



HH speaks to journalists outside the Lusaka Magistrates' Court as GBM and Nevers Mumba listen - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPND 'wins' another nolle, HH calls PF thieves

By Mukosha Funga
UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says the state keeps losing cases in court because PF is composed of petty thieves who are just focused on looting public resources. He was speaking to journalists after the state entered a nolle prosequi in a matter in which UPND vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba and 19 others were jointly charged

with unlawful drilling. When the matter came up today, a public prosecutor, Michael Nundwe, applied to discontinue the matter in accordance with section 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Lawyer for the accused Jack Mwiimbu raised no objection. Lusaka principal magistrate Mwaka Mikalile then discharged GBM and the UPND youths but warned them that this was not an acquittal as they could be re-arrested.

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We released Constitution in a hurry, it has lacunas - Lubinda

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Mutembo drags his tribunal chairman Silungwe to ConCourt

By Mirriam Chabala

Former Director of Public Prosecutions Mutembo Nchito has dragged former chief justice Annel Silungwe to the Constitutional Court in order for him to demonstrate the "hefty" injustices surrounding his removal from the DPP's office.

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NDC says it is documenting Lungu's wealth, will release pictures soon

By Mirriam Chabala

Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says the NDC has hired a private photographer to capture all structures that President Edgar Lungu has built for himself in the past one year.

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PAC chases bluffing controlling officer...

PS, YOU'RE WASTING OUR TIME



PS Kapembwa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today suspended its hearing of audit queries into Ministry of Works and Supply following a number of verbal retractions by the controlling officer. Committee Chairperson Howard Kunda sent back Permanent Secretary Joe Kapembwa and his directors on grounds that the controlling officers were giving contradictory answers over payments to a contractor. He ordered them to return with supporting documents on December 18, 2017 at 11:30 hours.

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By Joseph Mwenda
PF deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri has asked members of the ruling party to stop fuelling enmity between her boss Davies Mwila and party strategist Kelvin Bwalya Fube, otherwise known as KBF. But Shakafuswa says the PF is no longer attractive because it's secretary General lack the desired political clout. In a statement, Mumbi warned Shakafuswa to stop dividing the party. "It has come to my attention that there are some people, in particular, Ephraim Shakafuswa, who has been discrediting PF Secretary General Honourable Davies Mwila and agitating that a senior member of the Party and prominent lawyer Kelvin Fube Bwalya (KBF) should be appointed in his place," Mumbi charged. "Ephraim Shakafuswa joined PF not a long time ago and may not understand leadership processes in the ruling Party, let me remind him to desist from creating confusion and bringing animosity between Hon Mwila and KBF. The two are good friends and loyal members of the Party." She said KBF was an asset to PF who needed to be respected. "I also want to remind Ephraim Shakafuswa not to bring KBF's name into disrepute. He is a respected senior member of the Party and an asset whose good name desperate people should not abuse. It is the

Calls for KBF to replace Davies Mwila worries PF

same desperate voices that almost succeeded in creating animosity between Honourable Jean Kapata and KBF. I ask all genuine PF members not to be misled by those promoting divisions and internal fights. They should not be given another opportunity to do so again," she said. "I therefore ask all members of the Party not to fall prey to deceitful acts aimed at creating confusion in the Party. Our strength is in our unity as a Party. We are all in these positions for such a time as this. Tomorrow others will come and sit where we are." She asked members who had better ideas on how to run the party, to approach the secretariat. "Lastly, let me mention that all those with ideas and concerns, our doors remain open and we are ready to listen. You are welcome to come through to the secretariat. That is your secretariat, your office," said Mumbi. In his response, Shakafuswa said in it's state, the PF would not win the 2021 elections.

Ba mayo, I am in receipt of your message which was sent out via WhatsApp, whose contents i acknowledge. Let me start by saying that I do not want to bring any enmity between SG and KBF, but for radical change purposes. You will agree with me that Patriotic Front is no longer attractive to the masses and we are losing numbers everyday. Worse, we do not even inspire our general membership who have chosen to stand on

the fence than to defend the party because the CEO has not given them the reason to defend the party which is so dear to them," Shakafuswa said. "The CEO lacks what it takes to read the political mood or dynamics and thus devise strategies to counter not only perceptions that will land us in a grave, but strategies to bring the party back on track. In short the entire secretariat has failed not only the party but the

President as well. It is only right that we radically point out that which is wrong, and giving a solution; which in this case is nothing other than changing the SG." He begged the party leadership to hear the cry of the general membership. "For once hear the voices and what they are saying. In 2016 State House had to act as Secretariat to to get us to where we are today. KBF is my choice but that does not limit the President

from appointing anyone else who is equal to the task. The Patriotic Front must be made strong enough to survive the President, SG and you bamayo. Your best response to me and others must be nothing other than your strategic plan to bring back the numbers and not those window dressing defections. Let us not lie to ourselves that we can win 2021 in the first round in our current state," said Shakafuswa.

We will give FIC the power to prosecute criminals - Greens

By Joseph Mwenda
Revelations by the Financial Intelligence Centre that its staff members are under siege from criminals who are trying to influence the shutdown of the institution so that they can freely conduct money-laundering activities, are nauseating says Green Party President Peter Sinkamba.

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) disclosed that week that in the last nine months, the centre recorded 35, 783 suspicious cash transactions involving over US\$ 1 billion, which are linked to corporate and individual bank accounts, and for this reason the suspects are scheming removal of senior officials

and shutting down the institution. Sinkamba said the FIC played a key role in combating financial crimes, but regretted that the agency was not empowered to prosecute. "FIC is the sole designated National Agency mandated to receive, request, analyze and disseminate disclosure of information concerning

suspected money laundering, terrorist financing and other serious offences to competent authorities for investigations with the view of assisting with combatting such and other serious offences," Sinkamba said. "This news is really nauseating. The trouble is that FIC has no powers to prosecute. It only has powers to receive, request, analyse and disclose such information to other agencies. Of what value is profiling and creating databases of financial crimes and matrices of illicit financial flows, if culprits remain unprosecuted?" He said Zambia's financial, trade, and economic needs were not well served by State agencies spying on people solely for data-basing. "There is a compelling reason to realign the Zambia Security Intelligence Service (ZSIS) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) towards economic and financial well-being of Zambia. It is for this reason that the Green Party plans to transform the ZSIS, ACC and DEC into the Zambia Economic and Trade Intelligence Bureau (ZETIB), or in other words to be known as the 'Eagles,'" said Sinkamba. "This will be a multi-disciplinary intelligence agency, which will investigate and prosecute organised economic and trade crimes, including money laundering and corruption. It will consist of some of the best prosecutors, financial, trade, economic, forensic and intelligence experts in the country. This will entail re-orienting, retraining some members of the to-be-transformed ZSIS, ACC, to new order where they are stopped from spying, investigating and prosecuting people solely because they hold different views from the government on political and socio-economic issues but rather focus on financial, trade, and economic saboteurs."

It has happened in Zimbabwe, next is Zambia – HH



Hakainde Hichilema addresses journalists as former vice-president Dr Guy Scott, People's Party leader Mike Mulongoti, former Chongwe member of parliament Sylvia Masebo and others listen on November 16, 2017 - picture courtesy of UPND Media Team

By William Chileshe
We are so close to getting there so remain stead fast, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema told his supporters in Ndola today. Speaking shortly on arrival at the Simon Mwanza Kapwepwe International airport for the UPND card renewal exercise slated for the Kitwe showgrounds today, Hichilema said revolutions have started in the

region. "Let us remain strong and united. We are so close. We will be there very soon. We are close. The wind is blowing. Look at Zimbabwe, it has happened and next is Zambia. Democracy is coming to Zambia. Yes, the UPND wants a regime change. Yes we want that and we will do it democratically. We know that our time is near," Hichilema said.

"We know what is happening on the Copperbelt. We know that our women are suffering. No jobs for the youths because of these criminals, the PF. They are the ones making us suffer. They want us to focus on them so that we don't address the key issues." He said the PF has now specialised in harassing and intimidating citizens. "Don't lose hope. Remain focused because we are almost there. They

want to beat us, lock us up and send us to prison, but let us be strong. Very soon, we will be there. Remain focused and united. Continue to mobilize the party even in challenging times," said HH who is accompanied by his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba. "Today, we go to Kitwe to conduct our exercise, but before we go to Kitwe, let us go to Church and worship our God. We will remain strong."

I’m President Lungu’s number one bootlicker – Lusambo

By William Chileshe
If President Lungu says dance, I will dance; jump, I will jump because I am bootlicker number one for the Head of State, says Copperbelt minister Bowman Lusambo. And Lusambo says President

Lungu does not sleep in State House because he is busy working. Speaking at the PF interactive forum at Protea hotel in Ndola today, Lusambo who is behind the worship phrase “great leader of this great country”

for President Lungu said there was nothing wrong with bootlicking the Head of State. “I have heard a lot of people say bootlicker, bootlicker! Yes, I am the number one. Number one bootlicker. I am now the number one bootlicker

for President Edgar Chagwa Lungu,” Lusambo said. “If he tells me to dance, I will dance. If he tells me to go this way I will go. If he tells me to jump, I do.” He said bootlicking indicated loyalty.

