



# GOVT TO ABOLISH UNZALARU

To page 4

**We can't have unions holding us to ransom;**

**if I had power I'd fire striking lecturers - Luo**



President Edgar Lungu inspects a guard of honour during the ceremonial opening of the 3rd session of the 12th National Assembly on Friday - Picture by Salim Henry

## Chipimo sounds alarm on illegal lease of UNZA land

By Joseph Mwenda

Prominent Lusaka lawyer and opposition NAREP president Elias Chipimo has questioned the lack of transparency in a case where the University of Zambia (UNZA) Council doubled the lease period for the development of its land by the East Park Mall Concessionaires from 25 to 50 years, with no clear benefit to the

perennially cash-strapped institution.

A News Diggers investigation has revealed that the University of Zambia Council extended the land lease agreement to the East Park Mall developers in Lusaka, from 25 to 50 years, against the provisions of the Public Procurement Act and the Public Private Partnership regulations.

To page 5

## Mutati says relationship with PF has problems, as Nakacinda clears position

By Mirriam Chabala

Works and Supply Minister Felix Mutati, who also leads an MMD faction that campaigned for President Edgar Lungu, says his party's relationship with PF is not smooth because there are unresolved issues.

And Party national secretary Raphael Nakacinda has explained that Mutati made the statement in order to encourage members to focus on strengthening the party ahead of the 2021 elections.

Mutati said this when he opened a two-day Luapula provincial conference where he

said: "we have issues with our relationship with the PF, these are bedroom issues." To page 2

## Govt selling State House land to developer - Source

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Government is in the process of selling a piece of land which is adjacent to State House near Kabulonga roundabout to an Asian billionaire who

is allegedly offering US\$13 million, sources have revealed to News Diggers.

But Lands and Natural Resources Minister Jean Kapata says her ministry is not going to respond to what people say because there has been a lot of lies going on already over the matter.

Sources revealed that the Asian billionaire who is also linked to Cross Roads Shopping mall has already started erecting a skyscraper which would be as high as Findeco House.

To page 4

**Corruption prosecution must target all, regardless of party, rank - Foote**

Story page 7



*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
Former Attorney General Musa Mwenye last week grilled Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) chief executive officer Mateyo Kaluba, as he admitted that his witness testimony was riddled with errors, in a case where former executive director Paul Siame sued the Corporation for illegal termination of contract. But Kaluba and another IDC witness narrated to the court how Siame exhibited “Unreasonable conduct” in his last days working for the corporation. In this case, IDC is represented by Lubinda Linyama of Eric Silwamba and Company while Mwenye, State Counsel, of Mwenye & Mwitwa Advocates, as well as Mwape Bwalya State Counsel, are representing Siame. Below is the verbatim of continued hearing on September 10, 2018. Linyama: Witness tell the court your full names. Witness: I’m Christopher Lufuna. Linyama: What’s your occupation? Lufuna: I’m a driver/ office assistant at IDC. Linyama: How long have you been at IDC? Lufuna: Since 2016. Linyama: In summary, can you

# Mwenye grills IDC boss in court, as he insists Siame’s conduct was unreasonable

tell the court what your duties are? Lufuna: I deliver letters and I also drive the staff. Linyama: You are in court on the matter which has been brought here by Mr Paul Siame, could you please tell the court what you know regarding this matter which is in court? Lufuna: On September 16, 2016, I was assigned to deliver letters to Mr Siame and Mr Mate. I delivered the letters at Mr Siame’s home and I met Mr Mate at a mall. Linyama: Where were these letters from? Lufuna: The letters where from the office. I was given this assignment to deliver the letters to these two by the secretary of the company. Linyama: Continue... Lufuna: Then on October 14, 2016 upon arriving at Mr Siame’s office, I entered the office, I found Mr Siame there with miss Claire Banda, the late. Then I greeted him. He told me that ‘even you I will fire you! You are the one who brought the letter to me!’ After

he told me that he will fire me, I told him that ‘no boss for me I just delivered the letter and I didn’t know what was inside’. A few days later, he told me not to work and to hand in the cars keys to the PA. He told me that I shouldn’t work, I shouldn’t do any job until I give him a written report of the people who sent me to deliver a letter to him. Linyama: So you were told to hand over the keys to the Personal Assistant. What transpired? Lufuna: I handed the keys to the PA. Then I stayed for two days. Then I wrote a report and handed it to him. Then I stayed for two or three days without working. Linyama: After those two days elapsed, what transpired? Lufuna: I was just reporting for work. I would just report and sit without doing my duties. Linyama: Would you know where this report is, the one you tendered? Lufuna: I gave it to Mr Siame. Linyama: In terms of hierarchy at the place of work, what was Mr Siame’s position?

Lufuna: He was executive director. Linyama: How did you come back to start performing your duties? Lufuna: Late Claire went to Mr Siame’s office and told him that we don’t have a driver. I don’t know what transpired at the office but I was just given the keys by the late Claire. Linyama: Is there anything else that you wish to add to your testimony? Lufuna: Yes I would say that Mr Siame was using a language which was not okay when he came back from suspension. He was using bad language towards the CEO. And he was telling everyone to say ‘whoever was involved in this I will fire him!’ Linyama: When you say ‘whoever is involved in this’ what do you mean? Lufuna: Whoever was involved, at his office, or whoever was involved in delivering letters, was going to be fired. Linyama: Is that all you have to say? Lufuna: Yes.

Linyama: I have no further questions your honour.

**Cross examination**  
Counsel Musa Mwenye: Morning Mr Lufuna. Lufuna: Morning. Mwenye: Earlier in examination in chief, you told the court that you delivered the letter to Mr Siame’s house, remember? Lufuna: Yes. Mwenye: What time did you deliver? Lufuna: 21:30hrs. Mwenye: Now, have you ever given any statement or evidence to any disciplinary tribunal over the words that you said Mr Siame said? Lufuna: No. Mwenye: Do you know a man called Mr Chipwende? Lufuna: Yes. Mwenye: Did you give Mr Chipwende any statement? Lufuna: No. Mwenye: Mr Lufuna, you mentioned that you were given back the keys, you recall that? Lufuna: Yes. Mwenye: You also told the court that the late Claire Banda went to tell Mr Siame that there were no other drivers. You recall that? Lufuna: Yes. Mwenye: Were you there when they were talking? Lufuna: No. Mwenye: So you have no way of knowing what was discussed between them, is that correct? Lufuna: Yes. Mwenye: Mr Lufuna you were the one who was ferrying para-military officers to secure the IDC offices and Mr Chipwende’s home. Is that correct? Lufuna: Not IDC offices but Mr Chipwende’s home. Mwenye: Didn’t you at any time ferry officers to keep Mr Siame out of the office? Lufuna: No. Mwenye: No further questions your honour. Judge Edward Musona: Thanks witness. Linyama: Obligated your honour, that’s the last witness. Maybe just for the record, that will be all in regard with the first respondent. However in terms of proceeding further SC would like to address... Judge Musona: We are told that’s all for the first respondent. Before SC comes in, may we hear if the other respondents are calling witnesses? Mwenye: My lord, my learned brother, Mr Linyama was very deliberate when he said that he has no further witnesses. The reason is that last week, immediately after the last sitting in this matter, I engaged my learned brother, and indicated that if Mr Mateyo Kaluba was not being called as a witness by the first respondent, we will request that he be made available for cross examination. My lord, the affidavit verifying answer, which was filed into court on September 29, 2017 was sworn by Mr Kaluba. The exhibits in this affidavit have been relied upon heavily by the first respondent. In the ordinary

course of things My Lord, we had hoped that he would in fact be the first witness on behalf of the first respondent. But we appreciate my lord, that every party has the right to conduct the case as it deems fit. My lord the affidavit is on record and we have not tested the evidence in this affidavit. My lord, rule 64 of the Industrial Relations Court rules, states that ‘evidence shall be given orally’. Unfortunately my lord, details from this affidavit have entered the court record and unless the first respondent wishes to abandon this affidavit, we would apply pursuant to rule 62 of the Industrial Court rules, to cross examine Mr Mateyo Kaluba, the deponent. Our prayer is that this application is granted. My lord, if Mr Kaluba is before court, we are prepared to conduct cross examination. Linyama: My lord, I do confirm that State Counsel engaged me last week. I stated to State Counsel that I would need to seek guidance from my client. We had agreed that if our position was different from the desired position by the complainant, let’s see who will make a formal application. I agree entirely with State Counsel when he argued that parties have a right to cross examine the deponent of an affidavit. I wish to add that when State Counsel indicated to me that he is making an application before you, I thought we would invoke rule 33 of the rules of this court which is explicit when it states that any application or any orders sort to this court, must be by notice of letter. My lord with that said, our submission is that in exercising this right that is being sort by the complainant, they should move this court in writing and the court will consider the application and give the desired directions. Mwenye: My Lord, the rule is very clear that interlocutory application are to be made by notice and we are now in trial. The applicable rule which we are relying on is rule 62 under part nine of the rules under the banner heading, ‘evidence and procedure in the court’. My lord there’s no need to delay this matter any further. This is a matter of evidence. Judge Musona: Since the Counsel engaged each other last week, not withstanding rule 33 and 62, both counsel are aware of this pending application. Learned counsel for the first respondent, I have heard him but I need to be guided. Apart from the argument that that should have been done by written notice, I need to know if learned counsel for the first respondent will have an objection to that application? If he will have an objection, perhaps we shall examine whether or not to follow rule 33. If there will be no objection, then there will be no need even to go further to cross examine rule 33. That’s the importance of establishing whether there will be an objection or not. *To page 3*

