



# Lungu's relatives living in ministerial houses... IT'S SHAMELESS ABUSE - CK

By Mirriam Chabala

President Edgar Lungu is abusing his authority by allowing his relative, Daniel Siwo, who is a junior civil servant, to stay in a ministerial house, National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili has charged. And Kambwili has advised President Lungu to stop mocking Zambians by saying they have a talent of complaining when his government has done nothing else but stealing from citizens.

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## Lusambo trashes Lusaka Mayor's abduction claim

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has rubbished Miles Sampa's abduction claim, saying there was no such report filed at any police station across the

country.

In a Facebook post, Wednesday, Lusambo stated that there should be no cause for fear for investors or anyone as the city still remains a haven of peace for all.

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By Mukosha Funga

The Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) has started restricting electricity supply to at least two Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) transformer in Chingola, leaving only the Nchanga transformer which is also expected to be switched off once the copper processing smelter has been safely shut down. And CEC sources say KCM had been given enough

## CEC shuts off power at KCM

notice, and that technical teams from both sides had worked together in deciding which parts of the mine to

restrict energy.

News Diggers learnt yesterday that KCM was owing CEC in excess of

US\$40 million in unpaid electricity bills and had failed to settle the debt despite several demands.

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## Police arrest two ZNBC employees for stealing digital migration cables

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Commissioner for refugees at the Ministry of Home Affairs Abdon Mawere confers with UNHCR Country representative Pierrine Aylara and during the national stakeholders consultative meeting in Lusaka on Tuesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



*By Mukosha Funga*  
The Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) has started restricting electricity supply to at least two Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) transformer in Chingola, leaving only the Nchanga transformer which is also expected to be switched off once the copper processing smelter has been safely shut down. And CEC sources say KCM had been given enough notice, and that technical teams from both sides had

# CEC switches off power at KCM for failure to settle electricity bill

worked together in deciding which parts of the mine to restrict energy. News Diggers learnt yesterday that KCM was owing CEC in excess of US\$40 million in unpaid electricity bills and had failed to settle the debt despite several demands.

"The agreement that is there is that in situations where KCM defaults on payments for the electricity supply, CEC can give a notice of 14 days, which CEC did in March because KCM has been defaulting for a while. After that notice, KCM had agreed to be settling the

outstanding bill in monthly instalments but they failed to do so for about three months," CEC sources narrated. "That is why they went to effect the shut down on Tuesday because before any restriction of power, teams from both parties work

together to agree what will be shut down and what won't be shut down. where power will be restricted and where it will not be restricted." Sources at KCM also confirmed the development, saying CEC had remained adamant to give KCM extra time to offset the outstanding bill, adding that the power supplier went to give a final 24-hour notice of power restriction on Tuesday. "On Tuesday, CEC came and notified that they would be restricting supply today at 16:00 hours. They have gone ahead to restrict power supply to the two other transformer. The third transformer which is connected to the smelter has not yet been fully affected because it takes time to shut down its components. So

the smelter is not expect to be operational any more, pending the shut down," "You know, the smelter is where production goes on, this is where the copper is refined and smelted and everything. It requires at least five days to be turned off safely, failure to which, it will be millions and millions of dollars in damage." CEC corporate communications senior manager Chama Nsabika, however, said the power restriction had not yet been effected. "The position is that no power restriction has been effected on KCM yet. However, CEC has plans to restrict power supply within this week on account of KCM owing money to CEC in unpaid invoices equivalent to 3 months of power supplied. The plan to restrict supply will proceed unless KCM makes a substantial payment towards the outstanding amount," Nsabika told News Diggers in response to a press query.

# Sinkamba warns Mopani over tailings waste in Kitwe

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
Green Party president Peter Sinkamba has petitioned Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) to immediately take remedial measures at its tailings waste disposal facility in Kitwe West area, which has become a hazard to residents. In his demand notice for control of hazardous dust emissions discharged from the said disposal facility, Sinkamba complained that the facility had been discharging dust emissions in levels which contravened environmental control laws. He stated that the facility had become a hazard to local residents and also to motorists who drive along the Kalulushi-Sabina Road in Kitwe. "We have noted with deep concern that your tailings waste disposal facility, also known as TD5, which is located in Kitwe West area, has for some time been discharging dust emissions in levels, which contravene the environmental control laws. The facility has now become a hazard, especially to the motorists who drive along Kalulushi-Sabina Road. It discharges 'sand dunes' which frequently cause poor visibility for motorists driving along the said road. The 'sand dunes' also cause serious air pollution to communities living contiguous to the said facility, particularly marketeers who trade along the said road," Sinkamba

stated. He demanded for immediate interventions from MCM management, failure to which he threatened to take legal action. "As you are aware, following the expiry in 2015 of

environmental indemnities extended to your company, MCM is now bound by the Mines and Minerals Act of 2015, as well as Environmental Management Act of 2011, to control all forms of pollution from TD5, and other facilities.

We now demand that you take immediate remedial action to comply with pollution control provisions failure to which we will have no option, but take legal action against MCM. Please take this as the final warning," warned Sinkamba.

# Sampa rejects exorbitant child support demands from ex-wife

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa has filed an affidavit in opposition for an order for maintenance of a child in the Lusaka High court, requesting his ex-wife to find a cheaper school for their child saying the current fees of K45,000 per term are too high. And Sampa says the K30,300 being demanded by his ex-wife as maintenance of the child is unreasonable, as he doesn't have enough resources to raise that amount and can only afford to contribute K2,000 as monthly maintenance. His ex-wife, Mwika Mwenechanya, an economist at Bank of Zambia, had filed an affidavit of support of summons for an order for maintenance of the child of the family in the Lusaka High court, seeking the courts indulgence in granting the application for child maintenance and an order compelling Sampa to settle the

current school fees. Mwika had disclosed that since the presentation of the petition for the dissolution of the marriage, Sampa had declined to make any financial contribution towards the child's monthly needs and also declined to pay her current school fees. She stated that unless the outstanding school fees in the sum of \$13,090 were remitted before the due date, the child would not be permitted to attend classes. Mwika stated that she was aware that Sampa had been disposing off family property and had in fact sold stand number 1/28619/M Lusaka for the sum of K200,000 and was in possession of funds to pay the school fees. She further stated that Sampa was also earning a rental income from the 10 flats at the matrimonial home, which

generated not less than K50,000 per month. Mwika stated that she believed Sampa had sufficient income to pay the child's school fees, however he was deliberately declining to do so. "However, I'm aware that currently in an attempt to avoid financial responsibility he has evicted the tenants. That I'm aware that the respondent is merely trying to frustrate all efforts to have him committed to contribute towards the child's upkeep and school fees. That I'm also aware that the respondent spends excessive sums in an attempt to further his political career in the upcoming Lusaka mayoral elections," read the affidavit. However, in an affidavit in opposition filed on August 24, Sampa disclosed that he had no income since 2016 when he ceased to be Deputy minister in the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry, hence he was not able to pay the full tuition fees of the child who was currently at American International School. "I'm duly authorised to depose to these facts from the information within my personal knowledge. That I have been responsible for the payment of the school fees as well as other needs of the child of the family Emmanuella Musonda Sampa. That I have had no income since 2016 when I ceased employment as Deputy minister in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence I have not been able to pay the full tuition fees for the child every term at American International School," read the affidavit in opposition. Sampa stated that the 10 flats referred to by the petitioner, were on the same property as the house he lived in and were developed through a house loan he obtained from Stanbic Bank before he married the petitioner. He disclosed that the income obtained from those flats was used to service and repay that loan and as the result he did not have enough money to even maintain the flats. "As the result of this I have not had enough money to maintain the flats in a proper condition affecting the occupancy of the flats. The income from the flats has been reduced significantly due to their poor condition as only six out of 10 flats are currently occupied on a monthly income of only K21,000," read the affidavit in opposition. Sampa stated that the monthly mortgage repayment on the mortgage was K28,000 and