“The only medicine in politics is loyalty. For me, I will remain loyal to President Edgar Lungu. That is what politics is about. Loyalty is politics. So we will remain loyal to the President,” he said. And Lusambo said President

Lungu does not sleep because he is busy working for the people. He then mocked PF breakaway NDC party leader Chishimba Kambwili, saying people on the Copperbelt should look out for the new comedian.

“We have a gentleman here on the Copperbelt by the name of Chishimba Kambwili. That gentleman is making empty noise. If it’s true that he is popular, we could have seen activities because he is in Luanshya. He has failed to penetrate the Copperbelt. We need the drama of Kambwili in politics. We need him to entertain us,” Lusambo said. “President Lungu is a hard worker. Instead of taking President Edgar Lungu to watch a movie for entertainment, we have a comedian Kambwili. We are enjoying his drama. People are enjoying his drama.” He however warned that Kambwili should not abuse the police permits bu insulting President Lungu. “When we give him permits, he insults President Lungu and me. I want to assure Kambwili that am the Copperbelt minister confirmed and signed. So ba Kambwili, am minister. Ba Kambwili, ifwe kuno (us here) as Copperbelt will not tolerate lawlessness. Am talking as minister,” said Lusambo. “We have political history. They call me die-hard, not for nothing, that is history. But for Kambwili he has no political history. So he should not be making noise here on the Copperbelt. He should conduct himself in a better way. As Copperbelt we are strong and intact. If elections were to be called today, Edgar Lungu will win because we don’t have opposition but jokers.”

Government to stop trading of fresh foods on open, unsanitary markets



Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya helps clean Soweto market

By Mirriam Chabala
Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya says government will soon stop marketeers from selling fresh foods in contaminated places in order to combat the cholera epidemic. And Chilufya says government has invested K20 million in the Ministry of Health to empower a multi-sectoral task force that will help to combat the cholera epidemic that hit the country in October this year. The Minister of Health disclosed this yesterday after he joined in the cleaning exercise of Soweto Market in Lusaka. Dr Chilufya expressed confidence that cholera would be controlled by the introduction of a multi-sectoral approach to which government committed to mobilise a further K18 million from its stakeholders in order to escalate the prevention measure. “Firstly, we are going to stop trading fresh foods in contaminated places because that will just escalate the epidemic. Secondly, we have engaged the vendors themselves to understand why we may need to scale down on certain products in certain environments until we work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that trading places are clean and safe . So today we convened, engaged marketeers, street vendors and harnessed

there participation in cleaning the market and this is not a one off thing. It should be a routine and it should happen because poor hygiene will always cause waterborne diseases,” Dr Chilufya said. “Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company are also on site to help address the challenges of poor sanitation. We are also emphasising the importance of hand washing and marketeers have responded well. We are confident that cholera will be controlled with this multi-sectoral approach. Government has put in an initial investment of K20 million in this multi-sectoral approach and we are just now mobilising another K18 million from our stakeholders to escalate the multi-sectoral response. It is important to note that what is fuelling the epidemic is poor hygiene practices in places like this. Therefore, government shall need to send a cholera multi sectoral task force on the ground to conduct a robust patrol programme. Today you are seeing ministers and members of parliament from Lusaka to demonstrate their political will and to also show the concern that President Edgar Lungu has shown in addressing what is causing the epidemic.” Dr Chifya also gave an update on the Cholera cases in Lusaka and other parts of the country.

“Cumulative cholera cases are now at 298 and 46 are currently under treatment. The epicenter in Kanyama has 17 cases so far. We also have a total of 36 cases of children, 17 are in Kanyama, 19 are in Chipata. It is important also to note that Soweto market because of it’s nature records a lot of cholera cases and most of the cases recorded in Soweto came from Kanyama itself. The mortality we had was for a meat trader from Kanyama who was trading at Soweto market and the others were travellers from Mumbwa who were camped here,” said DR Chilufya. Meanwhile, Lusaka Province Minister Japhen Mwakalombe said government would look for partners to team up with in order to start generating electricity from solid waste. “We have to understand that Lusaka Province is generating a lot of waste because of the activities that we have and the market is also one of the those things that are generating waste. But there are measures that are being put in place to control this and one of the measures that we have put in place is that first of all when you look at waste energy, we have teamed up with companies who want to set up factories to generate power from the waste. So that is one of the things that we have done in order to add value,” said

Mwakalombe. And Kanyama PF member of parliament Elizabeth Phiri expressed happiness with government’s intention to

give her constituency its own municipal council by next year. She said the move would help her interact with her people closely.

Lungu gives personal loans to gutted market traders



By William Chileshe
President Edgar Lungu has distributed money to marketeers of Kapalala market in Ndola, through the Presidential Empowerment Fund. Presidential Empowerment Fund Patron Chanda Kabwe gave K250 and K500 amounts to 200 respective traders at Kapalala market which was gutted a few months ago. Kabwe said the funds were not a grant but a loan coming from

President Lungu. He said the empowerment fund wiuld move from Ndola to Luanshya. “Today we have targeted 200 marketeers to benefit from this fund. We are giving K250 and K500 to marketers today. This is especially to those marketeers who were affected. So we expect the marketeers to pay back,” said Kabwe. “This loan is coming from the contributions of President

Edgar Lungu to empower the marketeers. After the Kapalala market main masala here in Ndola, we will go to Luanshya at Fisenge and Baluba market to empower them and build ablation blocks.” And Copperbelt minister Bowman Lusambo said he was happy with the empowerment of marketeers in Ndola. “For us, we are happy that you are in Ndola. We are happy for this gesture. It is an important undertaking for us. I have ‘declared’ interest because this is my constituency,” he said. Lusambo also said he was in talks with some mining companies that had agreed to build two modern markets on the Copperbelt. “Mining companies have agreed to build two modren. One at Kapalala and one at Chisokone in Kitwe. The president wants to uplift the people’s lives. When we meet with the President, he talks about markets and bus stations,” said Lusambo.

You are wasting our time; PAC sends back bluffing PS

From front page
Kapembwa appeared before PAC to respond to the queries raised in the 2016 Auditor General's report. After reading and submitting the ministry's response to the 2016 Auditor General's queries before the committee, Kunda asked his committee members to ask questions of clarification; and it was not long before the controlling officers started struggling to give satisfactory answers. Below is the summary of the question and answer session.
Brenda Tambatamba:
On page 2 regarding the grant aided institutions under hostels board, the air conditioners, I would like to find out from the controlling officers why they certified and paid for works that did not conform the contract terms?
PS Kapembwa:
This was an anomaly and should not have happened because normally what should happen is that only works that are according to specifications are suppose to be certified and paid for. Unfortunately in this situation, this did occur and the project manager was instructed to ensure that this was reversed and that the correct specified items were actually supplied.
Howard Kunda:
We have seen that this has continued, as is the case even after this anomaly was brought to your attention, PS is it one of those things you have failed to address? And as PS, are you in charge of these issues that are suppose to be dealt with according to the specification as you have rightly stated. Are you in charge?
PS:
Yes chair, I am in charge as controlling officer and chair, this issue was brought to the attention of the immediate supervising officer at the Copperbelt provincial planning unit to ensure that action was taken against the erring officer.
Kunda:
So then what has happened now, could you please elaborate more on this issue. What has happened? Before you come in, Honuorable Munkonge?
Mwenya Munkonge:
I also take not that the information as been availed, there is a noticeable absence of communication between the contractor and the government. You know the communication we have here is actually in-house and there is one letter actually where the contractor is claiming for payment and that is that. There is nothing to show properly that there has been communication to the contractor to correct the works.
Brenda Tambatamba:
My follow-up question was the very fact that the contract document did not specify the unit cost of the items to be procured. What was the basis of the price? The unit costs are not specified in the document which indicate to us that the controlling officer was not in charge. So what was the basis of the pricing?
PS:
The unit costs were available and at the time that they were advertised, the various contractors that tendered for



