



Musa Mwenye breaks silence on escalating corruption as...

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Zambians to get new "electronic passports"

By **Sipilisiwe Ncube**
Home Affairs Minister Steven Kampyongo has announced that Zambia is in the process of modernising the issuance of passports to

electronic, in a bid to ease the movements of people in the SADC region. Kampyongo said Zambia had so far engaged South Africa to formulate frameworks that would allow authorities to easily facilitate the movements of people and goods between the two countries. *To page 3*

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Maureen Mwanawasa, Linda Kasonde, Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika, Moses Banda, Bishop Mususu at the Levy Memorial Lwecture - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Deaths at KCM are a growing concern - Musukwa

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Mwanawasa used his career as a lawyer to advance law, order in Zambia – Maureen

By Mukosha Funga
Former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa says her late husband, Levy, was obsessed with law and order because he understood that without it, society would become brutal and ungovernable. Speaking during Mwanawasa's 10 memorial service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Sunday, Maureen recalled that her late husband always introduced himself as a lawyer because he believed the legal fraternity had a special role to play in upholding law and order in the country. "I would not be exaggerating to say that President Mwanawasa was obsessed with law and order. For him, the rule of law was the barest minimum standard needed for society to exist and thrive. He was convinced that unless everybody was equal before the law, society would eventually become brutal and ungovernable. It was with this view that the President thought lawyers had a special role to ensuring law and order in society. It was not unusual for the president, when introducing himself to visitors he was meeting for the first time, I quote 'I am a lawyer of 32 years standing'. One senior staff at State House once asked him, 'Your Excellency, why do you introduce yourself as a lawyers when you are Head of State? Surely being president surpasses being a lawyer'. The president's

response was simple, 'yes I am Head of State but I was a lawyer first. Being president is just a privilege that the people of Zambia have bestowed on me for a period of time. If they wish, the citizens of this country can take this privilege away. What is permanently mine, for as long as I stick to professional conduct, is the fact that I am a lawyer and through this profession, I can serve this country till my death,'" Maureen said. She urged Zambians to embrace the spirit of reconciliation. "President Mwanawasa did not talk endlessly about

the nobility of the legal profession. He however had great respect for all the other professions that make life complete. The other thing I remember about the president was his deep sense of justice. For him, justice was non negotiable. Let us use the 10th anniversary of our late president for us to reignite our oneness as a country, reignite the spirit of reconciliation, which was one of the major acts he demonstrated when he called upon his brother the late Michael Sata to bury their differences and move on to serve the country," said Maureen.



Target grand corruption, not only the weak, vulnerable - Mwenye

By Joseph Mwenda
Former Attorney General Musa Mwenye has broken his silence on the ongoing debate about escalating corruption levels in the country, saying the graft fight should not only target the weak and vulnerable. Mwenye who served under president Michael Sata as Solicitor General and later Attorney General, could not resist commenting on the incident where Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo caught traffic officers allegedly taking bribes from motorists. He said while Lusambo's efforts were targeted at exposing corruption, it was important

to target grand corruption among those who were taking proceeds of crime to invest in companies and assets, rather than only focussing on the weak and vulnerable. His opinion however, attracted a Twitter war, as one of his followers wondered why he didn't see the grand corruption while he was in government. "Hon. Lusambo's action helps anti - corruption efforts but corruption can't be fought in a sporadic and cosmetic approach targeting only the weak and vulnerable participants in the crime. The Minister's effort must now be followed by a concerted effort targeting grand corruption,"

Mwenye twitted. His follower called Ian Kanini then replied saying: "When you were appointed in government you didn't see any corruption," to which Mwenye responded: "I think the question should not be whether or not one saw corruption but whether one participated in it or condoned it." "What's the difference between being part of a corrupt government and participating? A principled human being would refuse to be part of it," Kanini pressed on, as Mwenye defended his position saying: "I was sworn in as Solicitor General in December 2011 and was later Attorney

General under President Sata's government. I was fired shortly after President Sata died after taking a position. I don't recall any allegation of grand corruption in the 3 years I was in government. I did not serve a corrupt government. Let's be factual." Kanini pushed on, accusing Mwenye of downplaying the grand corruption in Sata's administration. "Fair enough. If there was no corruption under Sata's government then we need to redefine the term corruption," said Kanini. Mwenye responded saying: "I Would've loved to hear specifics but I respect your opinion and enjoyed the discourse. Anticorruption Act 2012 was enacted, FIC was made operational, government officials (including ministers) were dismissed pending investigations. He had his own faults but grand corruption - No." When contacted to elaborate his views on the ongoing corruption, Mwenye insisted that corruption was a cancer that needed serious attention, adding that the problem was cutting across political divide. "Honourable Lusambo has highlighted a very grave problem that cannot be ignored. Corruption is a cancer and it is so cross cutting in its effects that we cannot deal with it on partisan lines. It is an issue that we must deal with as Zambians not as members of any one political party," Mwenye said in an interview. "In fact, apart from a few politicians who have spoken loudly on this subject, there appears to be a conspiracy of silence on this issue from both sides of the political

divide. We must all begin to have an honest discussion about corruption. If ignored, it can reach pandemic levels and can affect the very fabric of our society. Corruption has the capacity of destroying our nation." He said targeting low ranking officers who were engaging in corruption to buy bread was not going to end the vice. "Yes, the actions of some government officers who engage in bribery to buy necessities at home must be condemned in the strongest terms, but we must also condemn the corruption of those who use the proceeds to invest in companies or purchase huge assets. Corruption is corruption - let's not only condemn the petty corruption of the weak and vulnerable low ranking officials who do it to buy bread but we must also condemn grand corruption. Our actions must be loud and tangible and must not only target those we perceive as our enemies. We should begin to condemn it in our own homes when it's done by those close to us," said Mwenye. "I'm not an economist, but from the little I have read, there is no country in the world that has developed without a serious effort to tackle corruption. We cannot be serious about development and poverty alleviation without being seriously against corruption. We have only one Zambia. All of us have red Zambian blood flowing in our veins. Political parties are secondary! We are primarily Zambians and being patriotic requires putting Zambia above petty Vendettas, above political parties and definitely above corruption."



Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela celebrates Matebeto on his 20 marriage anniversary

PF will need the judiciary that it is destroying today – Andyford

By Zondiwe Mbewe

People’s Alliance for Change leader Andyford Banda has advised the Patriotic Front to ensure that they do not destroy any institution especially the judiciary saying they will be running to the same institutions when out of power. And Banda says Zambia has a lot to learn from the South African judiciary which ensured the invalidation of that country’s National Prosecuting Authority director Shaun Abrahams for being illgall . Meanwhile Banda says the Kasenengwa by-election campaigns are going well and his party has a lot of confidence of winning the seat. Recently the South African Constitutional Court found that the appointment of National Prosecuting Authority boss Shaun Abrahams was unconstitutional and invalid. Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga said former president Jacob Zuma’s decision to terminate Abraham’s predecessor, Mxolisi Nxasana’s position as the National Director of Public Prosecutions, was an abuse of power and that Abrahams was a beneficiary of that abuse thus his appointment was unconstitutional as well. Commenting on the development in an interview with News Diggers! Banda said Zambia had a lot to learn from South Africa. He observed that the South African judiciary had demonstrated that it was independent of any political interference. “I think as a country we have a lot of things to learn from South Africa. The South African judiciary has really demonstrated that it is independent of any political interference. And we have seen a number of cases that have been brought to court by the opposition, going through. And we can refer this to the recent ruling by the Constitutional Court of South Africa to invalidate the appointment of Shaun Abrahams as National Prosecuting Authority director. There is a lot that we can learn. You will find

that the Constitutional Court was categorically clear that President Zuma abused authority when he terminated the former NPA boss,” he said. Banda advised the Patriotic Front to ensure that they do not destroy any institution especially the judiciary, warning that they would need it. “We have a similar situation in Zambia where former director Mutembo Nchito’s contract was terminated which in some instances could have been seen that it was a political move.

