by law

to promote patient safety, protect members of the general public from unsafe nursing practices and to uphold quality, integrity and professionalism among all members and those who aspire to be members of the general nursing. It is therefore right that the examinations have been nullified in order to preserve patient safety, aspire for quality health service delivery and maintain integrity," Dr Chilufya said.

"Mr Speaker, all 30 colleges of nursing and midwifery, both private and public with eligible students for the RN

[Registered Nurses] and RNM [Registered Nurse Midwives] examinations throughout the country have been affected by this nullification of the GNC theory exams. The total number of eligible students affected is 1,797. However, I wish to inform the house that all practical examinations for eligible students in the 30 colleges country wide are proceeding as originally scheduled as they are not affected by the said leakage."

Dr Chilufya said students would not pay any extra costs.

"The nullified examinations

have been replaced by a complete new set of examinations scheduled to start on 11th December 2017 and end on 18th December, 2017. There is no extension to the final academic year for eligible students. I wish to assure students, their parents and sponsors that government has already taken every precaution to ensure that all eligible nursing and midwifery examination candidates are not unnecessarily inconvenienced. They will not be required to pay any extra costs," said Dr Chilufya.

"Some measures in place to

ensure that exams leakages do not occur include: (i) Premises where examination papers are prepared is always a restricted area and only authorized staff are allowed to access the area. It is kept locked and guided 24/7. (ii) The number of staff who are authorized to handle examination papers is limited and computers used to prepare examination papers are password protected. (iii) Examination papers are always sealed after processing and stored in a very secure place. (iv) Inspection of the examination papers is always done at the point of collecting and at the point of opening to ensure that they are intact. (v) There shall be new measures at the IT section that shall be used to improve security."

Eric Chanda dumps 4th Revolution, joins Kambwili

From front page

"Zambians must not listen to these young people who are drunk with corrupt dirty money and cannot see the suffering of the poor Zambians. These young people saying Sata wanted to see poor Zambians suffer, not at all. Sata was a pro-poor man centred on poor policies.

This is what we are seeing in Kambwili. So for me these people are feeling the weight of the NDC and Kambwili and this is what Zambians need. They need NDC, they need Kambwili. Mubebe bonse abali mu PF baliile chalimo pantu mu 2021 baleisa ba Kambwili (tell everyone in PF to enjoy themselves because

Kambwili is coming in 2021)."

"So, tell this young man, Nathan Chanda to shut

up and continue enjoying his corrupt money which is flowing all over PF. Tell him that for now Kambwili

is giving hope to the poor Zambians who are being neglected. Mubebe ba Nathan Chanda na chi PF

chabo (tell Nathan with his PF) that for now Kambwili is giving hope to the poor Zambians."

Those mocking Kaizer's qualifications risk being beaten – Mumbi Phiri

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Patriotic Front deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri says people should not be surprised when Kaizer Zulu's children decide to beat those insulting their father by lowering him to a grade seven certificate holder.

Speaking when she featured on Radio Pheonix's Let the People Talk programme today, Phiri also said former Ministers should obey the court's ruling and pay for staying in office after dissolution of parliament in 2016.

And Mumbi says former commerce deputy minister Miles Sampa has not yet been welcomed by the who had decided to rejoin the party are not yet members of the party not until the three years suspension comes to an end. "Some people are just character assassinating others, Mr Sakala you know very well. Let me give an example of Kaizer Zulu, who doesn't know Kaizer Zulu in Munal constituency? We all know that he was a lab technician at Chelston clinic. But we have head those who didn't know Kaizer Zulu who listened from Kambwili, they believed that Kaizer Zulu has no grade 12, he is a grade seven, he has never been to school, he is just waiting for his death certificate. And yet Kaizer Zulu is from a respectable field," Phiri said.

She explained that Zulu was just as qualified as Professor Nkandu Luo in the field of medicine.

"We have Professor Nkandu Luo, by the way professor Nkandu Luo is not a professor in medicine, its the same field as Kaizer Zulu, microbiology. So you can see that whatever Kaizer Zulu can do or what but let us be truthful. That is why I am saying 'mukaona Mumbi Phiri, bana ba Kaizer Zulu bamukwapula because they have insulted the father, don't be surprised' and let us not reach that," she said.

Phiri said Ministers should pay for staying in office and that there is no negotiation about it.

"You have head that Ministers who stayed in office must

pay back, they are going to pay back because its the Constitution. If the court allows that, thats a constitutional matter, who are we to change our own thing. It is very clear those Ministers have been instructed, in fact the government spokesperson even talked about this. They have to go and pay that money. There is no negotiation. We respect the three wings of government and that ruling came from the Judiciary. But not suffice to say everyone knows that there are lacunas in our Constitution, that is why as government, we are going back to parliament so that those lacunas can be removed," she said.

And Phiri said Sampa was not yet back the party because he had not been welcomed.

"I am glad that we have people like Miles Sampa who are coming back to the party and our founding father president Michael Sata if you knew him very well, that is what he always wanted. That's the way we should move. Our old members who left, they should feel very comfortable to come back to the party where they belong," Phiri said.

"You know it looks so long but he is not yet back into the party, the period which was given, which is stipulated in our constitution is three years. Likely its finishing in December, that is when we are going to receive them. And it is not only Miles Sampa, there are a lot of people who went, its across the board. So its only three years looked so long but I think we are getting there in December and we are going to welcome them finally to the party."

