



DPP's office must prosecute white-collar crimes, says Wynter Kabimba
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LUNGU IRKS

CHURCH BODIES

...we can't respond to his airpot remarks, he must open State House doors when we knock - Bishops

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L-r: ZCCB Secretary General Fr Cleophas Lungu, CCZ secretary general Fr Emmanuel Chikoya, EFZ board chairperson Bishop Paul Mususu, CCZ president Rev Alfred Kalemba, ZCCB president Bishop George Lungu and EFZ executive director Reverend Pukuta Mwanza pose for a picture after addressing the media at Kapingila House yesterday - Picture by Mukosha Funga

We don't know who will pay the 30 ngwee yet, says ZICTA

By **Stuart Lisulo**
Zambia Information and Communications Authority (ZICTA) public relations officer Hanford Chaaba says

Standard & Poor down-grades Zambia's credit rating from "B" to "B -"
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the Authority does not know yet who is supposed to pay user charges on Internet calls because the Statutory Instrument (SI) has not been approved. And Chaaba says no member of the public has been charged yet for calling using social media platforms as the SI, which will provide a legal basis for doing so, is still beeing developed. *To page 3*

JAWUZ condemns "useless, satanic austerity measures"

By **Miriam Chabala**
Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) president Peter Mwale says

government has continued punishing civil servants by denying them their benefits while pushing for

the reintroduction of a wage freeze under "satanic austerity measures".

The Public Service Management Division (PSMD) last week announced that civil servant who will chose not to go on leave beyond the prescribed period will forfeit their days and government would not pay for the commutations.

Mwale wondered why government was targeting poor civil servants in its fiscal discipline. *Story page 5*

Govt demanded removal of IMF representative - source

By **Joseph Mwenda**
The withdrawal of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) representative

from Zambia may attract consequences, well placed sources have told News Diggers! And sources say government demanded the removal of IMF Rep Alfredo Baldini. *To page 2*

RTSA records sharp decline in speeding, waives fines on Airport Rd

By **Mukosha Funga**
RTSA says it has recorded a sharp reduction in speeding among motorists after the installation of traffic cameras in Lusaka. And RTSA says it has decided to waive speed fines charged on motorists along the KKIA Road. *To page 2*

Failure to contest Kasenengwa has taught us a lesson - UPND

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By Mukosha Funga

The three church mother bodies have complained that they have been knocking on President Edgar Lungu’s door intending to discuss various issues of national relevance to no avail. And the three church mother bodies have insisted that the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue has no capacity to successfully facilitate national dialogue and that following ZCID’s methods could lead the church into a ditch.

The three church mother bodies, represented by ZCCB Secretary General Fr Cleophas Lungu, EFZ board chairperson Bishop Paul Mususu, ZCCB president Bishop George Lungu, CCZ president Rev Alfred Kalembo, CCZ secretary general Father Emmanuel Chikoya and EFZ executive director Reverend Pukuta Mwanza were speaking at a media briefing at Kapingila House, Sunday.

Responding to a question on why the church was still moving ahead to draft its own roadmap for dialogue when President Lungu said he might not be part of any process which does not include ZCID, ZCCB president Bishop George

Church complains that Lungu is shunning them, insists ZCID lacks capacity

Lungu said the church had not received an official communiqué in that regard. Bishop George Lungu also revealed that the church had been knocking on the Head of State’s door to no avail for sometime. “Our policy is not to discuss any matters through the media. Until now, we haven’t received any communique from the Head of State clarifying his position. There is no official communication to us that this is his official position and therefore, it may not be right to comment on something that appeared in the media. We are still however looking forward to a time when we will meet the Head of State. We have been knocking on his door and we hope that one day, it will open for us and have time with him to find

out how he feels about the process, what he thinks and even have the issues that he feels strongly [about] included on our agenda,” said Bishop George Lungu. Echoing his colleague’s concerns, Bishop Paul Mususu vowed that the church would keep knocking on President Lungu’s door because as Head of State, he was not expected to shun any citizen of Zambia. “We have knocked several times at the door and I must mention that even as of last of last week, we had started knocking and we were hoping, hence our queitnes, we were hoping that the Head of State would meet with us and then we share what we are thinking. We have not given up, he is our President, he cannot throw away members, not the church, members of

the Republic of Zambia, he can’t, he has to engage with the people of Zambia, which includes the church. So we can go there and share our views with the President but we will avoid by all means to respond to media reports or even some events at the airport as he takes off and lands. I think that is not the way we discuss, we discuss one on one and that is our considered view,” Bishop Mususu said. And Bishop Mususu insisted that ZCID lacked capacity to pull off a successful national dialogue process. “There were general secretaries that met in Siavonga, we don’t know where their presidents stand. So we were saying, even in our dialogue with ZCID is that I think we have a difference in

approaching the game. If we allowed you to facilitate, you will be taking us to a hall [and saying] ‘can you chair this meeting, we have organised these political parties, can you meet’, our view is that before we make a mess out of this, can we have the stakeholders buy into it. Let’s go to His Excellency the Republican President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and share with him how important this national dialogue is and once he says, ‘yes, this is the way we should go’, at that point, then we can go to the general secretaries because we have the boss already on board. Theirs (ZCID), is the reverse,” he said. “You can see the theories are different and because of that, it becomes very different for us to simply say ‘let them do the agenda and we follow’, it may lead us to a ditch and we just follow, no. What we are saying is that okay, if you now want us to drive this on, can you ZCID come and say okay, first let’s meet the president and if they agree, that’s fine, we have no problem with that. And I want to clarify to the nation that it is not them and us. This dialogue is not even between ZCID and the church. This dialogue is for the nation and all of us are interested in it bearing fruit. If we were in any way convinced, and this I must say, in our minds we are making

sure that we understand the difference between the ZCID board and the stakeholders that form ZCID. If we understood that the board of ZCID had the capacity to do what they are embarking on, and bring all the stakeholders, including the President, we have no problem but you and I know that when you look at the board, when you look at the secretariat, there is a capacity that is lacking. So we can’t do a thing that we are seeing is going to fail us. What we need is the level be raised, and that’s all we are asking.” He said the church was not fighting ZCID but it feared their approach to the national dialogue process would fail. “We have met ZCID several times and we have urged them that our engagement at this level should be one of give and take, until we have clarified the roles that we mean by chairing until we have clarified the roles that we mean by facilitating and if they come out and say we are going ahead, we are not fighting them, they are free citizens. And if they succeed, you know brothers and sisters, what we are interested in is people sitting on the drawing table and discuss. Who does what is really not a big deal, we would let go and allow them to do the needful but knowing what we know, we have our own fears that it may not deliver the results that we need,” said Bishop Mususu. He recalled that the church had been calling for the dialogue and reconciliation way before ZCID came into the picture, therefore, it could not be viewed as a hijacker. Bishop Mususu also said the church was not taking any sides but was only interested in chairing a genuine dialogue process.

RTSA records sharp decline in speeding, waives fines on Airport Rd

By Mukosha Funga

The Road Transport and Safety Agency says it has recorded a sharp reduction in speeding among motorists after the installation of traffic cameras in Lusaka.

And RTSA says it has decided to waive speed fines charged to motorists along the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport Road, on ground that there was insufficient signage indicating the presence of speed cameras. This was contained in a statement released by RTSA managing director Zindaba Soko.

“After a detailed investigation, the Road Transport and Safety Agency has identified a shortfall in the speed signage on the Kenneth Kaunda Airport Road. As from Friday 24 August 2018, new speed signs have since been posted on the Airport Road. We therefor caution all motorists to respect these speed limits as the route is equally used by pedestrians and cyclists and that maximum caution should be exercised by motorist when using public roads,” Soko stated.

“In view of the foregoing, motorists who have received and paid fines that were issued in respect to the Airport Road only, the RTSA will waive the fines that were issued for exceeding the speed limit on this road. These individuals will be contacted directly by the RTSA to rectify the matter.” He went further explain that speed cameras had already started helping in the reduction of road traffic accidents. “Since the introduction

of the speed management programme, the number of motorist’s speed has dropped significantly, resulting is significant and immediate road safety benefits. The initial infringement rates were in the order of 24 per cent (representing the percentage of motorists who were speeding). This has now dropped down to

about 4%. This is a substantial change in road user behaviour for the better,” stated Soko. “The Statistics indicate that traffic violations have drastically reduced in the last one month, an indication that motorists are now starting to adhere to road safety laws and regulations in respect to appropriate speed limits.

Based on the preliminary data, the initial program has been a resounding success and the RTSA will build on this initial deployment. In view of this, the roll-out of the speed camera to other parts of the country especially the highway in accident prone areas (black spots) will be implemented soon.”

Govt demanded removal of IMF representative, sources reveal

By Joseph Mwenda

The withdrawal of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) representative from Zambia may attract consequences, well placed sources have told News Diggers!

