

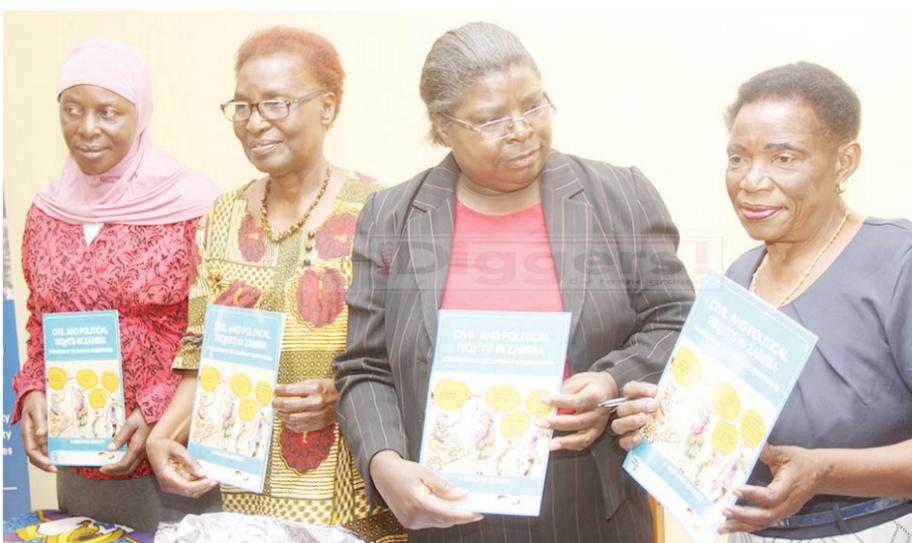


LUNGU THINKS

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Lungu thinks everyone else is stupid apart from him that's why he calls us *tipuba*, but we will see who is the real *chipuba* soon, Hakainde Hichilema has warned. And Hichilema who is opposition UPND leader says it is President Edgar Lungu's arrogance and failure to listen to criticism that has plunged the country into a debt crisis. *To page 4*

WE'RE ALL STUPID

We'll see who is a *chipuba* soon - HH



L-r: Lusaka Muslims Women's chairperson Amina Chomba, Community Youth Councilor executive director Getrude Shinkanga, NGOCC acting executive director Chilufya Siwale and Kwashamukwenu Women's Group chairperson Dorica Phiri during the launch of Civil and Political Rights book in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Misuse of donor aid is another reason for voting out PF - Mambo

By Abraham Kalito
The Patriotic Front government has given Zambians enough reasons to be voted out, says Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) board chairperson Bishop John Mambo. In an interview, Bishop Mambo said the current regime lacks integrity and has made the living standards of Zambians worse than what they had found back in 2011. *To page 7*



Deputy Secretary to Cabinet Christopher Myunga addresses journalists at his office yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ACC appeals against Mumba's discharge

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Anti-Corruption Commission has appealed to the High Court against the discharge handed to MMD president and former High Commissioner to Canada Nevers Mumba. ACC Public Relations Manager Timothy Moono said the Commission has since resolved to appeal the decision to the High Court. "The Commission has contended that the Magistrate Court erred at law when it made an order of absolutely discharging Dr. Mumba for misdemeanours," Moono argued in a statement. *To page 4*

Kitwe in riots after cop shoots car washer

By Daniel Chansa
fought running battles with Buchi Police in Kitwe Monday morning residents after one officer shot dead a car washer. The car wash in question which is located along the Kazembe road in Buchi uses water from the Nkana Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC) pipes. NWSC disconnect the water due to unpaid bills, a move which enraged car washers. *To page 4*

'Mr Smith' denies circulating his victims' pornography

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Mushipe Challenges LAZ suspension

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela says the international media has now started accusing government of selling national assets because corruption allegations were not sticking.

Speaking during the tour of construction works at the new Kenneth Kaunda International Airport terminal, Chitotela dismissed reports that KKIA had been given to China accusing the international media of trying to destroy President Edgar Lungu's leadership.