Ministry of works and supply permanent secretary Joe Kapembwa when he apeared before the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) at parliament building on November 27, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

works do outline unit prices and this is the basis upon which the unit costs were arrived at. In terms of the communication, chair, I do wish to assure the committee that we did write to the contractor on a number of occasions.
Kunda:
We work with documents, we work with what is provided, so where are those documents including the unit costs, where is it stipulated that this is the amount that is supposed to have been used to purchase these aircons (air conditions)?
PS:
I do apologise that in the documentation that we have with us right now, we do not have those specific documents but we commit to make them available to your committee chair, I do apologise sincerely.
Munkonge:
I think we are getting the feeling of the obstacles that the Auditor General office may have met during their exercise because this information was suppose to be availed to the Auditor General's not to PAC, therefore you saying we can avail it to PAC, I don't know. The minimum you should have done with this information should already have been here, so as far as we are concerned, this information doesn't exists and therefore we are wondering how the contract can go on without this specifications, how was the contract awarded without the specification for pricing and agreeing on a lamp-sum?
Victor Lumayi:
This contract seems to be stinking. Why am I saying so? The contractor had written to your ministry to say he had completed the works in July and your ministry recommended for payments in June according to your own appendix number one. If you go to appendix number one, you find the letter from the contractor written on 17th July claiming K134,663,05. Another letter from the same contractor is written

on 29th July 2016. Then the recommendation letter for payment from your ministry is on 22nd June 2016, so what comes first? Is it the completion or the payment?
Kunda:
Yes PS, those dates are confusing, could you please clarify on that?
PS:
Chair, let me ask my colleague to respond to that
Jeff Phiri – Acting Director for preventive maintenance:
Thank you Honourable chair and the committee, indeed that observation made by the Honourable member here is correct but what comes first is that the interim payment certificate which is certified by the district work supervisor is the one which outlines and gives instructions for us to make the payment and which is sent for us to process the payment.
Kunda:
But these are your letters, are you throwing out these letters to be not the truth, are you saying that?
Acting director:
The letters are true, we also wrote to the same contractor in line with what they had recommended for the supply because when this contract was awarded, all the units and the amounts are suppose to be for each of the air conditions that were quoted. So when the engineers certified that the works had been done in accordance and the certificate had been issued, that is when they have been sent to us so that we could effect the payments.
Kunda:
Yes but the question is on the dates, could you please be clear on the dates.
PS:
(Silent for a minute)
Kunda:
PS you are not ready! This is a show to us that you are not in charge even when you said you are in charge. Could you please address these concerns?
PS:
I will ask my colleague who actually does these works to

just clarify, Mr Phiri please.
Acting director:
Honorable chair, there is a letter from the contractor dated 22nd June in appendix one, 22nd June, 2016 addressed to our district supervisor in which the contractor was claiming for payment stating that the works had been completed. And this came before the payment was effected.
Kunda:
Honourable Lumayi, maybe you can go back to the question so that maybe they can understand it.
Lumayi:
I think if we followed the order of months, June comes first, second is July, am I right? Now the contractor had to write the claim of K134 thousand, this was in July, then you you had to recommend to pay him in June the same amount of K134,663. So I just want you to clear that air.
Acting director:
Chair, I think there are two different payments here. If you look at the claim dated 22nd June 2016, the amount is K143,191.52 whereas the certificate letter issued a month later dated 13th July 1016, was a total of K134 663. so I think this was a second interim payment.
Lumayi:
Chair, I want my big boss to read the two letters, can you read the two letters. First letter is I think on appendix one, the second document, read that document and read the third document.
Acting director:
Chair I am just looking through, I will answer in due course.
Howard Kunda:
So you are not ready to answer. PS, I think we can adjourn for five minutes so that you can be ready because it looks like your documents are all over.
AFTER 20 MINUTES
Kunda:
Are you ready PS?
PS:
Yes Chair. We have looked at the document and I wish to advise that the letter and

the actual document which is signed 13th July are issued together. Now what may have transpired with the district work supervisor is that he made a mistake on the letter, on the date of the letter. It was actually issued on 13th July and not 22nd June as it is written in the document. If you see the stamps on both letters and the actual certificates are dated July. This is the reason why it appears as though he issued an instruction to pay in June as opposed to July.
Cornelius Mweetwa:
I want just to ask two simple questions. The first one is that this is a relatively smaller document that you have come to submit, if that is what you are saying now, why didn't you detect this anomaly before you came here? And secondly, if you want us to get that kind of answer, why should this committee take you serious on that one since this signature here is attesting to the date which is typed. This date stamp is of no consequence on this letter because this is a headed document and this date stamp can be affixed any time in the future. It is also possible to back-date a date stamp on a date stamp any day. Today we can stamp this document as 2nd January but you cannot change a date on a document which you typed. So this letter's date, I am now putting it to you that 22nd June, why do you want to convince us that its another date?
PS:
I do agree with you that anybody looking at this document may argue in the manner that you have argued. But I wish to assure you that these two documents go together, they go hand in hand, the certificate itself and the letter. And therefore it is my belief that the district works supervisor erred in typing the date.
Kunda:
PS, is this your submission?
PS:
Chair it is
Kunda:

But you are referring to other people. When you were submitting, didn't you say that this is your submission and you even signed at the end of your submission? PS I am asking you, please answer to that.
PS:
Chair, indeed I did submit the letter
Mweetwa:
And as a rider chair, when we first asked about this confusion on dates, they even gave us responses to say these documents are talking about two different things not the same thing. That is what Mr Phiri said. So I am now wondering whether as they were coming here they were serious or they were just saying 'pull those documents, lets go. Are you now retracting your statement? Because your statements are on record
Kunda:
Yes Mr Phiri, you said these are not the same letters and they are talking about two different payments, are you sticking to your earlier submission or you are retracting?
Acting director:
I would like to retract because as you have correctly noted, the letter under issue, the one from the contractor dated 22nd June was the contractor's claim for the payment which was done on that certificate. I retract my earlier submission.
Kunda:
PS, I think that we will not be able to continue with this submission because in your submission on page 4, you have referred to a letter. This letter has not been provided, we cant see it and a lot more other things. I think that we would need to request you to go back and prepare nicely. You also come with the people who are responsible for these works, the contracts for example your provincial leadership that is there. So if you can go back, prepare nicely and come with the procurement team. So if you can just stand down and and we will be waiting for you to come back on Monday 18th December. And please you need to come with all the relevant documents. We should not waste time here. Thank you very much for appearing before this committee and we are looking forward to seeing you on 18th like I said, and immediately you leave this room, your immunity is lifted and whatever you say out there, you are on your own and it is up to you. Thank you very much PS.
The Public Accounts Committee is composed of Muchinga constituency member of parliament Howard Kunda (chair), Kasempa member of parliament Brenda Tambatamba, Nkana member of parliament Alexander Chiteme, Chavuma member of parliament Victor Lumayi, Choma central member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa, Solwezi west member of parliament Teddy Kasonso, Lukasha constituency member of parliament Mwenya Munkongwe, Milenge meber of parliament Mwansa Mbulakulima, Mkushi North member of parliament Doreen Mwape, and Nsenga hill member of parliament Kapembwa Simbao.

Commonwealth explains agenda for Lungu, HH dialogue in January

By Mirriam Chabala
Professor Imbrahim Gambari says constitutional and institutional reforms are key among the issues proposed to be addressed during the dialogue process between President Edgar Lungu and opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema.

At a press briefing in Lusaka today, Professor Gambari said he had proposed a time frame with the agreed structures to be established in December 2017 and that the dialogue process would formally commence in January 2018.

“During this visit, I shared elements of a broad strategy, based on the feedback from the extensive consultations I had previously. I have invited stakeholders to consider this strategy and provide me with their comments in order that we are best able to address the key issues that were conveyed to me during my last visit. We have been able to broadly categorise the key issues as constitutional and institutional reforms, electoral reform and the need to institutionalise a culture of tolerance and civility in politics. In setting the broad outlines of this proposed strategy, I am mindful of the need to ensure national ownership, sustainability and inclusivity. Therefore, the strategy must be further discussed and fine-tuned by national stakeholders,” Professor Gambari said.

“I have proposed to stakeholders a dialogue strategy with several layers for consideration, Including; dialogue between the ruling party and the United Party for National Development; Dialogue within a broader working group comprising of representatives of registered political parties (under the aegis of the Zambia Center for Inter party Dialogue), the Electoral Commission of Zambia, Civil Society Organisations, religious institutions, traditional leaders, the intelligentsia, the police, Parliament and the Ministry of Justice; and a steering committee which could comprise of people of integrity nominated by political parties, traditional leaders, Church leaders and persons nominated by civil society. Given the importance of national ownership, the



role of the Zambia Center for Inter party Dialogue would be essential in supporting this broader dialogue.”

Professor Gambari also proposed for the initiation of targeted capacity building workshops for the police and security services, political parties and other civil society organisations to help the

country unite alongside the dialogue process.

“I am also proposing, for consideration that alongside the dialogue process, targeted capacity building workshops are held for the police and security services, political parties, civil society and the media. The strategy also proposes that the dialogue also culminates in

the establishment of a National Peace Architecture for high-level conflict prevention in Zambia in the long term. I have also proposed a time frame and milestones with the proposal that the agreed structures be established in December 2017 and that the dialogue process formally commences in January 2018. as I have stated in the

past, the road ahead will be full of challenges but I would like to encourage political leaders and other stakeholders to remain focused, committed and supportive of the environment conducive to a constructive, results-driven dialogue process. I am glad that President Lungu and Mr Hichilema, as well as a cross section of stakeholders,

remain fully committed to this dialogue process,” said Professor Gambari.