But when you have an independent judiciary, you will find that even when such things happen, you will have a place to run to. And my advice is that those that are in authority, the PF, they need to make sure that they do not destroy any institution especially the judiciary because these are the same institutions that they will be running to when they are out of power,” he said. “These are the same institutions that they would want to save them when they are out of

power. So it’s important that when you are in power you do not destroy institutions, you do not abuse the authority because when you are out of authority you will find that the same institutions that you have been destroying are the ones that should save you. So this ruling of terminating Shaun Abraham’s contract by the Constitutional Court of South Africa is a great stamp on the South African judiciary. We hope that the Zambian judicial system can learn something from what

South Africa is doing.” Meanwhile Banda said campaigns for the Kasenengwa by-elections were going well and they had a lot of confidence as a party. He noted that PF had lost a lot of supporters as could be seen from voter apathy. “The campaigns for Kasenengwa by-elections are going well. So far we are pushing and we have a lot of confidence. If you look at the recent by-elections, you will notice that the PF have lost a lot of supporters. Even just the recent council

chairperson elections in Kasenengwa, you will find that only 14 percent of people voted. So our job is to device new plans of ensuring that we entice a lot of people to vote. We give them a message, we give them a reason that they should stand up and vote. But we are very confident that those who are not voting, if they were to stand up and vote, they wouldn’t vote for PF,” he said. Banda further noted that traditional methods of campaigning were no longer working because if they were working, a lot of people would stand up to vote. “Also what this shows is that traditional methods of campaigning are not working because if they were working, a lot of people would stand up to vote. There’s a lot of voter apathy in recent elections and yet we still continue to use the same methods of campaigning. So what we have done as PAC is to device a new plan of campaigning to ensure that we can bring a number of voters on board in the Kasenengwa by-election. Once people just stand up, once people make a commitment to go and vote, I think we are confident that we will scoop the seat. Otherwise we will do our best and we will live the rest to God,” said Banda.



Miss Universe Zambia winner Melba Shakabozha

Zambia to issue new “electronic passports”

By Joseph Mwenda

Home Affairs Minister Steven Kampyongo has announced that Zambia is in the process of modernising the issuance of passports to electronic, in a bid to ease the movements of people in the SADC region. Kampyongo said Zambia had so far engaged the South Africa to formulate frameworks that would allow authorities to

easily facilitate the movements of people and goods between the two countries. Speaking in Pretoria, South Africa, Kampyongo said preparatory engagements between the two countries to modernise passports to electronic followed the establishment of a bi-national commission which was recently signed by President Edgar

Lungu and his South African counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa. According to Naomi Nyawali who is first secretary at the Zambian High Commission in South Africa, Kampyongo said a memorandum of understanding was expected to be signed soon once the consultation process was finalised. He hoped that the modernisation of civil

rights registration and electronic passports would spur development in the SADC region as skills transfer among countries would easily be facilitated especially among the youth. Kampyongo has since called on some Zambians living in South Africa who do not have adequate immigration documents to legalise their stay in that country

in order to avoid inconveniences once the electronic passports come into effect. Kampyongo is in South Africa to hold bilateral talks with his Home Affairs counterpart and Minister of Police in that country as a follow up process of the agreements which were recently signed during South African President’s visit to Zambia.

By Diggers Reporter

There is unrealised potential among craftspeople in Zambia, says British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyet. Speaking during a meeting with Tourism and Arts Minister Charles Banda at Ministry's head office in Lusaka, Friday, High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyet said there is unrealised potential among Zambian craftspeople, hence the need to invest in the sub-sector. He explained that the British Government, through the Private Enterprise Programme (PEP) is helping the producers raise the quality of crafts, and has so far organised up to five international buyers for the crafts. "We know that job creation is a top priority for the Zambian government, and we think that there is considerable, unrealised potential amongst craftspeople in Zambia, but they need a market. So, it's partly about raising the quality of the products, which are produced in Zambia. And our through our PEP programme, we have contacted five international partners who buy these products in volume; they have visited Zambia, and I understand they are interested in taking this forward," High Commissioner Dyet revealed. And Banda said talent development in creative arts has been identified as a key area in the job creation agenda for youths in the country. "We have always been talking about talent development, and when we have done talent development, what comes next is marketing the product. This helps to

Tourism minister woos cooperating partners



Tourism and Arts Minister Minister Charles Banda's flagging of the 2018 Pamodzi Carnival at Lusaka's Woodlands B Primary School on Saturday morning. The Pamodzi is Zambia's new Tourism Product meant to promote unity through the arts and culture from the 10 provinces

grow the informal sector. Other than just looking for jobs in the formal sector, sometimes you can get employment through the informal sector; and arts is one such way," Banda said. He expressed delight at hearing the possibility of

having a viable market for Zambian crafts. "You [High Commissioner Dyet] have talked about sponsorship coming through. For us, that is very encouraging, we would support that because the moment we have got more

buyers who buy in bulk, it means you are encouraging most of our artists to go flat out and do a lot of production, and of course, good production, especially after having received training that can attract international buyers," said Banda.

He further observed that the arts and crafts industry needed to be developed to continue creating the much-needed employment in the country. Meanwhile, speaking when US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote paid

a courtesy call on him at his office, Banda said the entire Cabinet was aware that nature tourism was about wildlife conservation. He said poaching had the capacity to reduce wildlife stocks and negatively impact tourism. "There is a lot of pressure for game meat by chiefs and hence the need to have them grow their own game meat stocks so that they can use it even on traditional ceremonies. This will create controls poaching in the national Parks and Game Management Areas," said Banda. Earlier Ambassador Foote said Zambia had potential to boost its tourism through Private-Public Partnerships. The Diplomat said his government was aware that the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) was under resourced hence the need for support from other partners. He pointed out that the US had been supporting DNPW's wildlife investigation unit the Wildlife Crime Prevention, a Lusaka base non-governmental organisation. Ambassador Foote said the Millennium Challenge Account had potential to help even in tourism if his government was engaged to look at Zambia in that sphere.

By Mirriam Chabala

Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) are experiencing frequent and fatal mining accidents because they are not complying with the proper laid down safety procedure, says Mines Minister Richard Musukwa. And Musukwa has warned KCM to immediately settle its outstanding dues to suppliers and contractors because the company's inability to pay workers is creating a lot of despondence. Meanwhile, Musukwa has disagreed with Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili who recently suggested that KCM must be sent way for failure to provide safety at one of the country's biggest mines, arguing that there were a lot of ways to settle disputes than chasing investors away. Speaking to News Diggers! in an interview, Musukwa said the ongoing accidents at KCM which had usually been fatal was a growing concern and that government was getting apprehensive about the situation, warning that an immediate solution must soon be found. "We have appointed a team of experts who should provide over site for the mining operations in terms of safety.

Mine deaths at KCM are a growing concern – Musukwa

What we have told KCM and other mining houses is that safety is our priority and it must never at any time be compromised at the expense of production. We have also told our workers across the country and especially on the Copperbelt and beyond that any operation which is not safe must never be undertaken. In fact, if there is any disobedience a worker is able to show, it's in the area of safety. Once they are certain that a work space is not safe, it must not be undertaken. So it's a two way process, the workers and the company. In the quest to enhance and grow production, workers must not be a sacrificial lamb. So safety must be prioritised, so we are speaking to KCM teams to ensure that safety is put in place," Musukwa revealed. "You know most of the operations for KCM have been outsourced and these accidents are happening at an

out-sourced plant. Therefore, KCM must re-orient the outsourced operations in terms of safety and take full responsibility as regards the issues of safety. So any accident that happens is as a result of non compliance to the laid down safety procedures and we would like to ensure that there is total adherence to laid down safety procedures by all outsourced operations. KCM must provide over site because they are the license holders. KCM is answerable in terms of any operation faults at their sites. So according to our experts, the accidents that have happened, that have unfortunately resulted in the loss of lives, which is not supposed to happen is as a result of non compliance of all laid down safety procedures in the mining operations." And Mukusukwa argued that chasing KCM away from the country was not a good solution for the

company which is one of the largest mining employers. "As government, our role is to ensure that we provide a conducive environment in which investors have to operate. So honourable Kambwili who is our own PF member of parliament for Roan constituency, who is the prodigal son of the PF, knows how government operates and he just speaks for political expedience and we really think that we don't need to waste our time responding to his rantings, most of which are misplaced. Honourable Kambwili himself was a minister and he knows how these things work, it's not sitting on an anthill. For us as government, what we have done is that we have closed in in terms of operations at KCM to monitor and see how best KCM can provide over site in terms of its operations regarding safety." Meanwhile, Musukwa also

warned KCM to immediately look for funds to pay its outstanding arrears to suppliers and contractors. "KCM must mobilise resources and pay contractors and suppliers so that our towns Chingola, Chililabombwe and Kitwe will not be ghost towns as a result of KCM. KCM should not use VAT refund as an excuse for failure to meet their contractual obligations in terms of contractors and suppliers. So We would like KCM to ensure that they liquidate their indebtedness to the workers, to the contractors and suppliers and obviously as government, if KCM is not showing signs that they are robust, government has many measures that we are able to take to ensure compliance and certainly. But the issue of chasing companies like KCM is not a priority of my government. We would like to engage and ensure that we create a win-win

situation," said Musukwa. "As we speak, there is a lot of despondence amongst our people especially our contractors and suppliers in Chililabombwe, Chingola and Kitwe as a result of non payment of their dues by KCM. That is why we are urging KCM to ensure that they mobilise resources and pay our contractors and suppliers. So our big brother honourable Chishimba Kambwili can provide advise as he always does but he must choose proper forums and these are issues where you don't express yourself emotionally. I know that he's a contractor himself but these are issues that we must sober up and we must not make immediate decisions based on one matter, we must take a holistic approach. What we have said and have continued to say is that KCM is a growing concern and they must quickly ensure that they turn round the company because their inability to pay suppliers and contractors, their inability to pay salaries for some of their workers is creating a lot of despondence and as government, we are getting apprehensive about this kind of situation and we would like to ensure that an immediate solution is found."

