



NDC joins civil society protest against Zambia - China deals

WE'VE BEEN SOLD



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge says Zambians must fight to stop the cancer of Chinese loan projects that are riddled with corruption and only go to satisfy the lavish lifestyles of the ruling elite.

On Friday last week, civil society organisations, among them ACA, NGOCC, ZCSD and ActionAid, challenged government to stop and think about the consequences of its continued reckless borrowing from China; warning that failure to listen would cost PF votes at the next election.

BY PF

And Musenge has dismissed the reasons advanced by PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza that Chinese-funded projects should be supported since local contractors have no financial capacity to handle huge contracts. Meanwhile, the former Copperbelt

Province minister has complained that his children cannot be employed anywhere because they are carrying his surname. The Patriotic Front has insisted that citizens need to accept Chinese-funded projects because they are self-financed. **To page 6**

Govt to narrow public service wage bill, plans K84.6bn budget

By Stuart Lisulo

Government has projected to roll out a K84.6 billion national budget next year expected to be supported by increased tax revenues amounting to around K7.4 billion more than last year's budget.

And government has

proposed to keep debt interest payments to an average K14.4 billion per annum over the medium-

term period (2019-2021), and to narrow the public service wage bill with a cut in recruitment. **To page 4**

Democratic Party's court victory excites Kalaba

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HAKAINDE HICHILEMA IS A GENTLEMAN

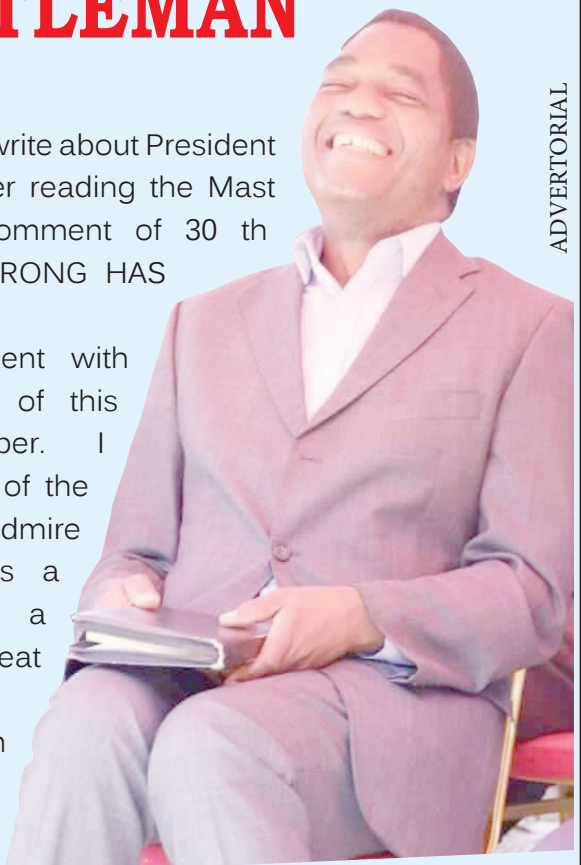
By Greg Kabombo

Today I am motivated to write about President Hakainde Hichilema after reading the Mast Newspaper Editorial Comment of 30 th August, 2018 "WHAT WRONG HAS HH DONE?"

I am in total agreement with the editorial comment of this revolutionary newspaper. I may not be a member of the UPND as a party but I admire Hakainde Hichilema as a brother, politician and a fellow citizen of this great nation.

Indeed, the big question is what has Hakainde Hichilema done?

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ADVERTORIAL

HAKAINDE HICHILEMA IS A GENTLEMAN

From front page

What has HH done to Zambians, what has HH done to the PF and all those in power apart from exercising his fundamental rights of taking part in the civil and political activities of our great nation? I do not know HH at a personal level but from what I have read, seen, heard and imagined, the man is of sound mind and a “gentleman”. He is a patriot and a faithful citizen of this great nation. I am delighted to refer to him as a “gentleman” because of his actions and position on several issues that affect citizenry and the nation at large. Yes at times he may have played politics but politics is for politicians of which he is and at times he has failed to live by the title or name of leading the biggest opposition political party. In all this, the good outweighs the bad in him. Hakainde Hichilema has been abused by those in power ever since he joined politics. They started by painting him black for

his consultancy services during the privatisation exercise of some parastatals. The privatisation narrative has been used by those in power whenever its election time. However, those who know the truth about his involvement in the privatisation exercise have trashed the allegations as nonsense and mere political propaganda. Hakainde Hichilema has taken part in about five general elections with his performance improving at every election albeit claims of massive rigging by those in power and lack of an even playing field. These are elections were the system favours those in power. The public media only covers those in power and the opposition have to depend on their resources to communicate their message to their supporters and voters. Holding of rallies or use of the airspace is restricted. This is despite the law being clear on the need to only inform the police of the intention to hold rallies. The police have

repeatedly abused the public order ACT to deny HH and his opposition party from meeting and sharing ideas as espoused in a democracy. Hakainde Hichilema has been arrested, humiliated and slapped with frivolous charges which have resulted in nothing but shame on his political competitors. On 11th April 2017, HH was arrested and charged with treason. Treason in Zambia is a serious felony where if convicted by the courts, punishment is death. Instead of charging HH for a road traffic offence, the state picked on Treason. The aim was to kill his political fortunes during the incarceration and to disturb his political party sympathisers. And as expected, the state entered a nolle prosequi because the charge was political and nothing else. This is just one of the main cases where HH has been humiliated by the state. Surprisingly, despite the PF being the most tribal political party

in the history of this country, they have turned around the tables pointing fingers at HH as running an ethnic centred party. They have done all they can to make HH and his party appear as tribal as it can. They have hired all sorts of political mercenaries to cultivate this in people’s minds. But since lies have short legs, we have recently witnessed videos emerging from eastern province the stronghold of the PF and the home province of the PF president who is also the Republican President promoting tribal politics. The head of state has openly expressed concern that members of his own party are practicing tribal politics. Now, if these easterners can be fighting one another based on who is who within the province, how will small tribes like Nkoyas of western province survive in this country? The party in power is PF and the leader is not HH. How then is HH mentioned whenever the talk of tribalism is triggered? Your guess is as good

as mine. Recently, there has been manoeuvres to take a Bill to parliament with the plan of barring HH from contesting future elections based on the fact that he has participated in five past elections. We have also heard that the PF are doing everything possible to force UPND to go for a convention and change its president. PF are in the forefront pushing for this change. Hakainde Hichilema is a gentleman. With all these bad things happening to him and his political party, he has kept his cool. HH is on record appealing to the law enforcement agencies to work professionally for the safety and security of the nation at large. He is on record calling on citizens to co –exist despite the differences. He is on record calling on the church to pray for the nation and reconcile the political differences that have emerged since the 2016 disputed conditions. He is on

record stating that his party is ready for dialogue with the PF without any conditions. Ideally as the aggrieved party, HH was expected to put across an array of conditions before the dialogue process but he has decided to go on unconditionally. He is on record calling on the ruling PF to lead the country using the principle of Rule of Law by respecting governance institutions.