hence the entire K21,000 realised from the flats was used to service the loan at Stanbic Bank. He stated that he had not neglected to pay school fees for the child as evidenced by his payment of K25,000 on August 9, 2018 towards her tuition fees. Sampa stated that he intended for that to be the final payment at the American International school as he would not be able to pay the exorbitant fees at K45,000 per term. He stated that he had other four children he supported financially by paying their school fees and monthly maintenance. Sampa disclosed that one of the children was also enrolled at American International School but was transferred to a cheaper school because he could not afford to pay the high fees. "It is the same vein that the petitioner should find a cheaper school at which Emmanuella should be enrolled next term. That I can afford to contribute the sum of K30,000 per term towards school fees," read the affidavit. He stated that on his employment as Lusaka Mayor, his monthly salary was K22,000 and therefore the petitioners demand for monthly maintenance of K30,300 was unreasonably high and could not be sustained on his salary. He stated his ex-wife, the petitioner, was an economist at the Bank of Zambia and was therefore not financially handicapped and could contribute towards the maintenance of the child of the family.

# Kitwe police arrest two ZNBC employees for stealing digital migration equipment

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
Kitwe Police on Tuesday arrested two ZNBC employees, a cameraman and a driver, for stealing digital migration equipment worth about K18,000. ZNBC sources told News Diggers that Mathews Moono and a Mr Lukuma

allegedly stole digital migration cables which were 30 meters long. But Copperbelt police commissioner Charity Katanga refused to give details, saying ZNBC was in a better position to give out information. "Call ZNBC, they are also affected so they

will be able to give details. It is their issue so the public relations officer should be in a position to issue a statement," said Katanga. Efforts to get a comment from the ZNBC Kitwe public relations office proved futile as they were unreachable.



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*By Joseph Mwenya in Kabwe*

Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) President Nkole Chishimba says workers in the country should brace themselves for harsher times induced by the swelling national debt which is quickly turning into a national crisis. And Chishimba says he is worried about the continued failure by political stakeholders to dialogue and end the prevailing political hostilities that have engulfed the country. Speaking at Gonde Lodge in Kabwe where he opened a three-day Communication Strategy for Trade Union leaders, Chishimba said dismantling the huge national debt was a mammoth task that called for huge sacrifices from citizens. He said what was even more alarming was that workers in the public sector were likely to suffer another wage freeze. “As the debt crisis deepens and austerity measures begin to take root, it will be practically impossible for government to offer any salary increment to its workers. Our understanding is that government has resorted to the introduction of austerity measures because it has failed to come up with logical alternatives to dismantling both the local and external debt stocks,” Chishimba said. Chishimba said the introduction of 30 ngwee tax for all internet calls was yet another desperate attempt by government to raise revenue to repay the huge debt. “We have every reason to

# Brace for a debt-induced national crisis – ZCTU

believe that this is a tax that was not well thought out. We do not think that there were internal consultations before rushing to announce this measure. These are issues trade unions should question because the performance of the country has been negatively affected by over borrowing and lavish expenditure. Both public



*From L-R: Mr Jan van der Putten - Hilton Worldwide Vice President for Africa & Indian Ocean, Mr Kudzayi Nheweyembwa - General Manager Hilton Garden Inn Lusaka Society Business Park, Hon Joyce Nonde-Simukoko - Minister of Labour & Social Security, Mr Yollard Kachinda - Director General NAPSA*

and private sectors are in serious trouble,” he said. The ZCTU President said introducing taxes to offset national debt was a wrong way of avoiding a national crisis. “It is surprising that government is introducing new taxes everyday as a way of raising money to repay debts. This is a wrong way of handling this matter because you are over-burdening workers with taxes when there is no corresponding increase in their income. The patience of workers should not be taken for granted,” said Chishimba. And Chishimba expressed worry at the constant failure to hold political dialogue meant to end political hostilities that have engulfed the country. “Let us not pretend. The political tension is real and the more political parties delay in holding roundtable discussions, the situation is bound to get worse. Productivity is likely to suffer because some workers will be working in fear,” Chishimba said. Chishimba said some workers had suffered victimisation on political grounds. “We have seen in some instances workers being retired in national interest because of their political affiliation. In a democracy, we do not expect workers to be victimised on political grounds. I know that things are tough but we must also act tough if we are to meet the challenges ahead” said Chishimba.

# Bowman Lusambo rubbishes

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo has rubbished Miles Sampa’s abduction claim, saying there was no such report filed at any police station across the country. In a Facebook post, Wednesday, Lusambo stated that there should be no cause for fear for investors or anyone as the city still remains a haven of peace for all.

# Sampa’s abduction claim

“I have been alerted to a news story doing rounds on international media platforms regarding a statement issued by His Worship the Mayor of Lusaka Councillor Miles Sampa to the effect that he was kidnapped by some known elements while undertaking his official duties in the City. As Lusaka Province Minister, I feel duty bound to set the record straight and allay any fears that Lusaka might be unsafe for residents and visitors unlike. I wish to state that our beautiful City remains peaceful as ever and our law enforcement agencies have continued conducting their normal duties. There is and there has never been any cause for alarm. There is no case of kidnapping filed by anyone at any police station in

Lusaka or anywhere else across the country,” Lusambo stated. He stated that leaders had a moral duty to portray that which did not betray the collective trust and faith of voters. “The country that His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu is governing is peaceful, stable and everyone can freely move across this beautiful country. As a capital city, we mirror the entire aspirations of the nation and it is important that the international community continues to view Lusaka as a haven of peace as it has always been known. For us in leadership, we have a moral duty to portray exemplary traits that do not betray the collective trust and faith that our people have placed in us,” Lusambo added. And he distanced the people of Lusaka from Sampa’s narrative. “Our resolve is to keep attracting local and international investors to Lusaka in our unwavering pursuit for job creation and prosperity for all. It is, therefore, important that I forthwith distance the good people of this great city of Lusaka from the narrative that could be created with this episode,” stated Lusambo.

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

The Lusaka Magistrates’ Court has slapped a 41-year-old man of Lusaka’s 10 Miles area with a K500 fine for wife beating. Brighton Mweemba, a mechanical engineer, has also been ordered to compensate his ex-wife K1,000 and in default, six months simple imprisonment. Mweemba was charged with one count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Particulars of the offence are that on March 18, last year, Mweemba did assault Inonge Muzungu, thereby occasioning her actual bodily harm. Inonge, the complainant and also the accused’s ex-wife, had testified that on the material day her husband sent her to take eggs for hatching at her sister’s place in Kabulonga. She said on her way back, she called the accused because she wanted the codes for the GoTV for her to pay, but his phones were off. Inonge said she then called the

# Court fines Lusaka man K500 for battering wife

accused’s cousin who was at home and he gave her the code. She testified that on her way, the accused called her and asked where she was and when she told him that she was around SOS, the accused asked her to pick him at G3 along Great North road and she picked him. Inonge had further testified that the moment the accused got in the vehicle, he started shouting at her and asked why she had called his cousin and not him. “In the vehicle, I was with our three children. The moment Mweemba got in the vehicle, he started shouting at me and asked as to why I had called his cousin and not him. All the way, he was shouting and scolding at me,” she had testified. Inonge said that when they reached home, the accused started beating her and was only rescued by people who were around. Shesaid she had sustained a swollen cheek and general body pains. “When we reached the house, the children dropped and went in the house. Mweemba started beating me while I was down. I shouted for help and was rescued by people around. I bled from the nose. I went into the car and drove to the police where I reported and was issued with a medical report form. And also went to the clinic where I was attended to. I sustained a swollen cheek and general body pains,” Inonge said. And when the matter came up for judgement before Magistrate Alice Walusiku, Tuesday, Mweemba, through his lawyer, begged for maximum leniency in mitigation. He said he had used the time he was in custody to reflect on his actions and he regretted what he did to the complainant. “We submit that the convict is the first time offender who deserves mercy from this court. The convict has been in custody from the time he was convicted and has used this time to reflect on his actions. He regrets what he did to the complainant. We beg that the court considers a fine and for maximum leniency,” said Mweemba through his lawyer. And passing judgement, Magistrate Walusiku said she had taken into consideration what the accused said in his mitigation, but noted that what he did was regrettable. She said if one was provoked by the spouse, it was better to pull back than resorting to assault. She fined the accused K500, to be given to the State. Magistrate Walusiku further fined him K1,000 as compensation to the complainant and in default, six months simple imprisonment.