In July, the IMF revealed that talks on Zambia’s economic bailout package, widely expected to be around US \$1.3 billion, had been suspended owing to concerns surrounding the country’s debt sustainability. Speaking during a press briefing from the Fund’s head office in Washington D.C. on July 12, IMF communications director Gerry Rice disclosed that the Fund had suspended discussions on a possible economic bailout programme because the Zambian government’s borrowing plans had compromised the country’s debt sustainability, which in-turn, would undermine Zambia’s macroeconomic stability. Sources have revealed that since the negotiations for the said bailout package stalled, Zambia started mounting pressure on the multinational lender

to withdraw it’s country representative Alfredo Baldini, on claims that he had been acting unprofessional. Last week, the IMF gave in to the government’s demand to withdraw Baldini, whose tour of duty in Zambia has not yet come to an end. Economist Chibamba Kanyama, in a tweet which he later withdraw, expressed fear that the IMF may not send a replacement immediately. “IMF has withdrawn its representative in Zambia, Alfredo Baldini and does not plan to have a replacement any time soon. This happened to Ethiopia and Zimbabwe but under rare circumstances. What message is IMF sending because the resident representative is not here for bailout program only?” twitted Kanyama. And Kanyama added that Eurobond owners could as well forget about a bailout package from the IMF to Zambia, saying there was no hope left. “I pity the Eurobond holders who still believe that IMF programme for Zambia is still on. This level of optimism

is like that of helpless congregants who still believe their bishop will come back from the morgue,” he stated. Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya argued that Baldini’s replacement will be in the country soon. “The IMF is in Zambia for various programmes and is not leaving. However, Mr Alfredo Baldini is leaving Zambia. His replacement will be here soon. [Finance Minister] Honourable Margaret Mwanakatwe will issue a detailed statement over the weekend,” twitted Siliya. A source told News Diggers that the recall of Baldini may come with consequences. “It is a fact that IMF has withdrawn its representative Alfredo Baldini earlier than it was supposed to and there will be consequences to that effect. Government itself necessitated the recall and they know it. What they are not saying is that they demanded for the withdrawal of Baldini; they claimed that he was unprofessional” revealed the source.

“I can tell you that Chibamba [Kanyama] was right on this one and his fear should be shared by government as well. It is highly unlikely that IMF is going to send a replacement any time soon. The truth of the matter is that Baldini was forthright with the line ministry and he was bold in pointing out government’s lack of debt sustainability plans and continued borroing which were affecting the balance of payment. This is what was frustrating the government.” The sources added that the withdrawal of Baldini would further add stress to the Eurobond owners who were hoping for a facility from the IMF. “This simply aggravate the fears on the international lending market, including the Eurobond owners who were hoping that the IMF would close a bail out deal. This may further affect Zambia’s credit rating and pose doubts among foreign investors. It’s not a good sign for Zambia and there will be several consequences for this,” said the sources.A

Failure to contest Kasenengwa has taught us a lesson – UPND

By Mirriam Chabala
UPND deputy Secretary General Patrick Mucheleka says the party’s failure to contest the Kasenengwa parliamentary by elections after its preferred candidate Dr Faustin Banda disappeared on nominations day is a wake up call. And Mucheleka says the party has not yet sat to decide on who to support in the September 6 by-elections but that UPND would certainly stand in solidarity with the two opposition parties taking party in the elections. Mucheleka said this to News

Diggers in an interview when he was called to explain what measures his party had put in place to avoid facing the same misfortune. And Mucheleka vowed that the UPND would not rest until legal action was taken against Dr Banda who was alleged to have run way with materials and money meant for campaigns. “I can tell you frankly, what happened in Kasenengwa is a lesson for us, it’s really a wake up call. But I want to tell you, the way that person (Dr Faustin Banda) behaved and especially that he claims to be educated – he is a PhD

holder who is supposed to inspire many other people in Zambia like politicians – was in such a way that we didn’t know what to do. Remember he was our candidate in 2016, so because of that we felt that we needed to trust him. And by the way, there were a lot of people who were there and wanted to be adopted but what we did, those who had appeared even for interviews, we had to wait for them to move to Lusaka first. We unveiled Banda and at that point, he should have left for Chipata. But after unveiling him, he just disappeared,

meaning that those who we could have fallen back on were not in Chipata,” Mucheleka explained. “If we had to look for a replacement candidate in Chipata, it meant that that person had to travel to Lusaka to go to the ECZ, then we would have had to move that person to go to verify the documentations in Chipata and then send that to Chipata... and Kasenengwa is not within the central business district of Chipata where it could have been easier. Kasengwa is quite a distance from the district such that it

would have been almost unattainable for us to be able to meet the deadline given to us by the Electoral Commission of Zambia. So that is were am saying that it’s a lesson and next time we shall be able to plan ahead for such challenges.” He however said the party would not rest until legal action was taken against Dr Banda. “But then that shouldn’t mean that it is allowed to just dupe political parties, why should you behave like that? In whose interest? People should be able to have a little bit of integrity,

it’s about an individual’s integrity, you can just say ‘sorry my friends, I am not with you. I am with the other party’ because doing things the way that man [Dr Banda] did is what is making PF think that it is normal and people can just be bought like a commodity but where is the morality of a person who behaves like this? Don’t think that this country begins and ends with PF, what about the time when PF is gone, what are you going to do? Who will ever trust you? If you want to leave a political party, do it in a way that does not injure the colleagues that may have trusted you,” Mucheleka said. “We reported the matter to the police and the charge that he should have been given was ‘obtaining campaign material and cash by false pretenses’. As UPND, our position is that we expect the police to move in and summon this person to the police for questioning and if a prima facie case is established then he should be taken to court. If that does not happen because someone is interfering from somewhere, well nothing even stops us from using a private prosecutor to prosecute the matter. The case is still on and we are just waiting for feedback from the police,” he said. Asked if the UPND had intentions of supporting any of the two opposition parties taking party in the Kasengwa by-elections, Mucheleka said UPN would always stand with the opposition. “Well we have not met as a party to decide on who to support, suffice to say that we would certainly stand in solidarity with the other opposition political parties that could be participating. But I want to tell you frankly, we haven’t met as a party to decide on who to support,” said Mucheleka.

By Abraham Kalito
Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) public relations officer Hanford Chaaba says the authority does not know yet who is supposed to pay user charges on Internet calls because the Statutory Instrument (SI) has not been approved. And Chaaba says no member of the public has been charged yet for calling using social media platforms as the SI, which will provide a legal basis for doing so, is still been developed. Meanwhile, Chaaba said the authority has embarked on initiatives aimed at repositioning the postal sector in Zambia to a level where it can compete reasonably with other national postal offices in the region. In an interview with News Diggers! Chaaba said ZICTA was still waiting for details from the Ministry of Transport and Communications on how the process of charging users would be done. “As things are now, it’s still at policy level, we were even not supposed to issue any comment. We are supposed to refer you to the Ministry [of communications], but let me say this to you because I know; I have been a reporter and I know you will need to have this. You know, it says Cabinet approved the issuance of the SI that will facilitate the introduction of the tariff, and this tariff will be charged through the mobile operator. I think this is the question that you were trying to find out. It is through the mobile operators and the

We don’t know who will pay the 30 ngwee yet – ZICTA

Internet service providers. Yes, so now, what it is, this approval was for the issuance of the SI, not that the SI was approved. I don’t know whether you are getting it? So, now this is the one now, the SI which will detail other things. ZICTA is the implementer,” Chaaba explained. “We are the implementer because of the sector where these things will be happening from the ICT sector. Now, as the implementer, we have to rely or we have to be informed by the SI on what we have to implement. So, now, the fact that, we don’t have the SI yet in place, we might not know exactly how the overall process is going to be done because the payments that we are talking about will be detailed in the SI. That is the point at which now we can be at liberty to say, ‘okay, the person who is supposed to pay, or the person who is supposed to pay the user charge is this one.’ This will be determined once the SI is fully developed, approved and implemented. But on the position of ZICTA as an authority, as the implementer, we are waiting for the SI to be in place and once the SI is in place, then we are going to engage members of the public through sensitization so that they understand and appreciate the reasoning behind.” And Chaaba stressed that

no member of the public had been charged yet for calling using social media platforms as the SI, which would provide a legal basis for doing so, was still been developed. “At the moment, anything regarding the technicalities and the details could be addressed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, through the communications department because it is still at policy level. So, no one has been charged yet for calling using the Internet because it’s only once the SI has been implemented that people now can start paying. No one has been charged yet. So, just enjoy, for now, make those calls and we are still waiting for the details of the SI.” Meanwhile, Chaaba said ZICTA had embarked on initiatives aimed at repositioning the postal sector in Zambia to a level where it could compete reasonably against other national postal offices in the region. “You might also be interested to know that, away from that, we implement three pieces of legislation. And one of them, which you might not be aware of, is the Postal Services Act. Now, for us, as the authority, what we have done is we have realised that the postal sector still has the potential to contribute towards national economic development.

And because of that, we have started a number of initiatives, which are aimed at repositioning the postal sector in Zambia to a level where it can compete shoulder-to-shoulder with other national postal offices in the region and also at international level. The idea is basically centred on trying to come up with innovations that will transform the postal sector from its traditional kind of orientation, to the modern one, which will be centred on ICTs. Yes, because you know too well that now, ICTs are more less like the backbone of each and every economy,” Chaaba said. “You cannot talk about any economy without mentioning ICTs...so we are thinking as an authority of trying to ensure that we blend the postal sector with ICT-oriented initiatives that will ensure that our postal sector in Zambia flourishes and then be able to, not only rely on physical delivery of mail; we have to talk about issues where now somebody, if you buy a car, you know that postal and courier services fall under ZICTA. So, for example, if you are receiving a parcel from the Netherlands (Holland) to here, you are able to track it electronically. You are able to track where it is. Those are basically some of the initiatives that we want to ensure that we bring in to the postal services

sector or go through other stakeholders to ensure that the sector is vibrant.” He also said ZICTA was in the process of finalising the issuance of licences to some bus companies to operate as courier services across the country. “Just also to mention that we are also in the process of normalising the operations of the postal and courier services that have been operating without normal licences from ZICTA. Remember that bus operators, as long as they collect and carry parcels from point A to point B, they need to have a licence from ZICTA and we have been appealing that they come and normalise their business so that at least we can move on the same page. A number of them, yes, have complied, but we know that there could be some that might still be in the business, but do not have licences,” said Chaaba.