Phiri also justified President Edgar Lungu's acquired wealth.

"Kambwili has been on record saying, 'these people in government niba pompwe, they are building everywhere'. And he was very specific, he mentioned that President Edgar Lungu has built a house opposite Memorial park. It's not only President Lungu who has a plot at that place. There is a road Luchi, if you want I can take you there because me I believe in speaking the truth, where Kambwili also has a plot. It's at a corner near where there is a house belonging to the former PS Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the next plot is Honourable Chishimba Kambwili's plot. And that house President Edgar Lungu built it when he was Minister of Home Affairs. So how does somebody tell a lie that that house has been built when President Lungu has become a President, thats not fair. Who doesn't know that the Ndozo lodge which Mr Kambwili is talking about belongs to Mr Sichanda? Everybody knows because that man has been in business for a long time," said Phiri.

"I was interested and I made a research, there is another place opposite regiment catholic parish, the forest was gazetted and there are houses which are coming up. People went and took pictures and started circulating them on social media that those houses belong to President Edgar Lungu, I have a place myself there, I made a research. Those flats, the plots there the owner is a woman, if you need more information I can give you."



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2018 budget will be stressed if Zambia fails to clinch IMF deal - Felix Mutati

By Mirriam Chabala

Minister of Finance Felix Mutati says Zambia's economy will suffer critical stress under the 2018 budget if government fails to reach a closure with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

And Mutati today failed to state exactly how much debt Zambia has accumulated so far when members of parliament grilled him.

Responding to a question from Solwezi Central UPND member of parliament Stafford Mulusa who wanted to know how the collapse of IMF negotiations could affect the 2018 budget, Mutati said there were a number of risks that the country needed to take care of.

"Mr Speaker, there are a number of risks that we need to take care of. Amongst them is the risk that budget support that has been programmed for next year is going to be endangered. There is a risk that commitments that have been made by some of our bilateral partners may not be delivered. So that will create critical stress on the economy. It will mean that we shall

have to cut from somewhere, it means to secure stability of the economy is going to be challenging. So the risk is real, it is critical and we will have to face it and work hard to do the right thing," Mutati said.

Mutati also said government was working hard to ensure that debt levels remained stable and that the country only borrowed what it was able to repay.

"Mr Speaker, Cabinet on November 6, 2017, discussed these issues and gave a clear policy direction which include; developing a new financing profile that will ensure the reduction of debt distress from high to moderate on the medium term and to also ensure that debt remains sustainable thereafter. Mr Speaker, our goal as a nation is to ensure that we borrow within our capacity to repay and to refocus expenditure while enhancing domestic resource mobilisation. Of critical importance is to focus on completing ongoing projects. With these measures, government has continued to engage the IMF and as part of the engagement Mr



Speaker, we recently had a visit by officials from the IMF and during the visit, the mission met the President Mr Edgar Lungu and her

madam Inonge Wina," Mutati said.

Mutati also said having an IMF bailout would help Zambia reduce the negative sentiments of the country's

investment climate.

"Sir, as a member of the IMF, we must utilize a key mandate of the IMF of providing balance of payment to members

experiencing balance of employment challenges as the case has been for Zambia. Mr Speaker, having an IMF bailout will reduce the negative sentiments of investing in this country, this is so because many investors mainly rely on the IMF for the assessment of a country's investment climate. Mr Speaker, let me also assure the nation through this August House that government is resolved to have an IMF supported programme and that the nation will be kept abreast about everything," he said.

And responding to a question from Roan PF member of parliament, who charged that Mutati failed to clinch a deal with the IMF because he lied about Zambia's debt, Mutati said he never misled the IMF but did not disclose how much the country was owing.

"Thank you member of parliament for Roan, you may recall that under Article four, the IMF did produce a public statement and in that statement it included the level of debt. The figure that was quoted by the IMF was constant and exactly the same as the figure that we provided. In short, there was no misleading statement," said Mutati.

Lungu explains why he didn't intervene in maize floor price

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says he only intervened in setting the maize floor price last year because there was a shortage of the commodity.

Launching the 2017 planting season in Monze today, the Head of State also wondered why crops like soya beans and wheat were not as politicized as maize.

"The Food Reserve Agency, as a unit challenged by law to ensure that there is food in the country looking at the pricing and everything and they arrived at K60 per 50 Kg of maize. I know there are some brewers and millers who were buying maize at higher than K60 per 50Kg. But I know there are some farmers who were selling less than K60 but what I am emphasising is that we want to support agriculture. The question is why don't we have politics over the price of soya, or the price of wheat and all other crops other than maize?" President Lungu asked.

"Yes there was a time when I said we will increase the price of purchasing of maize to K85 per 50 Kg because there was a scarcity; there was a shortage of maize in the country.

That answers to the question by president Jervis Zimba that which government neglects the staple food, we are not neglecting maize, if there is a problem, we will enter.

I want to make it clear that as long as most people continue eating maize, we will be watching over it and when things go wrong we will intervene but this time around you should let it go."

He said the K60 per 50kg bag of maize market price was ideal because it wasn't too high or too low.

"I want to conclude on the maize thing by saying very clearly that as a student of history, I read a book where in China some philosopher was saying if the price of rice goes beyond affordability of most people there is a problem, it goes too far up, there's a problem, too down, there is a problem and that we can also say for Zambia...I think for now we are okay with maize," he said.