# LCC director appears in court for failure to manage waste



World Vision national director John Hasse(left) shakes hands with Rural Electrification Authority CEO Godfrey Musings after signing an MOU on effective coordination in championing electricity uptake in rural communities through smallholder empowerment programs.

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
Lusaka City Council (LCC) director of public health Edgar Mulwanda has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court for failing to manage waste in Misisi and Kanyama compounds. Mulwanda is jointly charged with Lusaka City Council and LCC Town Clerk Alex Mwansa with two counts of managing waste in a manner that results in an adverse effect, as well as, two counts of failure to comply with the requirements of a site restoration order. This follows recent orders which the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) had issued for LCC to comply with restoration orders on some selected sites in Lusaka. Particulars of the offence in this matter are that, LCC, being charged with the responsibility of managing waste within its area of jurisdiction, Mwansa and Mulwanda between January 1, 2018 and August 11, 2018 did manage waste at undesignated sites along the national grid power line, in Misisi compound and at a reserved play park in Kanyama compound. The management of such waste resulted in an adverse effect. And in the third and fourth counts, particulars of the

offence are that the accused failed to comply with the requirements of site restoration order in respect of the Misisi Site in the Kamwala area. However, when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Felix Kaoma, Wednesday, Mulwanda could not take plea because the Town Clerk was not present in court despite being served with the summons on August 23, 2018. LCC in-house counsel Muwowo, who was representing LCC and the Town Clerk (A1 and A2), asked for an adjournment to seek further instructions. This was after Muwowo was advised by magistrate Kaoma that she could only represent the council and not A2 because they were separate persons at law. “A2 must find independent counsels. A2 and A3 are not in-house, they are employees of the council,” said magistrate Kaoma. Earlier, ZEMA in-house counsel Karen Banda could not amend the particulars of the offence on all four counts on the indictment as she was advised to do so when all three accused persons were present in court. The matter has been adjourned to September 4, 2018 for plea.

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
Former finance minister N’gandu Magande says the withdrawal of IMF country representative Alfredo Baldini from Zambia will further jeopardise the country’s chance of accessing a bailout package from the International lending institution. 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. Sources have revealed that since the negotiations for the said bailout package stalled, Zambia started mounting pressure on the multinational lender to withdraw 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. Commenting on the development in an interview with News Diggers! Magande who served under late president Levy Mwanawasa’s administration, said it was possible that the IMF accepted the request for Dr Baldini’s withdrawal from Zambia because the Fund could not see any sign of positive outcomes from the discussions held with the Zambian government. “Dr Baldini would be the one who knows what we have been saying. He is even the one who would know what has been happening in government because he was resident here. So if before we even conclude those discussions then he goes away, that simply means that we have to start all over again. If the IMF sends a replacement, we will have to start briefing

# IMF’s withdrawal of Baldini is a bad sign – Magande

the new representative to try to get him to understand us, that is going to take some time,” Magande said. “So that is the only strange thing that I have noticed. So in a normal situation, the government could have said ‘no, I think this person who has been here long enough and who has been

understanding our issues should not leave while we are having these negotiations with IMF headquarters. It will delay the process because the other man has to understand what you want and then he has to understand what the environment is in Zambia.” He said Baldini’s departure was a bad sign.

“I think even himself; the fact that now he says ‘it doesn’t matter let me go, it simply means he has seen that this mango tree has no flowers [and] so it won’t have any mangoes even if I stay. How can someone leave when the maize is about to be ready for roasting? Because these people in these jobs they actually

get promoted on the basis of what they have done where they were posted. Now that he hasn’t achieved anything so how will they assess him? Next time they need to send him to another country they will say ‘ah but this one, he didn’t manage to get Zambia’ and the more a country is difficult the better if you succeed in getting

them to understand the IMF. But now he has decided ‘it doesn’t matter and that ‘even if it goes on my record, people will understand why I didn’t succeed,’” Magande said. And Mangande said on the other hand it was possible that the IMF saw lack of interest from the Zambian government.

**By Joseph Mwenda**  
Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuka has challenged the Patriotic Front government to explain why it cannot honour MMD founding president Frederick Chiluba by naming him after some of Zambia’s institutions and facilities. Katuta called News Diggers to complain that it was unfair for government to publicly display its hatred for the former Head of State when other leaders like late presidents Levy Mwanawasa and Michael Sata had been named after a number of the country’s institution. “I am concerned about the way Chiluba’s memory is being treated. Chiluba is the father of democracy in this country but he is being treated like he is a criminal, who did he kill anyway? He’s somebody who taught the Zambians how to be self reliant, he is somebody who fought dictatorship for all Zambians. But today they are naming buildings after

# Honour Chiluba’s legacy as well, begs Chiengi MP

the current President but nothing for Chiluba. What kind of politics are these? The legacy of Chiluba has not been respected and it’s like all that he has done has been rubbished and he’s considered a criminal even in his death. Chiluba was never convicted of anything, he was accused and acquitted. So why should the government of Zambia treat the father of democracy like a criminal?” Katuta argued. “If Chiluba with his team didn’t stand up to fight Kaunda, do you think even this PF could have been there today? Or could Mwanawasa have been there? Really, I am very disappointed and I am hurting

by the way they have treated Chiluba and it’s so surprising that all the Zambians are just quiet. I want to know, let the Zambians come with evidence that Chiluba was a criminal. If he committed genocide or whatever else let them prove it. This government of PF should come out to the public and say ‘this is the reason why we cannot honour Chiluba, the father and founder of democracy in this nation. I went to the same school with his children at Lubuto Secondary School and I know what Chiluba went through even though I was young. He was arrested by Kaunda. Where was Lungu? Where was

Sata? Where was Mwanawasa or Rupiah Banda? Today Chiluba is being rubbished, even a toilet cannot be names after Chiluba. In Luapula, the only thing that they’ve given his name to is the University which we don’t even think will ever exist. How can we treat people like this?” Katuka said it was unfair to display hatred for a deceased person. “How can you have hatred for someone who is dead, instead of correcting this to make sure that our children will know that there were forefathers of ours who fought for this democracy we have now. Chiluba was a real democrat,

he’s one Presidents I never heard insulting back those who insulted him in the public. So can this government of PF tell us why when they talk about ‘promoting national unity and not leaving anyone behind’, have decided to treat Chiluba like a criminal,” said Katuta. “And the ministers from Luapula, how can they forget Chiluba? Even appointed ministers like Ronald Chitotela, Nixon Chilangwa, Emerine Kabanshi, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs [Harry Kalaba]. All these guys, how can they forget what Chiluba fought for? I don’t know if there was anything Chiluba did to offend the PF”