# We have issues with our relationship with PF, says Mutati

*By Joseph Mwenda*  
Works and Supply Minister Felix Mutati, who also leads an MMD faction that campaigned for President Edgar Lungu, says his party’s relationship with PF is not smooth because there are unresolved issues. And Party national secretary Raphael Nakacinda has explained that Mutati made the statement in order to encourage members to focus on strengthening the party ahead of the 2021 elections. Mutati said this when he opened a two-day Luapula provincial conference where he encouraged members to regroup and mobilise the party. “In any marriage, everything is not smooth. We have issues with our alliance with the PF, but these are bedroom issues. For us, ours is to grow our party MMD, and they (PF) will give us respect. MMD was founded to give oxygen to democracy for national development. Let us not betray the confidence that our founding leaders gave to us,” said Mutati last week. Asked what issues Mutati was referring to, Nakacinda admitted that the two parties had relationship issues that needed to be resolved, but stressed that it was ‘just a metaphor’. “The president (Mutati) was just encouraging members that, of course, there could be areas of concern in our relationship with the PF and, therefore, he gave a metaphor that, just like in marriage, it’s not all rosy every time. There are moments when there could be issues, and so it is in our relationship with our colleagues. Therefore, we must work

towards focusing and progressing things other than complaining and bickering around some of the things that we could challenge in our working relationship. So, I think, basically, it was just a word of encouragement,” he said. “Zambians like drama so others were hoping that that statement meant that the relationship is not working, therefore, we are moving on. But that’s not the position; it was just to highlight the fact that people shouldn’t expect that the working relationship we have is a perfect one. There would be once in a while challenges that we will face and we will have to determine to make something positive out of it.” Asked if the MMD’s relations with the PF had compromised his party, and in the process lost some members, Nakacinda said that their relationship had grown stronger after partnering with PF. “That question, maybe, could have been relevant two years ago when we just got into an alliance with PF because then people were not sure whether we were going into that relationship on principle if it was just leaders compromising themselves, but two years down the line, people have begun to appreciate that we meant well, we didn’t mean to sell out or to compromise the independence of our party, and I think that has been demonstrated publicly in our discourse and also through our contribution in government,” he said. “And I think if you remember last year, and part of this year, we were undertaking a process of taking inventory of our structures, let’s not jump to conclusions.

MMD had gone through a lot of challenges prior to the 2016 general elections. It was going to be a high-level of defeat, if not self-denial, if we just said we were going to participate in the elections without considering a pact or alliance with other political parties in view of some of the issues we were going through. We needed a moment of stabilisation. After that, and now that we have taken inventory of our structures, we now started having provincial conferences. MMD is committed to intra-party democracy, that’s who we are. So, we are giving an opportunity to people to offer themselves for service in the party up to the level of provincial executives through elections. And that is what was taking place in Luapula; we are also going to launch the card renewal in Eastern Province and we are on a vigorous programme of reorganising ourselves, and we are going to make a decision on how we are going to contest in 2021 [general election] at the time that we go to the convention.” And asked if the MMD would consider ending its alliance with the PF after stabilising, Nakacinda said that was a matter to be determined at the national convention for the party. “In MMD, no individual person makes a decision on behalf of the majority, not even the party president. The subject of us going into a working relationship with PF was made collectively at the convention, so any other decision to the contrary or to the affirmative will be made at the convention by the members of the party,” said Nakacinda.





RIGHT TO LEFT: First Lady Esther Lungu, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Patrick Matibini and Etherl Matibini during the Ceremonial Opening of the 3rd Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 14, 2018. - Picture by Salim Henry

From page 2

Linyama: Obligated my lord. Like I indicated, I will seek my client’s instructions. Unfortunately at this stage I cannot commit my client. But given what has been raised, we say that an application is filed in, in the pending days to come, I can engage state counsel.

Musona: We last met on September 3, and that’s when both counsels engaged each other. And it was already known that the matter was coming today, September 10. Counsel, may I be educated, is there any reason why those instructions could not be obtained earlier than this morning because you are now saying that the instructions are yet to be obtained this afternoon. But it was well known that the matter is coming this morning.

Linyama: The officer instructing me will only get back to the office today. The officer was outside jurisdiction. Hence we did not have the position to observe the law. I wrote to my client immediately we received Mr Mwenye’s desire to, but unfortunately I could not obtain those instructions as early as possible. They will only get back to the office today.

Judge Musona: I’m against delaying matters. Matters should not be delayed. This matter was filed on February 8, 2017, we are now in September 2018. The law says ‘in this division the matter should be concluded within 12 months from the date it is filed’ and by simple calculation we are beyond 12 months. So we should not continue breaking the law. I note that both counsel agree that they engaged each other last week after the adjournment. The record shows that the adjournment was on September 3, this year. Today is September 10, indeed there was enough time for the first respondent to obtain the necessary instructions. The excuse that the instructing client was not in the country is not tenable because the first respondent is not an individual but a company. We are aware of those other officers present. In the interest of justice I will give counsel for the first respondent an option. To either have the matter adjourned to 12 hours today and bring in that witness or

# More IDC employees testify in Siame case

I proceed to expunge that affidavit from the record. Linyama: Certainly my lord I have to get instructions from my client. Musona: So 12 hours. We are adjourning this matter to 12:00 hours today. Not 12:01hours. Matter adjourned at 10:34 hours.

## Court resumes at 12:00 hours...

Linyama: Obeying your order that you gave this morning, the deponent of the affidavit, Mr Kaluba is before this court. Mr Kaluba please tell the court your full names. Kaluba: My names are Mateyo Chresta Kaluba. Linyama: How old are you? Kaluba: I’m 43 years old. Linyama: What’s your residential address? Kaluba:...Plot number 6566 Mumana road, Olympia. Linyama: What do you do for a living? Kaluba: I’m CEO at IDC. Linyama: When did you take up that appointment? Kaluba: I took up the appointment by acting capacity in November 2016 and in substantive [employment] in August 2017. Linyama: What are some of your duties as CEO at IDC? Kaluba: I superintend over the day to day operations and I supervise the staff of IDC. Linyama: Mr Kaluba, you are aware of this matter. Do you recall signing any documents relating to this matter? Kaluba: I signed an affidavit verifying answer. Linyama: My lord I wish to refer this witness to an affidavit verifying answer dated September 29, last year. Please look at that document and show the court where you said you signed. Kaluba: (Shows the court...) Linyama: My Lord, at this stage we wish to put on record that we are relying entirely on the affidavit filed by Mr Kaluba. And at this stage it may be subjected to cross

examination.

## Cross examination

Mwenye: Good afternoon Mr Kaluba? Kaluba: Good afternoon. Mwenye: I’m going to give you a copy of your affidavit... Let’s start with paragraph five, please read it up. Kaluba: (...the complainant was on Friday September 17, 2016 requested by a committee of the respondent’s board to stay away from the office together with other executive directors in order for the board to resolve wrangles that had emerged at the top level of the company.) Mwenye: Mr Kaluba, this is a small calendar of 2016. What day was September 17, 2016? Kaluba: It was a Saturday. Mwenye: So September 17, 2016 was a Saturday and not a Friday as stated in the affidavit? Kaluba: Yes. Mwenye: Did you lie Mr Kaluba? Kaluba: No I didn’t. It was probably an error on the dates. Mwenye: So your evidence in this aspect is factually incorrect? Kaluba: Your honour I accept there was an error on the date. Mwenye: In that paragraph you also said that the board asked the complainant to stay away from the office in order to resolve wrangles that had emerged at the top level of the company. Do you recall that the letter written to Mr Siame had any such statement in it? Kaluba: I don’t recall. Mwenye: Have you ever seen the letter? Kaluba: I may have your honour but I don’t recall. Mwenye: My lord PMS3 in the affidavit in support filed on February 8, 2017. You have seen that document? Kaluba: Yes. Mwenye: Have you ever seen it before? Kaluba: I have seen it before. Mwenye: Please read it. Kaluba: (...You are directed to keep away from IDC offices

and from performing any IDC duties which you were assigned to do by virtue of appointment. This directive is with immediate effect.) Mwenye: In that letter, is any reason given for the directive? Kaluba: From what I can see, the reason is not given. Mwenye: Is there any use of the word suspension in that letter? Kaluba: The directive is to stay away from work. Mwenye: You are the CEO now and obviously you know the procedure of discipline at the IDC. When you look at that letter, is that a letter of suspension, yes or no? Kaluba: No. Mwenye: Is there any procedure for just asking an employee to stay away without suspending him? Kaluba: I do not know exactly what procedure was used in this case. Mwenye: Listen to my question very carefully. So that I’m fair to you, the question is, to the best of your knowledge, is there any procedure in the IDC to just ask employees to stay away? Kaluba: Your honour we have a disciplinary code now which was not the case before... Mwenye: Turn to paragraph six of your affidavit and read it out please. Kaluba: (...That the respondent will further aver that the complainant and other executive directors were directed to stay away from work as they had opted not to sign the renewed contract rendering them to be employees at sufferance.) Mwenye: Your evidence in this paragraph is that the complainant was asked to stay away because he hadn’t signed this contract of employment. Is that correct? Kaluba: That is correct. Mwenye: My lord I’m referring the witness to PMS3 in the affidavit in support. You said that letter was written because the contracts of employment were not signed. What’s the

date of that letter? Kaluba: September 16, 2016. Mwenye: Please turn to PMS1, contract of employment. Who were the parties? Kaluba: IDC and Mr Paul Siame. Mwenye: What’s the date of the contract? Kaluba: January 11, 2016. Mwenye: Now, in view of the fact that you have a signed contract that was dated January 11, 2016, is it true that the complainant was asked to stay away because he hadn’t signed the contract of service and was therefore an employee at sufferance as you said it? Is that true. Kaluba: I can’t tell. If it’s the date of the contract yes it’s true, but was it signed on this date? I don’t know. Mwenye: So, according to the date on that contract that you have, is it true, the reason given for asking the complainant to stay away? Kaluba: I can’t speak on behalf of the committee. Mwenye: I need you to answer that question, I ask it to you again. From that contract which no one from IDC has disputed dated January 11, 2016, are the reasons given for asking Mr Siame to stay away from the office valid? Kaluba: Based on what’s stated. The dates of the contract, no. Mwenye: Let’s turn to paragraph seven, could you read it out? Kaluba: (... that on or about Monday September 18, 2016, the complainant not withstanding being asked to stay away from the place of work, proceeded to report for work and engaged into an altercation with the officers deployed to secure the respondent’s premises.) Mwenye: You have a calender in front of you, could you tell us when the day September 18, 2016 was? Kaluba: It was a Sunday. Mwenye: Mr Kaluba did you lie that Monday was September 18, 2016? Kaluba: No I didn’t lie it was