Meanwhile, the envoy in charge of Politics at the Commonwealth Secretariat Koffi Sawyer said the dialogue would also address the ambiguities in the Constitution. “For the Constitutional and institutional reforms, the issues will be definition of the 14 days in which petitions should be heard by the Constitutional Court as in when does the 14 days begin and when does it end. About the weekends in between. Then secondly, clarifying the relationship between the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court. Three, addressing ambiguities if any in the Constitution and reviewing the Public Order Act and how it is enforced by the police; strengthening the independence of the Judiciary, depoliticisation of the police force. In other words, the promotion of impartial policing; next reform of the media sector to address the issue of biases, partisanship, allegations of unprofessionalism; the independence of the Electoral Commission of Zambia and then also building the capacity of political parties to enable them to play their role more responsibly and effectively,” said Sawyer.

UPND wins another nolle, HH calls PF petty thieves

From front page

“There being no objection, this matter is discontinued. You are hereby discharged you are warned that this is not acquittal you may be re-arrested,” said magistrate Mikalile.

Trial in the matter never commenced although GBM and the youths were taken to court in February 2016.

GBM was between February 13 and 27 accused of training youths to the use of arms, military exercises, movements

or evolutions.

The youths are on the same dates alleged to have assembled without the President’s permission to be trained into militias.

They were arrested at GBM’s premises on Luanshya road in Lusaka’s villa area.

Reacting to the court’s outcome, HH observed that police were arresting citizens without investigations whilst the ruling party was focused on looting.

“Let me congratulate my colleague GBM who has been discharged from one of the frivolous cases and then also to offer our support to our colleague, president [Nevers] Mumba here who has been waiting for judgment and it is not coming through. But the point I am making here is that this is why we are emphasizing the importance of changing the criminal justice system so that people are not arrested before any investigation. People don’t

have to live in courts because they have lives outside court but you are in court for a year, you are in prison, and then a nolle or discharge or indeed delayed judgment, you experience punishment before any investigation is done... So you see acquittals, nolles, discharges, delayed judgments then you know that a country has collapsed,” HH said. “Zambia under PF has collapsed. You know it yourself, everyone knows it, there is no order at all, even in Parliament and everywhere, there is no order. What is there is a platform where people give us a platform to serve them then the PF are using that platform to steal. We hear now, out of the 42 fire tenders, three have had accidents so \$3 million is gone. Yesterday we were at the Ndola airport, the so called VIP lounge was flooded. So why not repair the roof of the airport before you buy the fire tender? You buy the \$1 million fire tender because you want to steal \$700,000 dollars per fire tender. The country has collapsed, those in leadership are now focusing on using public office to steal money to enrich themselves. They have never been businessmen, that is why I call them petty thieves. They don’t know what it means to run a business, I call them petty thieves, including those at the top in State House. They are just petty thieves.”

He said when voted into office, he would adopt a zero tolerance approach towards corruption.

“When we come in, it’ll be zero tolerance on corruption. Have you seen what is happening to the former Minister of Finance in Zimbabwe? I am asking PF to say ‘do you want to end up that way?’ If you don’t want to end up that way, because it will come, people will reclaim what belongs to them, if you don’t want to be like others, why do you continue stealing money?” HH wondered.

He charged that PF was against dialogue because those in government wanted to continue brutalizing citizens. “PF are saying they are not ready for dialogue because they want to maintain the toolkit of brutality, the toolkit of arresting innocent people and taking them through court processes like this for years on end and detaining people. That toolkit is what they want to keep, that is why they are afraid of dialogue. They don’t have the support of the people on the ground. They are there because of the use of police brutality, use of the intelligence to suppress citizens. That is what [Robert] Mugabe was doing for those many years,” said HH. Meanwhile, MMD faction president Nevers Mumba’s ‘criminal trespass’ judgment was adjourned to November 30.



Hakainde Hichilema leads UPND officials in a meeting with Commonwealth representatives at his residence

Constitution was released in a hurry, it has lacunas – Lubinda

By Mirriam Chabala
It has become very clear to everybody that the 2016 amended Constitution was done hurriedly and has a lot of lacunas, says Justice Minister Given Lubinda. Lubinda however says the public should not blame his ministry for the lacunas because government was also under pressure from stakeholders who were calling for the adoption of the new Constitution without any delays. Speaking in a transit interview to Rome for a Ministers of Justice conference, through Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Lubinda admitted that there were a number of gaps and articles that did not correspond well in the constitution and that he would soon issue a statement to address the matter. “It was quiet clear to everybody, anyone who has cared to study the Constitution has come to the conclusion that our 2016 amendment of the Constitution was hurriedly done and I don’t think it’s time for us to apportion blame. I think it’s time for us to acknowledge the fact that this was an exercise that we carried out as a country. There were some people who were really agitative for the constitution to be adopted without amendments and others were even pushing that the amended constitution is being delayed. So as a country we went ahead and adopted that constitution but now, it has become clear that there are some articles in the constitution that don’t speak to each other and there are also gaps which lawyers refer to as lacunas in the constitution which require refinement,” said Lubinda. “Already in February and March, I appealed to various

stakeholders and Zambia to make submissions to the Ministry of Justice for us to start the process of refining the constitution. So I will be presenting a Ministerial statement to inform Parliament and the country on the status of the refinement process but it is true that we are making moves to refine the process and we have made tremendous progress but the details you have to

wait until I present them to Parliament.” Meanwhile, the minister said Zambians should not expect all prosecutions to produce convictions because the role of the Ministry of Justice was only to assist courts in reaching a fair and just decision. Lubinda was reacting to criticism that the State had been losing a lot of cases through acquittals and

dropping some through nolles. “Mr Lubinda said it was not possible for the State to win all cases it presented before courts. He disclosed that state advocates mainly depend on investigations done by investigative wings of government in order to win cases. He said on average state advocates attend to 36 cases per month, a move he described as unbearable,”

First Secretary for Press and Tourism at the Zambian Embassy in Ethiopia Inutu Mwanza, said. She also stated that Lubinda further disclosed that government had decided to transfer prosecutors from the Drug Enforcement Commission and the police to National Prosecution Authority in accordance with the constitution. “Mr Lubinda said

government has now decided to move prosecutors from the DEC and the police and place them under National Prosecution Authority in accordance with the constitution. He disclosed that prosecutors at the Anti-Corruption Commission who have not yet been moved will also be moved to the National Prosecution Authority next year,” stated Mwanza.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu displays the badge he received from Lion 413 District Governor Jessica Chobe (left). Right is Lions International Director Lion Hastings Eli Chiti . This was during the Lion District 413 Zambia Fundraising for Melvin Jones Children Eye Referral Hospital at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka on Saturday, November 25, 2017. SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE ©2017

Give priority to local youth when employing, Kafue MP begs state and private firms

By Oswald Sichone
Kafue Member of Parliament Miriam Chonya has appealed to state-owned

and private companies in her constituency to give local youths a priority when employing.

Speaking during a funeral service for Julius Mpumpi, a 22 year old youth of Kafue, Chonya said that she had

noted with great sadness the manner in which government controlled firms were conducting their

recruitment of employees. Chonya appealed to government to address the high rate of youth unemployment because it affected the most productive human resource. “Julius was an epitome of ambitious youths, I saw a lot of ambition in him and he was very determined to do something for himself. But unfortunately this was never to be. Before he met his fate, Julius would make desperate appeals to me to help him find a job and I feel sad that I couldn’t grant his wish.” She regretted that some companies were reportedly refusing to employ some youths, and were even laying off others who were perceived to belong to the opposition. Chonya said that most youths in Kafue were having difficulties in finding employment in the district despite having the right qualifications. “The cry of many youths in Kafue is that state owned companies are preferring to employ youths from outside Kafue because the local youths are perceived to be opposition sympathisers,” said Chonya.

Deducting salaries from culprits cited in AG’s report isn’t the solution - PAC

By Zondiwe Mbewe
PAC president Andyford Banda says Public Service Commission chairperson Dickson Chasaya’s remarks that government will recover misappropriated funds from erring officers through salary

deductions is illogical and should not deter police from prosecuting culprits. Recently, Chasaya told Diplomatic Staff at the Zambian High Commission in Pretoria that deducting emoluments from erring

officers was the workable solution due to legal challenges. But in an interview today, Banda said people wanted to see culprits prosecuted. “We also want to see some disciplinary action being taken against those found wanting who may not have been involved in fraud. They need to be suspended. For example, we need to see action so that future cases can be reduced. We want to see action and not what Mr Chasaya is saying that the cases will be dealt with administratively. I think that is misleading the public. Let’s face the facts, let’s ensure that those culprits that did not deliver; especially in goods, and those involved in fraud are dealt with. Maybe Mr Chasaya is trying to please some people

who may be connected to the system. However, that shouldn’t stop the police from prosecuting all those found wanting,” Banda said. “The Vice-President [Inonge Wina] clearly indicated that those that were cited in the Auditor General’s report will be arrested. Especially those that were found with fraudulent cases. There is every reason to be concerned about the Auditor General’s report more especially that these cases have been happening repeatedly year in year out.” Banda wondered how government would recover money lost in shoddy works. “I think Mr Chasaya is misleading the public. There are a lot of cases of fraud in the Auditor General’s report. I mean, why is it that for

example, RDA did give out contracts worth K11 billion without the supervising consultants which resulted in shoddy works? Can we call that procedural issue? Shoddy works were done and the people in that office knew what they were supposed to do. In as much as we appreciate that monies will be recovered from salaries, I just want to find out how the K11 billion will be recovered from the shoddy works that were done. We are also talking about civil servants who stole money worth K2.5 million as cited in the Auditor General’s report. Also deducting money from the civil servants, we know that the money misappropriated is a lot of money, how much money will they deduct?” asked Banda.