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By Stuart Lisulo

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings has downgraded Zambia's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings from B to B -, reflecting the country's faster debt accumulation and higher fiscal deficits. And S&P, the globally-renowned integrated financial services company, says the Zambian government's future policy responses are difficult to predict due to the ongoing political tension between the PF and opposition. In a statement issued, Friday, S&P announced that Zambia's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings had been downgraded to B - from B, reflecting the country's faster debt accumulation and higher fiscal deficits than earlier projected. It, however, maintained its stable outlook for the country's economy. "The Zambian government has revised its fiscal data and we now expect higher deficits and faster debt accumulation than we had previously forecast. We are, therefore, lowering our long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on Zambia to B- from B and affirming the B short-term ratings. The outlook is stable," S&P stated. "The downgrade reflects Zambia's higher fiscal deficits and faster debt accumulation than we had previously expected. The Zambian government revised its fiscal deficits and debt burden in June 2018 to account for higher capital expenditures than it had previously recorded. The corrections resulted in a materially weaker 2017 general government deficit of 7.6 per cent of GDP, up from our previous estimate of 6.0 per cent. We have also increased our projections for future deficits by a similar magnitude, resulting in our forecast net government debt burden rising

Standard & Poor downgrades Zambia's credit rating to B -

above 60 per cent of GDP" The agency warned that it could further dampen Zambia's credit worthiness soon if the country's fiscal deficit position continues to deteriorate. "We could lower the ratings over the next year if: the previously destabilising factors re-emerge and further weaken the government's fiscal position, for example, significant currency depreciation; economic growth slowed because of confidence-related factors; or copper prices were to materially fall," it warned. "We do not expect to raise the ratings over the next year. However, should Zambia's external imbalances reduce materially faster than we expect, in tandem with faster economic growth than we currently forecast (which could lead us to raise our GDP per capita trend growth forecast), we could consider a positive rating action." S&P explained that Zambia's public external debt, which has risen to over US \$9.3 billion this year, makes the country vulnerable owing to continued dependence on copper. "A number of structural factors constrain the ratings on Zambia. These include its low wealth levels, high fiscal deficits, and debt burden. Despite relatively modest levels of external debt, we view external risks as high,

due to the country's dependence on copper exports to generate current account receipts. Our external analysis is also hampered by the lack of comprehensive external data," S&P narrated. It also revealed that government is not likely to achieve its fiscal consolidation target for this year. According to the 2018 national budget, government projected to limit the overall fiscal deficit to 6.1 per cent of GDP on a cash basis. "Mid-year 2018 expenditures already surpass the government's half-year target. In our view, the results of fiscal consolidation measures will likely be realised only in the next few years. As a result, we estimate the fiscal deficit in 2018 will remain around 7.6 per cent of GDP and only decline to 5.5 per cent by 2021," it stated. "The Zambian government revised its 2017 fiscal deficits and debt burden on June 14, 2018, to take into account capital expenditures that took place in 2017 but were not properly recorded in its public finance management system. These revisions resulted in a fiscal deficit for 2017 of 7.6 per cent of GDP, compared with our previous estimate of 6.0 per cent. We now forecast higher fiscal deficits through 2021. We see the country's shortfall of basic services to the population and infrastructure likely creating lasting spending pressures." And S&P disclosed that the Zambian government's future policy responses are difficult to predict due to the ongoing political tension between the PF and opposition. "Zambia has a relatively stable political environment for the region, but, in our view, future policy responses are difficult to predict because of the highly-polarised political landscape, with tensions both within the governing Patriotic Front and with opposition parties," stated S&P.



Paramount Chief Chiti Mukulu signing the visitors book at the Northern Province Expo stand at the Likumbi Iya Mize ceremony in Zambezi. On his right is Senior Chief Kanongesha of Mwinilunga.

Zamtel welcomes 30 ngwee Internet tariffs, won't hike data pricing

By Stuart Lisulo

Zamtel Plc says pricing on its data bundles will not be increased despite government's move to charge a 30 ngwee per day tariff on Internet calls. And Zamtel has welcomed the Statutory Instrument (SI) that introduced a 30 ngwee per day tariff on Internet calls, justifying the development as helping to cushion the telecommunications company's costs in providing services. Commenting on the SI, Zamtel corporate communications manager Kennedy Mambwe said the company is not likely to increase its pricing on data bundles in the wake of the 30 ngwee tariffs on Internet calls, adding that Zamtel would continue to aim to be the most affordable network provider on the market. "Our goal is to make sure that the communications services that we offer remain as affordable as possible. We are launching 1,009 new sites; all of them capable of carrying data traffic, and most of them are situated in rural areas. So, we want to make sure that our pricing is suitable for every Zambian so we will probably remain the most affordable network. We just reduced the cost of data

and I do not see us increasing any time soon; we will remain the most attractive network on this market," Mambwe told News Diggers! in an interview. And Mambwe welcomed the SI and justified the development. He also explained that the move was done in view of the need to compensate telecom companies for the cost of providing Internet services. "For us, the introduction of that 30 ngwee is a welcome move because it is part of the regulatory process to mitigate the impact of the OTTs [Over-the-Top Services]. So, it is not a question of whether or not anybody was consulted; it is a question of: 'are the telecom companies in the world being impacted by the OTT services?' And it is an emphatic 'yes!'" Mambwe added. "The reality is, OTTs is a global problem affecting every telecom company the world-over because what has happened is that, traditionally, every telecom company has had its revenues generated from voice calls and

SMSes. Now, the advent of the OTTs, such as WhatsApp and 'WeChat', they have cannibalised into the revenue streams of the telecom companies because now, access to data has become cheaper; people can afford it, and, therefore, they can bypass the traditional way of communicating." Mambwe stressed that all applications on any network need an existing infrastructure to function, and that social media platforms have been operating for free. "But the one thing that people overlook is the fact that, for every App (Application) to work, it rides on an existing infrastructure; people download these Apps on a SIM card that is registered with a particular network. What that does is that, as more people are getting that particular App, consuming a lot of data, it's clogging the capacity of networks, but it's not returning value to the network that is hosting it," Mambwe argued. "That is the biggest problem

that telecoms, the world-over, have been facing, and this is a debate that has been discussed, even at the International Telecoms Union, which is the mother body for all telecoms the world-over. 'How do we sustain viability of every telecom company when these free services are actually riding' They are taking a free ride on infrastructure that they have never contributed to as far as investment is concerned." Asked whether Zamtel as a particular network was involved in the consultative process on formulating the 30 ngwee per day tariff, Mambwe confirmed the company was engaged through ZICTA, the regulator. "As a stakeholder, yes, we were engaged by the regulator because you cannot regulate something that we are not aware of. As far as we are aware, they engaged the key players," Mambwe responded. And asked whether the 30 ngwee tariff amounts to double-billing as some other stakeholders have argued,

he disputed the assertion. "One thing that we need to learn as Zambia is to be patient! We always rush to conclusions; this is under consultation. Yes, the SI has been proposed; the implementation road map is another. So, the question of speculating about double-billing, for now, is not an issue because the SI is far from even being drafted; nothing has been put on paper - it is a proposal, which has principally been approved by Cabinet, but consultation is still ongoing. So, I do not think that we can rush into discussing double-billing; it is too early, until we see the content of the SI," he responded. He further clarified that the company had not started charging its subscribers the 30 ngwee tariff. "No one has started and no one can start because there is no law to back it at the moment, it's just a proposal," Mambwe said. But when pressed further on whether the SI sounded feasible to implement on consumers who are already subjected to existing

charges on bundle usage, Mambwe explained that the charge would not be punitive. "It is not necessarily punitive on the consumer. The consumer wants the App, don't they? And the Apps are coming for free. In other countries, China for example and Dubai; they've banned some of these things for one simple reason: they want to protect their infrastructure because you have all the citizens hopping on board, but they are no returns to the nation! So, the question Zambians should be asking: 'would you rather pay a 30 ngwee or risk this thing being banned?' I would rather pay a 30 ngwee and continue enjoying because clearly, this is part of our lifestyle. I can't imagine life without WhatsApp," said Mambwe. Earlier this month, Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba said the 30 ngwee charge on Internet calls was "inconsequential" and meant to address revenue losses created because of the shift from traditional ways of making calls.

Kalaba pledges to defeat tribalism once in State House

By Diggers Reporter
Former foreign affairs minister and 2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba says there is no need for any Zambian to continue living with a tribal tag. Kalaba resigned from his ministerial position on January 3, citing unprecedented corruption among government officials at the expense of poor Zambians. He however remains Bahati PF member of parliament, who has elected to challenge President Lungu in the 2021 general elections. Speaking when he visited Shibuyunji district where he went to meet leaders of the Harry Kalaba Movement and further interact with eleven headmen and some members of the public, the former minister said there was no need for Zambians to continue living with the tribalism tag. Kalaba said time was ripe for Zambians to come together and bridge the divide that promoting animosity among citizens.