He advised farmers in Southern Province to improve their performance or risk being surpassed by other regions.

"It is not a coincidence that we are here today, because we agreed, I requested with ZNFU that we launch this exercise today here in Monze. Forget about climate change, forget about politics but the truth of the matter is that there is a decline in agriculture in Southern Province...other regions are picking up. So

if you think you are ahead of your friends without increasing your performance, you will be superseded by your friends the very next day," President Lungu said.

"In short, I am here to emphasise the importance the PF government attaches to the agriculture sector as a priority area in our development agenda. I can only encourage you to continue being ahead of other provinces."

He also emphasized the need for diversification.

"As a farmer, you should look beyond maize. I am not saying we should abandon maize, no, I am just saying there is much more we can grow and make money and eat more than maize.

As government we agreed that this year we should procure 500,000 metric tonnes of maize as food reserve in case there is a shortage of food...We have opened our borders so that excess grain, especially excess maize can be exported. Our priority is to feed our citizens and to render support to our farmers through grain export

as has been the case this year," said President Lungu.

"Like I have said, we will only intervene in the market in a well measured manner, unlimited to achieve a strategic objective of national food security. It is the PF governments desire to ensure that the private sector, you the farmers here and agri business take the lead in the agriculture sector. We stand, as PF, for open and free market operations but we will never work alone, we have to work with you farmers."

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Dora Siliya said government could not ban the importation of crops like onions and potatoes because local farmers were incapable of meeting the demand all year round.

"During certain times of the year, our Zambian farmers, because of the absence of irrigation, they are only able to produce so much potatoes and onions leaving a gap when they have to import the shortfall which we the Zambians and everybody else living in Zambia goes to buy

DEC arrests Lusaka businessman for trafficking in cannabis

By Mukosha Funga

The Drug Enforcement Commission in Lusaka has arrested a prominent businessman for trafficking in 17 blocks of compressed cannabis weighing a total of 35.7 Kilogrammes. According to a statement issued by DEC deputy public relations officer Kamufisa Manchishi today, 42-year-old Joshua Mwenya Mumpansha, who is a prominent businessman of Lusaka's Roma Township has

been charged with trafficking in psychotropic substances and unlawful use of a motor vehicle contrary to the laws of Zambia.

The suspect was intercepted in Lusaka's Emmasdale area after a transaction involving the contraband which is believed to be coming from Malawi in transit to South Africa.

Meanwhile, the Commission in Muchinga Province arrested two businesswomen for trafficking in

Mirra, a plant abused for its stimulant effect.

26-year-old Mercy Namukoko, a businesswoman of Nabaluma area in Chinsali has been jointly charged with Charity Mumba, 30, a businesswoman of Fimbila Compound in Kapiri Mposhi District for trafficking in 126 bundles of Mirra weighing 41.98 kilogrammes. The duo was intercepted at a Police checkpoint in Mpika aboard a Ndola-bound bus.

"The Commission wishes to warn members of the public to desist from illegal vices and avoid being used as couriers in the trafficking of psychotropic substances prohibited under the Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Act, Cap 96 of the Laws of Zambia as the Commission will not relent in its effort to rid the society of illicit drugs," stated Manchishi.

The suspect is in Police custody and will appear in court soon.

The consequences of breaking the law are similar to telling lies. When you tell one lie, they say, you have to tell a thousand other lies in order to cover up for the initial lie. But people who tell lies, just like lawbreakers, are innovative. They always come up with the most compelling lies that outlive the earlier lies.

Today in Zambia, we are complaining about so many laws having been broken by our political leaders. We are wondering why our government is consistently embroiled in scandals.

Well, the simple reason is that our politicians don't want to get punished when they break the law; so they keep breaking other laws in the process of evading the consequences of the original crime they committed.

The case of ministers' illegal stay in office stands out as an example of a law that was broken, resulting into recurring ramifications. Today, we are hearing that some former ministers want government to pay them for the consultancy services they rendered during their illegal stay in office.

Former minister of Works and Supply Yamfwa Mukanga says although the Constitutional Court has found that his continued stay in office following the dissolution of Parliament in 2016 was illegal, he did not hang around to play.

"I am also giving a quotation for my consultancy during the period. We will see who is going to pay who because what we put in was more than what the people think. I am an engineer

Lungu also stayed in office illegally

myself and it is the engineering technical issues I was putting in, so I need that to be paid as well. We will follow what the courts are saying, but I am putting in my own quotation for the consultancy," said Mukanga.

The other week, we heard another former minister in the name of Chishimba Kambwili claiming that he did not stay in office at his own will, and therefore he will not payback any ngwee to the Treasury.

On the other hand, Chief Government Spokesperson Kampamba Mulenga says the law must be respected and former ministers who have

been ordered to pay back their salaries must obey the court's ruling without question.

But Honourable Kampamba is not telling the people of Zambia how we arrived at this problem. She is just saying that those who were illegally in office should face the consequences without realising that this matter goes beyond ministers.

We recall that President Edgar Lungu called a press conference on May 11, 2016 at State House where he announced that although the term of office for MPs would come to an end after the dissolution of Parliament, his

Cabinet would remain intact.