*By Mirriam Chabala*  
Senior Chief Ngabwe of Central Province says there are a lot of problems involving land administration in Zambia because there is ignorance in the separation of powers regarding the administration of State and customary land. And Senior Chief Ngabwe noted that government has been converting customary land into State land without signing the convention forms. Chief Ngabwe told Prime TV, Monday evening that the country needed a land policy that would take care of all its citizens, including unborn children. “Where have we gone in the administration of State land or the administration of customary land? Can someone point out clearly what are the lacuna in this area so that we first address those things together as Zambians. Once

# Chief Ngabwe bemoans ignorance in separation of powers governing land

we do that, we should work out a document that is participatory, a document that takes care of all the needs of Zambian stakeholders in all the walks of life, the poor and the rich. We also want a document that preserves land for future generations, a document that represents that Zambian aspiration in terms of upbringing every Zambian to a certain economic level. The current policy by government does not look at these things because if you are going to allow every Jim and Jack to get land wherever they come from, I wonder whether you can go and get land

on title in China or in England or in Russia or America as a Zambian,” Senior chief Ngabwe said. “So why don’t we have a situation where these people can get land in partnership with Zambians for economic development of the country? We [are] prepared to give Zambians land to develop it in partnership with the investors. Because even in UK, you don’t get land, but you buy a house that is on government land. But here, you are giving 99-year leases and then you are converting customary land to State land, what does that mean? It means that you are depleting

the percentage of the customary land you have. The customary land is where the poor majority Zambians stay. So, the convention procedures again have been questioned by us. What we are proposing is that we should come up with a customary land Act to administer customary land and it should be separated from State land. We made a number of suggestions actually in our written reaction page-by-page of the draft.” And Senior Chief Ngabwe noted that government had been converting customary land into State land without signing the convention forms.

“We have a problem; there is no chief who gives title deeds in this country. The chief recommends to the council and then the council makes processes, which go to the Minister of Lands and they are ones who give title and if there is anything wrong in the way a chief has recommended, they can stop it. So, the question is, what is it that has gone wrong in the administration of customary land? Obviously, there may be more [than] one, two chiefs that may have given more hectareage, but still, that could have been stopped at the Ministry of Lands or at the council because you can’t get title if the council has not approved and recommended to the Ministry of Lands. Then there have been situations where customary land has been converted to title without even filling in convention in Form II, which is supposed to be signed by the chief, how does that happen? How can land be put on title when convention Form II has not been filled?,” senior chief Ngabwe wondered. “What is this equitable distribution of land that customary people are not doing? I think as Zambians we just need to be honest and say, ‘let’s come up with a better way of managing land, both customary and State land’. At the moment, we have lost quite a chunk of customary land, it has become State land and some [of] it we don’t

even know how it became State land. So, this is our fear and our main fear is what will the [future] generations come to find? We know of some places, like here in Lusaka, there is no land for the people who are not yet born, where will they be? They will be eternally displaced! And the only inheritance that you can leave for your unborn children is land.” And Senior Chief Ngabwe said that the traditional leadership was prepared to sit down with government and come up with a land policy that represent the interests of all Zambians. “We need a land policy that takes care of people not yet born, a land policy that takes care of ourselves, as Zambians who are alive now and takes care of the economic development of this country; a land policy that will not bring confusion; a land policy that will not bring strife. We are particularly interested that a procedure to do this must be a collaborative procedure. All stakeholders, all Zambians, are intelligent to participate in coming up with a land policy that will be suitable for us. This is not political land so it’s not political party issues; it’s for every Zambian. So here, you should take off your political affiliation and discuss something that is going to affect all of us. And government should be working with chiefs,” said Senior Chief Ngabwe.



Former foreign affairs minister Harry Kalaba with Bishop Clement Mulenga of Kabwe Diocese yesterday

# The Church is not God - Ntewewe

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
YALI president Andrew Ntewewe says the Church should be told that they are not God because their back and forth standing on chairing the national dialogue has been divisive. And ZCID spokesperson Jackson Silavwe says the Church has on many occasions absconded scheduled meetings with the Centre. Speaking when he called-in during the ‘Add Your Voice’ radio programme on United Voice, Ntewewe said the Church had gone wrong. “The back and forth on the dialogue process is not very helpful. In fact, it has been very retrogressive. One wants to believe that as a people we must be able to look at things and what people are thinking. The Church must not be spared, Honourable Silavwe. We must be able to be very clear

if the Church has lost the plot, if the Church has not done things correct, these church leaders are but human beings and because they are human beings, they are not perfect! And it’s important that we do not want to have a situation where we are looking at them as God, they are not God! We have to be very clear, and the Church has to be told that, for instance, they are not supposed to be in the midst of causing division in a very important process of national dialogue. The Church has to be aware that the process started some time back,” Ntewewe said. He added that it was important for the Church to unite the nation and not to divide it. “If the Church begins on a path of saying, ‘who is credible and who is not credible?’ that is dividing our citizens. We felt that the stance and position taken by the Church

is not helpful to our country, we feel that the stance that has been taken [by the church] is very divisive! I think that from the YALI point of view, there is a consensus, and the Church has to be told the truth; they are human beings, they are motto just like ourselves. This back and forth, this pulling of each other in the opposite direction is not helpful. It is important that we go by what we agree at the NDSS at Mulungushi International Conference Centre. It is very important that the Church can unify us and not divide us,” Ntewewe insisted. And speaking when he featured on the same programme, Silavwe said the Church had absconded scheduled meetings with the Centre, and that they were waiting for a letter from State House. “In all the engagements that we have had with the Church,

the Church has never given us any reason as to why they have come up with the position away from what we have stipulated or what the stakeholders have said that this should be the basis of engagement. The only reason that we have consistently been given is that is that, ‘it is our spiritual mandate to reconcile the nation.’ There has been no any other reason communicated to ZCID directly. Now, as ZCID, because all the meetings that we have had with the Church in our negotiations have been called by ZCID, there have been circumstances where we come to the venue and the three umbrella church bodies do not show up for the meeting, and then when we begin to make follow-ups as ZCID, we are told ‘no, they communicated,” Silavwe argued. He said ZCID has taken issue with the Church’s insistence to wait for

instructions from State House. “I remember one time we had organized the meeting that [they] confirmed fully, and then when we arrived they didn’t show up. And when we followed it up, we were told that, ‘we are waiting for a letter from State House’ and as ZCID we took issue that, you cannot participate in the process of national dialogue based on the letter from State House, because State House also itself, maybe a subject of discussion under this national dialogue. And besides that, ZCID is an independent organization. That letter, I don’t know if it came to them, but we took issue and we made it very clear that had State House written the letter they had requested for, for them to come in the national dialogue, then ZCID would have pulled out because we do not take instructions from State House,” said Silavwe.

*By Mirriam Chabala*

President Edgar Lungu is abusing his authority by allowing his relative, Daniel Siwo, who is a junior civil servant, to stay in a ministerial house, National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili has charged.

And Kambwili has advised President Lungu to stop mocking Zambians by saying they have a talent of complaining when his government has done nothing else but stealing from citizens.

Meanwhile, Kambwili says he has not forgiven Presidential Spokesperson Amos Chanda for accusing the him of killing people and he has instructed his lawyers to commence criminal libel proceedings against him.

Speaking to journalists at his Kabulonga residence in Lusaka, Wednesday, Kambwili revealed that Siwo, who was President Lungu’s relative and private secretary, was living in a ministerial house which was unheard of.

“President Lungu must resign on moral grounds for abuse of authority. Abuse of authority is an offence under the Anti-Corruption Act. Who has given this boy who lives here next [to] me, the Private Secretary to the President, a house for a minister? This boy who lives there, Daniel Siwo. He is related to Lungu and he has been [given] a position at State House as Private Secretary, and for the first time in the history of this country, a private secretary lives in a ministerial house free of charge! That is shameless

# Lungu abusing authority by giving ministerial houses to relatives, says Kambwili

abuse of authority of the worst kind! [So] I want to find out from Ministry of Works and Supply, who allocated Siwo this house, because these houses are for ministers. The only people who are allocated these houses apart from ministers from time immemorial are service chiefs. But today, a private secretary to the President is living in a Ministerial house! It’s a house there; I think [house] number five, Lewanika Close. A very junior civil servant living in a Ministerial house just because he’s related to Lungu when ministers are renting houses,” Kambwili charged.