an error. Mwenye: So paragraph seven is erroneous? Kaluba: It had an error indeed. Mwenye: With regard to paragraph eight, you told the court that the complainant was asked to stay away but in total disregard, he issued a press statement. Now, was there anything wrong with that considering that he was not on suspension? Kaluba: This was unacceptable conduct. Mwenye: Mr Kaluba did the statement that he issued prejudice IDC in any way? Kaluba: The complaint is that he was not authorized. Mwenye: Listen to the question we will make progress faster. The question is very simple, I believe you are highly educated and intelligent man. The question is, did the statement you are complaining about prejudice IDC in any way? Kaluba: I’m not in a position to answer to that. The CEO at the time may be in the position. Mwenye: Are you aware that Mr Siame was appointed to be part of the speech writing committee for the President’s speech by the secretary to the cabinet on May 5, 2016? Kaluba: No I’m not aware. Mwenye: Are you also aware that because that presidential speech had something about Mulungushi Textiles, the Secretary to the Cabinet is the one who instructed Mr Siame to respond to the press query? Kaluba: I’m not aware. Mwenye: Now, Mr Kaluba in paragraph nine you said that the complainant was charged with the offence of insubordination. And this was done on October 31, 2016. Can you confirm that on the date that he was charged, fell several months after he was asked to stay away from the office? Kaluba: Five, six weeks later. Mwenye: When did the offences for which he was charged occur? Kaluba: I’m not sure. Mwenye: My lord I’m referring the witness to MCK3. Please look at MCK3... Kaluba: The letter says that on October 17, 2016. Mwenye: So I will ask you again. In view of the letter charging Mr Siame, when did the offences for which he was charged with occur? Kaluba: October 17, 2016.



*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Government is in the process of selling a piece of land which is adjacent to State House near Kabulonga roundabout to an Asian billionaire who is offering US\$13 million, sources have revealed to News Diggers.

But Lands and Natural Resources Minister Jean Kapata says her ministry is not going to respond to what people say because there has been a lot of lies going on already over the matter.

Sources revealed that the Asian billionaire who is also linked to Cross Roads Shopping mall has already started erecting a tower which would be as high as Findeco building in the Central Business District.

The sources feared that allowing the said developer to erect a skyscraper that hight would pose a serious presidential security risk as the building would easily be used as a surveillance tower for monitoring State House activities.

The named developer has since moved on site to develop plot number F3779/41, Kabulonga

# Govt selling State House land to Asian developer - sources

which he bought through a public private partnership.

But Kapata said she would not respond to social media reports.

“As minister of lands I think I don’t want to react to what goes on, on social media because the news on social media is not authentic. Really I don’t want to react to social media because there is a lot of lies. I am sure you are aware even that on social media they are saying that we have auctioned the country to China and the president was just talking about it. So we are not going to react to what people say,” Kapata said.

Kapata further referred the matter to her ministry Spokesperson Diniwe Zulu who said the property number

cited was not in the Ministry of Lands system.

Zulu later issued a statement stating the ministry’s concern over the increase in property developments taking place before the developers obtain relevant documentation.

“The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is concerned with the increase in property developments that are taking place before developers obtain relevant documentation. It is only after the issuance of the letter of offer, Certificate of Title and building permission granted that a developer should commence construction. This is in line with the Land Circular No. of 1985 part B No.Vii which states that “No District Council shall have

authority in any case to permit, authorise or suffer to permit or authorise any intending developer to enter upon or occupy any stand unless and until such developer shall have first received the letter of offer, paid lease fees and the development charges, and has obtained planning permission from the relevant planning authority,” Zulu stated.

She added that it was an offence to erect any building or structure in any area without prior approval of the planning authority within whose jurisdiction the land is situated

“However, we have noted with concern that the situation on the ground is different resulting in unplanned settlements and substandard buildings. With the creation

of new Districts, members of the public are advised to familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Urban and Regional Planning Act of 2015 and the Land Circular No. 1 of 1985 in order to change the development pattern. It is an offence to erect any building or structure in any area to which the Urban and Regional Planning Act of 2015 applies without the prior approval of the planning authority within whose jurisdiction the land is situated,” Zulu stated.

She further stated the ministry’s commitment to issuing certificates of title on all state land for the benefit of all Zambians.

“Meanwhile, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is committed to issuing

Certificates of Title on all state land for the benefit of Zambians. This is in line with the Seventh National Development plan which is anchored on development without leaving anyone behind. Therefore, the Ministry would like to urge all Local Authorities country wide to submit recommendations to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for allocation and issuance of Certificates of Title. The Ministry would like to further encourage Local Authorities to take keen interest in developments in their areas to ensure that developers obtain Letters of Offer, Certificates of Title and building permission before development of plots could commerce,” stated Zulu.

*By Chembe Mbale*

Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo says if she had powers, she would have flushed out some University of Zambia and Copperbelt University lecturers because they are irresponsible

And sources have revealed to News Diggers that government through the Ministry of Higher Education, is moving to abolish lecturers’ unions at all public learning institutions so that they can negotiate their conditions of service under the civil servants and allied workers union.

The PF government has already abolished the university students unions, on account that they were promoting unruly conduct among students.

Prof Luo was speaking when she officiated at the 10th Anniversary and 7th Graduation Ceremony for the Zambia Catholic University in Kalulushi over the weekend.

Prof Luo said lecturers were responsible for some of the problems the country was facing because they were teaching students unacceptable behaviour.

“Educated people behave in a particular manner and

# PF to abolish UNZALARU

the vice-chancellor was very clear as he described an educated person and I would like lecturers from CBU and lecturers from UNZA who are supposed to model the future of this country by presiding over our students to listen to this speech. The reason why I asked for that speech, apart from sending it to my president who assigned me to come and preside over this, I would like these sentences to be repeated to our lecturers in these two universities. If our lecturers are the ones who are going to wear black shirts on a Friday and start demonstrating on the corridors of the university, what signal are they giving to the students that we have given them to preside over? And I can tell you that if I had single powers, some of these people would be history from our institutions,” Prof Luo said.

“They are responsible for some of the problems and challenges that we are facing in our country because for four years, our students are in the university, they learn to misbehave and also riot

and when they get into our institutions, they don’t want to be on time for work, they also don’t want to give what they are supposed to give, they are the first ones to knock off because they were not given the correct grounding. How do you have a lecturer saying I am going to withhold results for the students, are they fit to teach in that institution? The answer is no, they are not fit to [to be there].”

She said government was unhappy about lecturers’ behaviour.

“So I want to cut a bit of your speech and send it as a circular to our lecturers to remind them that we did not employ them to go and destroy the fabric of our education in this country. The fabric of education in Zambia has been destroyed, not by the students but by our lecturers and our students are only following suit. That’s what the statement from the vice-chancellor said that the students do what they see, not what they hear and we have not been good examples. And I hope the vice-chancellor

from Copperbelt University, who is in the audience will liaise with his colleague, the vice-chancellor of the University of Zambia, that government is very unhappy with the behaviour of your lecturers. How do you have a lecturer who goes on go-slow, illegally and stops teaching students and we as vice-chancellors and chancellors and council condone and still keep them in our institutions and pay a months’ salary to such people. We need to find a way to discipline our workers. Once we find the best way to discipline, we will remain with a core group in our institutions that will give it the glory that Copperbelt University and University of Zambia once enjoyed,” Prof Luo said.

She said there was no way unions could hold government at ransom.

“We cannot have unions holding us to ransom. No union has been given powers to misbehave. Unions have been given powers to preside on behalf of their colleagues and no union has been given

power as an employee to fire another employee, there is no such thing in the unions statutes but these are the things that we are facing and I just hope your union, vice-chancellor of CBU will read the statement from the vice-chancellor from here because that is the message they need to be hearing every day,” said Prof Luo.

Meanwhile, a well-placed source at the University of Zambia revealed plans by the PF government to withdraw the recognition of UNZALARU and effectively abolish the union. The source, who is part of UNZA management and spoke on condition of anonymity, urged the minister to be above the two factions at UNZA.

“One of Prof Luo’s problems is that she’s too quick to judge. In situations of conflict, a leader must be slow to judge. They must exercise restraint, patience and listen to both parties before passing judgement. Take the case of the current standoff at UNZA as an example. Is it very difficult for the Minister to call both parties, sit them down and say ‘You people, what exactly is the problem? How may I help?’ That’s leadership, the ability to transcend the confines of partisanship, prejudice and pettiness. What we have seen instead is that last week, the Minister met one of the two warring parties in the form of management and subsequently decided that UNZALARU is the problem, even without hearing the other party. That’s not correct. I urge the Minister to meet lecturers directly or through their representatives and hear their concerns first-hand,” the source narrated to Diggers.

“I have heard of plans to withdraw the recognition agreement with UNZALARU, which would effectively herald the death of unionism at UNZA since the students’ union is already non-existent. Prof Luo

may succeed in abolishing the lecturers and researchers’ Union, since all she needs is to direct a possibly pliant Labour Commissioner to do as she wants. But is that the legacy she wants to be remembered for, as the Minister under whose leadership the nearly 30-year old UNZALARU ceased to exist? I urge Prof Luo to reflect carefully on the rumoured plans to withdraw the recognition of UNZALARU. I also urge the Labour Commissioner to refuse to be used in these political schemes. He is too young to be associated with a lifetime burden: as the executioner of UNZALARU. The problems at UNZA are much bigger than the union and I urge Prof Luo to be careful with how she utilises her ministerial power. Let her show leadership, not power. I know that she personally does not want unions in universities but she must understand that running a Ministry is above personal wishes or preferences.”