"As for whether Cabinet will remain or not, the law is very clear, read it for yourself. The law says when Parliament is dissolved, Cabinet remains because ministers are supposed to hand over. How do they hand over when they are dissolved? Anyway since the matter will become a court issue, the courts will determine but for now Cabinet will remain. If they rule against us fine, if they rule in our favour fine but the writing is there, I am also a lawyer and I can tell you that the law allows ministers to stay," said President Lungu.

Considering the number of times that our Head of State has gotten legal interpretations wrong, we are certain that by now, Zambians know not to rely on his understanding of the Constitution. It is settled that President Lungu is not a reliable legal counsel. That is why we sympathise with the ministers who took his word and broke the law.

We further sympathise with Zambians whose non-refundable taxpayers' money was used to pay ministers' salaries during their illegal stay in office. We all know that this money will not be paid

back. Our former ministers don't want to be punished for breaking the law and are now determined to break another law by ignoring the court order.

But you can't entirely blame the former ministers because they are not the only ones who broke the law and refused to get punished for it.

Zambians will remember that after the 2016 general elections were announced, the UPND filed a petition in the Constitutional Court against the election of President Lungu. The same Constitution that says ministers must vacate office upon the dissolution of Parliament, also says a sitting Head of State must step aside during the time of hearing the presidential petition, while the Speaker of the National Assembly presides over the Executive arm of government.

Just like his ministers illegally stayed in office, President Lungu also broke the law by refusing to step aside. We are asking those who took ministers to court to consider the fact that President Lungu committed the same crime for which he must also be made to pay.

News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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A ministerial conference is the highest decision-making body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which meets every two years. It can take decisions on all matters relating to any of the multilateral trade agreements. So far, ten ministerial conferences have been held since 1996. The 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) is due to take place in Buenos Aires – Argentina from 10th to 13th December 2017.

It is important that we put into perspective the current development prospects for developing countries and highlight how technology will increasingly influence the dynamics of development in the 21st century and beyond. The standard neoclassical growth model is hinged on three pillars; capital accumulation, labour and technological progress (productivity). What is critical in this model is the interplay between labour and technological progress which have a close association to capital accumulation.

The reference to labour in this case primarily relates to the skill set of human capital. It is based on the understanding that labour with a particular skill set can produce technology which would also influence skills development and vis-a-vis the production of new knowledge/skills. Skills development will become extremely important as we enter deep into the digital revolution; big data analytics, cloud computing skills, programming skills are already in short supply. We need to redesign the education system and place emphasis on research based programs especially in science and engineering at graduate and post-graduate levels. This will require massive investments in education to

be able to attract and retain well qualified lecturers and researchers. A well-coordinated ecosystem should be developed to support research projects and bring them to life. Our peculiar cultures are still untapped and have a lot to offer to the world if we can have relevant technologies that can be used to modernize our collective ingenuity as developing countries.

The South is playing catch-up in skills development, technology and innovation. A quick browse in some of the innovation indicators shows that the global university rankings are dominated by the Western universities; R&D spending is low in developing countries; small number of patents and low PhD graduates characterize the education and business environments in the South. Even on the four archetypes of innovation (science based, engineering based, customer focused, and efficiency driven) identified by McKinsey Global Institute in their 2015 report on "China Effect on Global Innovation", developing countries are nowhere near the investment levels of the West. It is difficult for developing and least developed economies to be technologically agile in the absence of an effective well-coordinated system of innovation underpinned by competitive research institutions and universities. We can learn a lot from China's ability to build domestic capabilities by preserving the right to regulate despite joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001.

Thanks to its progressive liberalization, China has effectively appropriated its policy space to heavily invest in the production of new ideas through research. It has

MC11 and the Prospects of Digital Industrialization for Developing Countries (II)

managed to create capacity for research and innovation with a growing number of world class universities and research institutions springing up in the last three decades. China is currently second to the United States in terms of R&D spending, averaging US\$200 billion every year according to McKinsey Global Institute. About 30,000 PhD students of science and engineering graduate each year from Chinese universities, and is now the global leader in patent applications. China has hardly played by the Western rules since her accession into the WTO and has used policies which are termed "undesirable" by developed countries in the digital economy such as data localization and disclosure of source code to leapfrog from being an innovation sponge - absorbing and adapting existing technology and knowledge from around the world - to being one of the global leaders in innovation and technology. China is now the global leader in the manufacture of industrial robots according to the International Federation of Robots (IFR).

Most popular websites have been blocked by the great firewall of China giving space for local start-ups to be nurtured and grow. Google, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Netflix have all been blocked giving

rise to local counterparts like Bing, Yahoo!, Baidu, Sogou, WeChat, Tencent QQ, Renren, Douban, Sina Weibo, Youku.com among others. These are sweeping policies which most developing and least developed countries may not be able to pursue because of the weak political and economic position to counter the Western agenda; but the argument is for developing countries to be aware of the importance of retaining the "right to regulate" principle in their international engagements. Therefore, instead of contemplating to introduce degree programs in witchcraft and sorcery which have no value to economic growth and development, developing countries like Zambia would do well to join the digital marathon and put in place innovation ecosystems that will make it possible to digitally industrialize.