“I know of about five ministers that government is renting houses for, government is renting houses for as much as K15,000 to K20,000 a month when one house has been given to Lungu’s relative who is a private secretary. I don’t even know how he was employed as Private Secretary, and the next house, that’s where Lungu used to live when he was minister. Go and check, he parks a lot of vehicles there, which he has earned through corruption. That house also there is his relative who lives in there. What kind of a President

do we have who can do things with impunity, without respect for rules? Kwena umulumendo uyu alishama. President Lungu alishama (President Lungu is cursed). Permanent secretaries and senior civil servants are renting houses then you go and give a private secretary a house where a minister is supposed to live? I don’t even know what they do at this house, always vehicles coming there. In the night vehicles parked outside I don’t know if it is a centre for deals.”

And Kambwili, the rebel Roan PF member of parliament, said it was unfair for President Lungu to accuse Zambians of being lazy when there was nothing his government had done to improve lives of citizens.

“If there is anything that God doesn’t like is a failed leadership that wants to blame the people for issues that they are supposed to sort out. It is extremely disturbing and annoying to learn that President Lungu was saying that Zambians have ‘a talent to complain,’ instead of sorting out their problems! And he went on to say that they have created an enabling environment for people to resolve their problems. President

Lungu must not tease the poor. Countrymen and women, what enabling environment have they created if they can allow this country to be open to the Chinese who are coming with money that they are borrowing at one per cent to come and compete with Zambians and Zambians of Asian origin who are borrowing at 49 per cent? Surely, if you are Head of State worth your salt who cares for the people of Zambia, can you even go and start teasing them that you’ve created an enabling environment for their businesses to thrive in order to pull themselves out of poverty? Let us have respect for the people that we govern,” Kambwili urged.

“What we are seeing now is that almost all the retail business are Chinese, and they have pushed Zambians out of the retail trade. So, do you expect the people of Zambia to compete? And then you can say as Head of State that, ‘you have a talent of complaining, we have created an enabling environment for you to get yourselves out of poverty.’ If you have failed to govern, the best you can do is to resign! But I will forgive President Lungu because he doesn’t know what it

takes to be in business or to make money because he has made [money] from commissions, corruption and theft within two years” Kambwili urged Zambians to get agitated with leaders who don’t mean well for the country.

“Please, people of Zambia start getting upset, start getting agitated with leaders who don’t mean well; leaders who can come and tease you because they have made so much money, they don’t even know what it takes to make that money to tell you that you have got a talent of complaining. Let Lungu also tell us what talent he has got, we know his talent is theft, corruption and deals. So, if you have got such a talent, it’s easy for you to make money and pull yourself out of poverty with your children and your entire family. But the people of Zambia are not thieves, your Excellency, so have respect for them. You cannot tease them after you have stolen from them, it’s not fair.”

He further said he had not forgiven the State House Press Aide for accusing him of killing people.

“Let me make it very clear here that I have not forgiven Amos for accusing me of having killed people. I will forgive

him for accusing me of being HIV positive because my records are there to see at UTH, and by the way, I last took my HIV test at UTH three weeks ago and the results are there. So, I will not mind about him talking about the HIV, but for him to accuse me of having killed people, let me state that I have instructed my lawyers and the lawyers have written to the Director of Public Prosecutions so that we can prosecute Amos for criminal libel, so that he can justify where I killed those people because that is a very serious statement,” warned Kambwili.

“And I am so shocked that a man at State House can have a record of me having killed people and they’ve left me roaming the streets without being arrested. I have never [been] questioned for killing people and I challenge anybody in Luanshya, if there is anybody I have beaten with [an] iron [bar] who’s lame to come out in the open and say, ‘Chishimba Kambwili beat me with steel and I am lame’. You can’t just wake up and make such kind of allegations without substantiating them! I want him to be taken on through the criminal procedure so that he can go and justify how I killed people. So, I have not forgiven Amos on that score.”

Meanwhile, Kambwili has sent his message of condolences to the opposition UPND over the loss of its Mangango member of parliament Naluwa Mwene who died in a road traffic accident on Tuesday.

# PF’s attempts to cripple opposition parties will be futile, says Musenge

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge has accused the ruling Patriotic Front of embarking on a mission to cripple the opposition by buying off its members.

And Musenge says these attempts by the PF to amputate and silence the opposition will prove futile.

In his statement issued in Kitwe, Wednesday, Musenge charged that the PF was targeting senior members of the NDC as well as others from opposition groupings.

“Attempts by the governing PF to decimate, amputate and silence credible opposition political parties in the country is an exercise in futility! We realize that the PF has also implored medieval and farfetched attempts to silence independent and divergent voices. As a party, we have observed with sadness on

how the PF has been buying opposition members to join the governing party. These induced defections are meant to perpetuate and create an impression that the PF is gaining political mileage. The PF has targeted senior members from the NDC and opposition groupings, such as UPND, to cripple the opposition. In all this, we suspect dirty money is exchanging hands to woo opposition members. Just yesterday, we saw what happened in Eastern Province where the UPND suffered yet another blow after its regional vice chairperson joined the PF,” Musenge charged.

“But all these desperate attempts to mislead the Zambian populace will be short-lived. The people of Zambia will soon speak out and this will be the end of this barbaric regime that has caused so much havoc and pain for its people.

This crusade to cripple the opposition through hook and crook is cosmetic. And the people of Zambia are viewed as docile in the wake of all this political drama. But Zambians aren’t naïve. The people of this great nation are waiting for an opportunity to have their say on this regime through a general election. To our party functionaries countrywide, we appeal to you our noble and gallant members to remain strong, united and steadfast.”

He maintained that the NDC would not fall prey of any made-up defections.

“We in the NDC will not fall prey to these makeup defections to hoodwink the Zambian people and sway public perception. The national leadership of the NDC will continue speaking out on behalf of our poor peasants and general citizenry. As NDC, we have heard

rumours in various forums asserting that we shall fold and go back to the PF. This is totally wrong and far-fetched! The NDC is here to stay and we want to assure our comrades countrywide that the struggle continues. The country is only remaining with a few months before the next general elections are announced. We are not an appendage of the PF and we shall thus remain as a united opposition front. The NDC might be a sprinter or breakaway party from the PF, but the PF, we established and shed our blood for has been hijacked. Hoodlums and crooks have taken over a once great party. To all genuine PF members who believe in the principles of our founding leaders, we urge you to resign from the PF and join the NDC. To our members; go flat out and organize the party in all corners of the country,” stated Musenge.



Opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili says becoming president of Zambia is not his number one priority in politics, but rather to remove PF from power because the ruling party leadership has crippled the country through theft and corruption.

On the other hand, Honourable Kambwili is concerned that a single opposition party may not be able to unseat the PF and form government, hence his call for the opposition to unite and sponsor one presidential candidate in the 2021 general elections.

“Unity of purpose can produce results, and for me I have no problem in teaming up with other opposition political parties to remove this PF before they throw the country into turmoil. And I have said if we come together as opposition, and the people that will come together, choose someone else to be the presidential candidate in 2021, who am I to refuse? Because this it not about myself, it’s about what the people will tell us to do or what they will choose. I am prepared to work with anybody, but if other people are not prepared then obviously we will go into it alone and

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD  
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.  
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26 0965815078/0977708285  
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# Kambwili's right on opposition alliance

we have to face the elections as NDC,” Kambwili said when he featured on a Diamond TV programme.