"This loan is a concessional in nature. The interest maybe is between one and two per cent. So the Zambian people must be assured that the beautiful terminal which is almost complete is their facility. I know that there has been a lot of politics. Our friends from the international media that are bent to destroy the leadership of President Lungu...they begun with corruption. That was a song in the previous months and it is not ticking. The Zambian people have seen that that which they are talking about and the developments are not tallying because surely, if under infrastructure development money was not being channelled to the infrastructure, I don't think we could have been seeing that which we have been seeing. Now they realise that that is not sticking, they have now turned and said look 'they have sold the KK airport'," Chitotela said.

"The Chinese is a contractor [and] the project is expected to be completed in October 2019

Chitotela rubbishes foreign media report of govt selling off assets

and before the end of October -November next year, we should be able to commission it for use to the public. I must emphasize that once the project is completed, the contractor will be able to move to the old terminal that will be working as a domestic terminal because this will be dedicated to international flights. So even the old terminal will also receive a facelift, it will also be attended to."

He insisted that the new KKIA terminal was 100 per cent owned by Zambians.

"The modernization of the terminal two that is the international terminal and the tax way, the VVIP, the

presidential pavilion, the 70 room transit hotel for those will be in transit in an event that you are waiting for a long time or you have missed the plane and you don't want to go outside the airport. I must state here that why we came, we wanted to assure the Zambian people that the investment that their government under the leadership of President Lungu has been putting in to modernize this airport. This facility is owned 100 per cent by Zambians, no private person neither local nor international or foreign governments that have taken over," said Chitotela.

"This we are still executing

the loan. The terminal is very exciting because it is at 85 per cent complete and what is more important is that this project is fully being supervised by Zambian engineers under the ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development. And I want to encourage my friends, the permanent secretary and the team to make sure that we give quality to the Zambian people. Once we prove that we can, we shall inspire confidence in the lot of Zambians. And I want also to assure Zambians that there has been a lot of speculation concerning the Chinese taking over the facility. It's not true as the Minister of Finance did

issue a statement in Parliament that this facility is still under construction and the financing bank in China, the Exim Bank of China is still releasing funds. Out of the \$360 million, maybe about \$200 million has been released. So there is no way that the facility can be taken over by the Chinese government. This is even not part of the agreement. The loan agreement is fully secured by the international insurance company of China," Chitotela explained.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development Permanent Secretary Eng Charles Mushota said the contractor

working on the project had not implemented the 20 per cent local sub-contracting policy.

"The 20 per cent subcontracting has not been as expected and the explanation is the fact that most of the works which are being done here are very specialized. However for all the external works, we have instructed the contractors that this should sub-contracted to the Zambian contractors, but where possible also, we have engaged the main contractor to work with the local contractors because once this infrastructure is completed, this infrastructure will be maintained by the Zambians. Therefore there has to be technology and skills transfer between the contractor China Jianxi and also the Zambian people. However I wish to state that the issue of the 20 per cent sub-contracting has not been impressive on this project," said Mushota.

C/Belt police nab 19 copper thieves

By Daniel Chansa

Police on the Copperbelt have arrested 19 youths and a mastermind who diverted a truck loaded with 32 bags of copper concentrates weighing 32,000 kgs.

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga said the truck was diverted at Markov Mining Plant which belongs to Shawi Fawazi.

She explained that the truck was coming from Chinsenda Mines in the Democratic Republic

of Congo and destined for Chambeshi Copper Smelter before it was diverted.

"Theft of goods in transit (being Copper concentrates) occurred on Sunday September 23, 2018 at about 21:30 hours at Markov Mining Plant which belongs to Shawi Fawazi situated in the Chingola-Kalulushi road in Kalulushi district. In which a volvo truck registration number ACL 6776 and ACR 321 T property of Dhaqane logistics and construction of Ndola, which was carrying 32

bags of copper concentrates weighing 32,000 Kgs from Congo DR, Chinsenda Mines and was destined for CCS mine in Chambeshi area was diverted to the above mining plant by the driver Boyd Simukonda age and address not known yet of Ndola," Katanga said.