On the e-commerce front, the progressive policies China has put in place of promoting and facilitating both domestic and cross-border trade in goods enabled by the internet have posted significant returns. The Chinese government has also built direct support services for trade in goods like payment systems and courier services. They have allowed local firms like WeChat Pay and AliPay to thrive and ameliorate the economies of scale. China is on its way to

becoming a cashless society; almost everyone in major cities is using smartphones to pay for just about everything - from restaurants to vendors in the streets, cash has become a third mode of payment after WeChat Pay and Alipay. But, in most developing countries, the mobile money payment platforms are still underdeveloped with no/or less interoperability while others rely on global payment platforms like PayPal, denying local payment platforms a chance to grow.

The development of an enabling environment for logistics services to thrive has also resulted in the booming of e-commerce and has brought vitality to the courier services sector in China. China's courier services sector boasts of 183,000 courier networks across the country. It has helped to increase online sales by 154% year-on-year in rural areas. The courier network covers 95% of counties and 80% of towns, collectively meeting the demand for courier services of more than 590 million rural populations. These are impressive statistics which all developing and least developed countries should to endeavour to vie for. There is need for developing and least developed countries to modernize and open up their courier services sector to local players and appropriate the benefits of e-commerce.

This will require updating and modernizing the address system at all levels for easier navigation by courier operators. It is also an area where local entrepreneurs can explore and develop special mobile apps for navigation purposes.

Now is the opportune time for developing countries to reassess their digital industrialization strategies and realign their education systems to be in tune with the unfolding challenges of the information age. It is hard to imagine how developing countries would harness the potential of their fledgling firms when the policy space required to develop domestic capabilities is severely constrained by the digital liberalization agenda. The upcoming MC11 is yet another chance for developing countries to reassert their position and reaffirm their developmental objectives to the rest of world.



David Kappa is a Senior Consultant and Co-Founder at Tanoeconomics

A Texas woman has been charged with mailing explosive devices to President Barack Obama and Texas governor Greg Abbott that she made using a cigarette packet and a salad dressing cap.

Court documents show that 46-year-old Julia Poff could have caused severe burns or even killed Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott if the package she mailed to him had been opened as intended. Agents were able to trace the improvised explosive device back to Poff on the basis of a destroyed shipping label. A Pall Mall cigarette packet and a salad dressing cap used to create the bomb were also

Texas letter bomber tried to kill Obama

found to have originated from Poff's home.

Packaging for the cigarettes was found in her home in Sealy, Texas as well large quantities of fireworks. Black powder of the kind used in pyrotechnics formed the explosive component in the

device.

Poff sent a similar device to the White House during the Obama presidency, the documents for the prosecution show. The F.B.I. determined hair found on the package had come from one of her cats.

It appears that Poff was motivated to send the letter bombs because of financial difficulties and grievances over government payouts. When it came to Abbott, Poff was upset that when he was the Texas Attorney General, the state had not ruled in her

favor in a dispute over support payments from her husband.

Her complaint with the federal government was more convoluted. Documents for the prosecution claim she blamed the Obama administration because her application for social security

benefits had been denied. The investigating agent also stipulated that Poff did not like the president.

As well as being accused of attempting to kill or maim politicians, Poff is also charged with falsely declaring bankruptcy and peddling fake nutritional supplements. Following Hurricane Harvey Poff asked for funds for a widowed father and a young child. The state says she failed to pass on the donations made to her at the law firm where she worked.

Poff, who has pled not guilty to the bombing charges, faces a prison sentence of more than ten years if convicted. The case continues. **Yahoo**

Putin tells Russian defence companies to prepare for war



Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that his country's biggest enterprises must show that they can step up arms production and important services on short notice to be war-ready.

"The economic ability to increase the production of defense products and services quickly is a vital element of military security," Putin told military leaders and senior officials in the defense industrial complex on Wednesday. "All strategic and simply large companies, regardless of the type of ownership, must be able to do this."

The Russian president raised the issue after listing the country's successes in raising combat readiness for a hypothetical war scenario. Putin singled out Russia's large Zapad 2017 exercise with Belarus in September, during which units across Russia practiced for a threat akin to an attack by Western nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, second from left, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, left, and other officials attend a meeting in the Black

Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, on November 20. Sputnik/Mikhail Klimentyev/Kremlin/Reuters

Putin praised the efficiency of troops and reservists that took part, as well as the transportation infrastructure used, according to the Kremlin's video recording of the meeting.

"We need to review once

again the defense companies' ability to quickly increase output," Putin said, reading out a prepared statement for the meeting. "The exercise has exposed certain shortcomings. We must analyze them so as to propose additional measures to enhance mobilization readiness."

The Russian leader provided no figures and set no targets

for defense companies but asked officials to draw up output recommendations for the industry giants.

While Russia has repeatedly dismissed fears that it seeks to start a war with NATO, insisting its broad Western-heavy reinforcement is defensive, the Kremlin's dubious interpretation of events on the ground in Ukraine and Syria

have damaged Western trust in Moscow's statements.

Since Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014—a military operation it initially denied—it has inconsistently pleaded innocence over causing or interfering the ongoing conflict raging in the eastern Donbass region of its southern neighbor. Western support for Ukraine's decision

to pursue integration with the European Union, as opposed to entangle itself in more deals with Russia, has eroded Moscow's relationship with the U.S. and much of Europe.