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We are documenting Lungu’s properties with pictures - NDC

From front page

And Kambwili says government deflated the prices of maize intentionally in the last farming season to enable it cleanse the money acquired dubiously. Addressing residents of Mansa district during a party mobilisation tour of Luapula Province today, Kambwili explained that the pictures would eventually be published in the media “for citizens to see and make their own judgment” on how the President amassed such wealth in a short period of

time. “Edgar Lungu is too scared, so after removing me from government he became scared of me and his only option was to expel me from the party. But I am not bothered about the issue of expelling me because I always kneel down to God and I ask him to say ‘my God what wrong have I done to this person, pantu nalile icalo conse mukumucitila campaign, nomba echo namulufyanya cinshi? (I went round the whole country to campaign for him so what wrong did I

do)’ but God tells me ‘there is nothing you have done wrong, I have just removed you from PF because what is going to be happening in this government going forward is disgusting’ and I said that’s okay my Lord I can work even as MP but look where we are,” Kambwili said. “When you come to Lusaka... in fact what we have done now is that we have appointed a photographer to capture all the buildings that Edgar has built in just one year, because if we just keep talking people will start thinking that we are

lying. So this photographer will take pictures of all the structures Lungu has build for himself in just one year and then we are going to publish the whole thing in the paper so that people can judge if someone can build structures of that kind in just one year. Ba Edgar elo bacitile declare tabatwebelepo at nalikwata amakwebo nangula ati ndemba copper, elyo babepwishe occupation batilefye peasant farmer. Nomba peasant farmer ewingakula ifukulwa fyonse filya efyo tulemona? (because

when he was declaring his assets, Edgar didn’t tell us that he had any businesses or that he dealt in copper. When asked about his profession, he just said that he is a peasant farmer, now can a peasant farmer build all those things we are seeing?”) And Kambwili said those in government were benefiting from the low maize price this year. “Do you know why they (government) have reduced the price of maize? I want to explain to you today, that money they acquired

dubiously like for example when they purchased fire engines at exaggerated amounts, when that money is given to them, they can not store it in their bank accounts because banks always become suspicious when someone goes there with huge amounts of cash. So they are getting these monies and hide it in their houses and then they think to themselves to say ‘what can we possibly use to clean this money and eventually get it to be stored in the banks?’ And then they realise to say ‘let’s go to farmers and buy their maize’. So when they buy that maize, they export it to Zimbabwe or Congo so that those countries could send back the money through banks. And that way even if the banks asked them, they could just say it’s payment for export of maize and that’s what we call money laundering,” said Kamwbili. Meanwhile, newly appointed National Democratic Congress Spokesperson Eric chanda called on the people to work with the party to remove President Lungu and the PF from power. “Freedom does not come on a silver plate, for you to have jobs and all the other things, you need to unite, you need to keep supporting this organisation of NDC because you all know what Kambwili has done. If you want things to work out, NDC is the way. If we depend on Edgar Lungu to deliver us, things will get worse so let us just support NDC,” said Chanda. “In fact, 2021 is too far. So, if you people are fed up with Edgar Lungu’s leadership, you know what to do especially you women, you know exactly what do just like you do in marriages when you are tired. When Kaunda made people to start lining up for a bag of mealie meal, he didn’t finish his term of office, he was removed. That is why we are asking you to cement this party in all wards and Constituencies so that by the time we get convinced that are strong enough and are tired of the PF leadership, we can just go to State House together and kick him out,” said Chanda.

Lufwanyama DC opened govt account without authority, failed to account for K47,100 – AG

By Mukosha Funga

The Auditor General has revealed that the Lufwanyama District Commissioner opened a bank account to receive money from well wishers without authority and failed to account for K47,100 which was paid into it. According to the Auditor General’s report for the year ended 2016, the Lufwanyama

District Administration did not get authority from the Accountant General to open the said bank account. “In February 2016, Lufwanyama District Administration opened a savings bank account with the National Savings and Credit Bank (NATSAVE) in Lufwanyama. The bank account was used to deposit funds received from well-

wishers for public events in the district. The following were observed: The bank account was opened without the authority of the Accountant General. The bank account was managed and controlled by the District Commissioner and details of signatories were not made available for audit. The Administration did not issue

general revenue receipts to donors for various donations received. In this regard, it was not possible to ascertain whether deposits in amounts totalling K47,200 made in the account were the actual monies received. Amounts totalling K47,100 were withdrawn during the year under review. However, there were no expenditure records

to show how the cash drawn was used. A cash book was not maintained and consequently reconciliation statements were not prepared,” read the Auditor General’s report. Meanwhile, an officer of the Copperbelt Province Office of the President was paid amounts totaling K224,564 despite being absent from duty without leave since September 2006.

“Terms and Conditions of Service No. 60 (a) and (b) requires that an officer absent from duty without leave for a continuous period of ten (10) or more working days shall be liable for dismissal. Further, the officer shall not be paid a salary for the period he/she is absent from duty without leave. Contrary to the Terms and Conditions, no disciplinary action had been taken against an officer who had been out of station for 128 months from September, 2006 to June, 2017 without authority and the officer remained on the payroll during the said period. It was not possible to ascertain the total amount that was paid to the officer for the whole period she was absent from duty due to lack of records for period from September 2006 to March 2010. However, during the period from April 2010 to June 2017 the officer was irregularly paid salaries in amounts totalling K224,564,” read the report.

Mutembo drags justice Silungwe to ConCourt

From front page

This came to light today when the matter in which Nchito is challenging his removal from the office of DPP on various grounds including bias on the past of justices Mathew a Ngulube and Ernest Sakala, came up before the ConCourt. Mutembo submitted that when he took the question of bias to the Supreme Court, it was ordered that he raise the issues after the conclusion of the Tribunal sittings. And when Solicitor General Abraham Mwansa submitted that there was no need for the ConCourt to deal with the question of bias on the part of justices Sakala and Ngulube in Mutembo’s case because it had already been competently dealt with by the Supreme Court, Mutembo said any constitutional matter needed to be concluded by a specially mandated body, which was the Constitutional Court. “My Lady, the Solicitor General submits that the question of the bias of the tribunal was dealt with conclusively by the Supreme Court [but] the judgment is here My Lady. I have read it so many times and there is no such determination. In fact it is because there hasn’t been any determination on that question, that is why I am bringing the application now The Supreme Court says ‘you ought to be given a chance at the end’. This is the evidence I am bringing here. The point is that the jurisprudence now requires that any constitutional matter should come before the Constitutional Court. So if there was procedural injustice



in the way that I was removed from office, what court am I supposed to go to?” Mutembo said. Justice Mungeni Mulenga

asked the parties to submit written submissions and return to augment on 22nd February, 2018. Nchito asked that the

subpoenas against Justices Annel Silungwe, Mathew Zulu and Charles Zulu be extended after which Justice Mulenga adjourned the matter.

Culprits in Auditor General’s report will pay through salary deductions - Commission

By Mirriam Chabala

Public Service Commission Chairperson Dickson Chasaya says government will recover all monies misappropriated from erring officers as cited in the Auditor General’s report through salary deductions. Chasaya however says majority of the cases highlighted in the report were as a result of negligence and procedural impropriety and not cases of theft as being perceived. Meanwhile, Chasaya has regretted that some political commentators have taken advantage of findings in the Auditor General’s report to embarrass the government. According to a statement issued by First Secretary for Press and Public Relations at the Zambian High

Commission in South Africa, Naomi Nyawali, Chasaya said this when he addressed Diplomatic Staff at the Zambia High Commission in Pretoria. “Mr Chasaya said officers cited in the 2016 Auditor general’s report for misappropriation of funds would be made to pay back the Funds. He said the funds will be recovered through deductions from personal emoluments of erring officers. Mr Chasaya said deductions of emoluments was the workable solution due to legal challenges,” Nyawali stated. Nyawali stated that Chasaya also disclosed that government would soon revise the law to ensure that officers found abusing funds were dealt with in the shortest possible time. “He has disclosed that government was keen to

amend the law and regulations to ensure that culprits were made to pay back and were also immediately prosecuted. Mr Chasaya however said that majority of the cases highlighted in the report were as a result of negligence and procedural impropriety and not cases of theft as was perceived,” stated Nyawali. “He said government would deal with matters administratively by deducting funds from cited officers to recover such public funds. He also said certain political commentators had taken advantage of the Auditor General’s report to embarrass government.” Chasaya was in South Africa recently where he was attending a meeting with the Public Service Commission of South Africa organised by that country.