Hakainde Hichilema is a gentleman because despite the several frivolous charges he has faced, despite the continuous violations of his human rights, despite the courts denying him an opportunity to be heard when he petitioned the 2016 general elections, despite the PF fighting him emotionally and physically at times, he has kept himself and his party resolute. He has chosen the most civilised means and ways of resolving whatever challenges he and his party have faced. He has petitioned the courts despite the courts letting him down on several occasions. HH has stayed within the law and has been following the law. He is a law abiding citizen. Hakainde Hichilema remains a gentleman and the UPND are privileged to have him as their leader especially now that the party in power does not believe in democracy. I shudder to think what would have been the state of the opposition in Zambia today if HH was not at the helm of UPND. Zambia as a country needs HH more than he needs Zambia. And yes, Hakainde Hichilema is a gentleman who has a lot to offer especially to all those aspiring for political offices. There is a lot to learn from HH. *God Bless Zambia Greg Kabombo. Social Commentator.*

USAID donates \$600,000 to support refugees in Luapula

By Abraham Kalito

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Food for Peace Office (FFP), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), has pumped in over US \$600,000 to support refugees in Luapula Province. In a statement issued by newly-appointed US Embassy public affairs officer Sean McIntosh, the funds are expected to procure 800 metric tonnes of food, enough to feed about 15,000 refugees for three months. “The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Food for Peace Office (FFP), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), has committed over US \$600,000 to support refugee food needs in Zambia’s Luapula Province. With funding provided by the American people, WFP Zambia will procure 800 metric tons of food, enough to feed roughly 15,000 refugees for three months. Most of the donation will consist of locally-purchased cereals, beans, and peas. The procurement will come from smallholder farmers and local aggregators to help benefit local wholesalers and stimulate the economy, while also being cost-effective for reaching nearby refugee settlements,” read the statement. USAID director Patrick Diskin stated that USAID was looking forward to continue its partnership with the WFP to address the crisis. “We look forward to USAID’s ongoing partnership with the World Food Programme as we join Zambia in caring for regional refugees during this crisis. Through Food for Peace, the United States is helping meet the food needs of refugees in Zambia and around the world,” Diskin stated. According to the statement, the ongoing conflict in the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to a significant influx of refugees into Zambia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Zambian government’s Office of the Commissioner for Refugees estimate that 15,000 people have crossed into Luapula Province in Northern Zambia since

August, 2017, 80 per cent of whom are women and children. WFP Zambia country director Jennifer Bitonde acknowledged that the support from the US government in promoting food security for the Congolese refugees in Zambia’s Nchelenge District. “This contribution is an important signal that the

refugees are not being forgotten, and a recognition of WFP’s efforts to respond to their plight,” stated Bitonde. Some refugees travelled for up to three months to get to Zambia, and have arrived in poor condition, with many having been victims of violence. The U.S.-supported food relief will directly assist the refugees

to meet their food needs, while housed at Zambia’s Mantapala Refugee Settlement, according to the statement. USAID’s Office of Food for Peace partners with other entities to reduce hunger and malnutrition, and to ensure that all individuals have adequate, safe and nutritious food during difficult periods of transition.



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By Zondiwe Mbewe

A former chief education officer in the Ministry of General Education has sued the State and the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) in the Lusaka High Court, demanding for an order that his termination of service before his preferred retirement age, is premature, malicious and wrongful. Peter Kakoma Kasaji has alleged that the TSC, acting on behalf of the President, had retired him in July this year from the civil service in national interest before his

Former civil servant sues State for early, wrongful retirement

preferred age of retirement. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Wednesday, Kasaji, who has sued the Attorney General Likando Kalaluka as the first defendant and TSC as second defendant, stated that prior to his

purported retirement, he was a civil servant working as Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of General Education. He stated that he entered the civil service as a teacher in 1985 where he served in various

capacities until July 6, 2018. Kasaji stated that in November, 2014, government passed a Statutory Instrument, being Public Service Regulations, in which it revised the retirement age for public service workers to either

55 years early retirement, 60 years normal retirement or 65 years late retirement. He stated that in 2017, he was given together with other public service employees, ‘staff returns forms’ to complete where they were required to

indicate the retirement option one desired to retire at, and he indicated the normal retirement age. “The plaintiff indicated the normal retirement, 60 years, as his preferred age of retirement,” read the statement of claim. Kasaji disclosed that on July 6, 2018, he received a letter from the Permanent Secretary for Administration captioned ‘staff retirement in the national interest’, which was ‘wrongly’ addressed to him. “On July 6, 2018, the plaintiff received a letter from the Permanent Secretary for Administration in the Ministry of General Education. The said letter was wrongly addressed to the plaintiff as Chief Curriculum Specialist [assistant director] when in fact he had been transferred to the Department of Teacher Education and Specialist Services as Chief Education Officer [Assistant Director],” further read the statement of claim. He stated that he was informed in the same letter that TSC, acting on behalf of the President, had retired him from the civil service in national interest with effect on July 6, 2018. Kasaji stated that he had neither been offered another appointment in the public service, nor had he been informed of the government policy pursuant to which the Teaching Service Commission had retired him. He stated that his purported retirement was premature, malicious and, thereby, making the termination of his service wrongful. Kasaji lamented that as the result of the premature retirement, he had lost remunerations, benefits and privileges he would have received and enjoyed, had he worked up to his preferred age of retirement. He now claims for an order and declaration that his purported termination of service is premature, malicious and wrongful. Kasaji is further claiming for compensation and damages equal to the remunerations he would have received in the remainder of his contract of service, an order that his pension be calculated as though he had retired at the age of 60 years, damages for mental strain and anguish, as well as costs.



ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION FOR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAILER

The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) would like to remind members of the public that it is a requirement under the Road Traffic Act No. 11 of 2002 that change of ownership for a motor vehicle and trailer should be done within fourteen days from the time a person buys a motor vehicle or trailer.

The Agency has noticed with dismay an increase in the number of cases regarding failure to change motor vehicle and trailer ownership and is therefore appealing to members of the public who have not done so, to adhere to this requirement forthwith.

In accordance with Section 13(1)a of the Road Traffic Act No. 11 of 2002, the Seller is required within fourteen days of the sale to notify the Agency of the name and address of the new owner as well as the date of change of ownership. Failure to give notice of the sale constitutes an offence and is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand penalty units or Kwacha equivalent K300. Additionally, the motor vehicle will be impounded until all formalities for change of ownership are finalised.

Further, Section 10 (4) and (5) of the Road Traffic Act No. 11 of 2002 compels the buyer on the other hand, among other things, to within thirty (30) days of the acquisition of the motor vehicle or trailer, within Zambia to present the vehicle together with the letter of sale, Change of ownership certificate and registration documents to Zambia Police for clearance. Failure to present the vehicle for clearance with the Zambia Police also constitutes an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand penalty units or Kwacha equivalent K60, 000. 00. To this end, all vehicle and fleet owners who have sold vehicles and change of ownership has not taken place are hereby given 14 days from the date of this notice to notify the Agency of the sale and the details of the new owner. Failure to do so will result in prosecution of the offender and impoundment of the vehicle. Equally, the buyer is also advised to change ownership of acquired vehicles.