“Once given a mandate by the Zambians to lead in 2021, we will ensure that we embrace all citizens regardless of tribe. One one people, and there is need for all of us to treat one another equally. The tast to bring together all Zambians lies on our shoulders,” he said. And commenting on the economic status of Shibuyunji, Kalaba said that district needed to receive equal economic development in terms of infrastructure development and proper support to the farmers, as agriculture remained the source of livelihood for people in the Central Province rural district. During the event, about 15 PF members reportedly defected from the ruling party and joined the Harry Kalaba movement. The state has blocked on a couple of occasions blocked Kalaba from registering a party on which to stand in 2021, but the former Cabinet minister has remained resolute that he will contest the next general elections



Former foreign affairs minister and 2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba on a mobilisation tour in Shibuyunji District

By Joseph Mwenda
Judicial and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (JAWUZ) president Peter Mwale says government has continued punishing civil servants by denying them their benefits while pushing for the reintroduction of a wage freeze under “satanic austerity measures”. The Public Service Management Division (PSMD) last week announced that civil servant who will chose not to go on leave beyond the prescribed period will forfeit their days and government would not pay for the commutations. Commenting on the announcement that explained the adjustment in the management of leave days for civil servants in line with the implementation of austerity measures, Mwale wondered why government was targeting poor civil servants in its fiscal discipline. “Those austerity measures are fake, they are not genuine but they are very useless. We have come out in the open to say the austerity measures are aimed at punishing the poor civil servants. When they introduced these so-called austerity measures, we knew that the target was going to be us the civil service and you can see that it has even come out in the open that they are targeting us. Look, those are our entitlements and they are enshrined in our terms and conditions of service

JAWUZ condemns “useless, satanic austerity measures”

in public service. So how can now the Public Service Management Division issue such a circular to say workers should forfeit their entitlements, no no, some of those entitlements we have accrued them. But we knew and we know that they are not just going to end their, the intention of these austerity measures is to impose a wage freeze on civil servants. But this time we are not going to allow that,” Mwale said. “If these politicians and ministers up there are enjoying hefty allowances and they are able to buy very expensive vehicles, surely how can you say that these austerity measures are going to work? So you can see now that these austerity measures are just going round us civil servants. How can they surely issue a circular suggesting that civil servants should forfeit their travel benefits, commutations and so on? No! Those austerity measures believe you me, they are just aimed at punishing the already overtaxed civil servants. Even when the government was borrowing excessively,

we rose as unions to say ‘this borrowing is going to affect us in future’ and by the way, if you ask, that money which they borrowed, what did it do that now we should be paying heavily for as poor civil servants?” Mwale who regretted the grave impact that the decision by PSMD would cause, said the government must reverse its decision forthwith because it was disadvantaging the poor. “The impact of this is so grave, the impact is so evil, it’s unfortunate and very satanic, because majority civil servants, this is where we benefit. These leave benefits, commutation benefits and all these emoluments it’s where we are surviving from. Already you can see that there are so many taxes that the government has imposed, so now again on top of those taxes there is circular. So now there will be more suffering, more misery amongst public servants. That is why we are saying that these measures are not welcome, they are in bad faith, they are evil and are aimed at making poor civil servants suffer. How are

we going to work like this? It will be difficult for us to work productivity. These measures are interfering in our work because these are benefits that we are entitled to, there is no way austerity measures can deprive us of our benefits, it doesn’t make sense,” he said. “Public servants should continue going on leave or commuting their leave days so that they are paid, these are our entitlements because these are enshrined in the terms and conditions of the public service and there is no way a circular can come and stop it. So this decision should be reversed forthwith, because it is evil and is going to cause more suffering and misery. Those that came up with the idea should listen to the suffering of the majority civil servants because most of the civil servants have not been paid their salary arrears and these same emoluments is where they survive from, so if you stop them then it means you are happy to see civil servants sufferin.” Mwale argued that the implementation of austerity measures would have made more sense if they

targeted the top ranking government officials like ministers because they were the ones benefiting more from allowances. “Do you know how much we are getting as civil servants in terms of salaries? Majority get K2,800 to K3,000, surely if these austerity measures are aimed at addressing a particular challenge which government is facing, couldn’t they have done something else? You are aware that by the end of this year we are likely to go back to negotiations [for conditions of service], so even then they will say government has no money to give salary increments, housing allowance and transport allowances. But that we are not going to accept because these so-called austerity measures are going to cause untold misery and suffering amongst civil servants. To suggest that these austerity measures are meant to control government expenditure, who is careless in the fiscal expenditure? Is it us civil servants? No, it’s not us. So the austerity measures are not well intended, they are

just going to increase the suffering. Already you can see, how can a circular came and said ‘you can’t get your leave days’. Government is going towards the emoluments of civil servants and it doesn’t make sense,” complained Mwale. “If at all these austerity measures are well-meaning, they can’t affect the poor civil servants, because if you want to control government expenditure of public resources, you definitely start from the top. Take for example,there are so many ministers out there and they have bought very expensive vehicles and they are enjoying a lot of allowances up there. So now when they say ‘austerity measures’ it’s just there to blind ford us ciivl servants on the ground, in real sense they are not there, they just want to use them to cheat us into believing that even if we go for negotiation, there will be no salary increment for 2019 but we are saying no, because we cannot suffer at the expense of the so-called austerity measures which are not well planned and well meaning.”

Lungu’s presidency has outlived its usefulness - Changala

By Mirriam Chabala

Civil rights activist Brebner Changala says President Edgar Lungu must handover power to someone else who has a vision for Zambia, adding that his failure to govern had proved to be a danger to the country. Commenting on President Lungu’s pronouncement at a rally in Kitwe last week in which the Head of State was hoping for a successful 2021-2026 term of office, Changala wondered why the President had continued breaking the country’s laws with impunity. Changala demanded that President Lungu steps down on moral grounds even before 2021 because he had become a danger to the

country. “The level of arrogance in the Presidency is worrying, this is as an outcome of destruction of all institutions of governance. President Edgar Lungu says he’s leaving office in 2026 after he wins 2021, but he is neither a god nor is he a son of God, Jesus Christ who can predict the future. But worse still, President Lungu was sworn in to protect the Constitution of this land and the matter of eligibility for him to stand in 2021 is before the Constitutional

Court, so what he is basically engaging in is contempt of court,” Changala warned. “So I want to find out, because they are saying he (President Lungu) enjoys immunity and so he cannot be prosecuted, I also want to pause a question, if he enjoys immunity and he cannot be prosecuted then why does he take the oath of office? Why does he declare to protect and uphold the constitution? And what are the consequences, should he abrogate the constitution which he swore to protect?

At may occasions, this is a president who has broken this Constitution. So my desire is to know, are there any consequences? This question I am posing to the legal fraternity, the Law Association of Zambia and indeed the Constitutional Court itself because it’s being taken for granted,” Changala said. Changala charged that President Lungu had divided the country by sabotaging unity of purpose. “President Edgar Lungu has taken the rule of law for

granted, he has sabotaged the unity of this country. This country is more divided than the day he came in unknowingly, the day he came in humbly, giving a humble posture when he had other hidden agendas. My advice to President Lungu, in decency he must give up power even before 2021 because he has nothing to contribute in his current form. If anything, he is now a danger to this country. He has outlived his usefulness unfortunately and if he loves this country, it is high

time he stepped aside and allowed somebody else with a fresh mind, with a vision and with a programme for this country to take over,” said Changala. “For some reason, he has destroyed the economy and he doesn’t want to discuss that. For some reason, he has divided this country in an unimaginable manner and he doesn’t want to discuss it. He has abused the Public Order Act and mutilated the Constitution and he doesn’t want to discuss that. Whenever there is a matter for discussion, he sends Special Assistant for Press, who was not elected. President Lungu has abrogated his duty and he has no other option in ream of decency, other than to step down and stay away from this beautiful country that he has managed to destroy in a very short period of time. I don’t even think the entire party machinery is with him in this destruction, they might smile and laugh with him but in the dark corners, they discuss him in the negative because they know that their boss knows nothing.”

Wynter calls for special unit at DPP’s office to prosecute white collar crimes

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Justice minister Wynter Kabimba says it is shocking to hear how some people are condemning Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo for exposing corruption. In an interview with News Diggers! Kabimba who is also Rainbow Party General Secretary said there was need to introduce a specialised unit under the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to be responsible for investigating and prosecuting white collar crimes in Zambia. Meanwhile Kabimba says there is no corruption that is too little or insignificant. “I was surprised by the response from people that from what I came to learn later, of condemning the minister for Lusaka Province that the way he went about it was wrong, that he embarrassed that police officer, [that] you don’t know that this could lead to her committing suicide. So what do the people want? Corruption is corruption. Corruption is like sin, there is no small sin and there is no big sin in the Bible. The Bible just uses one word ‘sin.’ Whether you have stolen K1 you have sinned, whether somebody has stolen \$1 million, they have sinned and I think that applies to corruption. Corruption is corruption,” Kabimba said. Hereiterated the need to have a specialized unit introduced under the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP’s) office to be responsible for investigating and prosecuting white collar crimes. “The officer who was

involved in that incident was engaged in acts of corruption. Extorting money from motorists, and some of these motorists are poor motorists and the way they go about it is that they will make you park by the side of the road even for two hours until they are able to extort that money from you. So how can somebody who exposes that kind of iniquity be condemned?” he wondered. “I don’t understand myself. And we can’t argue. Even the argument that ‘no, but you are going for the small flies leaving out the big flies’ and this is a matter of evidence. White collar crime all over the world is very difficult to fight. In fact when I was Minister of Justice, I was coming up with a proposal that we must have a specialised unit in the DPP’s chambers to investigate and prosecute white collar crime because what is perpetuated in government offices by ministers, by permanent secretaries, by directors is invariably white-collar crime.” He said the approach used in fighting open corruption, like that committed by traffic police officers needed to be different from the approach used in fighting white-collar crimes committed by those in high offices. “What the police officer does along the road is open corruption crime. So it is easier for you to catch that one than it is to catch a PS [or] than it is to catch the minister of government. And that is why my view is that if we are going to fight corruption at the highest level which manifest itself in

terms of white-collar crime, we need a specialised unit. And we discussed this matter with Musa Mwenye (former Attorney general) and Mutembo Nchito when he was DPP and we identified this problem because some of the acquittals that we see in the subordinate court are not because people are not guilty. It is because the people that are prosecuting and the people that are investigating have not been trained enough in the area of white-collar crime, to investigate white-collar crime and to prosecute white-collar crime,” Kabimba said. He suggested that there should be advanced training for state advocates that have just been admitted to the bar especially when it comes to handling big cases. “You can’t get a police officer who is trained to prosecute a traffic offence and take him to go and prosecute an offense of embezzlement or misappropriation of funds under the Auditor General’s report. Or a state advocate who has just come out of the university today or out of ZIALE and give her a complicated case of fraud. My view is that these people need to go for advanced training and that is what the developed countries have done. And if you have followed what is happening in the United States now with Donald Trump’s people around like Manford and others, when they begin investigations and when they catch up with somebody, they have clear evidence and that is why you see some of them they will just quickly plead guilty,”

said Kabimba. “I think we must invest money in training a specialised unit in the police service and in the DPP’s chambers to prosecute white-collar crime. There are many people in this country that have gotten away with it not because they are not guilty but because the people prosecuting do not have the

professional competence to prosecute these people, because the people that are investigating do not have the proficiency and the competence to investigate such offences. Because of that, it has become very difficult and it will remain very difficult to fight white-collar crime i.e. corruption at the highest level.”