By Stuart Lisulo

There has been a cease fire in the fight against corruption in Zambia by its ‘captains’ who continue to perpetuate the vice, says veteran politician Dr Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika.

And Dr Lewanika, a key-founding member of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), which kicked out UNIP from government in 1991, lamented that Zambia’s ‘cancer of bad governance’ has continued. Meanwhile, former Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president Linda Kasonde paid glowing tribute to late Republican president Levy Mwanawasa in his stance against corruption, adding that fighting the vice must be sustained.

Speaking during the Levy Mwanawasa Memorial Lecture in Lusaka, Saturday, Dr Lewanika, the legendary politician who, together with late president Mwanawasa resigned from second Republican president Chiluba’s Cabinet in the early 1990s, said that there has been a cease fire in the fight against corruption in Zambia in the last 10 years.

In a powerful 50-minute keynote address to various stakeholders, including family members and former serving ministers in the late president’s Cabinet, Dr Lewanika noted that the cease fire against the vice had not been announced because those meant to fight it are the ‘captains of corruption.’

“One of the most unjust thing we do to those who contribute to building good governance in this country is that, even when they are dead, you are busy destroying even the little that they managed to build. The fight against corruption: there has been a cease fire for about a decade, actually. It hasn’t been announced because those who should announce it are the captains of corruption,” Dr Lewanika said.

He pointed out to the country’s massive public debt burden as having reversed the gains of the debt relief efforts spear-headed by the Levy administration of 2001-2008. “I saw my brother, [Ng’andu] Magande [former Finance Minister] here. He was so proud about debt relief, weren’t you? Now, so all that effort towards debt relief, which you and Levy were so happy about; you gave us hope that, now, we can start again and move forward. Within a decade, we have even surpassed the problems, which you were trying to solve! So, the little contribution that Levy’s team and all these past leaders did to reach HIPC [Highly-Indebted Poor Countries], and to be liberated from HIPC, to be debt-free, has been negated after his death!” Dr Lewanika who is also fondly known as AKA, observed.

“I don’t know how many of his contributions are going to be cancelled from now into

We've betrayed Levy: those tasked to fight corruption are captains of graft - AKA

the future? The only way this is not possible is that we have to be very knowledgeable; we have to read our history very, very carefully, and we have to respect the contribution of others. As I have said, none of our past leaders achieved what they tried to do. But their failure to achieve it is not a personal fault; we have to also understand the circumstances.”

He stressed that president Mwanawasa’s efforts and contributions during his tenure of office should be understood in the current context of Zambia’s political landscape, adding that the country’s political development had become stunted since the promise of the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in 1991.

“...And the context of Zambia today, in the three areas that I have chosen to remember Levy’s efforts and contributions in, we must realise that, as three characteristics of Zambia of today; our political development is stunted. We have fallen back again into the longstanding economic malaise; thirdly, we have now finally concluded the betrayal of the promise of constitutional re-constitution, which we promised in 1991, which was just a refresher of the promise of Independence,” he said. “So, that is the context we should remember Levy about. And it is not easy to remember properly because of many of literature about our leaders in the past, our history, are so distorted; some of them are personalised.”

He also warned the general public against forgetting important contributions made by previous leaders.

“...However, if current and future generations feast on ignorance of the past contributors, contributions and aspirations, the future may hold a dim prospect of doom! Of a fall of a nation! There have been empires, nations that came and go; there are so many books about the rise and fall, so, nations can fall! And they fall by not paying attention to the past they’ve inherited,” he warned.

“There is no guarantee that nation-building can continue and succeed; or that, these nation-states and economies, such as Zambia, fabricated by design, and in the interest of neo-colonialism, can



Former First lady Maureen Mwanawasa shares a light moment with former Commerce minister Dipak Patel at Mulungushi Conference Centre during the Levy Mwanawasa memorial lecture on Saturday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

just automatically continue to survive and thrive on neglected and condemned contributions and legacies of those who have passed away!” He stressed that for Zambia to survive as a nation-state, it needed leaders who are “corruption-free.”

“In order for nation-building to continue, in order for nations to survive and not fall the fate of empires and countries that have fallen, we need leaders and people who are corruption-free, who are knowledgeable and wise; who are skilled and talented; who are committed and patriotic, as well as courageous and compassionate. These are the leaders and citizens on a serious mission of building upon, improving and sustaining the gains of the past,” he observed.

And Dr Lewanika lamented that Zambia’s ‘cancer of bad governance’ has continued.

“Zambia’s history, from minus day one of Independence, has been a history of undermining good governance. This cancer of bad governance we are witnessing now was planted then! The personalisation of power; the facilitation for a party to capture the state... the one-party state was a party capturing the state more than [former South African president Jacob] Zuma ever captured the state,” he narrated.

He hailed president Mwanawasa’s legacy as one built on principled leadership and decency.

“How precious he was to us!

I think this early maturing made him a very suitable bridge between us and some of the others. His own value system, his principles and his legalistic mind, he was not a revolutionary, but at least he believed in decency made him very precious to us,” Dr Lewanika recalled.

Meanwhile, other panellists, who included Kasonde and former Bank of Zambia governor Dr Caleb Fundanga, paid glowing tribute to president Mwanawasa’s leadership characteristics of tolerance and strong economic management.

“President Mwanawasa is reported to have complained about criticism in the media, and yet, he allowed it to flow. Democracy is about allowing the market place of ideas to thrive, and I think that to a great extent, that is one of his legacies. A notable exception, however, is the Roy Clarke cartoon depicting him and [late] former vice president George Kunda in an unfavourable light, which nearly resulted in Mr Clarke being deported! This, perhaps, was a moment of personal weakness. But we are here because president Mwanawasa is widely celebrated as one of, if not, the best president that Zambia has ever had,” Kasonde said to a mild applause from the audience.

She stressed the importance of carrying on the fight against corruption, a hallmark of president Mwanawasa’s legacy.

“The fight against corruption is always a good thing. Corruption is a cancer that is now endemic in our nation. What can we learn from the fight against corruption during the Mwanawasa era? The fight against corruption, as Dr Lewanika mentioned, must be sustained. And not just against political enemies; I can only imagine how difficult it was for president Mwanawasa to fire Gladys Nyirongo, the then Lands Minister, on allegations of corruption,” she recalled.

“Today, we see lowly police officers being caught taking bribes, but we must be careful to look at the root causes of corruption. What is happening in our society that is making people think that, ‘it’s okay to steal?’ That ‘it’s okay to be corrupt?’” Dr Fundanga echoed Dr Lewanika’s observation on failure for successive governments to build upon previous administrations’ successes, describing it as a “big disease” in the country. “Failure to build on to what started in an earlier generation, this is probably not only something relating to Mwanawasa, but it’s big disease in this country. You see it even at the family level that, sometimes success ends with one generation. Now, you can imagine, for instance, if what Mwanawasa had started, if previous administrations had built onto that, what would Zambia be today?” wondered Dr Fundanga.

“We are saying, after having

fought so much to have our debt cancelled, today, we have even got higher levels of debt than at the time when we were begging for debt cancellation!”

Bishop Paul Misusu, the presiding Bishop at the Evangelical Church in Zambia (ECZ), reflected on president Mwanawasa’s spirituality during his tenure of office.

He fondly remembered the bonds of friendship with the president, and reminded Zambians that not all hope was lost.