The requirements for change of Motor Vehicle and Trailers ownership are:

- Letter of sale/Transfer;
- Change of ownership certificate;
- Original motor vehicle or trailer registration certificate;
- Zambia Revenue Authority tax clearance certificate for change of ownership;
- Copy of Identity for both the buyer and the seller –NRC copy or Certificate of registration or incorporation;
- RTSA physical inspection report at fee of K46.80;
- Zambia Police clearance report from Anti-Theft of motor vehicle department;
- General affidavit;
- Form MVR 1 [signed by both parties-seller and buyer] obtained from RTSA Registration Centre; and
- Fee payable is K433.80.

Kindly take this as an official notification.

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LUSAKA

By Stuart Lisulo
Government has projected to roll out a K84.6 billion national budget next year expected to be supported by increased tax revenues amounting to around K7.4 billion more than last year's budget. And government has proposed to keep debt interest payments to an average K14.4 billion per annum over the medium-term period (2019-2021), and to narrow the public service wage bill with a cut in recruitment. According to the government's

Govt to narrow public service wage bill in 2019 budget projected at K84.6 Bn

Green Paper released last week ahead of the 2019 national budget, a total amount of K84.6 billion is expected to be spent in next year's budget, up from last year's K71.6 billion. Tax revenues amounting to a total of K47.5 billion has been projected to support next year's budget, representing around 15.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), up from K40.9 billion in last year's budget, while non-tax revenues are expected to marginally climb to K8.4 billion,

up from K8.2 billion last year. According to the Green Paper, availed by the Ministry of Finance, Zambia's GDP has been projected to grow to over K300 billion next year, up from K277 billion last year. Total revenue generation expected for next year's budget is K55.8 billion, representing 18.6 per cent of GDP, up from last year's K49.1 billion. Government is also expected to increase spending on personal emoluments next year to a total of around K25.1 billion, up from last year's K23.1 billion. And a detailed breakdown of the Green Paper further shows that government intends to keep a lid on debt interest payments to around K14.4 billion per annum over the medium-term. "Over the past few years, Government had embarked on an expansionary fiscal policy in order to develop public infrastructure such as roads, health facilities and schools, which was largely financed by both external and domestic borrowing, resulting in increased debt service obligations. To this effect, expenditure on interest payments is projected to average K14.4 billion or 22.5 per cent of domestic revenues per annum, over the medium-term," the Green Paper states. This projection, however, is in the wake of government's higher than projected debt servicing costs for the 2018 national budget. According to policy think tank,

the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), debt servicing costs in this year's budget were projected to be no more than K6.6 billion for the half-year ending June 30, but government ended up with a total debt servicing cost of K9 billion during the sixth-month period. And data from ZIPAR also reveals that government actually added US\$1.3 billion, or roughly K13 billion, to the total debt stock in just a six-month period between January and June this year. Meanwhile, the Green Paper further states that government proposes to limit the public service wage bill, which typically gobbles around half the budget. "Expenditure on personal emoluments as a share of domestic revenues still remains high at 47.1 per cent in 2018, thereby, constraining other developmental expenditures. Therefore, over the medium-term, government will ensure that the public service wage bill, as a share of domestic revenues, is narrowed to not more than 40 per cent by 2021," states the Green Paper. "This will be achieved by restricting recruitment to only front-line personnel and ensuring that annual wage adjustments are made in the context of the resource envelope. In this regard, a provision of K808.7 million has been allocated over the medium-term to cater for the recruitment of approximately 15,500 front-line personnel."



Peoples Party leader Mike Mulongoti with his counterpart New Labour Party leader Fresher Siwale at Woodlands Police Station shortly after visiting the Republic Progressive Party leader James Lukuku who was arrested for demonstrating against Chinese influence on Zambia in Lusaka on September 5, 2018 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

SA's recession may affect Zambian economy – ZACCI

By Abraham Kalito
South Africa's economic recession may negatively affect the Zambian economy in the short-term as much of that country's finished products end up in the local retail sector, says the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI). Commenting on the technical recession South Africa is now in where real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in that country slumped to -0.7 per cent in the second quarter of this year, ZACCI president Michael

Nyirenda said that Zambia was likely to be negatively impacted in the short-term owing to the heavy dependence on that country's finished products for the local retail sector. South Africa is Zambia's second biggest source of imports, accounting for 24.4 percent, after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). "As a business chamber, whether operating in Zambia or not, we want an environment that is always conducive for doing

business. So, definitely South Africa, it is unfortunate that they have gone through a recession. Seeing that we are trading partners and more so that South Africa is actually our biggest trading partner, we might have negative effects in the short-term, but maybe not in the long-term. We need to be looking at in terms of what has happened of course the first thing is to say, look, it may not show today, but it may have these effects in terms of immediate things that as you and me are aware, most

of our products and finished products on our shelves actually come from South Africa. So, the immediate reaction in the short-term is that, we might be affected in that, if the production is affected by this, the productive sector in South Africa, that might affect us in terms of what will be available in our shelves seeing that most of our retail outlets in Zambia stock South African finished products," Nyirenda told News Diggers! in an interview. "I personally heard that sad news and development coming from

our biggest trade partner. As ZACCI, we are concerned about this development and definitely are looking at what the likely impact will be. Without discussing the South African economy, we hope this will not affect our trade relations negatively. If indeed this development brings a reduction in the productive capacity of South African businesses, I would implore our businesses in Zambia to look at alternatives, especially imports coming out of South Africa. Every challenge brings with it an opportunity

and probably, that is the way we must look at this issue." Nyirenda, however, added that Zambian businesses needed to take the current recession in South Africa as an opportunity to improve on the quality of local products and to find alternative trading partners. "It's high time that we broaden our trading partners to ensure that we are not directly affected by what happens in other countries. We need to be doing value-addition and this is why we have to integrate in Africa. Free trade is about what do we need to do to our products? Standardisation and quality control are very key. We need to wake up and re-group to ensure that we have many more trading partners or start adding value to our own. We need to ensure that our products are up to standard so that when they hit the foreign markets, they do not give problems to people. Chain store markets do not want to be associated with products that are not up to standards because they know that such can destroy their name. That is why honey from Zambia has been banned from South Africa. It could be that it is not up to standards. We need to improve the quality," said Nyirenda. "Mind you, these retail stores have standards. If the recession impacts Zambia negatively, then this might be an opportunity for us to change trading partners. They say when one door closes, another opens."