"The escort security from panorama and others unknown. The same were intercepted when they had started off, loaded 6 bags of the 32 bags of the copper concentrates which they put

in the processing machine after weighing it and replaced it with same weight of black soil. Police received a tip off as well as the owners of cargo management company also tracked the diverted truck via GPS which showed it had by passed CCS and entered Markov Mine Plant at about 19:30 hours."

She said after the police raided the area, they found a group of about 40 youths who were hired to offload the concentrates. Katanga said after noticing the

presence of police, the youths scampered.

"After a raid, police found a group of about 40 youths who were hired to offload the concentrate manually as the folk lifter had broken down on the way to the plant. Seeing police presence, they scampered including the master minds who left behind 5 vehicles they were using. However, police managed to apprehend 19 suspects from the group including one master minder who are in detention at Kalulushi and Kitwe Central police stations. Vehicles abandoned includes a Rosa mini bus fleet no KTK 719 Registration number ACT 2507 which was hired to ferry the off loaders. Toyota Hilux BAF 7110 white in colour. Toyota Aley ALR 6517 Silver. Ford Ranger ABT 2642 White and a Toyota Chasser ACR 7739 Black in colour," said Katanga.

"All the vehicles were towed and parked at Kitwe district police headquarters while there is a guard placed to guard the truck and the concentrates."

This is the second time a truck is being diverted within two weeks after a Kitwe businessman Daniel Makina was arrested for robbing a truck loaded with Copper.

PF will push corruption to areas where there is no donor scrutiny - Chipimo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

We can't rely on external parties to be the ones to push the PF administration into acting against corruption because what this will do is push the vice only to areas where there is no donor scrutiny, says NAREP president Elias Chipimo.

In an interview, Chipimo said last week's sacking of former Community Development Minister Emerine Kabanshi by President Edgar Lungu following revelations on the suspension of donor aid funding shows that the PF government will now push corruption to areas where there is no donor scrutiny.

He also said the justification by State House that the theft of US \$4 million in British aid meant for the Social Cash Transfer scheme were only fairytales that had been concocted and created after failure to act.

According to President Lungu's Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda, government was actually aware of the misuse of donor funds two months ago, but that the Head of State decided not to take public action because such as a move would have jeopardised investigations.

"It confirms the understanding or confirms what has already been accepted as common knowledge that corruption is actually very rampant within

the senior officials or circles of our governance. This is not an isolated case and we are just fortunate that there is a donor who was able to demand action that has enabled this matter to be reacted to in this way because in all these other cases where allegations of corruption had been raised, there has been no action taken, there hasn't been any indication of any willingness. There is no political will to take action and set an example of the clean government that these people claim they are running," Chipimo said.

He also said there should be a full-scale corruption inquiry into all government ministries and agencies.

"So, we can't rely on external parties to be the ones to push the PF administration into acting against corruption because what this will do is push the corruption to only areas where there is no donor scrutiny. And so, we will be getting pockets of an attempt at avoiding corruption where there is donor scrutiny, but where there is no donor scrutiny, it will be corruption as usual, which is unacceptable! And the real lesson here is that there has to be a full-scale corruption inquiry into every ministry and government agency. They actually have to pass a test of compliance with anti-corruption measures and procedures. And this should

be a requirement of anybody holding any official position," Chipimo argued.

Asked if the justification by State House that the matter was reported months before, and that government was still protecting some evidence, Chipimo said that was a fairy-tale concocted justification to cover up a failure.

"These are fairy tales that have been concocted and created as the failure to act has been

exposed. It's very clear that the notification of this matter was done several months ago, and if the President was serious about the fight against corruption, he would not have waited until the aid for the particular ministry involved in Social Cash Transfer was withdrawn. So, what you are seeing now is an attempted cover-up at the lack of any political will on the part of the President to act against those that are alleged

to have committed corrupt acts. Evidence of allegations of corruption have been there in the Auditor General's report and they are there in the Financial Intelligence Centre (Trends) Report. Is the President waiting until another donor picks on a ministry before he will act? So, really what we are seeing are attempts to justify the lack of any desire to bring corruption under control in this country," said Chipimo.