“I have confidence in Zambians and I am very convinced that the same way we have done it in the past, not all is lost. When Zambians rise to the occasion, they will demand their peace, and in most cases it is non-negotiable. I want to encourage us that, even as we listen to some of the things that Dr Levy Mwanawasa did for us, which are collecting dust and people have thrown them out, it is the Zambians who are the best judges,” said Bishop Mususu.

The memorial lecture was part of a series of events conducted and organized by the Levy Patrick Mwanawasa Foundation to coincide with president Mwanawasa’s 10th anniversary, which fell on August 19.

The theme of the lecture was dubbed: “An attempt at good governance in the Mwanawasa Administration. Opportunities, Challenges and Frustrations.”

Speed cameras not meant to collect fines but change attitudes – RTSA

By Zondiwe Mbewe
RTSA public relations head Fredrick Mubanga says although it is not law for every motorist in Zambia to own a cell phone, motorists are not expected to use that as an excuse for not paying traffic fines when caught by speed cameras which send notifications via SMS. And Mubanga says RTSA will be putting in place warning signs to notify motorists that “there are speed cameras ahead”. Meanwhile Mubanga says RTSA’s purpose of putting up speed cameras was not to collect fines, but to change the bad driving attitude and behaviour that

has been exhibited as a result of excessive speeding by most motorists. In an interview with News Diggers! Mubanga said it was a requirement for every motorist to notify RTSA when they changed their contact numbers, so that the new data could be updated in the system. He however said it was not law for every motorist in Zambia to own a cell phone. “If you change details as the owner of the vehicle, you have to notify the Road Transport and Safety Agency. That’s a requirement. You just have to update us which new number you are using so

that we update what is in the system. It’s not law in Zambia that if you own a vehicle then you have to own a cellphone, its not. [But] If you loose a phone, you have to replace the phone number. And if that old number you have lost is not active, what will happen is that, its a requirement that when you are registering a vehicle, you give your personal details such as the address

and the contact numbers. In the absence of contact numbers, the address will be used,” he said. And Mubanga said speed limits also apply for people driving late in the night. He urged motorists to follow speed limits at all times. “Speed limits differ according to localities. In built up areas the speed limits are different. In highways, the speed limits are different. What

determines the placement of speed is the frequency of an area that has been identified an accident prone. That’s what will determine the speed at which the road signage is posted. In some areas there are also speed signs that are already posted there so what we are just doing is that members of the public, motorists should follow these speed limits at all times,” he said.

“And in the absence of speed limits, they should follow what the law provides for which is that in built up areas you should move at 40 kilometres per hour, along inter town you should move at 60 kilometres per hour and in highways you should move at 100 kilometres per hour.” Asked why most speed cameras were hidden instead of being placed in open spaces, Mubanga said warning signs would soon be mounted to notify motorists. “They are not hidden, if they are hidden then they have to be reset. But going forward, beginning on Monday next week, we will be putting in place warning signs of course to notify members of the public and motorists that these are non speeding zones. For instance if the stretch between Kafue road has got a speed camera, we will put that ‘from this end to this end there’s a speed camera’. Starting from next week this project will be implemented,” he said. Meanwhile Mubanga said the purpose of putting up speed cameras was not to collect fines but to change the drivers’ attitudes “The prime purpose of putting these speed cameras is not to collect fines. Its to change the bad driver attitude and behaviour that has been exhibited as the result of excessive speeding on most roads. Especially in Lusaka. So this is a tool that we are using to change the mindset so that motorists adhere to all traffic rules and regulations especially with regards to excessive speed because speeding has been cited as one of the leading causes of road traffic accidents in our country. And if you look at the figures now, from the time we started implementing this project, there has been increased compliance levels in the numbers of motorists, complying to the appropriate speed limits unlike the picture that was there before these cameras were put in place,” said Mubanga.

Imboela salutes LWSC initiative to collect human waste from townships

By Zondiwe Mbewe
NDC chairperson for gender and child development Saboi Imboela says the project by LWSC to construct 12,000 emptable toilets in cholera-prone Kanyama, Chawama, John Laing and surrounding townships, is a very good idea which should not just end up on paper. And Imboela urged Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company to look for extra funding for the project so that the poor benefactors in the townships do not worry about paying the K2,000 to be part of the initiative. Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (LWSC) public relations manager Patson Phiri said in an interview last week, that the company would be constructing 12,000 emptable toilets in Kanyama, Chawama, John Laing and surrounding areas, in an effort to fight cholera. He said once these emptable toilets were full, the human waste would then be collected and turned into fertilizer. Phiri said interested

residents would be expected to pay as little as K2,000 for a toilet that would cost as much as K15,000. Adding voice to the development in an interview with News Diggers! Imboela who is also the NDC losing mayoral candidate, said the idea of constructing emptable toilets was very good because it would lessen the contamination of ground water. Imboela observed that although the idea was workable, the potential of it failing was high because only a few people would manage to pay that K2,000, as the majority of the targeted people had no money. “The idea of the emptable toilets is very good so that we help lessen contamination of ground water and also make fertiliser from the waste. Ground water contamination due to many pit latrines is such a huge challenge and something that has to be worked on in order to stop the seemingly annual cholera outbreaks. So such initiatives, if properly managed and encouraged can really

help solve some of these problems. Zambia is never short of good ideas, the main problem we always have is implementation,” she said. “Already, the PR Manager of LWSC Mr Patson Phiri mentioned in his statement that people only needed to pay K2,000 and everything would be done for them. How many people in Chawama, John Laing and Kanyama have a K2,000 to invest in those toilets? People don’t have money, especially that some of these [people] are those whose income was instantly and brutally taken away from them when they were chased from various trading places, including their own backyards. So I really love the idea and it is workable, but the potential for failure is high as [few] people are expected to pay for these toilets.” And Imboela said in its current state, LWSC wouldn’t succeed with the project, unless it invested in human resource and equipment. She however noted that LWSC was aiming more

at getting that K2,000 to implement the programme, than solving the sanitation issues in the compounds. “Further, it takes about two years for such toilets to be full and emptied so the job creation that was being talked about (by Phiri) is not something that will happen now, but after two years when these toilets are ready to be emptied. Otherwise it will still require investment by LWSC to bring transport and human resource to handle this collection when the time comes. The women and youths that can be trained to help out in this process will still need enough human resource from LWSC to carry out this operation successfully,” she said. “They (LWSC) don’t have the capacity in terms of human resource and equipment. They would have to buy trucks and other staff to carry this out effectively. So it can’t be successful in their current state but unless they invest in capacitating themselves to do so. And I actually don’t see them increasing

their capacity but are only talking. Their aim seems more of trying to get K2,000 to implement this programme than solving the sanitation issues of these compounds.” Meanwhile Imboela said Zambians were tired of witnessing plans that only ended up on paper. “LWSC should as well, train people in these compounds so that they are able to carry out this initiative. We are tired of seeing good ideas that only end up on paper and when the time comes to implement them they just tell us that ‘they don’t have the resources to do that’. And also government spends a lot of money when there is a cholera outbreak so they should not really rely on people to pay K2,000 for them to carry out this activity. Let the government invest in installing these toilets for as many people as possible as part of the sanitation programme, that should really seek to help end cholera. So they need to put even more money in this project for it to succeed,” said Imboela.

Laura this week

Broken Fences Attract Thieves

The Patriotic Front, when told it had won a stunning victory in 2011, had no idea how to run a country. While disruptively brilliant in opposition politics, the PF just did not prepare to govern. It has also refused to learn. Instead of learning the ropes of governance, office holders quickly became addicted to the privileges that accrue to individuals who are in power. Unfortunately, the lawful benefits were soon not enough.

Seemingly without an understanding of basic cause and effect, people in the PF competed to get stinking rich on national resources in a manner that did not take account of the deep hole they were creating in the fiscus. The point is there simply is not enough money in our economy for so many people to get so rich, so quickly, and for the country to remain a going concern.

If the lack of preparedness of the PF to govern was the first problem Zambia was going to face, it was compounded by the fact that President Sata was ill and essentially absent for more than a year of his short reign. And then he died. Michael Sata who, though himself Machiavellian, was an undisputed leader. He was the President of both party and country. Importantly, everyone in PF deferred to him.

The anarchical succession crisis that ensued in the ruling party after his death showed how PF was Sata and Sata was PF. With him gone, we were left with a PF that elected a President that lacks the leadership qualities that Michael Sata naturally possessed and the right to the presidency he had earned in the opposition trenches. We were left with a fundamentally weak Edgar Lungu now leading the pack of unprepared to govern, disrespectful of law and order, and hungry to get rich individuals. A desperate to stay in power unapologetically for their own interests.