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International lenders will soon start grabbing Zambia’s assets over failure to repay loans – Andyford

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda has warned that other countries will soon start grabbing Zambia’s assets because the PF government is clueless on how to raise money to repay debt. In an interview with News Diggers! Banda observed that over taxing citizens as a way of raising resources to repay debt would not work. What’s going to happen eventually is that first the government will realize at a later stage that this was not the route because they will not raise enough taxes from taxing people. And then when they realize that, they will start defaulting on these debts. Trust me this government does not have ideas on how they are going to create enough money

to pay debts, so all these assets that they are putting to get debt from different countries, trust me, sooner or later we will start seeing some of these assets being grabbed,” Banda warned. “And trust me, everyday, businesses are hurting, they are closing down as many youths have got no jobs. All they know is to buy votes when it’s time for by-elections and time will come when people will realize that enough is enough and I think that will be the fall of the PF government.” He said the PF was only good at borrowing. “They don’t have ideas, they don’t know how to run an economy, they don’t know how to empower businesses, they don’t know how to empower people, they don’t know how to

create opportunities for jobs. The only thing that they know is just to rushing looking for loans. Like right now, I can tell you that as a country we don’t have any aspirations, the only aspiration that we have is to find a way of paying the debt. But the government is not coming up with ventures apart from taxing people, ventures that would help increase the tax base by empowering people. The only thing that they know is to create new taxes from the few people who have some income,” Banda said. Hecondemnedgovernment’s move to recover the loans from people who benefit

from the higher education loans scheme without consulting stakeholders on how to go about it. “The government is trying to milk money from Zambian people in any way they can do. I am sure from the 30Ngwe tax, to the bursaries, to the borehole taxes, there is a lot that is coming. And you see the problem is that they will just say ‘oh, these people already went to UNZA, so let’s recover’ and those people don’t have a choice because they have already been to UNZA. They will say let’s charge tax on internet because they know that whether they charge tax or not, you are

going to pay, you are going to use internet to call or whatsapp. Now this should be scary because the budget is about to be announced. Our fear is that there will be a lot of taxes that may be introduced,” Banda said. “A number of taxes may go up just for the government to recover some money and I think that is the only solution that they think they have. But like I have always said, the government needs to understand that it cannot tax itself into prosperity. They need to create opportunities for each and every Zambian, not just opportunities for PF aligned individuals. If they are going to always limit the cycle of people who can make money, then it will be difficult for the economy to be sustained because the economy can only be sustained and supported by the buying power. Now the buying power is not just in one individual with a lot of money. The buying power is in a whole lot of individuals with little money. Now they want to be doing things like

just milking people,” he said. Banda asked government not to introduce any more taxes but create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. “This loan recovery from the students I think it’s about government lacking ideas of how they can create an environment which is able to produce more jobs and support more businesses. They don’t have ideas on how they can ensure that they increase the buying power in the market for them to create more taxes from people buying more products because you must remember that for every product that you buy, you pay tax, but they don’t have ideas, they are blank. To that’s a situation right now. And our advise in the same vein is that as they prepare for the national budget, we should not see more taxes being introduced as a way of increasing revenue. We hope that they keep their taxes where they are and find a way of creating an environment for job and wealth creation,” said Banda.

Democratic Party’s court victory elates Kalaba

By Joseph Mwenda
Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba says now that the court has nullified the deregistration of the Democratic Party (DP), Zambians must support the political movement which he is leading. And Kalaba says he will re-look the invitation letter from DP to contest the presidency on its ticket in 2021. Meanwhile, Kalaba has wondered where government is getting the new breed of Chinese nationals who are doing everything in Zambia. On Thursday, the Lusaka High Court quashed the decision by the Registrar of Societies to deregister Democratic Party saying their decision was not only illegal but irrational, unreasonable and preposterously improper. High Court Judge Sharon Nawa directed the said Registrar of Societies to issue the party with a duplicate certificate of registration. And speaking in an interview with News Diggers! Kalaba who is former foreign affairs minister, said the judgement by the Lusaka High Court was a huge milestone in implementing confidence in the judiciary. He congratulated DP for a well fought battle and for refusing mediocrity. “Yesterday (Thursday)

shocked the whole world, it shocked Zambia. They surprised all of us with what they did. For me this is a huge milestone in implementing the confidence in the judiciary. I first of all congratulate the Democratic Party for a very well fought battle, for refusing mediocrity, for refusing the abuse by those who occupy offices, wanting to sit on their very fundamental rights,” he said. “This is a country of laws. The courts have told us that both the weak and the power are equal before the law. Really for me, I celebrate this judgement because it’s a huge milestone not only in our democratic dispensation but also in instilling confidence in the judiciary.” Kalaba hoped that those in offices given the mandate to execute duties on behalf of Zambians, would do so honourably without trying to abuse their offices. “They should not try to abuse their offices but they should use their offices to the advantage of the citizens of Zambia, for whom they are sitting in those offices. So it’s a huge landmark in Zambia,” he said. Meanwhile Kalaba said he would re-look the invitation letter from DP to contest on its ticket in 2021 now that they had won the deregistration case. He called on Zambians to support the party saying,

after looking at their manifesto and intentions, he was convinced that they meant well for the country. “The Democratic Party has written to me and I’m yet to respond to their letter. Now that they have won, I will have to re-look at their letter again. But I support them very much because I have looked at their manifesto, I have looked at their intention, they mean well for this country and everybody needs to support them,” he said. Asked whether he would accept the offer, Kalaba said he would leave that for another day, but stressed that the PF needed to be kicked out of government in 2021. “I will leave that for another day. For now just know that the Democratic Party needs to be supported by all well meaning Zambians. These PF people, these PF guys in government, will need to be kicked out in 2021. For all they have done for us is that they have just brought us fire tenders, they have just brought us the Chinese,” said Kalaba. “And I don’t know where they are getting this breed of Chinese from because when you look at the Chinese, the Chinese have helped Zambia so much in the past. This country is like this because of the help that China has rendered to us. But it was fair play as Kaunda would call it. But

now what is happening is that everything now is being done by China.”

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KCM attributes financial challenges to govt’s failure to refund VAT

By Abraham Kalito

Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) chief executive officer Deshnee Naidoo says delayed payments to workers has mainly been because of governments delayed release of Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds owed to the mining company.

In a statement issued by KCM corporate affairs general manager Eugene Chungu, Naidoo stated that the mining firm had faced severe challenges paying its staff, among other creditors, owing to delayed release of VAT refunds owed back to company.

She, however, added that KCM officials had since engaged Ministry of Mines Permanent Secretary Paul Chanda to find solutions and address the problem.

“Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) confirms the payment delays that are currently being experienced by its suppliers and is aware of the impact these delayed payments have on their businesses and dependents. KCM is engaging with all its suppliers and business partners through a structured plan to resolving these delays. KCM CEO Deshnee Naidoo said: “A significant factor in KCM’s current cash squeeze is the fact that VAT refunds due to KCM have been delayed by several months. Working capital is an important driver in achieving production targets, particularly in mining, which is a low margin-high capital business. We are proactively engaging with the Ministry of Finance to expedite these payments, and we have fully briefed the Permanent Secretary of Mines and Minerals Development. We know these Ministries are fully aware of the continued delays, and have indicated their support in resolving the matter,” read the statement.

“Ms Naidoo added that, “KCM continues to pay suppliers every month, and every effort is being made to make up for delayed payments within the shortest possible time. There are over 500 micro, small and medium-scale local suppliers actively participating in business with KCM. We are grateful for their support and patience. The company holds quarterly meetings with supplier representatives namely; the Association of Mine Suppliers and Chambers of Commerce of Chingola and Kitwe. KCM has also arranged a series of meetings with all suppliers next week to discuss, among other things, the plans with respect to repayments.”

Zambia must fight cancer of Chinese loans, corrupt contracts – Musenge

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge says Zambia must fight to stop the cancer of Chinese loan projects that are riddled with corruption and only go to satisfy the lavish lifestyles of the ruling elite.

On Friday last week, civil society organisations, among them ACA, NGOCC, ZCSD and ActionAid, challenged government to stop and think about the consequences of its continued reckless borrowing from China; warning that failure to listen would cost PF votes at the next election.