H o n o u r a b l e Kambwili is right. The reality that a lot of anti-PF Zambians don’t want to hear is that, with all it’s failures in government, the ruling party is getting more and more aggressive in winning elections. This consequently means opposition parties are standing less and less chances of getting into power.

We admit the fact that the UPND remains Zambia’s largest opposition political party, both in terms of parliamentary representation and countrywide popularity, but even they do not have the capacity to unseat PF now without help from

others. In our view, the UPND’s best chance of beating PF was in 2015 when the ruling party was badly hit by a power struggle.

In that election, the PF had no presidential candidate until just over a month before the voting day. With Michael Sata gone, Wynter Kabimba out, and a frustrated Guy Scott trying to sell a visionless contender, the PF was at its weakest. Truth be told, Mr Lungu was a very bad candidate, and even today some people can’t believe that he is Head of State.

It should have been a done deal for the UPND. Its presidential candidate had the entire three months to traverse the country and punch holes in the PF strongholds, leaving no chance for the

divided ruling party to recover. But the visionless PF drunkard whom the majority underrated, ended up Republican President. The next general election was only 18 months away and Mr Lungu managed to take it away from Mr Hakainde Hichilema again.

We don’t know what has changed for the UPND to be so certain that they will beat PF in 2021. Just a few days ago, nature caused another by-election in Mangango Constituency via the death of Honourable Naluwa Mweene (may his soul rest in peace). This is a predominantly UPND stronghold; but we invite our readers to wait and see what will happen to that seat.

We have heard the argument that the PF

is only winning by elections, but will not succeed to go past the next general elections because their attention and resources will be divided. If we existed in a normal democracy with no breakdown in the rule of law, we would be agreeing with that argument. But this is a mafia regime, where criminals are running state affairs and controlling national resources.

How does the UPND explain the fact that they don’t have a single member of parliament in the entire Lusaka Province? Is Lusaka a PF stronghold? No! But why is the ruling party controlling parliamentary representation in the Capital City? The answer is “strategy”.

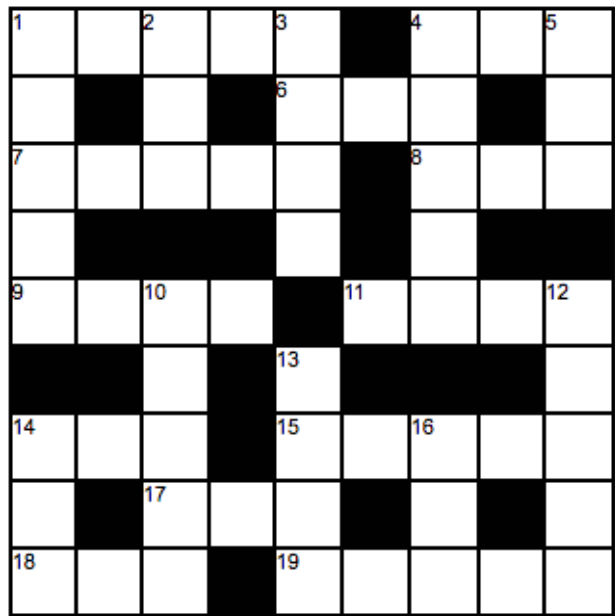
The PF is too sophisticated for any

single political party to beat. They have mastered the art of electoral bullying by first making sure that the Constitution is completely done away with during elections and having blood volumes of money for conducting electoral fraud.

This is the reason why we agree with Honourable Kambwili when he suggests to the opposition that 2021 should be a two horse race. That way, the defeat figures would be too much to manipulate. But the question is, how many opposition leaders can say, like Honourable Kambwili: “I am willing to support another presidential candidate in order to save the country by removing PF?” Very few, apart from the usual cheerleader presidents of one-man parties that escort others every time.

The rest of the opposition leaders are as greedy as those in PF who are ruling us today. They all want to get richer and hold on to power for as many years as possible; without ambitious alliance partners edging them off the throne. With this attitude, we might as well brace for the PF’s continued ruling and looting.

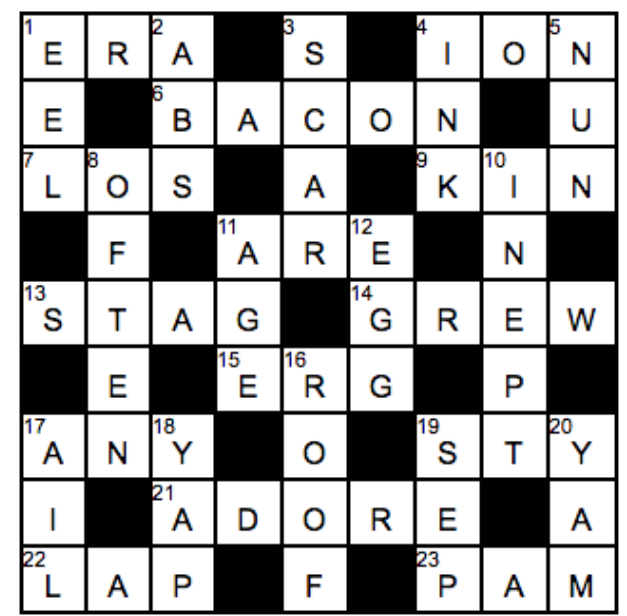
## Crossword puzzle 176



*“Commitment is a promise to a cause. Being non-committal is a promise to catastrophe.”*  
- Craig D. Lounsborough

- Across**  
1. Court figure  
4. Pub order  
6. Over the hill  
7. Midway attractions  
8. Not on  
9. Once around the sun  
11. Brewed beverage  
14. The whole group  
15. Getting older  
17. Bird, like Hedwig  
18. Garage service  
19. Cancel, as a launch
- Down**  
1. Tom's cartoon partner  
2. Crimson or ruby  
3. Wine choice  
4. Idolize  
5. Sprite  
10. Let  
12. Legal privilege  
13. Elaborate party  
14. Sculpture or painting  
16. Witness stand words

## Solutions to puzzle 175





# Reader's feedback

Chibamba right over removal of IMF rep

Brebner's view on Lungu's presidency

Editor,

*"Chibamba being vindicated! You would wonder what runs through the man 'Sunday Chanda'. Cadreism is evil. We ought not to defend something we're not comfortable with for the sake of appeasing the fingers appeasing us. We risk tainting our legacy if there is one to even talk of."* - Carter Mwaba Chongo

*"Kanyama was right and Sunday Chanda was wrong....as usual."* - Christopher Haambote

*"So Kanyama was right, after all?"* - Terence Daniel

*"Kanyama has been vindicated.....!!!"* - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

*"So sad indeed."* - Richard Lenga's



Editor,

*"His presidency has never ever been useful, even on the day he wished to be president, his conscience obviously told him that he's a size 5 and won't fit size 11 boots. Thank God in Zambia we have so many technocrats that have at least tried to play their professional part amidst chipantepante policies, otherwise if all left to this man by now, families would have started eating their dogs and cats."* - Nawa Njekwa

*"It's never been useful."* - Choolwe Mpondamasaka

*"Changala is right; there is nothing this man is doing."* - Happy Zion

*"Whatever Lungu is, he's certainly not a leader. It's for his own good to stay away from the 2021 vote so that both he and Zambians at large can live the lives they are supposed to live. PF can even retain power but it can't be Lungu beyond 2021, he's as useless as they come."* - Moss Mikey

*"Breaking the law with impunity. Chachilamo. And he calls himself a lawyer."* - Christopher Chisefu

*"The dove said it all on the inauguration day."* - Kelly Kay Kalaba

*"Yes, the man is clueless."* - Kool Int

*"Tired of haters who only see bad things in others; for once, your tongue needs to confess at least one good thing done by president ECL."* - Chimfwembe Nguni