A toast to presidential drinking

A picture tells a thousand words, they say. And this was evident last week when President Edgar Lungu’s political advisor Kaizer Zulu was back in the news. Unlike in previous circumstances where Mr Zulu was involved in violence, this time he was a peaceful man. He was not beating up girls either, but rather he was enjoying quality time with a female workmate on some private jet.

It was a thought provoking photograph of the presidential advisor and State House Permanent Secretary madam Christah Kalulu sharing champagne. They looked blissfully relaxed as they gazed at one of their communicating devices, with half-filled wine glasses in their hands.

We found this photograph very interesting for the same reasons that the people who were circulating it had. So we decided to use it on the front page of our Friday edition of the News Diggers! ePaper.

FORTUNATELY, we were given some wrong information accompanying this picture. We indicated that the couple was flying to Zimbabwe, along with President Lungu to attend the inauguration of that country’s newly appointed Head of State.

Immediately we released our publication to the public, the Patriotic Front swung in, telling us that we got our facts wrong. We promised to ‘correct the misinformation’ but something was amiss.

According to PF media director Sunday Chanda, the picture was taken in 2015 during election campaigns. He added that the State House Permanent

Secretary did not actually travel to Harare on Friday.

We would like to argue with Mr Chanda, but first; in our view, it really doesn’t matter what date the picture was taken. What is significant is the message that it sends. In fact, one would argue that this particular photograph told no thousand words. Instead, it was screaming just one short word, with a sharp adjective perhaps.

It is a well-known secret that those who travel with President Lungu eat gourmet food, drink exotic beverages and wear tailor-made designer cloths. President Lungu’s advisors drive top of the range competitive luxury wheels and sleep in several storey mansions because they are too high up in society to live on the ground. They are “filthy rich!”

The problem however is that, while they and President Lungu engage in a bragging contest with their fellow bourgeoisies, the ordinary Zambians are told to adjust in accordance with austerity measures. When a proposal to allocate funds towards the payment of retirees is raised, members of parliament from the ruling party shoot it down. Meanwhile, our brothers and sisters in State House can afford to use dollar bills as toilet tissue.

When the International Monetary Fund advises that our government cuts down on its expenditure, swiftly they remove fuel subsidies and increase electricity tariffs, while taking their lavish lifestyles to the sky.

Surely, if this is how our Presidential delegation travels, is it not an insult then for Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba to



tell the nation that the Head of State has significantly reduced his entourage? How does that make sense when the few who accompany him are high spenders? Should the Zambian people believe when they are

told that the presidency cares about their needs?

And going back to Mr Chanda’s claim that the circulating photograph was taken in 2015, we would like to remind his entire political

party that Zambians are not as foolish as they are perceived. No matter how high you may be in the political hierarchy of the country, you cannot outsmart the public. Zambians keep record of everything they see, read and hear. They see the foolishness in some political statements and claims, but they just persevere through the nonsense.

Mr Chanda cannot fool us into believing that the picture was taken in 2015 during the campaigns. Which campaigns? The major campaign held in 2015 was ahead of the presidential elections on January 20th and at that time Mr Kaizer stood dismissed from the civil service, not to mention State House. Ms Kalulu who is bending over on that photograph was bending from somewhere around the Ministry of Local Government – nowhere near the Presidential

challenger jet. At that particular time, the only Zambian who had authority to take a delegation on the Presidential challenger was acting President Dr Guy Scott, and there was no political advisor position at State House.

But assuming that Mr Chanda was referring to some parliamentary by-election campaigns that took place later that year after President Lungu and his band took over, is he telling the Zambian people that this is how the President’s campaign entourage looks like; with senior civil servants drinking champagne before going to tell Zambians that they sympathise with their hunger?

It may be true that the now famous photograph was not taken last Friday. But the question remains; if this was not the presidential challenger, whose private jet were these State House officials using and at whose cost? If this photo was taken on a presidential trip, where was the Head of State while these two were pouring wine and toasting to each other?

Is this the behavior that President Lungu encourages among his advisors when they are on duty; where Mr Kaizer can be holding a champagne bottle in between his thighs, without even a jacket or necktie? If these are the sober advisors of the President, in what state was the person they were employed to advise then?

What is of greater concern to the public is that these privileged few in the President’s inner circle even have the audacity to take these pictures and release them to the suffering citizens on social media.

Considering that these people were flying on duty, we strongly doubt that our Republican President is in control of the State. If his staff can be drinking in his face like that, we can deduce that he has no capacity to discipline them.

But maybe drinking on duty at State House is permitted, provided you drink more than the President so that you leave him with some dignity of not being the biggest drunkard.

News Diggers! Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
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Zimbabwe’s economic recovery may take longer than expected

By Chibamba Kanyama

Zimbabwe, under the new leadership of the Robert Mugabe mentored President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, may take another ten years to marginally reverse the deteriorated economic fortunes that once anchored the Southern African country among the world’s emerging markets.

The economic policy changes that started in the late 1990s, and focusing on land reforms, had a significant negative economic impact to the economy of Zimbabwe to an extent only transformational economic reforms can induce investor confidence and economic growth.

By 2016, unemployment stood at nearly 90 per cent, inflation started to rise in the US dollar denominated currency, poverty levels at 75 percent, budget overspend at over 25 per cent, GDP growth rate barely rising above

4 percent while real incomes dropped by more than 70 percent in the past 18 years. Investor confidence is at its lowest and though there is an indication of endorsement of the new regime by leaders of some leading economies, the inflow of capital into Zimbabwe will take more than change at the top leadership.

Mnangagwa has to get to the heart of the problem that led to this: the 1999 policy reversals that targeted property rights. While combatting corruption appears part of his agenda, it should not be a priority if his focus is to reverse the economic fortunes that have affected the people of Zimbabwe. It is largely about investment, and Zimbabwe has fallen way behind its peers on the Global Competitive Report since 2000. Analysing the critical indicators that drive foreign direct investment that Zimbabwe desperately needs,

the country does not seem to have significant problems with most of them. Zimbabwe has among the best educated people in the region and many of them are willing to go back to their country with minimal assurances of good incomes. In terms of infrastructure, though weak and fragile at the moment, it has offered the resilience in the past two decades. If what Zimbabwe went through was experienced by some of its neighbours with a weak infrastructural base, it would have been a complete disaster, with possibly no country to talk about. Fortunately for Zimbabwe, both physical and financial infrastructure still have signs of life.

Zimbabweans have been investors in technology in neighbouring countries and it will take a measure of political stability for its nationals to relocate back home. The real issue is about governance. Governance has been the

main source of the problem and this may explain why Mnangagwa quickly pledged to support the Constitution, which points to the independence of the institutions of governance, particularly the judiciary. This is where Mnangagwa has to signal real change, not cosmetic but real.

From the time three high court judges resigned within a space of four months in 2001 due to political interference, investors began to worry about the strength of institutions to protect their property. This single action promoted what is now termed as the region’s ‘mixed record’, overshadowed among other things, by the controversial land redistribution policy in Zimbabwe. Zambians who are commenting on various platforms that a rejuvenated Zimbabwe may be bad for Zambian terms of competition for FDI should know that the reverse is true; a positive

investment profile for Zimbabwe will be a positive regional profile! It means Mnangagwa has to read and push back to parliament, in the eyes of the global cameras, revisions to Article 16 of the National Constitution. The article protects property rights and fundamental rights of all Zimbabweans, black and white. This action alone is likely to trigger the much-anticipated economic change. FDI inflow will, however, not take place overnight as most investors still want to be in a ‘wait-and-see’ mode, at least for about ten years! They know it is the same regime that led to this but with only some substitution at the top.

The contributor is author of the book, ‘Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in the Southern African Development Community- Risks and Opportunities’ available on various online distributors.