And Musenge has dismissed the reasons advanced by PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza that Chinese-funded projects should be supported since local contractors have no financial capacity to handle huge contracts.

Meanwhile, the former Copperbelt Province minister has complained that his children cannot be employed anywhere because they are carrying his surname.

Last week, Mwanza insisted that Zambian companies had no financial muscle, as such, citizens needed to accept Chinese-funded projects.

But Musenge reminded Mwanza that Zambia would still need to repay Chinese loans that come in form of infrastructure financing.

“It is very unfortunate that PF can give that as the reason of engaging foreign contractors. One thing that ought to be understood is that whatever contracts are given to Chinese firms, those are debts that are being incurred on behalf of government. And whatever amount of money they bring in as their working capital, it is their money, which they will have to recover at the end of the day. So, that cannot be a reason why we should allow and encourage such a system to continue. Moreover, this kind of approach towards projects and contracts in this country is very costly because then, it is the Chinese, who at the end of the day, call the shots because the way this system works is that, the Chinese are able to tell you to say, ‘we have so much money, we can get money from China and this contract can be done’ and such contracts, usually the figures are exaggerated,” Musenge observed.

He said the NDC had no problem with the Chinese getting contracts, but had

issues with the corruption they were involved in.

“So, for us as NDC, I want to put it very clear that, we have no problem for Chinese to do contracts in Zambia, but the major issue that has come up is the high levels of corruption in all these contracts that are being done by the Chinese firms! For example, a school which is supposed to be constructed at a cost of maybe K2-3 million, such a school will go to about K20, 30, or 40 million. We gave a practical example of the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway, and we have also spoken about the new airport that is about to be constructed in Ndola. That is why we are saying this is the project, which even the late Michael Chilufya Sata, had to withdraw because the figures that were coming out, the amounts that they were asking for were just beyond comprehension,” recalled Musenge.

“So, what really needs to be controlled are these corrupt tenders of exaggerating contract amounts. So, you find that whichever project in Zambia, whatever contract is signed by government, there is a big chunk that is taken

by those in higher offices. Now, this is the disease, this is a cancer that we need to fight as a nation. The country is being deprived of development because of very few selfish individuals! And this mind of always wanting to get chunks from each and every contract is what we in NDC are against. We don’t hate the Chinese people, we hate imisango yabo (their deeds).”

The former minister complained that his family was being punished because of his name.

“Can you say this is a caring government? And now we have this student’s loan recovery, a lot of students who graduated are not in employment. I have children who graduated from the University of Zambia; none of them is working! To make matters worse, my children are being...because of carrying my name, they cannot be employed. Once they see that it is Mwenya Musenge, they are told, ‘no, you will cost us our jobs’. This is the type of nonsense that we have in this country,” Musenge complained.

And he disagreed with the PF government’s repeated claims of not having introduced any taxes.

“I don’t agree with them. You see there are a number of taxes already. It’s not about introducing new taxes. It’s also by increasing the amount of tax that is being deducted. Are they saying since they came into government, they have never reviewed the taxes in this country? Can they be able to tell us because the PF manifesto is about lower taxes and more money in the people’s pockets; can they tell us any of the taxes that they have managed to reduce since they took over as PF in government? We are now talking about the WhatsApp and Internet tariff, which is another tax! Is it not them who have introduced it? Did we find it? Or did they find it? And not only that, there are a number of taxes that we know,” observed Musenge.



Fisheries and Livestock Minister Kampamba Mulenga with Zambia's Charge d' Affaires Henry Ngilazi during an investment conference in Brussels.

CUTS highlights need for healthy diets

By Mirriam Chabala

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) centre coordinator Chenai Mukumba says Zambia is among the countries struggling with alarming levels of malnutrition because of mono-diets.

In an interview on the sidelines of a Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) organised workshop dubbed Sustainable Diets for All, Mukumba observed that Zambians had to start dealing with the challenge of malnutrition because most households had been relying on the same type of food for a long time. Mukumba said there was need for Zambians to diversify their diets in

order to create a healthy nation.

“As civil society organisations, we want to see how we can influence the consumption behaviour of ourselves as a country. We have issues of malnutrition that are quite alarming as a country and part of this reason is because we tend to have mono diets. Which means that basically as a population we are eating mostly just one type of food and what this means is that we are not getting the sufficient nutrients that we need. So because of that, I think some of you may recall, there was a report that was released to the effect that Zambia was third hungriest country in the world. Most people were

shocked wondering how that was possible...but I think we need to be able to create a difference between being full, which I believe is most of the people’s objective when they are eating rather than actually getting the sufficient nutrients for maintaining a healthy diets,” Mukumba explained.

Mukumba disclosed that most civil society organisations in the country had already started working around influencing government policies that involve the food that people eat.

“Sustainable Diets for All is a campaigns by a number of us as CSOs having to see how we can influence when people are much

more thoughtful about the food that they are eating and also thinking about they can also start eating even indigenous foods because that’s where main of the ingredients we need are. So as civil organisations, each of us are playing a different role to see how we can influence these policies. For us for example as CUTS, what we will be doing in the next couple of months is working very closely with those in the informal sector. We did a study last year which indicated that most consumers actually purchase their food from the informal shops rather than from the supper markets,” said Mukumba.

“And so we are trying to see how we can potentially work with the city council to see how can number one, create food policy then also secondly see how we can get marketeers on the informal sector to start having a much more wider variety of food that they are providing for consumers. Our colleagues for example here at CSPR, a lot of their interventions are actually around how they can influence actual policies so they go for engagements with parliamentarians as well as the Ministry of Agriculture to see how they can develop or contribute to the development of crop diversification strategy.”

Laura this week: Bow or starve Politics

Zambian politics have entrenched a very destructive tradition which deems that when government changes, everyone who was connected to the previous administration has their livelihood put at risk. So, for example, if the Edgar Lungu administration lost the next election, it would be almost certain that whoever came to power would make it their very important mission to ensure that all those living well now, begun to suffer. In fact, people wanting to come to power, both within and out of PF, probably promise supporters non- political jobs and businesses that they have no right to.

It is so much that even the fortunes of ordinary non-political owners of businesses, such as guest houses, printing presses, and transporters, depend on who wins an election. Even employed people are worried about change of government. We are firing people because they do not bow low enough to whoever is in power – goodness me!!

My view is that this habit of trying to destroy everyone not connected to whoever is in office is killing our very economy, and making it very difficult for the country to grow jobs for the millions of unemployed young people.

Further, it makes our politics of patronage mind-numbing. With so many people fearful that if they put a foot wrong, they will not get government business – nay fearful that government will make sure that they do not get any business by threatening anyone who gives them business - we have a population of zombies. Our democracy is being strangled because people are not allowed to be even mildly divergent. No one is

allowed to make money without caring about who is in power. If every government that comes into office directs serious energy to destroying businesses, how can owners focus on growing their bottom line (and therefore jobs) without fear of the next election. So, the situation as it stands is that - who gets which market stall, who gets to sell in the market at all, which lodges can host workshops, which station gets advertising, who can sell their cabbages to who, who can sew school uniforms for a government school – everything is about whether or not an individual is connected to power. We are preventing people from making an honest living unless their politics are “right.” It is so bad that people threaten each other in offices with “I can get you fired, I can get you destroyed.” Why are we firing people simply because we imagine they do not support the current regime? We are firing competent people, doing a good job and therefore creating an environment of fear. People are too scared to do their job in case...