The situation we sit with now, of a Zambia that feels as though it is rocking at its very foundations - drowning in debt, empty treasury, poverty-stricken citizens taxed to death, broken services, powerful foreign interests, violence, division, lawlessness –

all that is the result of systemic leadership failures. The question is what next? My fear is that Zambians will, like they did with MMD under Rupiah, become fixated with getting rid of Edgar Lungu and the current PF in an anyone-but-this-lot response.

Simply, I am saying our energy as a country should not be directed at sorting out the people in power. Rather we should be asking ourselves what country we all, even the PF section of the nation, deserve. We should be coming together as citizens to agree on basic minimums of governance that should never again be abrogated by anyone who comes to power. We have to honestly ask ourselves what it is about our laws, systems and national psyche that allowed us to end up in this situation?

Let us momentarily forget about the individual actors - forget Edgar, Kaizer Zulu and his no consequences life , forget Chitotela, Patrick Matibini and a parliament that feels captured, forget a judiciary no one trusts. Question is how did Zambia, since independence fail to create systems that would prevent this breakdown we have suffered?

My view is that we citizens need to come together and agree on how mend the holes in the fence through which our chickens are being stolen. As long as those fences remain broken, we will keep stoning the thieves. Point is holes in fences attract thieves. In fact many an honest person has, on seeing a hole in the fence, said to him/herself why not grab a chicken?

Educational Apartheid.

Of the issues that bother me about today's Zambia, I would say the most is that our education system is designed to ensure that the majority of children born into poor homes will not make it to grade 12. They will not go past grade 7 and 9, not because they would be unable to cope with the work. The majority poor children will not finish school because our education system ejects 70% of children who start grade 1 before grade 12, simply

because we do not have places for them. Because we do not have a desk and chair, we use exams to throw out kids. Exams with a selection mark for secondary school that has nothing to do with passing the exam. Rather "pass marks" are based on how many places are available. Guess which 30% make it through.

I think it is a crime that the children of the well-to-do who go to functional schools where they sit 30 to a class, teacher every day, books, sport, arts, reading by end of grade 1 - sit for the exact same exam and must attain the same selection mark as the child of their helper. The helper's child who sits in a class of 80 to 100, no desks, no books, no toilets, teacher has endless off days in each term. The child who reaches grade 5 unable to read because hey - how do you teach 80 kids to read, with 1 book for 10?

So the Kanyama boy who is naturally gifted, maybe even a genius, will be beaten for a grade 8 place by the Kabulonga child of average intelligence. The genius goes on to be a semi-literate kaponya. Meanwhile, those of us on the right side of the road think our children who achieve 800 marks at grade 7 are the geniuses. No, they sat for an exam set at the level of a class of 80, in which the teacher did not know every child's name.

If I could change just one thing, it would be the schools the majority children go to. I'm not even wishing for much - just 40 to a class, a desk, books, a committed teacher who arrives every day, a clean toilet even if it is a pit latrine. A fair chance at reading, math and science. I am OK for the poor to go to school with no shoes and for class to be 4 basic walls and a chalk board. What we need is a place for every child with competent teachers. I just cannot accept that 54 years after independence, we can be running an educational apartheid designed to ensure that the child of an illiterate mother will be illiterate themselves. That we can be losing our future doctors, teachers, mathematicians to illiteracy, alcoholism and early marriages simply because we care little about the education of the majority.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says there is no rule that prohibits citizens from criticising a judgement of a court case which has been disposed off.

In an interview with News Diggers! Chipimo who is a distinguished Lusaka based lawyer, said a court which has been attacked, however, has a mandated to make a decision and cite an offender for contempt. He stressed that expressing ones opinion on a matter could only be regarded as contempt if the said case was still actively before a judge or if the offender maliciously attacked the personality of a judge. “One hundred percent, there is no rule which says ‘you cannot criticise a judgement’ but the key is don’t insult the judge in the process of criticising because then you are undermining the authority of the court as opposed to questioning whether the basis on which they made the judgment was the right basis. Now the moment when you start to go

No law prohibits citizens from criticising any judgement - Chipimo

beyond, unless you have proof, because remember it is okay for me to say you are a thief if I can prove that you are thief and the courts are not different. So I should still be free if I believe that the judge was given something in order to make a decision and I can prove it, then nothing prevents me from being brave and saying ‘this is what has happened’ because when I come up for contempt, I can actually show that actually the reason why I said that was because of these reasons and this is the proof. [in this case, there is a separation of the judgement itself] and the individual who has made that judgement,” Chipimo said.

“Contempt of court is a very tricky issue because when you look at the reason why the offence

is there, it will help you to understand that sometimes the rule of natural justice as we know them, may not always be applicable when it comes to issues of contempt of court. So originally, the way contempt of court worked was because somebody threw something at the judge and so the authority of the court was immediately undermined. So the judge had to make a decision right on the spot and punish that individual using the authority of the court and of course of the law. So there are certain things that stand out immediately [i.e] the idea is that you don’t want the court to be put on the state where it’s ridiculed or made to look useless or made to look like it cannot be taken seriously.”

Chipimo said that in an event that a judge was

insulted, it was the same judge who is expected to take action against the individual offender.

“So contempt of court is to protect the authority of the court system, and if you insult a judge then it’s like there is no authority of that judge or the court system. And when there is no authority of the court system, then law and order breaks down because that is the only thing which is keeping you and me from fighting each other and doing whatever we want to do. So the idea is to protect the integrity and authority of the court. Now from the example you can see that the judge himself who has been insulted is the one who actually takes the action against the individual who has committed that contempt, even without being compelled because

that’s direct contempt,” he said.

“Now when it happens outside the court , it is slightly a different issue. Then usually what happens is that somebody should move the court and say ‘look, this is what has been said’ because the judge was not there to see it himself, somebody could be making up the story and say this is what this person said, she said that ‘this is a judgement of an idiot.’ Now if I wasn’t there as a judge to hear you say that, even if I read it somewhere, I don’t know if is really what you said because the journalist may not have written it correctly, may have thrown in their own issues, there are so many different things. And that is why usually you need somebody else to say ‘let us take this matter forward so that the court can hear

for themselves and make a decision. In that case it will be the very court that is being attacked which would be the one to make a decision.”

He said there was nothing contemptuous about condemning a judgement that has been delivered at the end of trial.

“Contempt is never about a judgement. Contempt can be about a matter that is still in court but not about a judgement. I can say that is was a bad judgement and it didn’t take into account the following things but the moment I start to talk about the judge himself and to ridicule the judge, then I am undermining the authority of the court. Unless I have clear proof to back-up the reason why I am saying the things I am saying about that particular judge,” explained Chipimo.

The newly appointed Secretary General of Amnesty International says there a very few leaders on the African continent whom we can point at and say, “this is what a good leader looks like”, because nowadays, humble and selfless people turn against the poor upon assuming political office.

“African leaders, especially in the SADC region think winning an election is winning a lottery ticket to a lifetime of luxury and expensive living. Once they get into power, they go back on their promises and start stealing. I have seen how very good people can do very bad things,” said Kumi Naidoo.

“The worst disease we suffer in the word today is not HIV/AIDS, it’s not cancer, it’s not influenza it’s a disease I call affluenza. This is a pathological illness where powerful people have come to believe that happiness and meaning only comes from more, more and more wealth. I mean, how much can one person or one family consume? Sadly there are not many presidents on the African continent that we can point at and say ‘this is what a good leader looks like.’”

Well, here in Zambia, we are remembering one such leader who served us between 2001 and 2008. Levy Mwanawasa was the opposite of the leaders that Naidoo describes across Africa. This is a man who put his country above everything else, and he carried a national vision to his very last day on earth.

Children who were only starting school at the time

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Levy fought corruption starting from his house

Mwanawasa was bidding farewell to the country are of voting age today. And we feel duty bound to share with them the memorable salute which this son of the soil gave following his death. It is a summary of what he stood for and what he envisioned for this country.

I want to say farewell to all the people of Zambia and I am grateful to all of you for giving me the opportunity during part of my life to serve you as president. It was a privilege which I cherished upto my death.

I did all my best to improve the standards of living of you my people. I strove to attend to the production of sufficient food for domestic consumption and for export, and worked hard to encourage investment both local and foreign so as to create jobs and enhance the growth of our economy.

I believed that national development could only be sustained if only good

governance, respect for the rule of law and democracy were encouraged and not taken for granted. To spur these virtues, the fight against corruption had to be waged relentlessly and without treating anybody as a sacred cow.