Former LAZ president Linda Kasonde speaks during a programme for call to action on cyber bullying against women at Pamodzi Hotel on Sunday

Riots in Kitwe's Buchi after cop shoots car washer

By Daniel Chansa

Police in Kitwe Monday morning fought running battles with Buchi residents after one officer shot dead a car washer. The car wash in question which is located along the Kazembe road in Buchi uses water from the Nkana Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC) pipes. But NWSC disconnect the water due to unpaid bills, a move which the car wash workers resisted. Noticing the resistance from the car washers, the utility workers called in police security, but a confrontation ensued after the two parties failed to resolve the matter, forcing the the

car washers to start charging towards the police officers in numbers.

In the process, one police officer fired at a charging car washer, killing him instantly.

Later, the residents gathered and charged towards the police who scampered for their safety.

The residents then blocked Kazembe road with burning tyres and other objects while stoning vehicles.

Police then returned with reinforcement in full riot gear and fired tear gas canisters to disperse rioting residents.

When contacted, Copperbelt police commissioner Charity

Katanga said: "Yes, there are riots in Buchi. The residents are

rioting over a shooting incident. Am rushing there and will give

full details later." Meanwhile, police have deployed

officers in Buchi township to stop any further protests.

Fire tender protesters were arrested for disobeyed an order to retreat - Witness

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A State witness, female constable, Patience Chitonge, based at Emmasdale Police Station, has testified that fire tender protesters were arrested because they didn't obey when they were asked to retreat.

And Chitonge, 30, testified that

they apprehended the protesters acting on superior orders and not the law.

This is the matter in which Alliance for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti, PeP president Sean Tembo, Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) executive

director Lewis Mwape, Pilato, Bornwell Mwewa and Mika Mwambazi, are charged with one count of disobeying lawful orders.

The accused were nabbed outside Parliament building in Lusaka on September 29, 2017, as they were protesting the purchase of 42 fire trucks at US \$42 million.

When the matter came up for continuation of trial before Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile, Monday, Chitonge, a female constable, testified that on the material day, around 13:00 hours, they saw a group of people carrying placards along Great East Road who insisted that they wanted to go inside Parliament. She testified that when they were ordered to go back by Chief Inspector Phiri, the protesters refused to comply.

"Around 13:00 hours, we saw a group of people carrying placards along Great East Road. They were approached by Chief Inspector Phiri when they were approaching Parliament Road, and they said they wanted to go inside Parliament Building. I can

remember, I think they were more than 10. They insisted that they want to go inside. Later, Chief Inspector Phiri chased them, but they refused to go. Some were even sitting down. Chief Inspector Phiri then directed us to apprehend them and take them to the vehicle. I apprehended one, Laura Miti. She insisted that she didn't want to listen to the order of Chief Inspector Phiri, then we arrested her," Chitonge narrated. And in cross-examination by defence counsel Keith Mweemba, Chitonge said the protesters were at first peaceful, but when they were approached by the police, they became stubborn and said they would not leave until they were allowed to go inside.

Chitonge, however, said they apprehended the accused acting on superior orders and not the law.

Asked by defence counsel Gilbert Phiri whether there was a demonstration at Parliament on that material day, Chitonge said there was no demonstration.

The matter has been adjourned October 1, 2018.

ACC appeals against Nevers' discharge

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Anti-Corruption Commission has appealed to the High Court against the discharge handed to MMD president and former High Commissioner to Canada Nevers Mumba.

Mumba, 58, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Commission and charged with one count of failure to follow procedure contrary to section 34 of the Anti-Corruption Act No 38 of 2010 and acquitted on this count. He was also charged with two counts of abuse of authority of office contrary to Sections 99(1) of the Penal Code Cap 87 of the laws of Zambia and convicted on the two counts.

Sitting as a Magistrate in Lusaka earlier this month, Ndola High Court registrar Joshua Banda, convicted Mumba but handed him an absolute discharge, without a custodial sentence.

ACC Public Relations Manager Timothy Moono said the Commission has since resolved to appeal the decision to the

High Court.