Russian air strikes ‘kill dozens of civilians’ in Syria

At least 53 civilians have been killed in Russian air strikes in the east Syrian village of Al-Shafah, a monitoring group says. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said 21 of those reportedly killed on Sunday morning were children. The village is in Deir al-Zour, one of the last provinces where Islamic State still holds territory. Initially SOHR said 34 had been killed in strikes on residential buildings. But the monitoring group’s head told the AFP news agency it now believed the figure was higher. “The toll increased after removing the debris in a long day of rescue operation,” Rami Abdel Rahman said. Earlier Russia confirmed that six long-range bombers had carried out air strikes in the area, but said they had hit militants and their strongholds. Russia is a key ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the country’s long-running civil war. UN-backed peace talks

are expected to resume in Geneva next week, but several previous rounds of negotiations have failed. Separately on Sunday, there were reports of 23 people killed in a rebel-held

enclave on the outskirts of Damascus. SOHR said several towns in Eastern Ghouta had been hit by air strikes and artillery fire. Neither of the reports have been independently

verified. The monitoring group says 120 people have been killed since the Syrian army began its offensive there nearly two weeks ago. After years of siege,

conditions for Eastern Ghouta’s 400,000 residents are dire, with reports of people dying of starvation. In a report last week, the UN said food was so scarce some residents had been

reduced to eating animal fodder and even garbage. Eastern Ghouta is one of several “de-escalation” zones in Syria announced by Russia, Iran and Turkey earlier this year. **BBC**

Pope in Myanmar: Francis faces tricky trip



Bali volcano alert raised to highest level

Fears of an imminent major eruption of Bali’s Mount Agung have increased and the evacuation zone around the volcano has been widened. Indonesian authorities have raised the state of alert to its highest level. The island’s airport has now closed, leaving thousands stranded in the tourist hotspot. Authorities say dark smoke and ash have been billowing up to 3,400m (11,150ft) above the mountain’s summit, which has also been emitting fire. Officials have warned residents to stay away from rock and debris flows known as lahars, which have been spotted flowing down from the mountain. How close is it to a major eruption? The National Board for Disaster Management raised the alert to level four from 06:00 local time (22:00 GMT Sunday), because of “the possibility and imminent risk of disaster”. The volcano was seen emitting “continuous ash puffs” occasionally accompanied by “explosive eruptions” and “weak booms” that could be heard 12km (7 miles) from the summit. “The rays of fire are increasingly observed at night. This indicates the potential for a larger eruption is imminent,” it said in a statement (in Indonesian) on its Facebook page. Geologist Mark Tingay of the University of Adelaide told the BBC that Mount Agung now appears to be entering the next phase with a magmatic eruption, where the glow of lava is visible from the crater. But he added that as eruptions are difficult to predict, it was “very hard to tell” how the situation would develop. “These eruptions can be quite large and extensive and violent, but this could also be a relatively minor eruption over

time”. He added that Indonesian authorities had made preparations for an eruption for months, and said they appeared “extremely well prepared” with the situation “well under control”. Should tourists be worried? The main tourist stretch of Kuta and Seminyak is about 70km (43 miles) from the volcano, far beyond the exclusion zone. But the ash prompted officials to shut down Bali’s Ngurah Rai airport from Monday to Tuesday morning. Airport authorities said 445 flights had been cancelled, affecting 59,000 travellers. The Australian government and the UK’s Foreign Office have advised travellers to be prepared for cancelled flights, closely monitor local media, and to heed local authorities’ warnings. China (statement in Chinese) advised its citizens to be “cautious” if travelling to Bali. The airport on neighbouring island Lombok reopened on Monday morning after it was shut briefly. How are locals coping? Authorities have widened the exclusion zone to a 10km (6 mile) radius from the volcano, and have ordered people in the area to evacuate. On Monday, officials said around 100,000 residents needed to leave, but so far only 40,000 have done so. Officials have also been distributing masks for local residents, as ash rains down in the vicinity. Anna Baranova, who works with non-governmental organisation Kopernik that is helping evacuees, said her group was trying to bring in better masks and possibly goggles. “There’s some effort to distribute

information and also solar powered TV units which will broadcast information about the evacuation to the camps, should the electricity go out if there’s an eruption,” she told the BBC. Lahars, also known as “cold lava”, are slurries of rock fragments mixed with water, and have been spotted in fields and rivers near the volcano. The spokesman for the national disaster management agency, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, has warned that lahars may increase due to heavy rain and as Mount Agung continues to emit pyroclastic material. He has urged islanders to stay away from lahars as well as avoid activities near rivers. Authorities first issued warnings of an imminent eruption and raised the alert to the highest level in September after detecting heightened volcanic activity, prompting mass evacuations. But some islanders returned to their homes in October after the alert level was lowered with a decrease in activity. Bali volcano: What is it like waiting for an eruption? According to official estimates, the holiday island lost at least \$110m (£83m) in tourism and productivity during that major evacuation. Is this common for Indonesia? The volcano first began belching thick smoke last week - its first eruption in more than 50 years. Indonesia sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” where tectonic plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity. It is home to more than 130 active volcanoes. Indonesia: Volcano nation The last time Mount Agung erupted, in 1963, more than 1,000 people died. **BBC**

Pope Francis has arrived in Myanmar on the first papal visit to the country that has this year been widely accused of ethnic cleansing. Focus will likely be on whether he uses the term “Rohingya” to describe the country’s Muslim minority. Myanmar officials strongly reject the term, raising concerns it could spark some potential violence if he does. He is scheduled to meet Myanmar’s de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and the head of the country’s military. The Pope will then visit Bangladesh, and meet a small group of Rohingya refugees there in a symbolic gesture. The 80-year-old pontiff has become known for his moderate views and willingness to denounce global injustice. More than 600,000 people have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh since August when attacks on police posts prompted a military crackdown in the Rakhine state. The Pope used the term “our Rohingya brothers and sisters” while denouncing the persecution then, but Myanmar’s sole Catholic cardinal has asked him to avoid using it on the trip, fearing inflaming local insensitivities could lead to violence in the Buddhist-majority nation. Myanmar officials do not use the term, instead labelling them “Bengalis”, and say they migrated illegally from Bangladesh so should not be listed as one of the country’s ethnic groups. They say the military crackdown in Rakhine is to root out violent insurgents there, but the UN has described the violence as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing” - a sentiment echoed by international critics. Last week Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a deal to return hundreds of thousands who have fled across the border, but aid agencies have raised concerns about any forcible return unless their safety can be guaranteed. Papal aides say he will use the six-day trip to encourage dialogue and reconciliation after last week’s tentative agreement. The visit was organised before the crisis, when the Pope met the country’s de facto leader Ms Suu Kyi at the Vatican in May. The former Nobel Peace Prize laureate has faced fierce criticism for her silence on the persecution of the Rohingya. A large proportion of the 660,000 strong Catholic minority of Myanmar are expected to see him hold mass in Yangon. He will then become the first Catholic leader to visit Bangladesh since 1986 when he travels there on Thursday. **BBC**

Dwayne Johnson Reveals childhood struggles with poverty in touching thanksgiving post

The good life only makes Dwayne Johnson appreciate the tough times that much more. The 45-year-old actor opened up about his childhood struggle with poverty in a touching Thanksgiving post on Friday. The Rock revealed that growing up, he and his family didn't know where their next meal would come from. "After we bowed our heads in prayer, we went around the table and everyone shared what they were thankful for," he wrote alongside a sweet family photo. "Beautiful seeing and listening to everyone speak from their heart. Tears, laughter and boundless gratitude." Johnson, who at first joked about his gratefulness for his 2016 Sexiest Man Alive title, took a serious turn, revealing that things didn't always come so easily. "As my mom pointed out earlier in the day, there



was a time back in '87 when we couldn't even afford Thanksgiving dinner and was praying someone would invite us over their house to eat," he shared. "We were in a tough spot back then, but we got thru it. And here we are today. One big, extended, blended, slightly crazy, loving, grateful ohana." Johnson was 15 years old in 1987. Ten years later, he made a name for himself in WWE, before turning to acting and joining the A-list. Through it all, the father of two has never lost sight of what's important, and often gives back to his family and those close to him. Watch below. ***Yahoo***

'The Walking Dead' star Lennie James is leaving to cross over to 'Fear TWD'



The Walking Dead's loss is Fear the Walking Dead's gain. Lennie James is leaving the parent series behind after his Season 8 run to join the prequel series for Season 4. James' transition to Fear TWD was announced during Sunday night's edition of Talking Dead. He starts filming Fear this Monday in Austin, Texas — just one week after wrapping TWD in Atlanta. "Yeah, it's me," a self-described "surprised" James said to Chris Hardwick when he was revealed via satellite. "I'm joining the cast of Fear the Walking Dead. "The hardest part of it... has been leaving The Walking Dead — leaving that cast, leaving that crew," James, who was part of the original series' pilot, added. But on Fear, "I'm really looking forward to exploring Morgan in a whole different world, with different characters, in a different place." In a statement, TWD EP Scott Gimple said, "Even though Morgan is going to be featured on Fear, he has a lot of story left on The Walking Dead. Morgan's arc in Season 8 positioned him for the story on Fear. It was also important to see Fear's world and characters through new yet familiar eyes." This "crossover" of sorts was first teased at New York Comic-Con back in October, when TWD creator Robert Kirkman said that a big event was in the early stages of development. "We want these shows to have their own legs, tell their own stories and be their own thing," Kirkman said at the time. "I think we've finally gotten to a place with Fear the Walking Dead where it has its own identity [and] we can play with some things." ***Yahoo***