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Lungu’s state capture is so complete he barely needs to pretend

The Constitutional Court has concluded its hearing over the eligibility of President Edgar Lungu to stand for another term in 2021 and judgement in the case is due anytime soon. The article below was originally published on 7 November 2017 and is being republished here in its original form only as a flashback.

When Kenya’s Supreme Court judges annulled the results of the country’s presidential election this September, they attracted plaudits from across Africa for acting independently and for refusing to bow before presidential power. But Zambia’s President Edgar Lungu was not among their admirers. Instead, on 2 November, he issued a stern warning to Zambia’s own judges not to follow the example of their Kenyan counterparts. “Do not become a copycat and think that you are a hero if you plunge this country into chaos,” he warned. These comments were directed at Zambia’s Constitutional Court (ConCourt), which is currently considering a case to determine whether the president is eligible to run for another term in office in 2021. Lungu was first elected in the 2015 presidential by-election following Michael Sata’s untimely death in office. He was then re-elected in the controversial August 2016 polls. The Constitution contains a clear two-term limit for the presidency, but Lungu’s supporters argue that his first term of just 18 months should not count towards this total. This January, Lungu himself declared that he is eligible to stand in 2021 elections and challenged opposing voices to seek the interpretation of the ConCourt. A few days later, four small opposition parties did just that, petitioning the court for “a declaration that President Edgar Lungu is eligible to contest the 2021 Presidential election”. In response, the influential Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) and the main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND), who argue that the opposition parties were proxies of Lungu, joined the case seeking a counter-declaration. The case comes up for hearing on 15 November.

“That I will not allow”

To avoid misinterpreting what Lungu said, it is worth quoting his remarks at length: “People are saying Zambian courts should be like Kenyan courts, that they should be brave and make decisions which are in the best interests of the people, but look at what is happening in Kenya now...To my friends in the court system, I say don’t plunge us into chaos by imitating or emulating Kenya or any other court system for that matter which does not care about the interests of the people. “I am saying this because there are people outside Africa and some within Africa who want to bring confusion in Africa. They have started with South Africa, Kenya and Zambia for a regime change. There are people out there who just want regime change because they want to take over from us as managers...That I will not allow. “To my colleagues in the judiciary, my message is just do your work, interpret the law without fear or favour; look at the best interest of this country...Those people who don’t like peace and freedom will say ‘President Lungu is intimidating the courts of law’. I am not intimidating my colleagues in the judiciary. I am just warning you that I have information that some of you want to be adventurous. Your adventure should not plunge us into chaos, please.” Numerous organisations and individuals have condemned Lungu’s remarks. LAZ called on the president to retract his comments. The UPND accused Lungu of outright intimidation. And the prominent US-based law professor Muna Ndulo described the statements as another example of Lungu’s wanton disregard for rule of law and further evidence of “the creeping dictatorship in Zambia”. This condemnation is necessary, but not sufficient. Zambians also need to understand why Lungu is making such comments. Contrary to what some of his opponents have argued, the president’s implied threats were neither random nor a result of ignorance and incompetence. Lungu is highly skilled and has a proven record of undermining democratic institutions in a committed, strategic and well-defined manner. If Zambians wish to reclaim their democratic institutions and space, they will do well not to underestimate Lungu and the lengths to which he is prepared to go in his bid for absolute power. His thinly veiled threats to the ConCourt should be seen as part of his wider strategy to stay in power beyond 2021.

Pressuring the judges

President Lungu’s remarks were directed at different audiences for

different objectives. The first was the ConCourt itself. His objective is clearly to intimidate the judges, especially those who are unsure about the consequences of ruling against the presidency. Threats that a “brave” judgement would lead to chaos make it less likely that undecided judges will want to take the risk. This strategy may work; the president only needs to persuade a majority of the judges to get the ruling he wants. Many perceive the ConCourt as being predisposed towards Lungu to begin with. Its judges were all appointed by the president – even though none of them meets the constitutional requirements to serve on the Court – and the body ruled in his favour over the challenged election results last year. Sceptics therefore suggest that Lungu may not need to work particularly hard to win over a majority. Public confidence in the Court is already low, but the president’s comments put them in a no-win situation. If the judges do make a “brave” ruling on the 2021 issue, Lungu can accuse them – and he has already formulated the accusation in advance – of fomenting chaos. If they rule in his favour, they will be perceived by much of the public as having given in to presidential pressure. (This latter route, in which a high stakes judicial ruling is not seen to be credible, could also lead to chaos.)

Rousing supporters

The second audience Lungu was speaking to are his supporters in the governing Patriotic Front (PF). On this front, he has two objectives. Firstly, through his comments, he was effectively encouraging his followers to exert pressure on the judges to act in “best interest of this country”. Supporters could easily mobilise to block the courts or even protest against independent-minded judges, confident that the police would not disrupt such efforts. This strategy has been deployed before. At the height of last year’s legal challenge against Lungu’s re-election, PF supporters camped outside the ConCourt to demonstrate against its unanimous decision to extend the hearing of the petition for a week. The next day, the Court, by majority opinion, set aside its earlier judgement even in the absence of a formal appeal and disposed of the matter inconclusively. Secondly, Lungu’s speech seems intended to prepare his supporters to act in the event of an unfavourable – and, by his argument, illegitimate – verdict. His reference to unspecified foreigners seeking regime change is meant to portray his prospective disqualification as the result of an unholy alliance between judges, the opposition and interfering outsiders. His empty rhetoric against foreign powers also helps to pre-emptively discredit possible international criticism. This strategy is undoubtedly a trick he has picked up from authoritarian figures elsewhere in Africa. Once rightly regarded as a beacon of democracy on the continent, it is disturbing that the Zambian president’s most notable political friendships are now with the likes of Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe, Uganda’s Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda’s Paul Kagame.

Warding off challengers

Lungu’s third audience are his opponents within the ruling PF, particularly budding successors eyeing his position. A ruling from the ConCourt that he is ineligible for 2021 would strengthen their hand and reduce Lungu to a lame-duck president. By declaring his presidential candidature (subject to his party’s endorsement) even before the ConCourt pronounces on the matter, Lungu is effectively warning individuals within the PF that he is going nowhere and that they will face the same fate as Chishimba Kambwili, the former Minister of Information who was recently expelled from the party for campaigning to succeed him. Privately, several prominent PF members are hoping that the ConCourt will rule against Lungu as this would open the way for their own ambitions.

What Lungu fears

As well as examining Lungu’s strategy, it is also important to understand the reasons behind his determination to remain in office. Broadly speaking, there are two reasons he is unwilling to step down any time soon. The first is fear of prosecution. All of Zambia’s former presidents, aside those who died in office, have faced trials after leaving office and Lungu is already facing questions about the sources of his newfound wealth. Possible prosecution for corruption, embezzlement or criminal misuse of power cannot be far from his mind. The solution is to remain in

power for as long as possible or until a pliant successor can be installed. In fact, Lungu might already be thinking about trying to change the constitution to either extend the number of terms permissible or abolish term limits altogether. For this to be possible, he probably needs to stay in power until 2026 to consolidate his power push through a constitutional amendment. This, however, relies on the ConCourt ruling in his favour – hence his concerted attacks. Lungu got his way with the court over the 2016 election challenge and one wonders what threats were made at the time of that even more crucial decision. One might fairly assume that it was because the warnings were so dire that the judges decided to not even hear the petition, let alone make a judgment. Regardless of what happened, the fact is that if a sitting president is able to both rig an election and control the ConCourt, it is hard to see how he or she can ever be voted out of office.

Lungu’s inner circle

A second reason Lungu may be so unwilling to leave office is that he is beholden to the business and political interests of certain individuals that contributed to his rise. According to well-placed PF insiders, this group is fearful of what might happen if Lungu steps down and that, in seeking another term, the president is not speaking for himself alone. Lungu has many political and business figures around him, many of whom were marginalised under the late President Sata but have flourished under the new president. This group feels its time in the corridors of power has been too brief thus far and wants more time to accumulate through the state. They can see clearly how those they replaced are now languishing. Senior government and ruling party figures say that this circle has captured virtually all state institutions. The term “state capture” is topical in South Africa, but applies fully to the situation in Zambia too. In fact, in Zambia, it is not only the executive that has been captured, but a whole range of institutions including the police, security services, investigative agencies, media, electoral commission and National Prosecution Authority. One could arguably add the judiciary, parliament and various other bodies to this list too. Lungu’s administration has successfully closed down the critical free press and almost succeeded in muzzling civil society. Many believe the president’s allies are behind the arrests of prominent opposition figures. Meanwhile, this group has even extended its influence over the church thanks to the president’s new powers to appoint a Minister of Religion. Through misuse of the police, impunity and bogus prosecutions, Lungu and his associates have created a general climate of fear in Zambia and are therefore effectively in charge of everybody except for those seeking martyrdom. How far this group is willing to go to maintain this grip on power remains to be seen. Could political disappearances and murders that have blighted other African democracies be Zambia’s fate too?