## The Church's complaints that Lungu is shunning them

Editor,

*"Let the Church spearhead this dialogue process."* - Chanda Emmanuel

*"Dictator Edgar Lungu and his mentor Rupiah Banda are slowly, but surely, leading Zambia to a disaster; a country which is ruled by a leader without a vision cannot achieve socio-economic progress. So far, there's nothing to indicate that dictator Edgar Lungu wants any dialogue; let us struggle for regime change."* - Chivunda Samusungwa

*"Unfortunately, most of the waffling is coming from those who have little interest in a serious and productive national dialogue. The intelligent ones, among this lot, actually know that the ZCID route is just a highway to nowhere."* - Lawrence Wakung'uma

*"I feel sad. You know when you say the Church who do we refer to? This is about church leaders who don't even consult us, the members (who among them are supreme court high court judges, lawyers, doctors, political scientists, economists, farmers, accountants, teachers elders deacons, deaconesses etc) on these matters. I think the Church goes beyond the 3 church mother bodies where are the rest in this process? UPND was chairing ZCID board*

*when HH was arrested why did they keep quiet? The lack of capacity being referred to should properly be explained."* - Brighton Mulonga

*"The reason a Commonwealth-led dialogue was discarded was to have what we have today: hide and seek and blame game."* - John Muleya

ZICTA's claim on not knowing who will pay the 30 ngwee tariff on Internet calls

Editor,

*"Come on, it's always the poor final consumer who pays, and it's us!"* - Nicholas Nicky

*"It is useless reject it! It seems our govt is failing to concentrate on developmental projects."* - Joshua Mweetwa Mweeka

*"What was the rush, putting the cart before the horse?"* - Malambo O'Brien

*"Let them just shelve it!"* - Mupelwa Mweemba Sichilima

*"Some taxes can prove technicality impossible or too costly to collect. Learn to think things through and not just rushing for the allure of money."* - Lubasi Lubasi

*"I don't know why this PF government is confused everything."* - Charles Mind



# UN demands urgent action amid 'climate of fear' in Nicaragua

The United Nations called Wednesday for urgent action to prevent Nicaragua from descending further into turmoil after months of violent repression of protests against President Daniel Ortega's rule.

In a fresh report, the UN human rights office detailed a wide range of serious violations, including disproportionate use of force by police, which in some cases resulted in extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and torture.

"The violence and impunity of these past four months have exposed the fragility of the country's institutions and the rule of law," UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein warned in a statement, describing a "climate of fear and mistrust".

Nicaragua's descent into chaos was triggered on April 18 when relatively small protests against now-scrapped social security reforms were met with a government crackdown. Those demonstrations mushroomed into a popular uprising, with anti-government protesters facing off against police and paramilitaries supporting Ortega, whom critics accuse



An anti-government protester fires a homemade mortar during a march dubbed "United Nicaragua will never be defeated" in Granada, Nicaragua

of acting like a dictator. Violent actions by police and armed paramilitaries have contributed to a death toll that rights groups put at more than 300, with another

2,000 injured. Wednesday's report said that information obtained by the UN rights office "strongly indicates that pro-Government armed elements, including those

known as 'shock forces' or 'mobs', acted with the acquiescence of high-level State authorities and of the national police, and often in a joint and coordinated

manner." It pointed out that the government, which initially denied the existence of such groups, now "condones their actions and allows them to

operate with impunity." "Repression and retaliation against demonstrators continue in Nicaragua as the world looks away," said Zeid, who is to step down at the end of this week.

The report also highlighted violence by the protestors, pointing to attacks on members of the ruling Sandinista party, government officials and security forces, with 22 police officers killed. "The level of brutality in some of these episodes, including burning, amputations and desecration of corpses illustrates the serious degeneration of the crisis," the report said.

It noted that the sheer suppression of protests during the initial stage of the crisis had given way to a new stage where demonstrators and others seen as government opponents were increasingly being criminalised.

As of August 18, at least 300 people were being prosecuted for having participated in or supported the protests, the report said. **AFP**

## US says air strike kills Islamic State militant in Libya

BENGHAZI, Libya (Reuters) - A U.S. air strike killed a suspected Islamic State militant in Libya on Tuesday, the U.S. Africa Command said.

The strike into the northwestern town of Bani Walid was carried out in coordination with the U.N.-backed government based in Tripoli, it said in a statement. It did not name what it called an "ISIS-Libya terrorist" but residents identified him as Walid Bu Hariba who hails from the central city of Sirte

where Islamic State had its main base in the anarchic North African country until 2016. Residents had earlier reported an air strike on a car in Bani Walid in which an Islamic State militant had been travelling. Photos on social media showed a white pick-up truck purportedly hit by a projectile. Some militants have sought to

regroup in Libya's vast desert and in towns such as Bani Walid, located some 150 km (93 miles) south of the capital Tripoli. In June, the United States said it had conducted two precision air strikes near Bani Walid, killing four Islamic State militants and an al Qaeda fighter. The United States gave air support to Libyan forces that

drove Islamic State from Sirte in 2016, and has continued to launch occasional strikes on suspected militants in Libya since the end of that campaign. The Tripoli administration exercises little control in the OPEC member country, which has been plagued by turmoil since rebels overthrew Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. **REUTERS**

## Nigerian schoolgirl kidnapped by Boko Haram begs for freedom

The father of a Nigerian schoolgirl kidnapped by Boko Haram called on Tuesday for the government to do more to secure her freedom after audio of her begging for help was released.

Leah Sharibu, 15, was taken hostage with more than 100 girls in the town of Dapchi in February, in the largest mass abduction since Boko Haram took 220 girls from the town of Chibok in 2014. She was the only one not released when the others were freed a month later

- apparently because she refused to convert from Christianity to Islam - the freed girls said in March. The government said it was investigating the audio recording, which was circulated by local media this week and is believed to have come from Boko Haram. It is likely a ploy by the militants for ransom money, according to analysts. The Thomson Reuters Foundation could not independently verify its authenticity, but Sharibu's

father said he recognised her voice. "Her mother collapsed and was crying when she heard the audio, but me, I was very happy because I did not think she was alive," Nathan Sharibu told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "People should help to put pressure on the Nigerian government concerning her release," he said by telephone. Sharibu said no one in the government had contacted him. The fact that the girl asks

the president for help in the recording suggests the militants wanted to put public pressure on him, said Ryan Cummings, a security analyst for consultancy firm Signal Risk. "This does indicate that there seems to be some form of negotiations ongoing between the state and the militants," Cummings said. Sometimes militants release similar "proof of life" videos of hostages when asking for ransom money, he added. **REUTERS**

## Robot teachers invade Chinese kindergartens



The Chinese kindergarten children giggled as they worked to solve puzzles assigned by their new teaching assistant: a roundish, short educator with a screen for a face.

Just under 60 centimetres (two feet) high, the autonomous robot named Keeko has been a hit in several kindergartens, telling stories and challenging children with logic problems. Round and white with a tubby body, the armless robot zips around on tiny wheels, its inbuilt cameras doubling up both as navigational sensors and a front-facing camera allowing users to record video journals.

In China, robots are being developed to deliver groceries, provide companionship to the elderly, dispense legal advice and now, as Keeko's creators hope, join the ranks of educators. At the Yiswind Institute of Multicultural Education on the outskirts of Beijing, the children have been tasked to help a prince find his way through a desert -- by putting together square mats that represent a path taken by the robot -- part storytelling and part problem-solving.

Each time they get an answer right, the device reacts with delight, its face flashing heart-shaped eyes.