The sources also said UNZA management had a leadership challenge.

She needs extra and independent sources of information pertaining what is happening here at UNZA. For instance, the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof Luke Mumba, is an excellent mind but his leadership style is problematic, has alienated him from many people within the university and explains some of the institution’s problems. He travels so regularly that he probably spends more time outside the office than within it in a given month. As a result, he hardly knows many of the institution’s immediate challenges and is removed from his settings. What’s worse is that he does not meet the other administrators such as Deans of Schools or Heads of Departments who are much closer to the academic staff and are in a position to share with him some of the concerns of their members for possible resolution before they find open expression,” said the cources.



Vice President Inonge Wina and Ministers listens as President Edgar Lungu’s address to the nation during the Ceremonial Opening of the 3rd Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 14, 2018. - Picture by Salim Henry



# Chipimo sounds alarm of systematic corruption in UNZA land scam

**By Joseph Mwenda**

Prominent Lusaka lawyer and opposition NAREP president Elias Chipimo has questioned the lack of transparency in a case where the University of Zambia (UNZA) Council doubled the lease period for the development of its land by the East Park Mall Concessionaires from 25 to 50 years, with no clear benefit to the perennially cash-strapped institution. A News Diggers investigation has revealed that the University of Zambia Council extended the land lease agreement to the East Park Mall developers in Lusaka, from 25 to 50 years, against the provisions of the Public Procurement Act and the Public Private Partnership regulations. According to a letter from State House Permanent Secretary Christah Kalulu to the University of Zambia Vice-Chancellor dated September 5, 2017, the Attorney General opposed the amendment of the the concession and further ordered the University of Zambia Council to pay back the US\$ 3 million advance that it received from the land developers. “Kindly be advised that the PPP unit had written to the Attorney General seeking a legal opinion as regards some of the concerns raised in relation to this project. The Attorney General made the following observations: 1. The Council, or the University of Zambia signed two addenda with the concessionaire. The first addendum extended the concession period for a further 25 years and the second addendum reconfirmed the the extension and made amendments to the special conditions. The University of Zambia availed additional land to the concessionaire for an upfront payment of US\$3 million. The Council made the forgoing amendments to the terms and conditions of the concession agreement without prior approval of the PPP Council which has overriding authority to give directions regarding the implementation of any project,” Kalulu stated. “The Attorney General noted that none of the circumstances prescribed under Section 57 of the PPP Act had prevailed at the material time to warrant the extension of the concession duration or the transfer of additional land... The opinion of the Attorney General was that the restatement of lease agreement and the second addendum signed were in contravention of the provision of the PPP Act and the Public Procurement Act.” She added that because the University Council acted outside the provisions of the law, the agreement was thus null and void. “With respect to the US\$3 million upfront cash payment,

the Attorney General advised that the Council of the University of Zambia must repay the concessionaires because the amendment to the terms and conditions of the agreement was entered into without the prior approval of the PPP Council and the Attorney General. Therefore, the amendment is null and void. The matter has since been handed over to the Auditor General’s office that is is currently undertaking an audit of the financial operations of the University of Zambia,” stated Kalulu. And in his article dubbed “The UNZA-East Park Mall Concession: Did Something Fishy Take Place?” Chipimo also wondered how the University of Zambia used the US\$3 million loan which it obtained from the land

lease agreement, which is shrouded in controversy. “In 2010, the University of Zambia (UNZA) Council signed a contract (the original contract) with Graduare Property Development Limited (Graduare) for the purposes of developing the area that is now called East Park Mall. The contract is essentially a Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) contract for a period of 25 years. A BOT arrangement is essentially a financing mechanism under which the parties agree that a developer will lease land from a land owner and secure their own resources and take on the full risk to develop and use the property,” Chipimo explained. “It is expected that the developer will recover the cost of the development and make some profit on top from the

use of the property they have developed during the period of the lease (which in this case was 25 years as already stated). Upon expiry of the lease period, the property is then handed back to the owner at no cost (other than purely administrative costs) and the owner is then free to use the development as they see fit. The original contract required the developer to pay UNZA an annual fee of no more than 5 per cent of gross annual revenue from the development as soon as it was generating revenue. However, in 2011 there was an initial request for possible concession extension by another 25 years although it is not clear what the value to UNZA would be for this extension.” Chipimo noted that the concession agreement

had been changed under unclear terms and without the public’s attention. “In 2013, there was a first addendum to the original contract which essentially fixed the concession date and gave UNZA a seat on the board of Graduare. In 2016, a second addendum was signed which accomplished four main things: (i) it gave the developer additional land for development which was larger in size than the original land; (ii) it granted a loan to UNZA (in cash or in kind) for the development of a lecture and graduation hall; (iii) it provided for the setting-off of this loan/development against the proceeds from the 6% gross revenue due to UNZA for the operation of the new development area granted under the second addendum;

and (iv) it gave the right for the developer to have the lease automatically extended by an additional 25 years upon request,” he observed. “This is a matter that was not sufficiently brought to the public’s attention and there are issues around whether the appropriate regulatory approvals were obtained by UNZA Council although this issue will be determined by the evidence available and what the law on procurement and approvals was at the time the various transactions were being concluded.” He challenged the University Council to explain how the lease agreement was changed and how the loan obtained from the concession agreement was used. “However, there are three troubling questions that need to be answered: 1. Did either the PPP Unit or ZPPA provide the requisite approvals for the extension of the concession period from 25 to 50 years? 2. What value did UNZA derive for granting the property developers an additional 25 years? 3. What did UNZA do with the \$3million loan?” asked Chipimo. “It is concerning that UNZA gave up additional land (larger in size than the original land that was handed over for development under the original contract) and increased the concession period by 100 per cent to 50 years (covering both properties), in exchange only for a US\$3 million loan and an increase in the annual fee by 1 per cent in respect of the newly transferred area. For a severely cash-strapped organisation like UNZA to hand over a concession for a period of 50 years and to double the land under lease in exchange for a 3 million dollar loan seems – to put it bluntly – crazy. We need answers.”



President Edgar Lungu (c) enters the chambers during the Ceremonial Opening of the 3rd Session of the 12th National Assembly in Lusaka on Friday, September 14, 2018. Picture by Salim Henry

## Mkushi Copper Mine to resume operations after 40-year shutdown

**By Mirriam Chabala**

The Mkushi Copper Mine in Luano District is set to resume full operations before the end of this year, 40 years after mining activities were shut, Central Province Permanent Secretary Chanda Kabwe has revealed. Kabwe made this announcement when he toured the site, Thursday, where he was informed by the contractor SHI & YAN Mining Limited of China that works had advanced ahead of the full operations.

Chanda said the revival of the mine was in response to calls from the provincial administration to invest in the region and bring the mine back to life. Mkushi Copper Mine, which was shut down in 1976, had since changed hands from one company to the other without significant success until last year when the Chinese firm took over. And Kabwe said Luano would be a powerful mining town that would change its economic outlook in the

foreseeable future once the mine resumes its operations. “Just like Copperbelt or Western provinces, where we have seen success stories; we are not politicking, this is serious investment and we are saying, Luano will be transformed and the livelihood of our people in Luano will change,” Kabwe predicted. And site manager Hon Yunge said the company had decided to invest in Central Province because of the friendly

environment and political stability in the country. “We want to set a good example for future investors that would like to invest here in Central Province, particularly in Luano District; the investment opportunity here in Zambia is fantastic because we have stable political situation and we have so many wonderful Zambians,” Yunge said. Meanwhile, Luano District Commissioner Christopher Chibuye said the remote district, which had a

population of 40,000 people, was on the verge of becoming the number one producer of all minerals in the country. “I am told that it is over US \$65 million that has been pumped into this investment and this is not a small investment; it will actually hugely benefit the people in Luano through job creation,” said Chibuye. “Luano had lagged behind for a long time because of the vastness of the area, particularly before being annexed from Mkushi.”

# More IDC employees testify in Paul Siame case

From page 3

Mwenye: Now, who was the substantive interim director corporate planning?  
Kaluba: I was.  
Mwenye: What was Mr Mate's position?  
Kaluba: He was executive director corporate.  
Mwenye: Did you have an office at the IDC at this time?  
Kaluba: At this time I had been given an office.  
Mwenye: When were you appointed interim director?  
Kaluba: After the two executive directors were asked to stay away from the office. Mr Chipwende asked me to sit in while they were away.  
Mwenye: So Mr Chipwende asked for you to come to replace the two directors who had left?  
Kaluba: To sit in.  
Mwenye: To sit in for them?  
Kaluba: While they were away.  
Mwenye: So Mr Chipwende asked for you to come in as interim director while Mr Mate and the complainant were away correct?  
Kaluba: Correct.  
Mwenye: So, you were asked to act for administrative convenience while they were away?  
Kaluba: I was asked to bring in extra skill and labour while they were away.  
Mwenye: Are you aware that Mr Mate and the complainant were reinstated on October 14, 2016?  
Kaluba: I was informed of that.  
Mwenye: So you were aware that they were reinstated on that day. You said that you were just there to fill in while they were away, what was wrong with asking you to leave after they had come back?  
Kaluba: He had no power to do that.  
Mwenye: So your substantive position was at the Ministry of Commerce correct?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Mwenye: When you were appointed interim director, did you occupy Mr Mate's office?  
Kaluba: No, I was given a very different office.  
Mwenye: Did you ever attend any disciplinary hearings against the complainant over this issue over that he called you to threaten you?  
Kaluba: No.  
Mwenye: So he was never charged with this issue?  
Kaluba: Not to my knowledge.  
Mwenye: Now in paragraph 11, you tabulate what you call the threats and incidence against the complainant. In paragraph 11A, you mention