The weight of history

Even in Zambia’s continuing fall from grace, Lungu’s public and overt threats against the judiciary represent a watershed moment. Previously, the president strove to stick to the legal position on democracy, constitutionalism and separation of powers. For instance, when the leader of the opposition, Hakainde Hichilema, was arrested on what appeared to be a trumped-up charge of treason this April, Lungu claimed to have nothing to do with the arrest. He claimed it would be improper for him to intervene in the independent arms of government. Laughable as these claims of non-interference were, they wrong-footed opponents who were left looking for evidence of how he had influenced these supposedly independent institutions. Now, however, Lungu is making threats against the judiciary so thinly veiled that even the masquerade of propriety has fallen away. Words that have probably long been uttered in private, and which would explain some of Lungu’s illegal actions, are now being announced publicly. This may be the start of a new phase. One in which the capture of state institutions and creation of a climate of fear is so complete that Lungu feels confident enough to make explicit the structure of his creeping dictatorship. One in which there are no longer any state institutions able to challenge or oppose him. Zambia’s judges on the ConCourt must surely feel the weight of history on their shoulders. Other countries where judicial independence and presidential term limits have been ignored have slid into disorder, authoritarian rule and dictatorship. It is no exaggeration to say that the fate of Zambia’s democracy lies in their hands.

After a weeklong of aggressive verbal attacks between former chief government spokesperson Honourable Chishimba Kambwili and State House Press Aide Mr Amos Chanda, the latter bowed out of the fight with an unexpected and rare apology.

In his message of regret, Mr Chanda said although he had suffered endless personal abuse and unprovoked malicious attacks from Mr Kambwili, his response could not be justified, adding that he regrets the words used and is therefore asking for forgiveness from members of the public.

To many people, this may seem like a very simple thing to do, but we know that it takes a lot of humility to swallow one's pride and to tender an apology upon realizing one's mistake. It is a very painful thing to do, but it disarms those who desire to take advantage of one's weakness to advance their agenda. It is for this reason that we would like to salute Mr Chanda for seeking a higher moral ground.

Why are we praising Mr Chanda after we condemned his actions? This is because there are many other officials in this government and particularly in State House who have done despicable things. Some, not only using abusive language, but going further to physically harm people and threatening them with death.

In the past, we have seen and heard of President Lungu's advisor Mr Kaizer Zulu pull out a firearm and shooting at the people he differed with. We have heard and seen President Lungu's

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To error is human, but forgiveness is a virtue; Bravo Amos

political advisor hit a woman after a dispute at a gas station. Our memories are still fresh about an incident when this Presidential advisor physically attacked a police officer who attempted to stop him from breaking the law at a football event. The list of these incidences is long, but never have we heard an apology on any of the offensive deeds.

Instead, what we have experienced is a series of transgressions, one after another. We have witnessed pomposity, a show off of superior power and riches, not to mention a mockery of the poor. It never occurred to them that a simple "sorry" was necessary. They have never given the people whom they have offended an opportunity to forgive them.

This is the reason

why today we are giving Mr Chanda the commendation that he deserves. We believe that it took a lot for him to climb down from his mighty shoes of the presidency, and openly saying to the public that: "upon reflection, I regret that I responded harshly to malicious personal attacks from Mr. Chishimba Kambwili. My harsh response was definitely a moment of lapse in judgement in the face of relentless malice from a person with whom I have no personal offense whatsoever."

Many people will argue that this apology was not genuine. Others will argue that President Lungu prevailed on Mr Chanda and forced him to issue a statement of regret. To us, that doesn't matter; what matters is that the man has

said he is sorry. And if we may ask, when was the last time that anyone heard an apology from State House? Definitely not under this regime.

We can say with confidence that this is probably the last apology we may be hearing from State House or any other high-ranking government official, for the rest of this tenure. This is not because they will no longer offend the public, but they just never admit a wrong.

Regardless of what happened behind the scenes before the apology was tendered, Mr Chanda has done his part. It is now up to the people he offended by his messages to show clemency. The Bible in Matthew 6 verse 14 says: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you

do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." So no one should judge Mr Chanda and say his apology was not genuine, that is between him and his God.

We are also glad to learn that Mr Kambwili himself has also reflected on his language and apologised to Mr Chanda. He cannot claim to be an innocent victim in this fiasco. It was not wise for him to fool people into believing that he did not offend Mr Chanda in any way. It is his mouth that started the discriminatory remarks against the State House Press Aide – charging that his sickness was making him look frail dehydrated and grey. We don't mind the fact that he did not have the decency of sending his apology to our newspaper that initially published his

attack; what is important is that he has said sorry.

Ourselves as a newspaper can also not come out faultless. We have drawn several lessons from this bitter exchange between the two rivals. Of course we are proud to be the only newspaper in Zambia that had the courage to report the story, we are the only news source that gave the people an opportunity to hear both sides of the story. But still, we feel there are areas we could have done better.

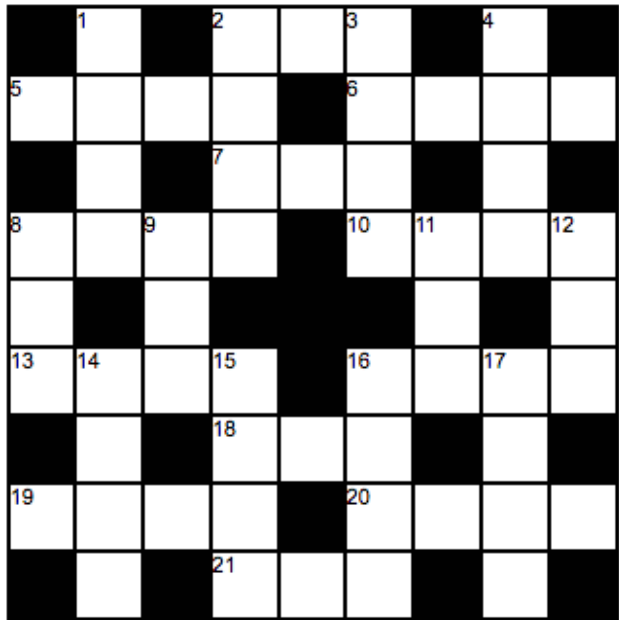
For example, we reported on Wednesday August 22, that Mr Chanda called Mr Kambwili and insulted him further in a verbatim phone conversation that we quoted. If we were a little more thorough in our digging, we would have known that the particular phone conversation which we quoted was initiated by Mr Kambwili after the two missed each other's phone calls. Mr Kambwili said in an interview with us that Mr Chanda called him early on Tuesday to insult, yet he actually initiated that particular call through a PF supporter called Patrick Pikiti who then gave the phone to the State House Press Aide before the two exchanged bitter words.

This clarification may not, in any way, change the regrettable words used in the brawl, but such details take away so much from our endeavor to advance objective and malice-free journalism. For this, we owe Mr Chanda an apology, as this may have pushed him to believe that we colluded with his foe to misrepresent that fact. To error, they say, is human; but forgiveness is a virtue.

Crossword puzzle 173

"In this life, when you deny someone an apology, you will remember it at time you beg forgiveness."
- Toba Beta

Solutions to puzzle 172



- Across**
2. Result of addition
5. Conquer
6. Egg on
7. Perform a role
8. Boast
10. Happily ____ after
13. Yard entrance
16. Nothing but
18. Washout
19. Hit hard
20. Capsule contents
21. Snaky letter
- Down**
1. Listen to
2. Without a date
3. Speechless
4. Beast; like Shrek
8. Spying device
9. Sculpture or painting
11. Family vehicle
12. Shaft of light
14. Comrade in arms
15. Extreme side
16. Likelihood
17. Hang in there



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

RTSA's revelations on exceeding revenue target by 100% using speed cameras

Editor,
"Boss, this should not excite anyone because it's not a business venture; people are being exploited. Given that opportunity, I can also mint that kind of money." - Caristo

Mwango
"It's worrying that every government institution has become ZRA. That's why even road traffic police officers have turned into ZRA in their own special way because of this kind of nonsense." - Nelson Lifumbela
"So, RTSA is a revenue collection company not about safety on roads? Speed cams are not for safety, but for raising revenue? So confusing." - Gift Meamui Ilishebo

"Zindaba Soko is in top gear to raise as much money as he can before people adjust to save their pockets. Now you understand why this young man is buying flats at breakneck speed. Zindaba and his colleagues have targets to meet before road users wake up! If govt can even dream of earning money from an agency and incompetent as MET then know things are not okay." - Christopher Kalima

"The technology is good, but giving someone a target of fine collections is same as praying that more people should commit offenses so that you can reach or exceed your target. By the way, what will happen if motorists begin to follow the speed limit, will you be able to exceed your given target by 100%? Will that private firm, which has installed the cameras, be able to make profits? Indeed, Zambia is a stage for all kinds of comedy shows." - Michael Mwanza

"Exposing motives. Can't cover up something this big without unwittingly betraying underlying goals. Money or safety? That is the question." - Munongo Kafuta Shankaya



HH's explanation on failure to greet Lungu at Mwanawasa's memorial

Editor,
"Lungu is not God whom people should shiver whenever he is around. If HH feels he can't greet him, so be it... After all, they all run a political party and they are presidents. In fact, him should be exemplary to good morals by showing love and forgiveness to those perceive him wrong or bad egg." - Urwyler Kalota

"Don't bother, they don't bother. Your time will come when they need to link up with you; it's just time...2021..." - Chipwakala Kasunka