"Education today is no longer a one-way street, where the teacher teaches and students just learn," said Candy Xiong, a teacher trained in early childhood education who now works with Keeko Robot Xiamen Technology as a trainer.

"When children see Keeko with its round head and body, it looks adorable and children love it. So when they see Keeko, they almost instantly take to it," she added. **AFP**



# He's still the right man!: Giggs rules out replacing Mou at Manchester Utd



Manchester United icon Ryan Giggs has urged the club's fans to get behind under-fire manager Jose Mourinho, insisting that he is the right man for the job. Pressure is mounting on the Portuguese following successive defeats to Brighton and Hove Albion and Tottenham, with the former Chelsea boss defiantly demanding respect at a news conference that followed the latter .

The Portuguese takes his side to Burnley in the Premier League on Sunday looking for a first win since the opening day, and Giggs - who spent a spell in caretaker charge at Old Trafford in 2014 - wants the 20-time English champions to put up a united front.

When asked whether he could replace Mourinho at Old Trafford, Giggs told reporters: "Manchester United have got a fantastic manager already there. "The club are going through a tough time but you've got to come through those tough times.

"I don't see where Manchester United go after Jose Mourinho. I think they've got the right man and they should stick with him.

"I think purely coming from me being a United fan, I was there on Monday [for the Tottenham defeat], I think it's a time for the fans to stick together, get behind the club, get behind the team, get behind the manager, get behind the coaching staff.

"That's me purely speaking as a fan.

"I think it's a tough time at the moment but we've had tough times before and we've come through it.

"They've got a tough game at the weekend. It's a fantastic game to get rid of all that negativity around the club.

"It's a tough game, but purely speaking as a fan, I hope we come through it sooner rather than later. I'm sure we will eventually."

Put to Giggs again that he was among the contenders to replace Mourinho with one bookmaker, the Wales manager replied: "I'd keep your money in your pocket if I was you." *Goal.com*



*'Survival mode' sees Djokovic through at steamy US Open. AFP*

# FAZ GS urges media to exercise patience

**By Alex Chilumbwe**

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) general secretary Adrian Kashala has expressed disappointment over particular media houses that are asking the association the day it will give a verdict of the disciplinary case involving ZESCO United and Nkana football club.

The general secretary noted the media was capable of alarming the public in a matter he described calm.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kashala said he already made known the association's stance on the matter during the official draws of the Barclays Cup

and wondered why some media houses were trying to expedite the process that required both parties present.

"I already stated on the sidelines of the Barclays Cup draws that the disciplinary hearing will only resume when ZESCO is available to sit down with us and other officials from Nkana," Kashala said.

Kashala went on to explain that the delay in holding a disciplinary hearing was due to ZESCO's engangement in the CAF Champions League.

"If some media houses were keenly and closely following football, they would have drawn own

conclusions that ZESCO has been very busy with Confederation of African Football (CAF) league games and they surely deserve time to organize themselves," Kashala said.

He continued to urge petience as he insisted that there was still time to hold the desciplinary hearing and deliver a verdict before the league concludes.

"Each club has eight or nine games before the FAZ/MTN super league is concluded so there is still time to pass the verdict. It is not something that can consume all this time, we were just allowing ZESCO to have good concentration on CAF games. I therefore

appeal and urge some media houses, as well as the public to be a little bit more patient with us, we will surely give the verdict," said Kashala.

The disciplinary matter arose from a previous game between the two teams. ZESCO was down 2 goals when the referee awarded Nkana a penalty with only a few minutes to be played before the final whistle.

In protesting the penalty decision, ZESCO fans started stoning the opposition players on the pitch before their Nkana counterparts returned the favour.

As the chaos escalated, the referee called off the game in a bid to prevent more violence.

Meanwhile, the local football governing body had also summoned ZESCO United coach George Lwandamina on 25th August in a case where he was heard using abusive language, and threatening match officials during week 12 fixture on 19th May at Edwin Imboela stadium against Green Buffaloes FC. Lwandamina was red carded after using alleged vulgar language on a match official in ZESCO's 2-0 defeat to Buffaloes.

# Korfball courts coaches in sport promotion

**By Alex Chilumbwe**

Korfball federation of Zambia has advised its coaches to not relent and attain the highest possible coaching qualification as a way of growing the sport in the country.

Federation president Kangwa Kaluba said he was aware that the highest coaching qualification could take up to four years to be obtained and encouraged would-be coaches not to relent.

Speaking to Goal Diggers! Kaluba noted the need to first have qualified coaches in the sport and

later roll out a capacity building programme that would spread the sport in all parts of the country.

"I know those that want to be training Korfball players can be discouraged when they discover that it takes a maximum period of four years to attain the highest coaching certificate. They should also be proud that this is a stage by stage process such that each year, one ascends to another stage. The whole point of ensuring we have qualified coaches is to grow the sport countrywide. The qualified

ones would then have own students under them and just like that, the chain will keep growing. We cannot talk about taking it countrywide if qualified coaches are all in the midlands. Like Handball, the game of Korfball is friendly to both genders so we need as many female coaches as possible," Kaluba said.

Kaluba also said the competitiveness of players in Lusaka was encouraging and needed to be sustained in order to come up with a stronger national team.

"The competition has become very

tough among midlands players. I took time to visit them during a training session at Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) and I was pleased to note high level competitiveness. They are young and middle-aged players with undeniable passion. As a federation, we now have a task of maintaining them, and training more of them so that we are never out of talent," said Kaluba.

Midlands Korfball league games will resume this Saturday after a two weeks break.





## Thai 'dwarf giant' boxer surpasses Mayweather record with 51st win

Thai boxer Wanheng Menayothin grabbed his 51st straight victory Wednesday in a long but lop-sided bout against a fighter from the Philippines, defending his WBC title and surpassing the undefeated record of boxing legend Floyd Mayweather Jr. The 105-pound minimumweight champion, nicknamed the "dwarf giant" for his compact build and heavy hitting style, won on points after a bruising 12 rounds against Pedro Taturan in the Thai city of Nakhon Sawan. *AFP*

## Son scorches Vietnam as Koreans reach Asian final



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min played a captain's role as South Korea beat plucky Vietnam 3-1 to reach the Asian Games final on Wednesday. The World Cup star, who is missing the start of the Premier League season to represent his country in Indonesia, is

now just 90 minutes away from a gold medal that would spare him a career-threatening spell of military service. "I'm ready, I don't think I need to say anything more," said Son, refusing to be drawn on the subject. "We're close to winning gold, to making

history, and we will fight for it." A double from Lee Seung-woo and another goal from free-scoring striker Hwang Ui-jo sent the Koreans through to this weekend's final, where they will face fierce rivals Japan as they chase a record fifth title. *AFP*

# SHIPOLOPOLO TO FACE CAMEROON

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
The Zambia women national team has been drawn in Group B alongside guest team Cameroon, Lesotho and Mozambique in the race for the 2018 Cosafa Women's Championship to be staged in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality from September 12-22.

The draws were conducted yesterday morning in Johannesburg. Hosts and defending champions South Africa were grouped alongside Botswana, Madagascar and Malawi while Group C will have Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Namibia and Uganda. Shipolopolo coach Enala Simbeya has been drilling her team in Lusaka

ahead of the tournament with her main focus being changing her girls' approaches towards games. Simbeya is hoping to inspire the team to do better than last year's third place finish attained in Zimbabwe. In an interview with Goal Diggers! She expressed her sentiments

towards Cameroon which seemed the most stubborn in the group. "We will not underrate any team in our group. West African countries play very good football and we will play better than their good. They are a stubborn side from several of their games I have watched and we will also bring it on. We are

looking at beating the previous COSAFA performance where the team finished third. It will not be easy but we will do our very best," said Simbeya. Zambia is also due to compete at the 2018 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana in November after having qualified.