Sadly, this preventing people from making a living does not only happen when a whole new party comes to power. In Zambia, even the change from Chiluba to Mwanawasa and Mwanawasa to RB was as good (bad?) as the change from RB to Sata. A whole lot of people who should not be affected are made to suffer when the presidency changes within a ruling party. We have to end this! We must agree that when the Edgar Lungu administration leaves power, whether it is to an opposition leader or to someone else within the PF, the people whose businesses are thriving now will be allowed to survive.

The only thing we should ask is that, instead of individuals having back door routes to winning tenders, they must compete fairly with everyone else. If they are good, for goodness sake, give them the business. Let them keep their workers employed. All they need to learn is to write a solid tender document, instead of picking up the phone to get someone or other to give them undue advantage.

As for jobs, only holders of political office, those who make the President’s inner team should know they would go with a change of government. Why have PSes, Directors, junior planners, doctors, headmasters, cleaners begun to fear for their jobs? Simply I am saying unless individuals can be sure that who is or is not in power will not affect their lawful business and jobs, our elections will remain the murderous wars they have become. Elections are so vicious because people look at what happened to Chiluba connected MMD businesses when Levy took over and then on to RB. They look at Sata’s people under EL, at Miles Sampa having to grovel to get back into very junior office. Why can’t someone like Miles survive out of office? Why should everyone doing well, lawfully, fear that if EL does not stand in 2021, or if he loses in that election, they will starve? Why should a market person fear for their livelihood if EL is not in power? We are not even a very skilled country. We cannot afford to sideline a whole part of the population because of their politics.

Question is, will we ever get to the point when we understand that we do not need to starve those who think differently from us??

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire has called on President Edgar Lungu to disband the Commission of Inquiry on electoral violence, saying it’s now an irrelevant expenditure amidst austerity measures. Recently, President Edgar Lungu signed Statutory Instrument No. 60 of 2018, allowing the Commission of Inquiry into Political Violence and Voting Patterns to continue operating until December 31. Initially, the commission was tasked to finish its work within 120 days of being appointed but this has been stretched on three occasions. Commenting on the development in an interview with News Diggers! Chifire said the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry was not necessary in the first place. “In the first place, the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry was not necessary. It was just a set up to reward those that had helped the President campaign because he had no where to take them. To determine the cause of violence, you don’t need a Commission of Inquiry. We all know, and it has been an open secret, what has been the cause of election violence. History has it, reporters have told us, journalists have written what has been causing violence, we don’t need to spend this

Lungu must disband useless Commission of Inquiry on electoral violence, says Chifire

money,” he said. “So we are asking the President, let him disband that Commission of Inquiry because it’s irrelevant, it is not serving its purpose. If anything, let them present the report they have done we want to see the work they have done so far.” Chifire said government’s claim of employing austerity measures was merely cheap talk because if that was the case, the President could have disbanded the Commission of Inquiry. He observed that under austerity measures, everyone is expected to be subjected to tightened spending and not only general citizens. “The government has told us that they are employing austerity measures, meaning there’s discipline in how we spend national

resources. But I know very well and everyone knows very well that this is merely cheap talk. If that was the case, the President could have disbanded that Commission of Inquiry and it could have started with him. Because austerity measures are not only meant to punish civil servants, or general citizens, we should all be subjected to austerity measures, we should all be subjected to financial discipline, we should all sacrifice. Sacrifice should start with the top. Sacrifice should start with the policies and the programs that we set up and implement,” Chifire said. “It’s not only about this Commission of Inquiry, we have also seen government spending money in acquiring very expensive motor vehicles for public servants, senior public

servants. Would we call that as austerity measures? This government is taking citizens for a ride. Austerity measures should start in State House. If anything, citizens have been sacrificing, have been subjected to these austerity measures from the first budget of the PF government in 2012, till now the citizens have been sacrificing.” Chifire charged that the PF government had failed to manage finances because they were careless with the way they spent money. “When we talk about austerity measures, we are talking about discipline in how to spend money. But you see, a few weeks ago they went back to Parliament that they want supplementary budget. How did it come about? It’s because this government is careless in the way it

spends money. The PF government should give us their own definition of austerity measures, not from the definition of the dictionary, they have got their own. Their own means that they enrich themselves at the expense of the poor masses,” he said. “You know what, our economic recession is self inflicted. Where as in the whole world there’s no economic recession, our country has been in economic recession since 2012. This is laughable. It is because this government has failed to manage finances, no wonder they have been jumping from one MMD minister of finance to another because they don’t have an answer. They are not ready to provide solutions for the people of Zambia that are suffering because they

have failed.” Meanwhile, Chifire said if the PF government was serious about austerity measures, they should lead by example in the manner they conducted their business.” If this government is really serious about austerity measures, let it show, let them lead by example in the manner they conduct their business. Look at the delegation that went to China for instance, their friends in the neighbouring countries like Tanzania, the President can even travel in economy class but our President can never do that, and then he calls austerity measures. What are austerity measures? It is an insult on us Zambians. We are aware now that government has no money to even pay civil servants, it is finished. That is why they are creating taxes everywhere, to them that’s austerity measures,” said Chifire. “If you talk about austerity measures, let us see to it that salaries of ministers are reduced. Let us see to it that the salary and allowances of the President are reduced. Let us see to it that the vehicles that ministers are driving are changed from the expensive GXR to a very simple motor vehicle then that’s when we will say that we are in austerity measures. At the moment our budget is top heavy. At the top thats where we spend too much money.”

We thank God that police have succeeded to arrest the perverted Petauke man who raped and filmed an unconscious woman and circulated an obscene video on social media.

In our view, that act was beyond criminal; it was evil. To imagine that a human being could do that to another human being, a mother for that matter; was heartbreaking. What is worse is that the culprit, Mr Rodgers Mwanza, seemed to have been at peace and saw nothing wrong with his actions.

If police deepen their investigation, they may find that the perverted man actually belongs to a gang that has been doing that to women. Fellow countrymen, we can't be that heartless towards one another; that lady is someone's daughter and mother, she could be your sister. Why Mr Mwanza, why?

Surely, our colonial masters who regarded black as an inferior race, did so many despicable things. But they did not get to the extent of sexually abusing our mothers in that barbaric manner. The evil actions by the perverted Mwanza are not any different from the actions of those who bought his fore fathers and sold them as slaves.

Now, we have seen that citizens have united to condemn this utterly repulsive and heinous crime. Lawmakers, the church, NGOs, the police and government

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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While being raped, sold,Petersen writes: *There is nothing more abusive, heartless and inhuman (lacking human qualities of compassion and mercy; cruel and barbaric) than making any woman or 'Mother' black out, physically or mentally inactive,*

unconscious. And to make matters worse during their helpless state you start inviting all your capable friends & partners to come and have a piece of a powerless soul.

The Petauke video is annoying, provocative and morally wrong; the sad reality about it is that it is the same helpless state 'Mother' Zambia is in right now.

While all of us are politically unconscious and highly intoxicated on which side of national politics we belong too, blinded by our stomachs and made deaf by our tribes political alignment, in deep sleep deprived off the right and beneficial information.