In a bid to showcase strength at a time of political strife, Russia has increased military activity and drills, as well as reforming military units along its western borders. **Yahoo**

Mugabe granted immunity, military says

Robert Mugabe's former right-hand man, Emmerson Mnangagwa, will be sworn in as interim President on Friday, a day after Mugabe and his wife were granted immunity, allowing the couple to remain in the country. Mugabe resigned on Tuesday, in a historic moment that brought his 37 years of oppressive rule to an end.

Mnangagwa, returned to the country on Wednesday to take the reins, promising to lead the nation into a "new and unfolding democracy." He spoke in front of throngs of supporters, but made no mention of Mugabe's future. Col. Overson Mugwisi, a spokesman for the Zimbabwean Defense Forces, said an agreement had been reached with Mugabe that included immunity and a guarantee of safety for him and his wife, Grace Mugabe.

The former leader has been accused of waging a campaign of fear to remain in power for nearly four decades, and human rights activists have long called for

him to be brought to justice.

He was accused of ordering a string of massacres in the early- to mid-1980s in opposition strongholds to consolidate his power. Up to 20,000 people were killed, academics say.

He has also been accused of corruption to finance his lavish lifestyle, as his government drove the once-prosperous nation into economic ruin and poverty. Mugabe had spent a week negotiating his departure with the military since the country's army seized control in the capital, Harare, and placed the leader under house arrest.

In a long, drawn-out process, frustrated military officials gave in to the demands for immunity and allowed the President to keep several of his properties, sources told CNN on Monday, before Mugabe stepped down.

In Mnangagwa's remarks on Wednesday, he made clear that he played a role in the military's operation to

remove Mugabe from power. He said he had been in "constant contact" with military chiefs throughout the operation. He is scheduled to address Zimbabweans after his swearing in.

The military was instrumental to Mugabe's demise, staging the apparent coup, then leading talks with Mugabe to allow him a dignified resignation. The main opposition MDC-T party has raised concerns over what role the military might play ahead of next year's election, with Mnangagwa at the helm of the security forces.

The leader of the MDC-T, Morgan Tsvangirai, called on Mnangagwa to officially define the military's role.

"The generality of Zimbabwe, who have experienced brutalization, intimidation and violence, would be very skeptical if the role of the military is not properly defined," he told CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Thursday. **CNN**

Oscar Pistorius's jail sentence increased to more than 13 years

Oscar Pistorius's six-year jail sentence for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp has been increased to more than 13 years.

The Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) on Friday set aside the six-year imprisonment sentence imposed on the former Paralympic athlete by

the Pretoria High Court last year and replaced it with 13 years and five months. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) had

approached the SCA asking it to increase Pistorius's sentence, arguing that the sentence he was serving for killing his girlfriend was "shockingly

low".

Pistorius shot his girlfriend dead in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, when he fired four times through the

door of his toilet - an act, he says, that came from mistaking her for a burglar.

Pistorius was originally convicted of culpable homicide in 2014, but the SCA upgraded his conviction to murder in 2015. In July last year the Pretoria High Court sentenced him to six years' imprisonment for the murder of Reeva Steenkamp.

The appeal court said his testimony was "vacillating and untruthful".

Prosecutor Andrea Johnston had argued that Pistorius did not show remorse and had not told the Pretoria High Court why he had shot Steenkamp. "He should have taken the court into his confidence and said, 'This is why I did it'. With nothing more, there is no gut-wrenching remorse."

Johnston told the court that trial judge Thokozile Masipa elevated Pistorius's regret and that his regret does not absolve him from the crime he committed.

Advocate Barry Roux, counsel for Pistorius, argued that his client had showed more than remorse. "His actions were directed against the intruder. When he realised he had shot Reeva, he was beside himself." "His whole concern was about the deceased and her family. He tried to make contact before and during the trial. After the trial, he tried to make contact," Roux argued.

Timeslive.co.za



Boy born without kidneys gets Transplant

The family of a 2-year-old boy born without kidneys has a lot to be thankful for this holiday.

A.J. Burgess was born without

a working kidney and had to undergo nightly dialysis to survive.

The resilient toddler from Georgia has had to

battle pneumonia and go through surgeries and blood transfusions while waiting for a donated kidney.

The challenge was especially

hard for his mother, Carmellia Burgess, who didn't have a car to get her son to thrice-weekly hemodialysis appointments, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

But A.J. and his mother had an early Christmas miracle on Tuesday. Carmellia shared on Facebook that entertainer Tyler Perry, who hails from Atlanta, donated a car to her family after learning of their plight. A source close to the matter confirmed that Perry bought the car for the family. The lucky streak continued a few hours later when doctors called Carmellia to let her know that they had found a donor kidney that was a match for A.J.

A.J. went into surgery around 7:30 a.m. at Emory University Hospital. The surgery lasted about three hours, according to Atlanta station WAGA-TV. The toddler's new kidney comes weeks after his case received national attention when the hospital refused to let his father, Anthony Dickerson, donate his own kidney also a match because he had recently been to jail on a parole violation. The family will spend Thanksgiving in the hospital as A.J. recovers. Doctors told the family the new kidney has already started producing urine, a key sign that it's working, according to WAGA-TV. *Yahoo*

Gal Gadot confirms Brett Ratner is out of 'Wonder Woman' sequel

Actress Gal Gadot has confirmed that Hollywood producer Brett Ratner will not be involved in the "Wonder Woman" sequel, calling the decision "the right thing to do" after multiple women have come forward with sexual harassment allegations against him.