"The Commission has contended that the Magistrate Court erred at law when it made an order of absolutely discharging Dr. Mumba for misdemeanours when the law has provided for a punishment," Moono argued in a statement.

"The Commission has argued that the Court's decision was in fact contrary to section 41 of the Penal Code Cap 87 of the Laws of Zambia which provides as follows: 'Where a Court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence, not being an offence

the sentence for which is fixed by law, is of opinion, having regard to the circumstances including the nature of the offence and the character of the offender, that is inexpedient to inflict punishment and that a probation under the Probation of Offenders Act is not appropriate, the Court may make an order discharging him absolutely or subject to the condition that he commits no offence during such period, not exceeding twelve months from the date of the order, as may be specified therein'."

He said the law provides

for punishment even for misdemeanours.

"Further, the Commission has submitted that section 38 provides a punishment for a misdemeanour which is either imprisonment not exceeding two years or a fine or both. This submission is supported by a decision in a case of the People V Grace Simutowe (1993) S.J.75 (H.C) which it was held that "It would be improper for a magistrate to discharge a person conditionally or absolutely where the law provides a punishment," stated Moono.

Lungu thinks we're all stupid, but we'll see who is a fool - Hichilema

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lungu thinks everyone else is stupid apart from him, that's why he calls us "fipuba," but

we will see who is the real "chipuba" in 2021 is, says Hakainde Hichilema. And Hichilema, the UPND

leader, says it is President Edgar Lungu's arrogance and failure to listen to criticism that has plunged the country

into a debt crisis.

Hichilema was reacting to remarks President Lungu made while on the Copperbelt last week, where he said he would not listen to "stupid noise" from distractors, who were trying to make his job difficult.

"While on the Copperbelt last week, Mr. Edgar Lungu said he will not be listening to 'vipuba' - (stupid people), disruptors and time wasters in his quest to what he believes is a 'noble effort' to do his job. This economic disaster staring us in the face will not spare you because of your political affiliation, it will take you on because you are Zambian. Whether we are "fipuba" or what, let us fight for what is right for this country and the "fipuba" will triumph, and posterity will show us who was the "chipuba" in all this," Hichilema said.

He said, had the PF listened to the opposition's advice, the country would not be in so much debt.

"According to Mr. Lungu, Zambians and other people and institutions, who are outside his government and are trying to offer alternative solutions in resolving the current economic crisis (nkongole) the country is going through, are merely 'noise makers' not worth listening to. It is this kind of arrogance, 'know it all' and contempt, which has led to the huge debt that Zambia has accrued with nothing to show for it. If only Mr. Lungu

had taken time to listen to our persistent advice on the management of the economy, our country would not have been in the current economic mess," Hichilema narrated.

"When we advised them that since they had appetite for borrowing, they should consider cheaper loan sources, they ignored. When we advised them that they should invest more into productive sectors, which would create value addition, jobs and wealth, and subsequently generate economic activity for tax revenue to repay the loans, they ignored. Here we are now; the 'wise' Lungu is over-taxing everyone, in some instances taxing us double."

Hichilema alerted citizens that if they continue allowing President Lungu's attitude, Zambia will be headed for more trouble.

"Since Mr. Lungu thinks everyone else is stupid, and only he and the PF are wise; in his mind, it is wise to cancel a US \$100 million build-operate-transfer airport tender and replace it with a US \$300 million loan; it is wise to borrow US \$30 million to construct a conference room and put land as collateral; it is wise for him and his government to increase their salaries, while they proclaim austerity for the rest of the country. The list of questionable decisions, which show lack of foresight and wisdom is endless, but this man should say we are all "stupid" and he is wise," observed Hichilema.

'Mr Smith' denies circulating porn

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 32-year-old man of Ndola's Lubuto West identified as Mwamba Kafula, who was allegedly duping women into sending nude videos of themselves under the pretext that a 'Mr Smith' would pay them K100,000, has pleaded not guilty to prohibition of pornography in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court.

And Mwamba, a lab technician at Zambezi Portland, has been granted K5,000 bail in his own recognizance with two working sureties in the like sum.