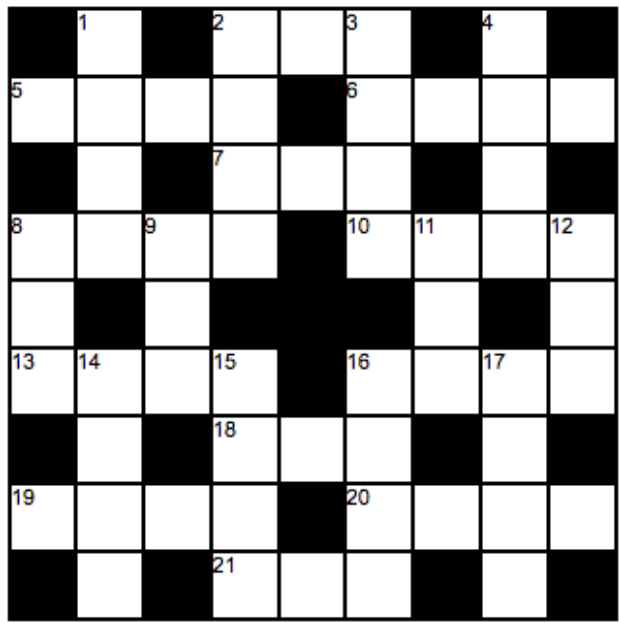
THERE IS SOMEONE BUSY SELLING US OUT AND ADVERTISING US

TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MEN AND COMMUNITIES as "Guys come if you can,We are snoring, while the Chinese are taking turns abusing our very nice Katundu!

Crossword puzzle 183

“The progressive development of man is vitally dependent on invention. It is the most important product of his creative brain.” - Nikola Tesla

Solutions to puzzle 182



- Across
2. Dog sound
5. Not firm
6. Teen affliction
7. Finish
8. Linen fiber
10. Recedes
13. Adhesive
16. Shade of red
18. Title for a knight
19. On the double
20. Very dry
21. Hankering
- Down
1. Murder
2. High point
3. Lose brightness
4. Nose-in-the-air type
8. Newton fruit
9. Springfield store owner
11. Nectar collector
12. Between Fri and Sun
14. Misplace
15. Lay eyes on
16. Fiber source
17. Niagra river source



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.

Govt's acquisition of \$30m Chinese loan to upgrade Mulungushi Conference Centre

Editor,

"I think I am not normal. How can upgrading Mulungushi

Conference Centre be priority to a broke govt? I don't get it...." - Chanda Simpindu

"Going to China with a huge entourage just to borrow money to renovate Mulungushi conference Centre?? Someone must be joking. This government must go." - Lameck Siamundele

"For what? Is this really important? Unless one tells me it'll have hotels and other income-generating structures!!!!" - Mwengo K. Anthony

"The \$45 million for fire trucks could have covered this, with change to buy real fire trucks." - Ceaser Moyo

"Give the money to small-scale farmers and small businesses, you want to steal the money through Mulungushi, Ba pompwe." - Tobani Mwananyambe Mubita

"Mulungushi is fine as is. Why can't they save from the revenue they make from weddings etc? Seriously, misplaced priorities. It's like getting into debt to buy a carpet for a floor, which just needs floor polish. Awe, Ba Zambia, you don't have to take all the loans just because they are being offered. Think through these decisions please!!!!" - Sepo Lemba

"30 million dollars just to keep up the appearance? What's wrong with Mulungushi Conference for the country to spend all that borrowed money on? We are a poor country and whoever is coming to attend the summit should know that. Invest that money in agriculture and other viable projects." - Tonny Mukutu



BoZ deserves credit for abolishing unwarranted bank charges

Editor,
"That is one of the best things that BoZ has ever done to customers; that was theft by the banks because there is no way you can be charged for checking the balance of your own money, and withdrawing your own money, which you sweated for! It was so ridiculous! What was the purpose of the monthly account maintenance fees? Besides, they charge us interest for borrowing our own money...Sure that's theft." - Gabby Gabby

"Bank of Zambia did what they were supposed to have done a long time ago. These thieving banks wouldn't have cleaned us of our hard-earned money the way they did. Anyway, better late

than never. BoZ now need to look in all micro-lending institutions, money transfer agents i.e.: Zoona, Shoprite Money Transfer, MTN, Airtel Money, ZamKwacha etc." - Haggai Gondwe

"They should also look at the issuance that we pay when we get loans. For example, if you got a loan amounting to K20,000, they give you less, but you pay back as if you got K20,000, plus interest." - Mwauluka Wasilota

"Why should I be charged for checking my balance? Why should I be charged for withdrawing my money? Why should I be charged for swiping in Game, Shoprite, Steers etc?" - Ken Saks

Bright Nundwe's warning to civil servants on theft of public funds

Editor,

"Kikikikikikiki, Ati, 'they will screw you in jail as others 'chew' your wife outside if you don't stop stealing'." - Francis M. Lubinda

"We hate theft by whoever, but this language is not expected of man at his level." - Chanda Museba

"If that is what it takes for them to comprehend on matters of corruption, then it's supported & this should cut across to even high-profiled people & politicians." - Aandrew Nonde

"It's true PS; next time ensure you sweat with them at PAC....you can't be sweating alone from the head to the toes, whilst real thieves are smiling behind & laughing at how you struggle to respond to their theft!" - Keith Moono

"Regardless of the language the PS is using, the point is very clear: public money must be accountable for." - Billy Kunda

"He spoke well. Despite the humour, what he said is very real. We need to be prudent, honest and practice with integrity." - Lauzi Mwansa Njelesani

"Can he extend this to thieving ministers and all other public officials? Not the best of language....but he is right!" - Rebecca Becky

Nations round on US, allies as UN climate talks wrap up

Developing countries rounded on the United States and its allies at emergency climate talks Sunday, accusing the world's richest nations of stalling a deal aimed at preventing runaway global warming. Experts from around the world have been locked in discussions this week in Bangkok, aiming to reach a comprehensive rulebook for countries to implement the landmark Paris Accord on climate change. But talks have foundered over the key issue of how efforts to limit climate change are funded and how contributions are reported. Delegates representing some of Earth's poorest and smallest nations said on the final day of the summit that the US and other Western economies were failing to live up to their green spending commitments. "Developed countries are responsible for the vast majority of historic emissions, and many became remarkably wealthy burning fossil fuels," said Amjad Abdulla, the head of a negotiating

bloc of small island states. "Yet, we face devastating climate impacts and some of us could be lost forever to rising seas"

without progress on the Paris deal by the end of the year, he added. The Paris deal, struck in 2015,

aims to limit global temperature rises to less than two degrees Celsius and to below 1.5C if possible by the end of the

century. To do this, countries agreed to a set of promises, including to establish an annual \$100-billion

fund to help developing nations react to our heating planet. The US and other developed economies want less oversight on how their funding is gathered and more flexibility over how future funding is structured. But developing nations insist they need predictable and open funding in order to effectively plan their fight against the fallout from climate change. A senior source within the African nations' negotiating bloc told AFP the US and others were renegeing on pledges made in Paris by refusing to discuss future climate funding. "It's as if we started from scratch" in Bangkok, the source said. The Bangkok talks were organised as an emergency negotiating session after little progress was made at previous rounds towards a final rulebook. Under the timeframe set in Paris, the guidelines for nations must be finalised by the COP 24 climate summit in Poland in December *AFP*