"Everyone knows the way that I feel because I'm not hiding anything," she said Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show after being asked about an article claiming she had demanded his ouster.

"But the truth is, there's so many people involved in making this movie, it's not just me, and they all echoed the same sentiments. You know what I mean?" she said. "Everyone knew what was the right thing to do, but there was nothing for me to actually come and say, 'cause it was already done before this article came out, you know?"

Ratner, who in recent weeks has faced allegations from at least eight women, helped co-produce the Warner Bros. film through his production company, Rat-Pac Dune. Page Six reported Saturday

that Gadot had threatened to abandon the franchise unless Ratner was axed.

"She's tough and stands by her principles. She also knows the best way to hit people like Brett Ratner is in the wallet," a source with Warner Bros. told the publication.

Representatives for Warner Bros. and Rat-Pac Dune did not return requests for comment.

Gadot has expressed her support for victims of sexual harassment and bullying, including writing a social media post that encouraged those affected to speak out.

"Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins also recently said on Twitter that the allegations against Ratner have left her "extremely distressed." She added that she stands with and defends "all of the men and women who are revealing these horrific encounters all over this industry and this world."

Jenkins' statement came after she presented Ratner with an award at the Jewish National Fund dinner. Gadot, who was initially scheduled to present it, backed out at the last



minute, Variety reported.

Last month, former marketing executive Melanie Kohler wrote a Facebook post in which she accused Ratner of raping her over a decade ago. An attorney for Ratner denied the allegation and served Kohler with a defamation

lawsuit, ABC News reported. The Los Angeles Times published allegations last week from six women who say they were either sexually harassed or abused by Ratner in some way.

Those women include actress Natasha Henstridge,

who accused Ratner of masturbating in front of her and then forcing her to perform oral sex on him in the early 1990s. Olivia Munn also accused him of masturbating in front of her between the 1990s and early 2000s. *Huffingtonpost.com*

WBC names referee for Catherine Vs Zarika fight

By Nyambe Lubasi

The World Boxing Council has appointed South Africa's female referee Sylvia Mokailña to facilitate the WBC Women's World Super bantamweight Championship between Kenyan boxer Fatima Zarika and Zambia's Catherine Phiri.

In a statement today, Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions director of operations Christopher Malunga disclosed that three independent judges had been appointed to officiate at the Championship slated for December 2, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya.

And Malunga stated that African Boxing Union president Houcine Houichi who is also World Boxing Council (WBC) Vice President would act as championship supervisor for the Championship.

"The World Boxing Council has appointed the following officials to officiate the WBC Women's World Super bantamweight Championship between Fatima Zarika and Catherine Phiri, Referee: Sylvia Mokailña [of] South-Africa and Judges are: John Shipanuka from Zambia, Michael Neeqwaye from Ghana and Lilian Olero from Kenya," stated Malunga "The president of African Boxing Union (Houcine Houichi) who is also World Boxing Council (WBC) Vice President is the championship supervisor. And Boxer Catherine Phiri, Trainer Michael Zulu and Manager Christopher Malunga will depart for Nairobi Kenya on Tuesday 28th of November 2017



with flight ET863 from Lusaka at 13.25 hours and return on December 3, 2017.

Meanwhile, Oriental Quarries boxing promotions has partnered with Zamtel to present the African Boxing Flyweight Championship

between the Champion Alfred Muwowo from Zambia and the challenger Lisizwe Komani from South Africa on December 30, 2017 in Lusaka.

Main supporting bout for the WBC elimination welterweight

bout will be the WBC international champion from oriental quarries Zambia Muzeya versus Ruth Chisale from Malawi. Also featuring will be Catherine Phiri and Zimbabwe's Zambia based Charles Manyuchi.

Other supporting bouts include Mbiya Nkanku from oriental quarries Zambia versus Ali Kabeya from Exodus Zambia. Remmy Simbeye from oriental quarries Zambia versus Philip Musariri from Zimbabwe and also Gracious

Simwazi from oriental quarries Zambia versus Caristo Bwalya from Copperbelt.

Charges have been pegged at K150 VIP and K50 all round, for the event slated for Government Complex.

FC Monaco paying the price for big money sales

Looking around at the disconsolate bodies on the field in the Stade Louis II on Tuesday night, one found it difficult to process the fact that the team just eliminated from the Champions League courtesy of a 4-1 hammering by RB Leipzig were the Ligue 1 titleholders. In many ways, though, they weren't.

This wasn't the same side that had become the darlings of Europe last season for dethroning Paris St-Germain in France, while at the same time reaching the Champions League semi-finals. Against Leipzig, coach Leonardo Jardim could only field five regular starters from the remarkable 2016-17 campaign.

Djibril Sidibe and Thomas Lemar were injured and, therefore, unavailable but the other four? Gone. Benjamin Mendy and Bernardo Silva left for Manchester City, Tiemoue Bakayoko is now at Chelsea, while the wonder boy Kylian Mbappe absconded to Paris.

The heart has been ripped out of Monaco and it could well have been worse had Lemar been signed by Arsenal on deadline day, or Fabinho gone to Manchester United or - worse still - PSG.

It's left Monaco with some searching questions to answer.

"It's not just because players left in the close season, even if that explains a lot of it because we lost five starters," defender Kamil Glik told reporters after. "We can't look for excuses and now we have to focus on the league to ensure that we're back in the Champions League next season."