that on October 14, 2016, the complainant threatened Ms Rumbizai Mutasa who was acting company secretary and indicated that he would fire her. Where is she?  
Kaluba: She's currently working at Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank.  
Mwenye: She's in a position to testify in this matter but never testified correct?  
Kaluba: I can not speak on her behalf.  
Mwenye: Was the complainant charged with this issue?  
Kaluba: No.  
Mwenye: So this incidence there were no charges against him? Were you there when this alleged conversation occurred?  
Kaluba: I was not there. I relied on interviews.  
Mwenye: 11B, you said during the said period, the complainant forcibly gained access to the office of the CEO and collected unknown documents without seeking any further authorization or consent. Were you there when this alleged incidence occurred?  
Kaluba: I was not there.  
Mwenye: Who was CEO at the time of this alleged incidence?  
Kaluba: Mr Chipwende.  
Mwenye: Are you aware that Mr Chipwende was before this court and that he never mentioned this incident in his evidence?  
Kaluba: I'm aware that Mr Chipwende was before this court but I'm not aware that he never mentioned this incidence.  
Mwenye: Paragraph 11C, you said he forcibly gained access through the IT specialist Mr Lwatula to all electronic information including confidential email correspondence. Where is Mr Lwatula?  
Kaluba: He's at IDC.  
Mwenye: Were you physically present?  
Kaluba: I was not. I relied on interviews  
Mwenye: You said in 11D that upon being served with a letter of termination, the complainant proceeded to shred company documents in the presence of his subordinates. Were you physically present?  
Kaluba: I was not physically present, I relied on interviews.  
Mwenye: Do you know what kind of documents was shredded?  
Kaluba: No I don't.  
Mwenye: Is it a disciplinary offence to shred documents?  
Kaluba: If he was shredding personal documents it's not an

offence.  
Mwenye: Paragraph 13... that the complainant failed or neglected to answer in the disciplinary charge laid upon him and consequently the respondent proceeded to terminate his contract of employment by a letter dated November 11, 2016. Were you involved in any of these proceedings?  
Kaluba: I was not involved.  
Mwenye: At the time the letter of termination was being written, did the Minister of Finance or the secretary to the treasury consult you?  
Kaluba: I was not.  
Mwenye: My lord I'm referring the witness to a letter of termination of contract signed by the Minister of Finance and the Secretary to the Treasury. Look at it carefully, is there any reason given for the complainant's termination of services?  
Kaluba: No reason was given.  
Mwenye: These events happened between June and November, 2016, is that correct?  
Kaluba: I should think so.  
Mwenye: Were you part of the top management team at the time?  
Kaluba: I was not.  
Mwenye: Wouldn't you agree with me that in fact your affidavit is full of hearsay, matters that you didn't know personally? Because you were not part of these proceedings?  
Kaluba: I was not part of these proceedings your honour.  
Mwenye: Since you have spoken authoritatively about the termination of the complainant's services, why were the services of Mr Chipwende terminated?  
Kaluba: I'm not aware.  
Mwenye: Let's turn to something that happened while you were CEO. You took over as CEO after Mr Chipwende left on November 11, 2016 right? When is pay day in the IDC?  
Kaluba: 20 or 21st.  
Mwenye: I'm referring the witness to exhibit PMS1 in the affidavit in support. That's the contract between the complainant and the first respondent. Read out clause 7.2.  
Kaluba: (...Salary shall be paid by 21st of every month...) Mwenye: So the complainant's pay day was on the 21st of every month. That word 'paid in arrears', wouldn't you agree with me that it means that he's paid from the 20th of the previous month to the 21st of the month in which he's paid?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Mwenye: I'm referring the witness to the respondent's bundle of documents, particularly on page three. Mr Kaluba, that document is the schedule of payments for the complainant's terminal pay. You

know it?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Mwenye: You approved payments made under this?  
Kaluba: Yes I did.  
Mwenye: Mr Siame's contract was terminated on November 11, 2016, you recall that?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Mwenye: Wouldn't you agree with me that he should have been paid his salary from October 22 to November 11? According to his contract, his pay day is 21st.  
Kaluba: He should have been paid from his last pay day to the date of termination.  
Mwenye: He should have been paid from the date of his last pay day to the date of his termination. According to the contract of employment, when was his pay day in October?  
Kaluba: It was supposed to be 21st.  
Mwenye: Please look at page three of the respondent's bundle of documents. My simple calculation was that there's more than nine days from October 21 to November 11. Why was Mr Siame only paid for nine days?  
Kaluba: Your honour this computation was made by experts in human capital and I relied on their expertise. I believe this is what was due to him.  
Mwenye: I put it to you that he should have been paid for 16 days but was only paid for nine days, what do you say to that?  
Kaluba: I will rely on the expertise of my staff.  
Mwenye: I further put it to you that Mr Siame should have been paid K96,116.36 instead of the K54,000 he was paid, what do you say about that?  
Kaluba: I will rely on the expertise of the institution.  
Mwenye: You said you rely on your expertise of your experts, isn't it true that you are the one who wrote to Mr Siame communicating the computation of terminal benefits and net book value of the vehicle?  
Kaluba: I believe it was me.  
Mwenye: It was you?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Mwenye: I have no further questions.  
Judge Musona: Counsel has no further questions anything in re-examination?  
Linyama: My lord, the Attorney General must also be given an opportunity.  
Attorney General: My lord I no further questions.

### Re-examination

Linyama: Mr Kaluba, you were referred to a letter where the complainant was charged with insubordination. Could you look at it there...The charge which is there relates to events with what date?  
Kaluba: Events of October 17,

2016.  
Linyama: You can also confirm that the report that you were given, when you said you conducted interviews, those form the date of the charge?  
Kaluba: Yes.  
Linyama: Could you kindly tell the court, you were taken to task that, was there anything wrong with you being asked to leave the company when the substantive office holder came in? The question that was out to you was why didn't you leave? You tried to clarify to say the letter you received for you to take up those positions, came from the CEO. Clarify, why didn't you leave when Mr Siame instructed you to leave IDC?  
Kaluba: Because the instructions in my view should have come from CEO of the institution to whom I was reporting.  
Linyama: You stated in cross examination that when you received a call from Mr Siame you were with Mr Chipwende. What exactly were you told in this call?  
Mwenye: Objection there was nothing about him being with Mr Chipwende that issue never arose...  
Linyama: I can rephrase the question for the sake of progress. Paragraph 10, you said you received a call on October 14, from the complainant. What exactly did he tell you?  
Kaluba: He called from an office line, he said 'I have noticed that you have been given an office...I'm telling you to stay away from the IDC for your own good. Andrew has told you that you are important here, I'm telling you that you are not needed here. I better not see you...'  
Linyama: You were taken to task in terms of particulars in paragraph 11 and you were being asked that the events you did not perceive them yourself personally but your answer was that you conducted interview. Can you tell the court how this information came to you?  
Kaluba: When we conducted interviews with staff that were privy with what was happening at the time, and based on the information given to us during those interviews, that's the basis on which I submitted my affidavit.  
Linyama: There was a suggestion made to you that you were in occupation of Mr Mate's office. Can you please clarify whose office you occupied when you were interim director?  
Kaluba: The office that was given to me was an office that was occupied by Mr Kabanje who was an analyst. That was the office which was prepared for me.  
Linyama: You were referred to the letter of termination of employment. You were asked

whether you were privy to the circumstances in which that letter was written. Could you please clarify to the court, the persons who communicated the decision to the complainant?  
Kaluba: The letter was signed by the Minister of Finance honourable Felix Mutati and Secretary to the Treasury Mr Fredson Yamba, in their capacity as shareholders of IDC.  
Linyama: You were also referred to the respondent's bundle of documents in particular page three, which is the document the computation for the complainant's entitlements upon termination. There was a question put to you on the value of the motor vehicle. Could you tell the court how you ended up writing that letter?  
Kaluba: I relied on the computation made by the accountant in determining the value.  
Linyama: Can you confirm to the court that in computing what the complainant was entitled to, regard was taken to the value of the motor vehicle that he was given?  
Kaluba: Yes I can confirm.  
Linyama: You were taken to look at Clause 7.2, which is the contract of employment by the complainant. I would like you to look through that document, is there anywhere where it shows the date in which it was signed?  
Kaluba: No.  
Linyama: You were asked questions in terms of Mr Siame's entitlements and computation that that he should have been paid from October 22 up to the date of his termination of employment and you answered that very well that you relied on the computation of your experts. Could you tell the court if this 7.2 was taken in account of in computing?  
Kaluba: Yes it was taken into account.  
Linyama: You were taken to task on the issue of staying away and suspension. Could you please look at Mr Lawrence Sikutwa's letter, where the complainant was being asked to stay away from employment. What's the date of that letter?  
Kaluba: September 16, 2016.  
Linyama: Who gave the directive according to that letter for the complainant to stay away from employment?  
Kaluba: The finance and administration committee.  
Linyama: And you recall in cross examination you were taken into task that during this period when the office directive was in place, there was a newspaper article where the complainant was quoted. You recall being asked whether you were aware that the complainant was permitted to give that statement by the secretary to the cabinet?  
Kaluba: Yes I recall.

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# Economic science or social marketing at EAZ?

We wish to express our views regarding the role of the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) to which we have been and continue to be fully paid up members. The comments attributed to the president of the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) on ZNBC’s Sunday Interview programme on 9th September, and extensively quoted in the News Diggers of 11th September, on the national debt once again lend credence to the argument that EAZ needs to rethink the way it conducts its business and delivers public opinions. EAZ can learn from the Law Association of Zambia, Engineering Institution of Zambia and the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants which are much more structured in the way they operate. There is nothing wrong in individual members giving personal opinions about matters of public interest, as long as they care to state so explicitly. We all can have our opinions about whether the country is in debt crisis or not. Based on the data that we have seen in the public domain, the EAZ president was probably correct in characterizing the debt situation as not a crisis. And a number of his other observations were reasonable. However, it seems to us that people have taken the normative content of some of the president’s remarks to be dangerously opaque. In other words, many economists took issue with his statements mainly because of what he didn’t say. The context around how the debt numbers have been disclosed to the public over the recent past has not helped the discourse either.