I regret that in my zeal to facilitate this fight, I lost friendships, with some of my best friends and at many times, my own life and those of my family members were threatened. I want to assure the nation that no malice or ill will was intended in these initiatives. I was doing it purely for the love of my country and the urgent need to transform it from poverty to prosperity.

I have always been grieved to see so much poverty, hopelessness and anguish in the faces of our children – the leaders of tomorrow. It has always been my belief that nobody has the right to take away what we should be giving these children and put them in their selfish pockets.

I do hope that the party, the Movement for Multi-party Democracy can continue with this vision of our nation, pursuing the culture of zero-tolerance to corruption.

I was sad that some of you our members appeared to embrace corruption and actually criticize me for fighting the scourge. This vice will not develop our country. It is my desire that all future governments will continue to wage this fight.

If in my endeavours to provide only the best for my country, I offended some of my compatriots, I can ask is that they should find a place in their hearts to forgive me, as no deliberate intention to hurt their feelings was intended.

Indeed, Levy needed to apologise because under his reign, every government official who was prosecuted for corruption, including Frederick Chiluba himself campaigned for him to be president. This didn't matter to Levy because the law was above everyone

else. Levy's corruption fight knew no political allies, friends or family. He started with cleaning his house first before facing those in his government.

When this man became President of Zambia only him was Head of State and not any other member of his family. There was no chikwela around the presidency among relatives. In fact, under Levy you stood a better chance of receiving (whatever kind of) preferential treatment you would seek, if you were not his relative.

His son Patrick, who is the current Permanent Secretary for Eastern Province, tells a very interesting story about how his father, as Head of State, slapped him hard for merely expressing interest to participate in a tender for a government contract.

Similarly, a journalist once asked Levy at the airport for a comment on a land ownership saga in Lusaka which involved his daughter Mirriam. The

President responded that the said Mirriam was an adult who was capable of reasoning on her own, adding that, “if she has broken the law, I am instructing the police to arrest her right away”.

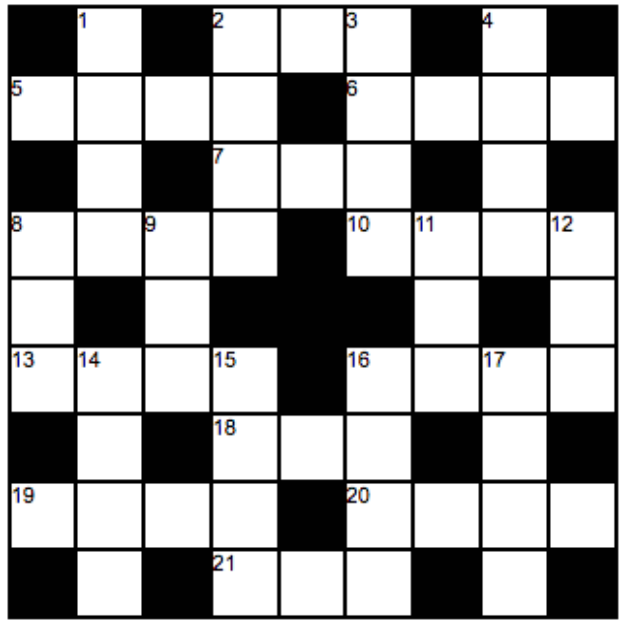
That is how Levy perceived governance. To him, winning an election was never perceived as winning a lottery for accumulating limitless wealth for his relatives. That is why today his children have not struggled to adjust to ordinary lifestyles. Look at Chipokota, Matolo, Lubona and Ntembe; they live like ordinary citizens, driving the very modest of cars, yet their father served this country longer than Rupiah Banda, Michael Sata and the incumbent Edgar Lungu.

We wonder how our leaders who occupy State House feel when they hear this indictment on their leadership today. Just like Levy, President Lungu is a lawyer of many years at the bar, but look at the contrast in the two administrations.

How will we remember those that have ruled this country after Levy? Those who have devalued the kwacha, hiked the cost of living, messed up the economy, taken us back to HIPC and looted the treasury? What lessons do they learn from Levy?

For us, where fighting corruption is concerned, we can speak with confidence that we are from the school of Levy Mwanawasa; and we are ready to wage this fight for the rest of our existence. Viva Levy's legacy!

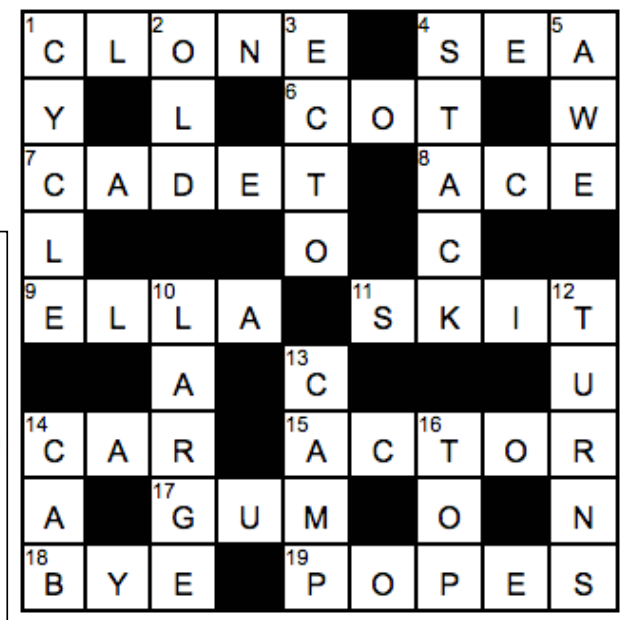
Crossword puzzle 168



“To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.”
- Kofi Annan

- Across**
2. Lad
5. Table game
6. Requests
7. Sharer's pronoun
8. Winter forecast
10. The day, month, and year
13. Bloomed
16. One and only
18. Drink cooler
19. Garden paradise
20. Consequently
21. Shade tree
- Down**
1. Quilt filling
2. Blast air
3. Three feet
4. Short satirical play
8. Droop
9. Single number
11. Much ____ About Nothing
12. Female sheep
14. Travel on a horse
15. Purplish red
16. Give the impression
17. Lower limbs

Solutions to puzzle 167



Reader's feedback

‘We need more presidents like Levy Mwanawasa’

Editor,
“I wish we can have three or four presidents like him in a consecutive row. Presidents who would put the country above their personal interest. He's the best president this country has ever had. No president can match his record. MHSRIP.” - Babington Nangwale

“The best president by far!” - Joel Saniko Moonga

“You may be gone, but your works still linger on in my mind. I miss my president!!” - Kennedy Mulenga

“Levy, the best president ever. RIP.” - Astute Jacob W Nkhata



Amos' argument on America's displeasure over Biti's 'deportation'

Editor,
“But didn't you also act in hurry to establish whether Mr Biti was in danger or not?” - Bashi Meghan

“He has just confirmed that the President is in forefront disobeying court orders.” - Dennis Shaluchiso

“And what about the court order? All this nonsense he's talking about would have ordinarily been part of the court process. The Zim government didn't treat Tendai Biti 'fairly' because of the dictates of Zambia, but because of embarrassment and international pressure, particularly from EU, US and SA. No amount of sugar-coating will cover the fact that Zambia abrogated international law, period.” - Christopher Haambote

ND OPINION's on PF regime taxing citizens for overusing private parts

Editor,
“I have been waiting for this opinion from News Diggers!” - Muzemba Willy

“Today, I want to agree with News Diggers! 100%. It just don't add up what these people in govt have come up with. If this is the kind of policymakers we have, then we are in trouble as a country. No sane person can support this not at all. It is like PF govt is starting to being detached from people, the way MMD started in 2008 going into 2011.” - Akapondo Kansansa

“If this is a listening govt, they should back down on their decision. It's not making sense.” - Chomba Chimponda

“Ba President Lungu, be serious with your Cabinet. Everything taxes? Don't play with Zambian people; we are watching...” - Bridget. M. Museba

“I don't know when Zambians will ever wake up?!” - Kekamu Kekamu

“The question is, who will be pocketing the 30 ngwee? If it's the government that will be pocketing it then how is it a protection measure against the collapse of local network providers? I've also noticed that the government seems to have already made budgeted for this money looking at the projected figures.” - Oscar Maliti

“When the head is rotten, it affects the all body; a leader who is a thief cannot lead a group of honest people. They have to be like him in order to mingle freely. So, when a bunch of thieves meet, they are thinking how they will steal from

the poor indirectly.” - Sam Rich Zulu

“The numerous taxes being introduced are a sign that the government is struggling for funds and that our leaders have run out of ideas. Unfortunately these taxes will not help improve our economy, if anything they are making things worse. Zambia has very low salaries to start with but the little that people get has to back to the government in taxes. Govt should instead cut down on expenditure.” - Richard Malemu