"Who Is Edgar Lungu?"
- Webster Musenge Lengalenga
"It is not greeting my fellow Zambians, which matter. It is the content of what is in the heart. No wonder in Zambia, even when someone is carrying a Bible is said to be a committed Christian." - Vincent Kyamasengo

"So what if they didn't greet? What's the big deal???" - Timothy Manda
"It is not necessary." - Quentin Chileshe Mulenga

Mushimba on railway SI boosting Zambia Railways

Editor,
"It is good news, Hon. Minister to hear about ZR turnaround following the SI. Leadership is about taking hard decisions. Moving forward, the ZR management should look at process improvements regarding turnaround time, security of cargo, rail track upgrades and human resource training. From your office, you can assist in securing cargo off take agreements with the major clients which could assist ZR to secure financing for the above improvements." - Maybin Kombe

"Serious rail line and rolling stock, together with motive power rehabilitation, will surely see the railway transport back on the track. There is always a way to start something from nothing. Big up, Honourable." - Phiri Weston

"But where's the CEO and his Director of Finance, can't be seen for some time?" - Joseph Zulu

"Zambia Railways is short of locomotive engines and wagons; it can't improve its performance suddenly. And the rails are too old, hence the speed limits. The Eurobond money, part of which went to Zambia Railways, was wasted." - Chivunda Samusungwa

Pope begs forgiveness for clerical sex abuse

Pope Francis in Ireland Sunday “begged for God’s forgiveness” for the child sexual abuse scandal rocking the church but faced accusations by a former Vatican official that he had personally ignored allegations against senior clergy.

Francis is due to speak in front of some 500,000 faithful in Dublin’s Phoenix Park as part of his two-day visit to the former Catholic stronghold of Ireland, as abuse victims and their supporters gathered in a “Stand for Truth” rally in the city centre to demand justice.

During Sunday’s address to 45,000 supporters at the rain-soaked Knock shrine in the west of the country, the pope “begged for God’s forgiveness” for the “open wound” of the scandal and demanded “firm and decisive” measures to find “truth and justice”.

The scandal has dogged the visit, and intensified overnight when a former Vatican envoy to the US accused Francis of personally ignoring sexual abuse claims against prominent US cardinal Theodore McCarrick, who was forced to resign last month.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò wrote in a letter published in the National Catholic Register that he had told Francis of the allegations in 2013, but that



Pope Francis at Knock Shrine in western Ireland where begged for "God's forgiveness" over a sexual abuse scandal rocking the church

he had responded by lifting sanctions imposed on McCarrick by predecessor Pope Benedict. “He (Pope Francis) knew from at least June 23, 2013 that McCarrick was a serial predator,” wrote Viganò,” adding “he knew

that he was a corrupt man, he covered for him to the bitter end.” The Vatican said it had no comment to make on the claims. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Saturday directly

urged the pope to take action against abuses and ensure justice for victims worldwide. Francis said inaction over “these repellent crimes has rightly given rise to outrage, and remains a source of pain and shame for the

Catholic community. I myself share those sentiments”. Francis on Saturday also met eight abuse victims, including a woman assaulted by a priest when she was in hospital aged 13 and a man who was illegally

adopted because his mother was unmarried.

In a strongly-worded speech at the start of the pope’s visit, Varadkar said the abuses in Ireland were “stains” on the Catholic Church, the state and Irish society as a whole.

“There is much to be done to bring about justice and truth and healing for victims and survivors. Holy Father, I ask that you use your office and influence to ensure that this is done here in Ireland and across the world,” he said.

He demanded of Francis “that from words flow actions”.

Paul Jude Redmond, who was illegally adopted from a Church-run “Mother and Baby Home” and met the pope on Saturday, said the pontiff appeared “genuinely shocked” by the stories of abuse.

But at a news conference in Dublin on Saturday by the group Ending Clergy Abuse (ECA), victim Mark Vincent Healey said the pope’s speech in Dublin was a “total missed opportunity”.

“We’re still waiting. We’re left with uncertain silence. When is he going to act? What is he going to do?”

This is the first papal visit to Ireland since John Paul II spoke in front of 1.5 million people during a visit in 1979. **AFP**

John McCain, US war hero and political maverick, dead at 81

John McCain, a war hero and towering figure in US politics known for reaching across the aisle in an increasingly divided nation, died on Saturday following a battle with brain cancer. He was 81.

The senator’s passing marked the end of a 35-year political career that brought the independent-minded Republican within reach of the White House as his party’s presidential nominee.

“It’s been quite a ride,” McCain, who was tortured during five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, wrote in a memoir published in May.

“I’ve known great passions, seen amazing wonders, fought in a war and helped make peace. I made a small place for myself in the story of America and the history of my times.”

McCain, who was being treated at his ranch near Sedona, Arizona, was surrounded by his wife Cindy and his family during his final hours.

“He was a great fire who burned bright, and we lived in his light and warmth,” said Meghan McCain, one of the late senator’s seven children -- three of them from a previous marriage.

Near the driveway to his ranch

a sign read “Sen McCain, thank you for your service.”

In Washington, flags on Capitol Hill and the White House were lowered to half mast in his honor. McCain’s body will lie in state in the Capitol rotunda ahead of a funeral ceremony at the National Cathedral, the New York Times reported. He will then lie in state in the Arizona state capitol and be buried at Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Dates for the events have not yet been announced.

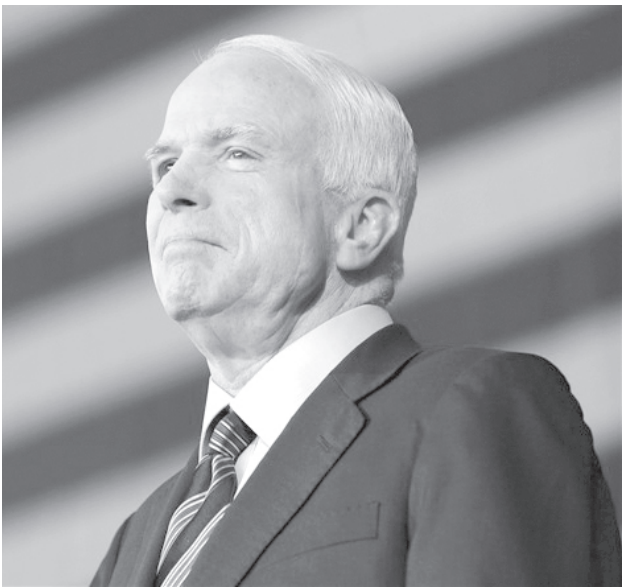
McCain made it known that he did not want Donald Trump to attend his funeral, US media reported.

President Trump, who once mocked McCain’s war record, said he sent his “deepest sympathies and respect.”

A rare Republican critic of Trump, McCain accused the president of “naivete,” “egotism” and of sympathizing with autocrats. He cast a decisive vote last year that killed Republican attempts to repeal Barack Obama’s health care reforms, something Trump never forgave.

All living former US presidents lined up to praise McCain’s deep integrity.

“We are all in his debt,” said



Obama, the Democrat to whom McCain lost the presidency in 2008.

“We shared, for all our differences, a fidelity to something higher -- the ideals for which generations of Americans and immigrants alike have fought, marched and sacrificed.”

McCain “was a man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order,” said Republican George W. Bush (2001-2009).

The late senator requested that

both Obama and Bush deliver eulogies at his funeral, US media reported.

Democrat Bill Clinton (1993-2001) praised McCain, saying he “frequently put partisanship aside,” while Republican George H. W. Bush (1989-1993) hailed him as “a public servant of the rarest courage.”

McCain “was a man of honor, a true patriot in the best sense of the word,” wrote Democrat Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). **AFP**

DR Congo rolls out prototype Ebola drugs as death toll rises to 67

An outbreak of Ebola in eastern DR Congo has killed 67 people this month, authorities said Saturday, as they roll out a battery of new drugs to tackle the virus amid concerns it has spread to a rebel-encircled area.

A total of 105 cases have been reported since the flare-up of Ebola began on August 1 in Mangina in North Kivu province, according to the health ministry, out of which 77 have been confirmed by laboratory tests.

It said 11 people have recovered from the virus and 67 had died.

Health minister Oly Ilunga Kalenga travelled to Mangina on Thursday and saw two patients being discharged after they were treated with a new prototype treatment called mAb114.

“These two people are among the first 10 patients to have received the therapeutic molecule mAb114,” the ministry said in a statement.

Developed in the United States, it is the first therapeutic drug to be used in an active Ebola epidemic in the DRC.

Earlier this week, the health ministry said four other experimental drugs had been approved for treating infected patients.

On Friday, the World Health Organization warned that signs the virus had spread to the city of Oicha in North Kivu could frustrate efforts to contain the virus.

While Oicha itself is not under rebel control, WHO emergency response chief Peter Salama said the city was entirely surrounded by territory held by a feared Ugandan insurgent group known as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Large numbers of civilians have been killed in unrest around Oicha, while aid workers, priests and government employers are currently being held hostage there by insurgents.

On Friday, army troops came under attack in Beni, at the heart of the Ebola-affected region, military and civil sources said.

The assault was blamed on ADF rebels.