What is not debatable is that many economists and other citizens are leery of unrestrained borrowing and uneconomical public spending. They are concerned that our economy is not growing at a fast enough rate to enable us repay the debt, and is perhaps steadily outrunning our willingness to be taxed. The recent strife from civil society, academia and others, over the national health insurance law and other recent tax measures illustrate this point. It is plausible that stronger economic growth will eventually rescue us from crippling debt servicing obligations by providing the extra income to repay our debt. And of course, greater economic growth buoys confidence in the economy and expands the tax base from which more revenue can be generated to repay debt. However, it is equally plausible that slow growth will persist and imperil our current economic situation. From past experience, we do know that austerity will forerun sluggish growth, initially at least, given the draconian expenditure cuts and new taxes that it comes with. Either way, harder choices have to be made in order to ensure that our national debt does not grow at a rate faster than the economy can afford to repay.

What is also not in dispute is that eventually, ever-increasing debt will cause interest rates to rise, and the portion of domestic revenue that goes to servicing the growing debt will take a toll on the ability of the government to provide services and expand economic opportunities. We know that the impact of debt servicing

on the operational budget is already extensive as most government programmes are underfunded because 30% of our national revenue is going to debt servicing while over 60% goes to personnel emoluments. We are spending more on servicing debt than we are spending on education and health sectors combined. This situation may not rise to a level of a crisis, but it paints a potentially perilous scenario for the future.

It is hard to overstate the importance of growth in the real sector of the economy. Should our current account deficits persist for a while, we surely will need changes to the real sector of the economy if we are to earn the foreign exchange we need to repay external debt. And rather than reduce the debate to whether our gross external debt stock as a portion of GDP passes some arbitrary threshold, we should also consider our economy’s future export potential and ability to cope with exchange rate risks?

Debt restructuring is one option on the table, as the EAZ president rightly said. We think that restructuring our national debt is not avoidable, it is inevitable. But the story does not end there. At what financial and economic cost are we refinancing? Are we willing and able to simultaneously deal with the root causes? What is the intellectual integrity of our debt sustainability strategy? There is a host of issues to ponder. But, it must be emphasized that measures that only postpone but do not reduce scheduled debt payments will not restore market confidence. The consequences on our currency can be devastating. Hence, no amount of debt restructuring (in lay terms, postponing problems about the future to the future) without solving the fundamental causes in high unrestrained expenditure growth will not get us out of this problem. To advocate more borrowing without talking about these issues is not prudent. It is not surprising that EAZ is being accused of offering slapdash economic policy solutions, and dismissing concerns about the adverse effects of evidently rising public debt on our economy as scare talk. In addition, debt restructuring should go along with trying to get more output from current public spending in the public service system.

At the end of the day, we think that spending time talking about crisis or no crisis is counter-productive. Those who are calling a crisis can be guilty of overblowing the threat. Those who think that there is no evidence of a crisis on the horizon are guilty of an illegitimate assumption that a crisis would come with a clear forewarning. We know that most indicators of financial or economic crises have only been seen in the rearview mirror. What we urgently need are bold, binding fiscal reforms to curb expenditure growth. What the IMF and others are warning is that measures that might have been sufficient today will become inadequate in the near term the longer it takes. To state the obvious: waiting to act until the crisis is at our doorstep is going to come with much greater

collateral damage.

Similarly, the idea that nationalizing mining companies will more likely return them to profitability because government experts are more competent than private sector professionals has been resoundingly discredited. Finally on this point, as we begin to debate the 2019 national budget our colleagues in the media should resist the temptation of narrowing irreducible economic issues to a simple game of simply assembling enough “friends” who are in support of a particular viewpoint.

As Abraham Lincoln observed, you can fool some of the people all of the time and perhaps all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. In the same way, trying to regulate the debate to a politically-convenient level is myopic, and soon we will be found out. Economic facts and their ramifications, no matter how hard, must be discussed squarely.

Our second, and more fundamental, point relates to the way EAZ is conducting its business. Constructive engagement with policy makers is very important for an institution like EAZ, and we fully support that. The question though is, do members see EAZ primarily as a think tank (i.e. a scientific resource) at the disposal of its members and the general public (including government), or as a force pursuing its own objectives? If it is the former, then EAZ needs to ensure a much more open intellectual environment for its members, with sufficient room for internal scientific dissent. The institution could then use internal peer review mechanisms to ensure that its opinions are subjected to good scientific preparation. We would add that EAZ should consider itself as one, but only the only, institution that can offer opinions to government on matters of public interest, operating at arms-length. But if EAZ is primarily an advocacy (or propaganda) machine, then the openness that science requires will be supplanted with a marketing culture, in which only particular views are promulgated. Events of the past weeks seem to leave members confused about this. The public must understand that EAZ has a lot of members who do not have sufficient, or any, formal training in economics, for good or for bad. Many members are increasingly feeling that the current environment is not a healthy one in which to conduct serious discussions of how best to improve our national economic discourse. There is a real danger that EAZ could turn into what our colleagues in tort law refer to as "eggshell plaintiffs", because a growing cohort of Association membership some of whom, lacking training in economics, are steadily cultivating a vocation in “un-intellectualism”.

Return EAZ to its core mandate: promoting scholarly-based policy debate, not eclectic populism. Or risk becoming obsolete.

*Felix Masiye, PhD and Bona Chitah, PhD  
Department of Economics, University of Zambia*

**By Sipilisiwe Ncube**  
American Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says he hopes to see real investigations and successful prosecutions of corrupt officials regardless of their level in government. Reacting to President Edgar Lungu’s speech to parliament Friday where he talked about government’s commitment to fighting corruption, Foote said he expects that every corrupt cited official will be prosecuted regardless of the party he/she belongs to. Ambassador Foote also added that automating the justice system would

## Corruption prosecution must target all regardless of rank, party – Foote

expand the delivery of justice FOR Zambia. “The president talked firmly about his stance in combating corruption and that is good news. We hope to see real investigations and successful prosecutions of corrupt officials regardless of their level in government and regardless of their party,” Footed said. And Foote said he was

thrilled that his country’s donations to Zambia were transparent. “And finally he mentioned millennium challenge and a strong impact as the number one bilateral assistance donor particularly in health and water, and the US is proud and thrilled to make our donations to Zambia’s well-being each year and will never have to defend our

assistant to Zambia and we are fully transparent. And we hope other governments and the government of Zambia are equally transparent,” he said. He further said the automation of the justice system would improve speedy delivery of justice. “Zambia believes people are innocent until proven guilty and because of

delays logistically in the justice, many people spend more time in pre-trial detention than they would if found guilty. So I think that for the Zambian citizenry is going to be critical, it’s continuing to augment the justice sector,” Ambassador Foote said. And the Ambassador said the expansion of media satellite TV to rural areas should be

accompanied by the passing of the access to information bill. “I was glad to hear about the expansion of media and satellite TV into more rural areas and we hope that that is accompanied by the passage of the access to information act and a strong commitment of freedom of the press and media here in Zambia,” said Foote.

Last week, Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs, Honourable Reverend Godfridah Sumaili held a press conference at which she invited Zambians to attend en masse this year's Day of Prayer and Reconciliation.

The Reverend spoke with the passion and spiritual intonation of a real patriot who was demonstrating the need for harmony, love for one another and co-existence of citizens across divergent beliefs. The Minister went on to talk about how Zambia had rich cultural values, which need to be upheld and promoted. It all went well, until one clever journalist asked a question that was answered with a confirmation of how useless this entire ministry is.

The news reporter asked why Muslims were not being considered in the national prayers for the country, and Reverend Sumaili said they would bring confusion to a Christian event, and encouraged them to hold their own Day of Prayer outside government involvement.

"The President announced the national day of prayer fasting and repentance [but] the only thing is that when we meet as Christians in one place and then we say 'Hindus [or Muslims] come' I think there will be confusion, but they are free to meet on their own. It's an arrangement that we want to worship God in the way that we are accustomed to. Ninety per cent of Zambians are Christians and we need to honour our Creator," Reverend Sumaili said.

In our opinion, this answer is a confirmation that Reverend Sumaili is in charge of the Ministry of Christians and not

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.  
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# Like we said, Ministry of Religion is useless

all religious affairs as her title entails. To her, Islam and Hinduism are not religions, or if they are, they don't fall under her responsibility. Therefore, she has no interest in Islamic activities; she doesn't care about beliefs and values of Hindus.

We also understand that the minister's statement meant that she personally cannot go to worship with Muslims at the Mosque, and she neither has any intentions of visiting a Hindu Temple to see how they do it. To her, there is a thick holy line between Christians and the rest, which must prevent them from comingling. Maybe she is right.

But Muslims are part of our society, and so are the Hindus, Atheists and Agnostics. The Republican Constitution says Zambia is a Christian nation, but it does not say that Zambia is a nation for Christians. What that means is that, non-Christians are not in any way less Zambian. Agnostics and complete Atheists are as Zambian as Reverend Sumaili and deserve to be recognized as such. If they prefer a cold

beer on October 18, the minister must only urge them to drink responsibly without making them feel less Zambian.

Reverend Sumaili's eyes must not be fixated on Christians and their needs only. She must consider the care that other religions like Islam show to Christians in this country. Look at how many young impoverished Christians, whom this government has neglected; look at how they line up along the corridors of Muslim-owned shops looking for Almsgiving. Muslims believe that giving to others purifies their own wealth and giving to charity is one of the five pillars of Islam. They do not only give to charity, but they run and fund schools, colleges and health facilities for the benefit of all citizens, regardless of their religions. So it is wrong for Reverend Sumaili to say that their presence at a Christian event would cause confusion, as if they detest or do not recognize Christianity.

But if Reverend Sumaili has a point when she says

there could be confusion in bringing people of various faiths to warship together, then she is a little too late to realize now because this confusion started the day she was appointed minister.

In fact, this is not a problem of Reverend Sumaili; it is a problem of her appointing authority. When President Edgar Lungu was creating this ministry and appointing this woman, his intention was not to serve all religions, but merely to reward those that abused the name of Jesus Christ when campaigning for him. It was not meant for all Christians, but those who established a mortal covenant called "Christians for Lungu".