Vice-president Vadim Vasilyev is generally good when it comes to fronting up. On Tuesday, he faced the music and expressed his disappointment with the team's elimination from Europe.

"We're hugely disappointed," he told reporters. "They have messed up the European campaign. In football, there are difficult times, and this is one of them. I didn't like that the players' heads dropped so quickly." A few days before, Vasilyev was present with Monaco's season-ticket holders for an annual sit-down alongside an assortment of players and the coach, Leonardo Jardim.

Monaco might not draw great numbers week-to-week at their yellow-seated stadium atop a car park but the core of their support is as committed and demanding as any other team out there.

Many in attendance pointed the finger at Vasilyev and the club's transfer policy for their failure to launch this season. Monaco are already six points behind PSG - following last Friday's draw with Amiens - and will probably consider the title well and truly out of reach should they lose at home to Unai Emery's side on Sunday.

Their Champions League programme has been an embarrassment, with only two points to show from five matches. Jardim is naturally finding it hard to draw better performances from a squad shorn of their four best players. As a result, fans want answers.

"At the end of last season, you promised that the team would not be too disrupted," one remarked. "You gave Fabinho an exit ticket and eventually we lost Mbappe when you did not want to reinforce PSG - a rival team. We do not understand"... Goal.com

Under-20 to face Zanaco, Buffaloes

By Nyambe Lubasi

The final Zambia Under-20 team set to be named on Friday will be tested by 2017 title chasers Zanaco and Green Buffaloes friendlies next week to see how battle-ready they are to defend the 2017 COSAFA U20 Cup at home.

Zambia are about to complete their second week of training camp ahead of hosting the COSAFA U20 from December 6-16 on the Copperbelt.

The team was trimmed from 45 last week to 25 this week and has already played three training games, winning two after initially losing to Zanaco in a closed door training match.

Assistant coach Charles Bwale said the team is showing great progress after beating Chilanga Youth Select 6-0 on November 21 and Lusaka Youth Select 3-0 on November 23.

"Next week we are likely to have two or three games against premier sides Zanaco and Green Buffaloes and we will be able to gauge them if they are fully ready for the tournament," Bwale said.

"If you look at the first game against Zanaco, we were still trying to look at one or two players and I think most of the players had jitters playing Zanaco who are big guys in the league. But the phobia went when they played Chilanga and Lusaka U20 select and we saw some positives."

And Numba left out three players from the third friendly

against Lusaka Select so that they could take care of their respective league obligations. Captain Lameck Njobvu was rested after playing in Nkwazi's 3-0 away loss to Zanaco on Wednesday.

Nchanga Rangers striker

Martin Njobvu and Kabwe Warriors midfielder Prince Mumba have been released to attend to their clubs' crucial relegation survival battles this weekend.

And Zambia Under-20 coach Mumamba Numba is set to

announce his final 23-member team on Friday during a press briefing at 09h00 at Cresta Golf View Hotel.

The defending champions are in Group A where they will face Uganda, Swaziland and Malawi.



Dion Waiters and the Miami Heat started fast and finished strong, snapping the Boston Celtics' NBA-best winning streak at 16 games. (AP)

JANZA SALUTES ZESCO

By Nyambe Lubasi

Red Arrows and ex-Chipolopolo coach Honour Janza is proud that his former team Zesco United has become a force both in Zambia and Africa during the 13 years they have spent back in top-flight football.

Janza led Zesco back to top flight football in 2004 after spending over 16 years away campaigning in Division 1 North.

Since then, Zesco has won five league titles and this season is on the verge of joining Power Dynamos and Green Buffaloes on six triumphs.

Zesco, who are also the record winners of the Barclays Cup with five titles, were the first Zambian team to reach the group stage in CAF club cup and only local club to so far advance the knockout stages in both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

On Thursday, Janza hurt his former teams title race when Arrows held the leaders to 0-0 away draw in Ndola to see Zesco's lead cut from five to three points with two games left before the season ends.

"It is unfortunate that sometimes you have to be loyal to your employers of the day. Zesco is my childhood team. I played here, I was top scorer here as a player and helped them to promotion. I later came back after my retirement as a coach and worked with them and helped them qualify to the Super League again," Janza recalled.

"Seeing them stay in the Super League from the time I brought them, gives me a lot of happiness. It was a difficult game for me because, if you cut me, you will see my blood is Zesco and you will find that it was quite a challenge for me to

face them."

Janza said he counselled Zesco to prepare adequately for international duty.

"But I have talked to them, I have encouraged them that this was just a training game for you to

gear you for continental football and don't look backwards, you are still on the right track to win the league. They have the capacity to win the league this was just a test game for them," said Janza.

"I wish them well to keep flying high and it was under me that the philosophy and mission statement that they should be one of the best teams in Africa. And when I see that they are now one of the best teams in

Africa it gives me a lot of delight that they have kept to that mission statement. I will keep supporting them but sadly I will keep my loyalties to where my salary comes from."

Meanwhile, Zesco face Green

Eagles away in Choma this Sunday hoping to return to winning ways that will keep them firmly at the top heading into next weekend final game at home against Mufulira Wanderers.



Atletico's Antoine Griezmann scores the opening goal during a Champions League group C soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Roma at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017

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