Miley Cyrus calls out 'rude' rumors that claim she's pregnant

Miley Cyrus shuts down pregnancy rumors. The "We Can't Stop" singer took to social media on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, to put an end to reports that she and her fiancé, Liam Hemsworth, are expecting their first child together. "RUDE!!! Not pregnant just eating a s**t ton of tufurkey," Cyrus, who is also celebrating her 25th birthday on Thursday, wrote alongside a picture of her and an arrow pointing to her tummy. The rumors began after the birthday girl shared a picture of herself with giant silver balloons that spelled out her name. Fans were quick to assume that she was pregnant by her pose. All day, Cyrus has been sharing pics of all her great birthday presents, including some beautiful flowers and a special necklace given to her by Hemsworth. See how other celebs have wished Cyrus a happy birthday in the video below. ***Yahoo***

Chambeshi eyes 2018 CAF Champions League spot

By Nyambe Lubasi
Nkana coach Beston Chambeshi believes they can hold their own in the 2018 CAF Champions League if they clinch a final top two finish. Nkana beat Mfulira Wanderers 2-1 away on Saturday to seal their 2018 continental qualification. First and second will play in the CAF Champions League while 3rd and 4th will compete in the CAF Confederation Cup after Zambia were granted two more continental slots by CAF after accruing qualification points into the top 12 best performing nations over the last three years. However, whether Nkana will play in the CAF Champions

League or Confederation Cup will be determined in next weekend's final round of matches. "It is up to our players to decide, they have good technical stuff, good management and good

sponsors I don't think a player who wants to play at a high level can ditch Nkana now," Chambeshi said. "All I can tell them is that we have a strong team and they can compete favourably in the

Champions League." The Kitwe giants have not played continental football since 2014 when they made their long-awaited group stage debut in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Meanwhile Nkana's win over Wanderers saw them go 2nd for at least 24 hours ahead of leaders Zesco United, 2nd placed Zanaco and 3rd positioned Green Buffaloes matches on Sunday against

Green Eagles away, Buildcon away and Red Arrows at home respectively. Zesco have 70 points, Nkana have 68 while Zanaco and Buffaloes are tied at 67 points before their Sunday fixtures.

Barcelona are better without Neymar - Messi

The Argentine superstar believes a €222 million summer sale to Paris Saint-Germain has actually proved beneficial to those at Camp Nou. Lionel Messi has suggested that the €222 million sale of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain has actually

made Barcelona better. Concerns were raised over the summer when Barca were forced into a record-breaking deal once the release clause of their Brazilian forward was met. With the player also expressing a desire to

move on, the La Liga giants found themselves in a difficult position – with their fearsome 'MSN' strike force suddenly broken up. Ernesto Valverde has, however, overseen an 18-game unbeaten opening to the 2017-18 campaign,

with Messi of the opinion that Barca have benefited from a tactical rethink. The Argentine superstar told Marca: "Neymar's departure has caused the way we play to change. "We lost a great deal of offensive potential but it favoured us in a defensive

sense. "Currently we are most well-armed in the middle of the field, we have more balance and that makes us stronger defensively." Barca have collected 13 clean sheets in all competitions so far, while there has been no shortage of goals at the opposite end of the field. Messi, who recently collected the fourth Golden Shoe of his career on the back of his efforts in 2016-17, has already found the target 16 times this term. His individual endeavours have also helped to cover the loss of Neymar, with the 30-year-old having previously admitted that he was unaware that his fellow South American was looking to move on. Messi told ESPN after seeing Neymar depart on the back of a pre-season tour in the United States: "Until the last day of the tour we were talking and we didn't know anything. "He said that he still wasn't clear what to do and he didn't know what he was doing. Others said they knew. But right until the last minute, we were speaking to him." While Barca have continued to thrive in Neymar's absence, the 25-year-old has also impressed in his new surroundings. There have been issues in Paris, such as a much-publicised on-field spat with Edinson Cavani and ongoing talk regarding a potential return to Spain at Real Madrid, but a man widely tipped to taste Ballon d'Or glory at some stage in the future has netted 13 times for PSG while providing a further eight assists across Ligue 1 and Champions League competition. **Goal.com**



France's Lucas Pouille falls as he defeats Belgium's Steve Darcis during their Davis Cup final single match at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Lille, northern France, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017. France won the Davis Cup for the first time in 16 years after Lucas Pouille beat Belgium's Steve Darcis to clinch the decisive point of the final. (AP Photo/Michel Spingler)

Noah ends 'losing culture' as France wins Davis Cup title

When he was re-appointed France's Davis Cup captain two years ago, Yannick Noah said he had a "clear plan." The former French Open winner put it into practice, and brought back the Davis Cup trophy to France for the first time in 16 years on Sunday. Noah, a charismatic figure in France who became a successful singer, led France to its 10th title in the team event with a 3-2 win over Belgium in the final. Noah, who captained the team to his third victory after winning the Davis Cup title in 1991 and 1996, said the key to success was to end the "losing culture" that had taken hold of the French team. "Over the past 16 years everybody got used to defeat," Noah said. "I had never felt that before and it destroyed me. I fully realized it during the semifinals. It was tough." France had a relatively easy path to the title this year, while Noah's predecessor Arnaud

Clement had to deal with the likes of Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka in France's previous final against Switzerland in 2014. In victories over Japan, Britain and Serbia this year, Noah's players gained from the absence of Kei Nishikori, Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic, respectively. And in the final, apart from David Goffin, Belgium players were not up to the task. Back in 1991, Noah helped France create one of the biggest upsets in Davis Cup history when it captured its first title in 59 years by beating defending champion United States. In contrast Sunday, anything other than a win would have been regarded as a failure. "Now we are going to surf that successful wave," said Noah, whose future at the helm of the squad remains unclear. On the indoor hard court of the Pierre Mauroy stadium, it was the 18th-ranked Lucas

Pouille who ended the drought for France, winning the decisive match for the hosts. Pouille's lopsided 6-3, 6-1, 6-0 win over Steve Darcis in the second reverse singles ended a run of three losses in finals. "There are no words needed," said Pouille, after playing for the first time in a decisive fifth Davis Cup rubber. "Just look at the atmosphere and the emotion. We really wanted this trophy and finally we got it after 16 years." Pouille had lost his two previous Davis Cup matches - including his opening singles against Goffin on Friday - but was in total control against Darcis and did not face a single break point. "Too bad for those who had buried me on Friday," Pouille said. "I wanted to destroy everything on court." France joined Britain in third place on the list for the most Davis Cup titles, behind the United States (32) and Australia (28).

France had won its last title in 2001, and lost in finals in 2002, 2010 and 2014. Goffin had earlier kept alive his country's hopes of a first title in the team competition by leveling the tie at 2-2. Goffin beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-2 in the first reverse singles match in the French city of Lille. Pouille, who was born close to Lille, used his powerful groundstrokes to unsettle

Darcis, who had a perfect 5-0 record in decisive fifth-rubber Davis Cup matches. But Darcis never got into the swing of the match and looked in trouble throughout. Pouille made the most of his Belgian rival's many errors in the first set, converted his first break point in the second game and wrapped up the opener after dropping just eight points on his serve... **Yahoo**

RUGBY: Red Arrows retain ZRU league title

By Nyambe Lubasi
Arrows retained their Zambia Rugby Union league title on Saturday after beating hosts KPF 17-13 in the final played at Kitwe Playing Fields. Arrows lifted the title thanks to a try by Emmanuel Daka who also successfully kicked

a drop-goal and penalty. His teammate Terry Kaushiku added six more points when he converted two penalties. KPF were on the scoreboard through a Wilson Kaunda try that was converted by Benaya Mukwamba and the latter went on to also successfully

kick two penalties. Meanwhile, Diggers finished 3rd after a 23-14 win over Buffaloes in the Plate event. Mfulira B won 38-0 over Roan to win the Bowl event while Chibuluma beat Kansanshi 11-0 to lift the Shield event.



Kellyvan Gomes races time during the 2017 Barn National Rally Championship last round on Sunday. Muna Singh senior won the round but his son Muna junior won the Championship

FASHION SCORES

...as Banda returns to action

By Nyambe Lubasi

Midfielder Emmanuel Banda's first competitive return to action after two-month layoff in Belgium kicked off the European-based wrap last weekend.

On Saturday, Banda came on in the 90th minute for Zimbabwean striker Knowledge Musona in KV Oostende's 1-0 home win over Eupen.

The match was Banda's first game back for Oostende since September 20 when he was sidelined owing to an injury.

Oostende are 12th while Eupen are bottom in 16th place.

In Austria, midfielder Enock Mwepu played the full 90 minutes in Liefering's 5-0 away

win over Kapfenberg in a match he did not score but contributed an assist.

Liefering are 5th after their win over their 7th placed hosts in Friday's Austrian 2nd division date.

On Sunday, Patson Daka was on the bench in leaders RB Salzburg's 3-2 away win over old foes Rapid Vienna who are third on the log.

And on Saturday in the Russian 2nd division, striker Fashion Sakala scored Spartak Moscow 2's lone goal in their 1-1 away draw against Zenit St Petersburg.

Fashion opened scores in the 9th minute to score his 8th goal of the season from 19 appearances for the 2nd division club.

He was later substituted in the 82nd minute.

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