Magande's advice on not introducing taxes to finance supplementary budget

Editor,
“The best advice possible. Unfortunately, they can never listen.” - James Chileshe

“Point.” - Matthews Lishandu

“He worked so well in his time.” - Bwalya Musonda

“The last sensible finance minister before the goons came along.” - Choolwe Mpondamasaka

“Magande is right, but our leaders have no ideas on how best to rescue the economy hence the introduction of these taxes. The problem is pride, if the govt could work hand in hand with other stakeholders and accept ideas from opposition leaders things would not be this bad. It's not a sign of weakness to take ideas from an opposition, as a matter of fact it is a sign of strength. This country is bigger than PF or any other party for that matter but the citizens are made to suffer at the hands of these greedy leaders who can't put aside their pride, join hands work towards the greater good of the nation.” - Richard Malemu

“This chap also.... full of rhetorical hogwash, eeeeeissssh!!!!” - Donald Oscar Phiri

“I won't feel sorry when Amos' turn to eat a humble pie comes.” - Haggai Gondwe

“It's really sad that the Zambian govt acted in hostile manner towards Biti. I don't understand the hostility. Even if Zambia is trying to have good relations with Zimbabwe, our govt's actions are not justified” - Liya

Shortage of medicine, drinking water for Kerala flood survivors

The death toll from the worst flooding to hit India's Kerala state in a century has jumped to 357 with losses to infrastructure pegged at almost \$3bn.

The idyllic tourist hotspot has been badgered by torrential monsoon rains since the end of May, triggering landslides and flash floods that have swept away entire villages.

"Since May 29, when the monsoon starts in Kerala, a total of 357 people have lost their lives until now," a statement from the state's information officer said on Sunday, with 33 losing their lives over the last 24 hours.

"According to preliminary estimates Kerala's losses due to the floods is 19,512 crore rupees (\$2.9 bln). Actual losses can be estimated only after the water recedes," the statement said.

More than 350,000 people have taken shelter in 3,026 relief camps as thousands of army, navy and air force troops fan out to help those still stranded.

Roads and 134 bridges have suffered damage, isolating remote areas in the hilly districts of the state which are worst affected.

The state chief minister has requested more funding as well as 20 more helicopters and 600 motorised boats in



order to step up the rescue efforts.

Al Jazeera's Andrew Thomas, reporting from Venmony in Kerala state, said the makeshift shelters needed clean drinking water.

"The thing that is really needed, ironically, is water. Clean drinking water is much

needed," he said.

"They also need medicine for diarrhoea, rehydration powders and wipes to clean things."

The Indian government has pledged \$71m for victims of what state chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan called "the worst floods in 100 years".

Rescue efforts have been impeded by the monsoon rains that continue to batter the region.

Residents were seen swimming and wading through chest-high waters past partially submerged homes.

The international airport in Kochi is also flooded and

closed temporarily.

According to India's weather bureau, since the beginning of June, more than 321cm of rain has fallen on the hilly central district of Idukki, which is now virtually cut off from the rest of the state.

The Kerala government has said it faces an "extremely

grave" crisis and Vijayan warned of further torrential rainfall hitting the region over the weekend.

The gates of dozens of dams and reservoirs across the state have been opened as water levels reach dangerous levels, inundating many other villages. *AL JAZEERA*

Ghana is backpedalling out of a banking crisis as the government takes on debt to save a troubled sector and vows to punish the executives responsible.

Early in August, Ghana's central bank revoked the licenses of five local banks and combined them into one -- the newly created state-run Consolidated Bank -- issuing 5.8 billion cedis (\$1.2 billion) in bonds to clear their debt.

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) accused the collapsed banks of a range of issues, including poor corporate governance, questionable transactions and dishonest reporting.

The merger was just one step out of many that President Nana Akufo-Addo's government has been forced to take in order to reform Ghana's rotten banking sector, brought close to collapse as a result of bad governance and weak lending.

This past week, Ghana's deputy central bank governor Elsie Addo Awadzi said in an interview that law enforcement agencies will "further investigate criminal behaviour" connected to the failed banks.

Ghana faces a "now or never" decision to clean up the banking sector, economist Eric Osei-Assibey told AFP.

"This central bank is carving a niche for itself. It is beginning to bite and that alone could engender some confidence in the medium and long term," Osei-Assibey said.

The banking intervention will add to Ghana's already high debt burden, said Razia Khan, Africa economist at Standard Chartered, in a note to investors earlier this month.

Ghana backpedalling out of banking crisis

Ghana is currently in its final year of an IMF bailout totalling almost \$1 billion, with its debt as a percentage of gross domestic product hovering over 60 percent.

Along with the Consolidated Bank loan, the central bank will give support to other banks in order to help them meet a minimum capital requirement of 400 million

cedis by the end of 2018.

Despite the turmoil, "Ghana has made good progress on fiscal consolidation in recent months", said Khan.

"The action taken to strengthen the banking system is likely to be viewed as a necessary measure by the fund and we do not expect this to disrupt disbursements under

the current IMF programme," she said.

If Consolidated Bank is run properly, it may even play a positive role in the economy, said Souhir Mzali, Africa editor at Oxford Business Group, a London-based research firm.

"It might transform from a debt burden to an asset by the time the government is expected to offload shares in 2020," Mzali said.

Of course, there will be consequences.

"It's going to affect banking habits," said Kwesi Jonah, senior research fellow at the Institute of Democratic Governance in Ghana's capital of Accra.

"Some people will lose confidence in the banking system altogether, other people will be more inclined to move towards the foreign banks," Jonah said, blaming the previous administration for letting the sector rot.

"There was lack of political will to deal with the problem," he added.

President Akufo-Addo was voted into power in 2016 on a pledge to revamp Ghana's economy after it had to turn to the IMF for a bailout the year before. *AFP*

Tanzania rejects US criticism of local polls

Tanzania is an "independent" country and will not be "intimidated", the ruling party said on Saturday after the US expressed concern about the conduct of 70 recent by-elections.

The US on Wednesday cited "election violence and irregularities" aimed at the opposition after local elections were held on Sunday to replace officials who had either resigned or died.

"Credible accounts of election violence and irregularities include refusal by National Election Commission authorities to register opposition

candidates, intimidation by police of opposition party members, unwarranted arrests, and suppression of freedoms of assembly and speech in the lead up to the by-elections," the US said in a statement.

But Bashiru Ally, secretary-general of the ruling party, the CCM, told a public meeting on Saturday: "We will not be intimidated, we cannot be intimidated. "Even if our country is poor, we are not ready to accept interference in our governance. We will continue to govern ourselves," he added.

Local media earlier reported the beating and hospitalisation of some members of the main opposition by supporters of the ruling party.

Churches and civil society organisations had also highlighted political violence around local elections, particularly the perceived bias of security forces in favour of ruling party candidates.

The US statement came amid sustained criticism of the rule of President John Magufuli who has cracked down on dissent since taking office three years ago. *AFP*

Sergio Aguero hit a hat-trick as Manchester City's record-breaking forward inspired a 6-1 demolition of Huddersfield on Sunday. Pep Guardiola's champions opened their home campaign with a pre-match display of ticker tape and exploding fireworks and Aguero continued the pyrotechnics on the field. Aguero, who turned 30 in the close-season, has now scored 14 times in his last eight Premier League games at City's Etihad Stadium. The Argentina star -- City's all-time leading scorer -- joins former Liverpool forward Robbie Fowler on nine Premier League hat-tricks. Only ex-Newcastle and Blackburn star Alan Shearer has scored more in the competition's history with 11. City's rampant display underlined why they are such strong favourites to

Aguero bags treble as rampant City hit Huddersfield for six

retain their title. Such is City's strength in depth, Guardiola was able to leave Kyle Walker, Riyad Mahrez and Raheem Sterling on the bench. And even though City learned this week that playmaker Kevin De Bruyne will be out for up to three months with a knee injury, the fact Guardiola was able to name substitutes which cost his club £230 million (\$293

million) in transfer fees, was a sobering thought for their rivals. After relentless City pressure, which featured Guardiola's team having 80 percent possession, the champions finally took the lead on 25 minutes, the start of a three-goal blitz inside 10 minutes. Ederson, Guardiola's ball-playing goalkeeper, struck a magnificent pass over 60 yards, isolating