It is no wonder the Catholic Church distanced itself from the declaration of this National Day of Prayer, established under the creation of this ministry. We remember that from the onset, Lusaka Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu questioned the motive and declared that, "we Catholics already have a prayer calendar which we dedicatedly follow, so

we will not be part of this politics."

It doesn't surprise us now to see Reverend Sumaili get stranded on how to deal with questions which her employer did not think about. If indeed this ministry was created with a motive of uniting citizens of all divergent religious beliefs, there was going to be a list of directors at the ministry, in charge of every religion. When asked about Muslims, Reverend Sumaili should have been saying 'WE AS GOVERNMENT, are organizing a similar activity for Muslims on this Day of Prayer, and another event for Hindus, etc.

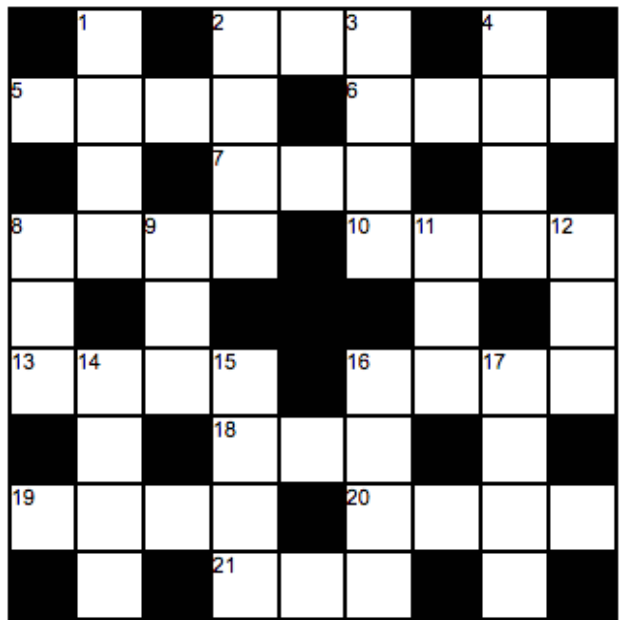
Dear readers; this ministry is not a menace to other religions only; it has brought confusion even among Christian denominations. If we may ask; how does Reverend Sumaili react to Jehovah's Witnesses who fall under her ministry, when they knock on her door for evangelism? Since she was appointed Minister of Religious Affairs, has she ever been to the Kingdom Hall to worship with our

brothers and sisters, the Mboni za Yehova? While maintaining her ministerial duty of encouraging all Zambians to fully participate in their civic duty of electing their political leaders, what is her position against the Witnesses whose doctrine does not allow them to vote? Does her Ministry of Guidance encourage our sisters and brethren to refuse receiving blood transfusion when in need?

We understand how controversial these questions are, but we are asking them because we are trying to demonstrate how you cannot mix politics and religion to the extent of creating a government ministry to govern people's faiths. It is senseless. We can even challenge the minister to hold a press conference at the end of the year to tell taxpayers' how much she got from the national budget and what she achieved out of it.

Sorry madam Reverend Sumaili, we mean no disrespect to you as an individual, we have nothing against your persona. But we speak for many Zambians when we say your ministry is useless and it has brought total confusion to the religious faiths. It is not the Muslims or Hindus who are bringing confusion to the harmony that we have enjoyed for hundreds of years as a people of divergent beliefs, it is you and your President. So, after you have eaten and satisfied each other enough as Christians for Lungu, please come back to your senses and abolish this ministry as part of the austerity measures for next year!

## Crossword puzzle 188



*“Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministration. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.” - A.W. Tozer*

- Across**  
2. Defeat  
5. 12:30 pm or 9:00 am  
6. Beast; like Shrek  
7. Make a mistake  
8. Dud  
10. Constructed  
13. More than want  
16. A toboggan  
18. Baseball ref  
19. Told untruths  
20. Yearn for  
21. Ages and ages
- Down**  
1. It may be hard to swallow  
2. Shed a lot of tears  
3. "Cheers" character  
4. Brought up  
8. Part of a fish  
9. Solitary  
11. Become unwell  
12. Final; finish  
14. Malevolent  
15. Buddy  
16. Bridge, or wide gap  
17. Parrot

## Solutions to puzzle 187





# Reader's feedback

## Lungu telling off SP chiefs, 'I am your President even if you don't like me'

Dear Editor,

"If you are a true president, no need to remind people. A sober man will not tell you I am sober because you will be able to see that he is sober." - Henry Nsontwa

"Sometimes, it's not necessary to tell or explain to the people that you their president, but just listen to their cries; use the privilege and come to their aid, then you save yourself from the pain of explaining your position." - Jones Samanenga

"Weak leadership is always seeking recognition. What is needed is strong, secure and mature leadership." - Monk Gyatso

"Have never heard from all previous head of states telling people or chiefs like this. If you are a wise leader, you can't force anyone to do what you want." - Richard Lenga's

"Lungu's poor governance makes him a very unpopular leader; and there's no way he can force sensible chiefs to like him or support his corrupt PF regime." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Why do you always want to prove you're in charge?" - Mutale Louis

"KBF says don't force yourself on people." - Honesty Mweene

### 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.



## ZEMA's loss in garbage collection case against LCC

Editor,

"ZEMA please hire good lawyers, otherwise, our already limited confidence in this under-funded entity is plummeting further. Surely, you lose an environmental case on technical grounds against the LCC, which is a quasi-government institution that must primarily comply? What guarantee of victory do we have of good outcomes when you take on the multifarious corporates who are deliberately violating environmental laws?" - Daniel Zj Sichilongo

"Another one in the bag.....Wasn't the council just supposed to comply in the first place?" - Samuel Chibale

"So, what is the court saying? Who then should be held accountable for that garbage?" - Chola Mwale

"This is the reason why ZEMA just sits and forgets about protecting the environment. Our courts are too political..." - Twaambo Power

"I don't trust Zambian courts." - Kapembwa Sims Kazya

## Police's warning Kalaba for holding 'illegal meetings'

Editor,

"This POA is really abused by the system. There was in fact a Supreme Court ruling about it in the 90s to the effect that you simply notify the police, and that the police are to give permission or not...Just need to be notified. The problem is the police have usurped powers to deny this right to assembly, which is illegal." - Kwa Mwamba

"Time is the best equalizer... the POA will surely come to haunt those abusing it today." - Messi Barca

"Please help push the PF

president out; enough is enough!" - Violet K Kapepa

"This madam is too over-zealous. What she should know is she will not be there for good; let her slow down a bit." - Ramzy Tembo

"This is beautiful. At least we now know that the UPND were not crazy when they once upon a time lamented against these things." - Choolwe Mpondamasaka

"Leave him alone. Let him talk the facts in him. Continue our 2021 president HK." - Abson Musesa



South Korean President Moon Jae-in travels to Pyongyang this week for his third summit with Kim Jong Un, looking to break the deadlock in nuclear talks between North Korea and the United States. Moon -- whose own parents fled the North during the 1950-53 Korean War -- flies north on Tuesday for a three-day trip, following in the footsteps of his predecessors Kim Dae-jung in 2000 and mentor Roh Moo-hyun in 2007. No details of the programme have been announced but Pyongyang is likely to pull out all the stops to create a good impression, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets to welcome him. The visit comes after the North staged its "Mass Games" propaganda display for the first time in five years.

# Moon seeks to break nuclear deadlock at Pyongyang summit

The new show featured imagery of Kim and Moon at their first summit in April in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula -- prompting the unusual sight of tens of thousands of North Koreans in the May Day Stadium applauding pictures of Seoul's leader. One diplomatic source predicted the visit would see "Kim and Moon together receiving the same sort of applause". But while the summit at the Panmunjom border truce village was high on headline-grabbing symbolism, with Moon

stepping briefly into the North and the two sharing an extended one-to-one woodland chat, pressure is mounting for substantive progress. Moon, who met Kim again in May, was instrumental in brokering the historic summit the following month between US President Donald Trump and Kim in Singapore, when Kim backed denuclearisation of the "Korean peninsula". But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means

and how it will be achieved. At the same time the US and South have sometimes moved at radically different speeds in their approach to the North. Moon will try again to "play the role of facilitator or mediator", said his special adviser on foreign affairs Moon Chung-in. "He believes that improved inter-Korean relations have some role in facilitating US-DPRK talks as well as solving the North Korean nuclear problem," he told reporters, using the North's official acronym. Last month Trump abruptly

cancelled a planned visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Pyongyang, after the North condemned "gangster-like" demands for what it called its unilateral disarmament. Washington has been adamant that the North carry out a "final, fully verified denuclearisation" first, while Pyongyang is demanding a formal declaration from the US that the Korean War is over. But Kim has since sent Trump a letter seeking a second summit and held a military parade for his country's 70th birthday without showing off any intercontinental ballistic missiles, prompting warm tweets from the US president.