North Korea kept its nuclear missiles away from its 70th anniversary parade. AFP

Russians vote as police detain supporters of opposition leader

Russians began voting in regional elections Sunday that Kremlin-loyal candidates are set to dominate, as police detained dozens of supporters of a jailed opposition leader who called for protests over pension reforms. Plans to hike the retirement age have led to a rare outburst of public anger and seen President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings take a hit, despite some efforts to water down the changes. But discontent is unlikely to translate into upsets at the ballot box, with serious opposition candidates in the highest-profile Moscow mayoral vote barred from standing. Around 50 supporters of opposition leader Alexei Navalny,

who is serving a month-long jail term over an earlier illegal protest, were detained ahead of the rallies, according to independent monitor OVD-Info. Officers held dozens more as protests kicked off in eastern Russia and Siberia, with demonstrations set to take place in Saint Petersburg and Moscow in the afternoon. Like Putin ahead of presidential polls in March, Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyenin has refused to take part in electoral debates but faces only nominal opposition and is all but guaranteed to win the vote in a landslide. Authorities in the capital have organised festivals and food fairs at polling booths to drive up

participation and lend legitimacy to Putin ally Sobyenin's next term as mayor. "With all the imperfections of the electoral system... this is still the way of expressing your opinion, your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with what's going on in our city," Nikita Romashka, a 41-year-old dentist, told AFP after voting in Moscow. The mayoral election of five years ago was the last time Russian politics came close to a major upset, with Navalny nearly forcing Sobyenin into a run-off. Despite being behind bars, the opposition leader is continuing to make his presence felt. "For 18 years, Putin and his government have stolen from

the budget and squandered it on meaningless projects. Now the money's run out and we have to steal from pensioners to make ends meet," Navalny's team wrote on social media pages announcing the protest. Google removed advertisements for the rally at the request of the Russian authorities, a close aide of the opposition leader said at the weekend. Moscow had previously warned the US internet giant against "meddling" in the election. Google's Russian office said it required advertisers to comply with local laws, in comments reported by news agencies.*AFP*

Jack Ma to unveil succession plans, not imminent retirement - SCMP

Alibaba co-founder and chairman Jack Ma will unveil a succession plan on Monday, the South China Morning Post reported Sunday, with a company spokesman denying a New York Times report that he would retire that day. The SCMP, which is owned by Alibaba, said China's most famous tech billionaire will "unveil a succession strategy" on Monday -- his 54th birthday -- but remain the company's executive chairman for the foreseeable future. The New York Times ran an article on Friday, based on an interview with Ma, saying the former teacher turned billionaire planned to use his birthday to announce his retirement as chairman of Alibaba to focus on philanthropy. The paper quoted Ma as saying the decision was "the beginning of an era". But an Alibaba spokesman told the SCMP that the New York Times' story "was taken out of context, and factually wrong". "An Alibaba spokesman said Ma remains the company's executive chairman and will provide transition plans over a significant period of time," the SCMP wrote. The paper added that the Monday succession strategy was part of a plan "for grooming a generation of younger executives to take over the reins" of the company. Eileen Murphy, a spokesperson for the New York Times, said the newspaper stood by its story. *AFP*

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- Chilliabombwe - boarding not provided | Solwezi - boarding provided

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NACE: " for professional and academic excellence "

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes Steven Gerrard has no reason to ask for coaching advice, praising the former midfielder's start as Rangers manager.

Gerrard took over at Rangers in June and has suffered just one loss in 13 games at the helm of the Scottish giants, helping them qualify for the Europa League group stage.

Klopp praised the Liverpool great and confirmed he was in

Gerrard does not need coaching advice - Klopp

contact with the 38-year-old, but not to offer advice.

"Rangers were brilliant in Europe — Gerrard is putting a good team together," Klopp was

quoted as saying by The Mirror.

"When I started out as a manager I didn't ask for advice because I didn't know who to ask. Steven doesn't ask because he doesn't

have to.

"We are in contact, but not for advice."

Gerrard's first loss in charge of Rangers came on Sunday, beaten

1-0 by rivals Celtic.

Despite that defeat, Klopp said Gerrard's men — who are seventh in the Scottish Premiership — had closed the gap to the champions.

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"He's made a brilliant start at Ibrox — then he lost against Celtic. Wow, what a surprise," he said.

"Celtic are the top team in the league, but it's not like they were 50 or 60 per cent better than Rangers like they have been in the last few years.

"Rangers are getting closer and that's the only way to get them one day. That's Steven's job, but so far it's more than good."



Applications for the2019/2020 Chevening Scholarships are now open and will close on 6 November 2018

Chevening is the UK government's prestigious global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and partner organisations. The scholarship offers full financial support for future leaders to study for any eligible master’s degree at any UK university whilst gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural events. They are awarded to individuals with demonstrable leadership potential who also have strong academic backgrounds.

The British High Commission will be holding Chevening roadshows in Mansa and Kasama on 11 and 13 September respectively. More details will be published on the High Commission’s Facebook page, UKinZambia. A Chevening workshop will be hosted at the British High Commission in October, with a live feed available for those unable to attend in person. Please look out for more details on our Facebook page.

Please note that the Chevening scholarships have no age limit and female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

For more information, please visit the Chevening website:
www.chevening.org/apply or contact the British High Commission in Lusaka on +260 211 423200 or email MwilaMipango at Mwila.Mipango@fco.gov.uk

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SVEN REVIEWS STARTING 11

By Alex Chilumbwe
Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck says he is looking for ways of fine tuning the team as he prepares it for the Gabon friendly this week. Sven said a friendly with Gabon would help him determine which players could have been introduced earlier in the game against Namibia where he recorded a draw. Speaking to the media in Namibia, Sven highlighted the need to fine-tune the team. "It is going to be an important friendly for the team. It will help me see which players deserves more game time and who should be introduced earlier. Some players give more pressure to the opponents when they are introduced in second half while others fail to play well when they start on the bench. I will keep training them and the friendly is part of it," said Sven. Three days before the national team left for Namibia, Sven said there was no need of scheduling a friendly before the Namibian encounter, adding that

it wasted time and kept players tired for too long. Soccer analyst Musonda Chibulu had remarks to share after learning the team would play a friendly against Gabon before the Guinea Bissou encounter on 10th October, 2018. "It is no strange they will be playing a friendly before the next qualifier game although people will question why suddenly. He had pompous remarks regarding friendlies before they left for Namibia for a draw and now he has seen its importance. We need to win against Guinea Bissau so that we do away with this stressful math of how we will qualify," said Chibulu. In other group qualifier result, Mozambique and Guinea Bissou recorded a 2-2 draw. The team is expected to arrive in Gabon today (Monday) at 14:20hrs.



Naomi Osaka is the first Japanese to win a Grand Slam singles title. AFP



Amir Khan declared Manny Pacquiao is his No 1 target after beating Samuel Vargas. SKYSPORTS



The winger will don the armband for the first time following 12 years' service to his national team, having made his debut at the age of 16. YAHOO