Aguero against defender Christopher Schindler. The Argentine skilfully held off his marker, twisting and turning before lobbing the ball over keeper Ben Hamer, who had advanced to the edge of his area, from the edge of the area. Six minutes later, Benjamin Mendy attacked down the left, exchanging passes with Gabriel Jesus, who enjoyed a fortunate ricochet off a defender before drilling the

ball home. And the rout continued when Hamer fumbled a routine Mendy cross and Aguero pounced, tapping in from six yards. David Silva had set the tone with a majestic opening half-hour, torturing the Huddersfield defence and allowing the City supporters to forget about the absence of De Bruyne. But, incredibly, Huddersfield scored from

their first attack of the game, three minutes before the interval. Philip Billing's long throw-in was helped on by Steve Mounie and Jon Gorenc Stankovic responded quickly, forcing the ball in from six yards. If that gave Guardiola something to ponder at the interval, it required just three minutes of the second half for Silva to restore City's three-goal cushion. The former Spain international, who this week announced his retirement from his national team, curled a magnificent 25-yard left-foot free-kick into the top right-hand corner of the Huddersfield goal. Silva, who became the third City player after Joe Hart and Richard Dunne to appear in 250 Premier League games for the club, made way for Mahrez after 64 minutes but there was no let-up for the visitors. Aguero might have claimed his hat-trick earlier, with a 56th minute shot that struck the Huddersfield post, while Hamer also turned around his shot around a post after 70 minutes. Five minutes later, Aguero had his third -- and his 31st league game in which he has scored multiple goals. The striker met yet another dangerous left-wing cross from Mendy, twisting acrobatically to shoot across his body and into the goal from six yards. That allowed Guardiola to take off Aguero, replacing him with Leroy Sane who helped wrap up the scoring after 84 minutes with a run and shot which took a fortunate rebound off Terence Kongolo on its way into the net. **AFP**

Buffaloes ascend on league table

By Alex Chilumbwe Green Buffaloes football coach Bilton Musonda says his players understand the importance of winning all the remaining games in the FAZ/MTN super league now more than ever. And coach Musonda also said those that call his side 'title pretenders' will be shocked when he collects maximum points in all the remaining games. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Musonda said his players were focused on surpassing Zesco united on points, as well as squaring up on the goal difference between the them. "We have finally caught up Zesco on points although they have games in hand but trust me we will not relent. We will make sure we win all the games remaining and I'm well aware that it won't be easy. We are Buffaloes and Buffaloes cannot have it the easy way. We will work harder and shock those social media pundits that say we have been title pretenders for two seasons. They do not understand that each team plays for a win hence the struggles they go through," said Musonda. His comment came after

1-0 win against against the 'parliamentarians' National Assembly. And asked about the distraction the soon to take off Barclay's Cup may pose, Musonda said his team will find workable

ways of dividing attention so that neither of the titles is underserved. "The Barclay's cup is an important competition to us and we would want to win it. The fear would be dividing attention for

the two, this super league and it. We will however do our best and service both challenges effectively and collect good results. We cannot be distracted from the super league and we cannot forego it.

We will work to our level best and still manage to win," Musonda said. Green Buffaloes is second on super league standing sharing the same 62 points with George Lwandamina's side, Zesco united.

Uganda, Zimbabwe qualify to netball World Cup

By Alex Chilumbwe Africa Netball tournament, a world qualifier one that was hosted by Zambia at the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) came to an end yesterday Sunday, and saw Uganda and Zimbabwe qualify for World Cup 2018 in Liverpool. The two join Malawi and South Africa that qualified on African ranking basis. Netball Association of Zambia general secretary Pritchard Ngoma described the tournament as successful and was not hesitant to express his wish to host such a one in the future. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Ngoma said such a tournament could easily elevate netball to a

higher level in the country. "A good number of people came to watch the tournament and they saw how competitive and fun netball was. They have seen how other countries play and the supporters they carry. Maybe if we continue to host such tournaments, netball is going to be elevated in Zambia. It is typically a female sport so the need to support our ladies cannot be overemphasized. It can save a lot of young girls that are not in school too," Twininge noted. Meanwhile, Zambia netball

team assistant coach Davies Twininge said there would be need to recruit taller players in the team. He said Zambia lost two games in the tournament because of the height advantage other countries enjoyed. "We had the shortest shooters and defenders but the shooters were doing just fine. The problem was with our defenders that they were marking ladies above six feet. As hard as it is to find taller players, we will search around and recruit them. It is only sad that most of the taller ladies we find are either not interested or

simply lazy," Twininge said. Uganda scooped the first position while Malawi that had already qualified for world cup was second. Third place was Zimbabwe and fourth was Zambia. Namibia was fifth, Botswana Sixth while Kenya got the last position. The following were the results for the last three games of the tournament; Malawi. Vs. Kenya Malawi 23 Kenya 12 (first quarter) Malawi 40 Kenya 27 (second quarter) Malawi 60 Kenya 37 (third quarter)

Malawi	86	Kenya
43	(fourth quarter)	
Uganda.	Vs	Zimbabwe
Uganda	18	Zimbabwe
16	(first quarter)	
Uganda	32	Zimbabwe
26	(second quarter)	
Uganda	51	Zimbabwe
35	(third quarter)	
Uganda	66	Zimbabwe
52	(fourth quarter)	
Zambia	Vs	Namibia
Zambia	18.	Namibia
12	(first quarter)	
Zambia	39	Namibia
27	(second quarter)	
Zambia	56	Namibia
40	(third quarter)	
Zambia	76	Namibia
	52	(fourth quarter)

ZESCO WALLOP MBABANE 3-0

By Alex Chilumbwe
Zesco united yesterday kept alive their chances of qualifying to the quarter finals of the 2018 CAF Champions League when they walloped Mbabane Swallows 3-0 all thanks to a Lazarous Kambole's first half hat-trick. Missing up to four key players owing to visa issues and injury, George Lwandamina

had to do with what he had and he named a changed team that saw Anthony Akumu Agay and Solomon Sakala play in central defence while young Shemmy Mayembe filled in at right back. Despite the changes, Zesco looked like they wanted it more and were attacking from the start and their hunger for goals and consequently victory

were not in vain. It rained goals in first half and in the quickest intervals. The goals came late in the first half after Lazarous Kambole benefited from two assists from Maybin Kalengo before he showed individual brilliance to complete his hat-trick in a space of 5 minutes between the 38th minute and 43rd minute. Coach of the side

Lwandamina said he was most satisfied when one of his players showed the hunger for goals saying it had triggered the need to win too. "His teammates saw how much he wanted to score goals and keep our CAF quarter finals alive. They made he was getting the ball more often and he did not disappoint them. We have a lot fans that support us and it is

good their support was not in vain. Kambole is a good striker but it is also good recognize the assists he was shooting from," Lwandamina said. The coach also re-affirmed his commitment to staying on top of the table in the FAZ/MTN super league. He said he was feeling the pressure from other clubs in the top four and would

strive to manage it well. "A lot of pressure from the teams in the top four and I will also give them the same pressure. We need to win all games and keep the top spot. It can never be easy but it has to be done. We will juggle three major competitions ranging from super league, CAF and Barclay's cup so we need to stay fighting," said Lwandamina.

The Nigeria international made his competitive bow for the Seagulls after his move in the summer Leon Balogun played his first English Premier League game for Brighton & Hove Albion as they defeated Manchester United 3-2 at the Falmer Stadium on Sunday. Coach Chris Hughton continued with his preferred centre-back partnership of Shane Duffy and Lewis Dunk against Jose Mourinho's side. The latter was forced off in the 20th minute - with the game still goalless - after suffering an injury, thus, affording the ex-Mainz 05 defender his debut. A 20-minute onslaught - that started only five minutes after his introduction - on the Red Devils' defence yielded three goals through veteran forward Glenn Murray, Duffy, with Pascal Gross netting from the spot on the half-time mark - after Romelu Lukaku had grabbed United's first goal. The visitors would not go down without a fight as Paul Pogba reduced

Leon Balogun makes English Premier League bow as Brighton stun Manchester United



the deficit from 12-yard out after Duffy caught substitute Marouane Fellaini in the area, but that was barely enough

as Brighton secured their first points of the 2018-19 campaign. Article continues below Balogun joined the

Seagulls this summer before heading out to the World Cup in Russia, and participated in their pre-season activities upon his

return to England. While the severity of Dunk's injury is yet to be ascertained, it could help the German-born

defender, who fared well facing United's attack, force his way into Hughton's plan. **GOAL.COM**