North Korea will want to exploit Trump's eagerness to declare progress before the US mid-term elections in November to secure concessions, said Go Myong-hyun, an analyst at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, and will view "every meeting as a viable political opportunity" towards that goal. But whether Pyongyang is willing to offer something concrete in return is yet to be seen. Moon may try to convince the North Korean leader to verbally commit to providing a list of the country's existing nuclear programme, said Shin Beom-cheol, another analyst at the Asan Institute. **AFP**



Philippine soldiers help a family with a sick child to a government vehicle after their ambulance failed to make it through fallen debris from Super Typhoon Mangkhut in Baggao town. AFP

## Cardinal says women should train priests to fight abuse ‘crisis’

Women should play a greater role in the training of priests to fight the child abuse "crisis" that has engulfed the Catholic Church, Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet has said. More must be done within the church to tackle the root causes of the latest wave of global abuse scandals to rock the institution, said Ouellet, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops. "We would need participation of more women in (training) of priests," he told reporters on Saturday on the sidelines of a meeting in the Polish city of Poznan. Better care must be taken when choosing bishops, he said, adding that more women should select candidates for priesthood and assess their suitability for the job. His comments at the four-day

assembly of the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe come amid a slew of devastating assault allegations spanning several continents. People in Australia, Europe, and North and South America have charged they were sexually abused by clergymen and lay people, in what German Archbishop Georg Gaenswein has called the church's "own 9/11". "We are facing a crisis in the life of the church... And also to certain extent a rebellion," Ouellet said. "This is a very serious matter that has to be dealt with in a spiritual way, not only in a political way," he said, but added that direct attacks against the pope over the scandals were "unjust". The US Catholic Church has been shaken by the publication of a report on sexual abuse by clergy in

Pennsylvania and by the resignation in July of US Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Pope Francis met US bishops and cardinals on Thursday to discuss the Vatican's response after McCarrick was accused of sexually abusing a teenager while working as a priest in New York in the early 1970s. That meeting took place a day after Germany's Catholic Church said it was "dismayed and ashamed" by the revelation of decades of child sex abuse by priests, with a leaked report showing that thousands of minors were assaulted. A separate report published on Saturday said more than half of the Netherlands' senior clerics were involved in covering up sexual assault of children between 1945 and 2010. **AFP**

## Victoria Beckham debuts at home to celebrate decade in fashion

Untested in the fashion world, Victoria Beckham launched her VB label in 2008 in New York, across the Atlantic from her native Britain. A decade on, she will exhibit at London Fashion Week for the first time on Sunday, in a triumphant homecoming of sorts for a now widely-respected designer and entrepreneur. The ex-Spice Girls singer oversees an empire comprising four clothing lines, more than 400 retail outlets in over 50 countries and offices in London and New York. At the outset Beckham, a longtime fashionista, faced a daunting challenge: convincing a competitive and demanding industry that she could make a lasting impression on fickle fashion fans. Seizing the opportunity to surpass her status as a pop star and the original footballer's WAG -- meaning wives and girlfriends -- she has gradually earned widespread recognition, even from fashion luminaries such as Karl Lagerfeld, the creative genius behind Chanel. "Many saw her as just another example of a celebrity wanting to have a fashion range with no

formal fashion training," Andrew Groves, a professor of fashion design at the University of Westminster, told AFP. "Through hard work and determination, she has proved those early critics wrong." In the space of a decade, Beckham, 44, has ventured into accessories, expanded sales internationally and online and multiplied collaborations with the likes of Reebok, Target and Estee Lauder. Her style has also evolved, from the chic classicism that marked her first steps into haute couture to the more daring cuts and vibrant colours -- neon orange, mint green, lilac -- of more recent offerings. "It's been an incredible journey, even when things can be challenging. I've had to learn incredibly quickly," she told The Daily Telegraph newspaper recently. She claims the secret of her success is a tireless work ethic and the support of her family -- football superstar husband David and their four children. Beckham was blunt about the ambition for her brand "to get bigger and bigger", in a 2013 interview with The New York Times Magazine. **AF**



# Zaha: I'd have to break my leg for someone to get a red card!



Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goals for Juventus. AFP

The Crystal Palace forward handed his side a much-needed victory in their 1-0 win over Huddersfield but believes he is treated unfairly by referees. Wilfried Zaha believes he would have to suffer a broken leg for one of his opponents to be sent off for a foul on him. The Crystal Palace forward's wonderful individual effort earned his side a 1-0 win at Huddersfield Town on Saturday but was forced to endure another game that saw him on the receiving end of several hefty challenges. Mathias Jorgensen angered Zaha by pulling him down in the contest at the John Smith's Stadium, with the Dane shown only a yellow card for his actions. The 25-year-old has drawn 11 fouls so far this season, with only Chelsea star Eden Hazard, Leicester's James Maddison and Will Hughes of Watford receiving greater such

attention. Speaking to BBC Sport following the victory, a frustrated Zaha said: "I feel like before anyone gets a red, I'd have to get my leg broken or something. That's why I lose my head. "Some of the yellow cards, against Watford, the guy [Etienne Capoue] stood on the back of my calf and still a yellow card. It's like, 'why am I getting different treatment to other players?' "I just don't understand it and it's every week, every referee." Roy Hodgson's side arrested a three-match losing run in the Premier League with victory in Yorkshire, with Zaha's goal further extending his total as Palace's highest goalscorer in the competition. Yet despite his success with the ball at his feet this year, the striker admitted that the fear of injury has somewhat held him back from reaching what he sees as his best form.

"It's hard because obviously, it doesn't make you want to go on a run because you feel like someone will come through the back of you or do whatever and you'll get injured," Zaha added. "It doesn't allow you to express yourself the way you normally want to express yourself, that's a difficulty but obviously at the same time I have to let my feet talk as well." Palace return home next week to host winless Newcastle United on September 22 before they face Championship outfit West Brom in the Carabao Cup three days later on September 25.

## Indeni win COVA tournament

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
Indeni volleyball club was yesterday crowned Copperbelt Volleyball Challenge tournament (COVA) champions after beating Chalube in three straight sets. Both clubs are Copperbelt based after Lusaka clubs under-performed and got knocked out in the quarter and semifinals. Indeni long ball hitter Leonard Chibale could not let Chalube afford to attain above 23 points with his ground-breaking spikes, while another prolific spiker Jackson Chongo blocked most of the attempts made by Chalube. Indeni coach Titus Lukwesa said he had kept the optimism his boys would win. "I knew we would be victorious the moment we knocked out Green Eagles from Lusaka. There is good team work among my players and they coordinate very well. Our final was actually easier than our semi-finals as Lusaka teams are more

competitive. We won the Zambia Volleyball Association (ZAVA) open tournament and this is a plus to us. We however will not relax but work even harder because we still have tournaments to play before the season is closed," said Lukwesa. And Chalube coach blamed the loss on a relaxed form his side exhibited throughout the game. "I did not like the spirit

they carried throughout the game. I did not think they really wanted to win but one cannot exactly tell, maybe it was just a bad day. They were training just fine and it seemed they would do a better job than losing three straight sets. We will revisit the mistakes and make improvements. The fact that we reached finals is encouraging, said. Meanwhile in the

Midlands Volleyball Association (MIVA) league in Lusaka, Green Buffaloes suffered an unexpected loss to bottom-placed Spiking Stars in the female category. Spiking Stars club comprises youngsters with the oldest player being 20 years and it was their first win of the season against experienced Buffaloes. It now (Spiking Stars) has three points and still on

the bottom of the table. Coach of the side Isaac Tembo said the future was bright for the girls. "I'm building a team and they all started like this. The losses do not hurt us because I know these are high school girls playing against experienced clubs. Their first win is even more encouraging and we will soldier on until they are groomed to a greater level," said Tembo.

## No Honor for Arrows, but points

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
A 3-0 victory against National Assembly saw Red Arrows record their 8th consecutive win since the departure of head coach Honor Janza. The Airforce outfit dominated the field, letting off fierce attacks that kept the parliamentarians on the back foot all game. Daniel Sibanda drew first blood in the 41st minute before Njobvu put the game to bed almost instantly a minute later. National Assembly made their

first substitution before the break in an effort to salvage something from the one-sided game but the Arrows were piercing too deep to be fended off. A Saddam Phiri strike for Janza's former club rounded off the victory in the 72nd minute. Red Arrows coach Chisi Mbewe had smile-filled sentiments to share about the win in an interview with Goal Diggers! "This is not the future I was seeing but the guys have helped me relax a bit. Eight wins

consecutively is not something easy because the super league is very tough. Each team plays like it is their last and generally, we all want to ascend on the table. Three goals and maximum points is something to be proud and we will work to win all the remaining games so that we stay motivated for next season," said Mbewe. And National Assembly coach George Kapembwa said he expected more than he got from his side.

"I really did not expect this result but it is a game of football where anything is bound to happen. We could have done better but I guess it was not just our day. We keep sinking to the relegation zone so we got to get back to the drawing board and make amends. It would be a shame to get into the relegation zone with both legs and get stuck there," said Kapembwa. Arrows are 11th on the table with 45 points while National Assembly is 17th with 35 points.



# Shepolopolo group stage display excites soccer fraternity...

*By Alex Chilumbwe*

The current Shepolopolo team is not boring at all and they had a very professional and beautiful display against Cameroon," says star referee Janny Sikazwe. The soccer administrator said one could not ask for more, as it was not an expected result. "One cannot ask for more because they are winning. I did not expect them to hold on to the lead but they managed and did very well," said Sikazwe. An excited Janny Sikazwe was reacting to Zambia's hard fought 1-0 victory over Cameroon, a result that kept Zambia top of the group with 6 points, above Cameroon and Mozambique who have 3 points each, leaving Lesotho at the bottom with zero. Zambia has one the youngest squads at the tournament, a fact that Shepolopolo coach Beauty Mwamba was proud to state in her post match interview. "I'm very excited about the win and I think every other team would be just as happy to beat Cameroon. My team has one of the youngest players in the tournament as we only carried seven senior players. This is because we are building a team so that we do not run out of options when others retire. Our youngest player here is 17 and she played in this game we have won. I cannot be more

# COSAFA DREAM IN SOLID SHAPE

excited," said Mwamba. Meanwhile, Cameroon coach Bernedette Among could not hide her disappointment but expressed hope her side would bounce back. "Of course it is not a pleasing result for me and Zambia is not a team to underrate. They were runners-up in last year's tournament. We could have done better had we created more scoring chances. This does not mean we are ruled out of the tournament, we will do better in the remaining games," said Among. The goal was delivered by Lushomo Mweemba through a free kick in the 32th minute while Player of the match was Barbara Banda. Banda so far has won the player of the match twice in the tournament.



Mexico's Saul "Canelo" Alvarez (R) showed skill and durability to end Gennady Golovkin's unbeaten reign as unified middleweight champion. AFP



Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores 500th career goal. Metro.co.uk



Kenyan marathon master Kipchoge smashes world record. Photo credit - Getty Images