No official toll were provided but locals contacted by AFP on Saturday spoke of around 10 soldiers killed. **AFP**

Chelsea required an own goal from Newcastle's DeAndre Yedlin to maintain their 100 percent start to the Premier League season as the Blues ground out a 2-1 win at St James' Park on Sunday. Yedlin deflected Marcos Alonso's shot into his own net in the 87th minute to settle a match that had threatened to end in frustration for Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri. Earlier, Chelsea needed a penalty from Eden Hazard to finally breach a black and white wall erected by manager Rafa Benitez, whose defensive approach succeeded for 76 minutes. The Newcastle manager acknowledged the massive gap in quality between the two sets of players, packing his defence and granting Chelsea the ball for 80 percent of the game. It was possession that they were unable to turn into goals until Fabian Schar's challenge on Spanish defender Alonso produced a penalty. Newcastle responded with

Chelsea leave it late as Yedlin own goal kills off Newcastle

a goal from Joselu in a rare attack and looked set to steal a point before Chelsea's last-gasp winner made it three successive victories for the Blues. Benitez will say his approach was justified and it acknowledged the gap in quality between the two squads. Before this game he earmarked Sarri's team as genuine title candidates and even gave them the edge over Manchester United, Tottenham and Arsenal, so Benitez was never likely to go toe-to-toe with Chelsea. Jorginho, a player Benitez bought while he was in charge of Napoli, prompted intelligently in midfield and Hazard, starting for the first

time this season, twisted and turned as he probed for a gap in

Newcastle's defence that often featured nine men in front of

keeper Martin Dubravka. But too often, Chelsea failed to



find a way through and were particularly frustrated in the first 45 minutes. Hazard placed two shots wide, while Antonio Rudiger and Pedro was also off-target before Pedro finally forced Dubravka to make a save. It was a satisfying half for Benitez, who saw his side create two opportunities on the break when Kepa Arrizabalaga had to save from Jacob Murphy and Salomon Rondon wasted an excellent chance by heading wide. At the interval, Newcastle must have sensed they could collect at least a point, a target that appeared to be more difficult before the start when Benitez was forced to rule out two of his most influential players, Jamaal Lascelles and Jonjo Shelvey. The official line was that both were injured, although there were unconfirmed rumours that a training ground argument between Lascelles and Benitez had prompted the manager to leave him out. *AFP*

Young Buffaloes outwit MUZA after penalties

By Alex Chilumbwe
The battle for K400 000(Barclays Cup) took off on a sloppy side as Young Green Buffaloes and Manchester United Zambia Academy(MUZA) failed to deliver goals in 90 minutes of regulation time. The fans on the other hand were as absent as game thrills that saw the two sides take to penalties. Young Buffaloes beat MUZA 3-1 on penalties with a life-saving clincher that came

from Kabwe Chileshe while the man of the match went to Tyton Zulu of MUZA. Young Buffaloes coach Josphat Mulenga bemoaned the lack of goals in regulation time. "They were attacking very well but could not just score. It is always a good thing to win in regulation time because penalties are hard to deliver and have a kind of anxiety. We managed to defend properly and with little fouls. We could not score but at least kept a clean sheet. Otherwise I'm very

happy that we have won on penalties and got a step closer to reaching our dream of playing in the finals," said Mulenga. Meanwhile, MUZA owner Keith Mweemba said the Barclays Cup was a distraction to the league. He said his side was playing better before they started preparing for the Barclays Cup. "I do not a single bit like the way we have played today. I do not know if my boys were afraid of the pitch and considered it a bigger stage or it was simply

not their day. Our penalties were also taken poorly such that we could only score one out of four. We will now focus on the league games and look at ways of returning to the top of the table," said Mweemba. In another encounter, Mufulira Wanderers beat Real Nakonde 2-1 in an intriguing match that kept fans on their feet up to additional time. Nakonde scored first with an aerial kick from Reinford Kalaba's young brother, Paul Kalaba. The kick took the goalkeeper into the

net as the ball followed suit. Wanderers equalized in the 13th minute through John Goma and hail a very physical and tactical game. Wanderers second goal came in the early minutes of the second half, a second goal from Goma and they managed to keep the lead until the final whistle. Wanderers coach Justine Chinama had boastful remarks about the game. "My team is too good for division one. We knew we would win the game before it started. They

scored first but I was not worried. My players have great concentration and I actually expected them to score more goals. Super league teams should look out for my team as soon as we get promoted to their league. My vision for Barclays Cup is to compete favourably and reach the finals. I'm not scared to face any team in this cup," said Chinama. Young Green Buffaloes will face Nkana in their next game while Mufulira Wanderers will face Zesco United.

By Alex Chilumbwe
The seemingly underdog teams in the FAZ/MTN week 30 games reminded the so called big guns that they would miss shots and fail to collect the much needed results. Zesco United, Power Dynamos and Zanaco football clubs can attest to this truth. A 1-0 loss Zanaco banked was made possible after Napsa's Austin Banda was fouled inside the box by Peter Banda in the 67' minute. The penalty was successfully delivered by Collins Sikombe and that was enough to give the bankers a loss in both home and away encounters. The pensioners managed to shorten their route out of the relegation zone and their coach Muhammad Fathy had hopeful words. "We have managed to beat Zanaco both home and away and I cannot be more excited about it. I'm most excited because we are slowly getting out of the relegation zone. I'm aware the media says we perform better against bigger teams and I agree. My players seem to lack a consistent winning spirit and it can be good if I restored it. Time is moving fast and now I just hope that we win all the remaining games so that we leave the relegation zone," said Fathy. Meanwhile, Kabwe Warriors switched off Zesco United and the blackout was evident in the 1-0 loss they got

Underdogs overpower big guns in FAZ/MTN league

served on the Warriors' soil. The result put Zesco on a 62 point station and could be overtaken by last year's 'title pretenders' Green Buffaloes whose encounter with Nkana

could be one to kill for. Warriors coach Chewe Mulenga expressed happiness towards his side, and hoped the winning trend was maintained in the remaining

games. "We all want the wins especially in tough games like the one we have played against Zesco. They are a very good side and they attack from all angles. We trained

to overcome their speed and we have managed. I just hope we keep winning although you know games change anyhow and it sometimes depends on how your players

are on each day. Otherwise am very happy with the win," summed Mulenga. In other results, New Monze Swallows forced the Uranium boys, Lumwana Radiants to swallow a 2-0 defeat while Power Dynamos could not utilize their scoring power and managed an oily goalless draw against Nchanga Rangers. Kitwe united beat Buildcon 2-1 while Nakambala Leopards beat Forest Rangers 1-0 respectively.

NSCZ warns sportsmen against uncleared trips

By Alex Chilumbwe
National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) has warned sportsmen and women against leaving the country for sports competitions or games of any kind without clearance. The council also said that sportsmen and women should not dread the clearance process which it described as being simple and free of charge. In an interview with Goal

Diggers! council Acting General Secretary Raphael Mulenga said the council had waived charges on clearance adding that there was no need for sportsmen and women to use shortcuts. "We have had cases of players leaving the country without clearance and our worry as a council is being labeled careless and incompetent by other countries because they believe any sportsman

or woman who has traveled abroad got clearance. And clearance is a very simple process as we waived the charge we had sometime back," said Mulenga. Mulenga also urged respective sports associations and federations to impart knowledge in sportsmen and women about travelling to other countries. "It is also the duty of the sports associations and federations

affiliated to us(council) to ensure clearance knowledge is taken to club level so that club members can benefit from it. There are a lot of things that may happen while abroad and because we implement government sports regulations and policies, we will be the first ones to be called to explain on something we have no idea of. This applies to players that come in the country

too. We need to know at all costs if they were cleared in their respective countries so that there are no disparities faced," Mulenga advised. Mulenga further said sports was not only meant to entertain people but also mould its partakers into responsible people adding that they represented the country at high level competitions that demanded good conduct.

YOUNG BUFFALOES KNOCK OFF MUZA

Story page 11

**Dembele, Griezmann give
Barcelona and Atletico
narrow wins in La Liga**



Ousmane Dembele's second-half strike was the difference as reigning La Liga champions Barcelona ground out a 1-0 win away to newly-promoted Valladolid on Saturday to maintain their perfect start to the campaign. It was not a classic Barcelona performance by any means at the Estadio Jose Zorrilla, and they escaped at the death as a Keko equaliser for the hosts was disallowed due to a marginal offside call. Nevertheless, Ernesto Valverde's side now have six points out of six and are yet to concede a goal, with this victory following a 3-0 success against Alaves on the opening weekend. Lionel Messi had scored twice in that game, but he struggled to make an impact here on a dreadful pitch that kept cutting up. Instead it was Philippe Coutinho who came closest to opening the scoring in the first half, his low shot from the edge of the area heading for the corner before Jordi Masip turned it around the post. On a night when Gerard Pique made his 300th appearance in La Liga, none of Barcelona's close-season signings started, although Arturo Vidal and Brazilian winger Malcom came off the bench late on. **AFP**



Isaac Dogboe retains WBO world super-bantamweight crown after beating Hidenori Otake in first round TKO.

Isaac Dogboe made a successful first defence of his WBO world super-bantamweight title by producing a stunning first round stoppage on	Hidenori Otake. Dogboe managed to put his Japanese rival down twice before another flurry of dangerous left hooks forced the referee to call	off the fight after just two minutes and 18 seconds. The 23-year-old continued his unbeaten start to his professional career, with 20 wins in a row -	14 of which have been knockouts. Otake, 37, had never previously been stopped in his previous three defeats. MIRROR
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Everton's Keane sidelined with skull fracture

Everton defender Michael Keane has suffered a small hairline fracture of his skull and will be sidelined for up to four weeks. Keane was carried off on a stretcher in stoppage time of the 2-2 Premier League draw at Bournemouth and taken to hospital following a nasty clash of heads with teammate Idrissa Gueye.	Everton on Sunday released a statement which said the 25-year-old had suffered the hairline fracture but "no other complications" and "will be unable to engage in head contact for between	three and four weeks, from which point he will be able to resume full training". Keane was admitted to Poole Hospital, accompanied by club doctor Dr Aboul Shaheir, before being	released on Sunday morning. The former Burnley player, who had scored his side's second goal against the Cherries, said: "Thank you to everyone for all the well wishes and support. AFP
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