Particulars of the offence are that Mwamba on unknown dates, but between August 1 and September 4, 2018, had in his possession, a Techno phone with pornographic pictures.

And when the matter came up for plea before Magistrate Felix Kaoma, Monday, the accused denied the charge.

He was then granted bail of K5,000 in his own recognizance with two working sureties in the like sum after making an application.

The matter has been adjourned to October 23 for trial.

Mwamba was arrested last week by the

police in Ndola for allegedly duping women into sending nude videos of themselves under the pretext that a 'Mr Smith' would pay them K100,000.

After receiving the videos, the said man is alleged to have blackmailed the authors with the view of syphoning money out of them.

This was according to a statement issued by police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo last week.

"Following the trending of nude videos on social media involving men and women in the recent past, police instituted investigations and have managed to arrest one suspect identified as Mwamba Kafula, aged 32, of Lubuto West in Ndola, who is also a laboratory technician at Zambezi Portland, and has been charged with circulation of pornography contrary to section 102 of the Electronic Communication and Technology Act number 21 of 2009," Katongo revealed.

"The suspect is alleged to have been purporting to be a link to a Mr Smith and was asking people, through Facebook and Twitter, to send nude videos on pretext that he would send them to a Mr Smith

who could later send them K100,000. After receiving the videos, the suspect is alleged to have been blackmailing those who sent videos asking for money from them or have the videos published. The suspect is detained in police custody and will appear in court soon."

Meanwhile, pastor John Simfukwe of Interdenominational Jesus Ministry has pleaded not guilty to a charge of theft by servant where he's alleged to have swindled his congregant, a widow, out of thousands of kwacha.

In this matter, it is alleged that the accused between August 16, 2016, and August 17, 2018, stole K260,000 cash, which was entrusted to him by Mildred Chikato to buy a house on her behalf.

When Pastor Simfukwe appeared before Lusaka Magistrate Felix Kaoma, Monday, he said he understood the charge, but denied the allegations.

The accused, who has been in custody since September 14, 2018, has also been granted bail after he applied for it. Magistrate Kaoma granted him K50,000 bail in his own recognizance with two working sureties in the like sum.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND lawyer Martha Mushipe has dragged the Law Association of Zambia to the Ndola High Court saying the association acted beyond its authority by suspending her without a fair hearing because the Constitutional Court, who are the complainants, were not called to be cross examined with regard to the complaint lodged by them.

And Mushipe says LAZ has subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment by publicizing her suspension before the disciplinary committee or the courts of law had adjudicated on the matter.

In an affidavit verifying facts in support of the notice of ex parte application for leave to apply for judicial review filed in the Ndola High Court, September 11, Mushipe stated that on August 11, 2016, the country held elections whose results were controversial.

Mushipe challenges suspension in High Court

She added that on August 16, that same year, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his vice-president Geaffrey Bwalya Mwamba began a court process and retained her services, amongst other lawyers, to represent them in the presidential petition. Mushipe stated that due to circumstances beyond the control of the petitioners' lawyers, they were on September 2, 2016 forced to recuse themselves, which they did by addressing the court after several applications were dismissed.

She further stated that in the majority and dissenting judgements of the Constitutional Court, all the lawyers were castigated for what the judges termed as 'unbecoming behaviour'. Mushipe stated that on November 8, 2016, the Law Association of Zambia issued a notice, requesting her to report before it on November 11 and cited the complainant as LAZ/Judiciary. She stated that LAZ's legal practitioners therefore acted as the complainant and the judge at the same time in

a complaint purportedly lodged by the Constitutional Court judges, in which they cited her and urged LAZ to take appropriate action against her.

And Mushipe noted that the said court, if aggrieved, had all the powers to discipline her, which they failed, unlike lodging a complaint before LAZ.

"That the said court if aggrieved has all the powers to discipline the applicant which they failed, unlike lodging the complaint before an inferior body which can be

supervised by it and further singled out the said applicant as a sacrificial lamb amongst thirteen lawyers appointed to prosecute the petition case, rendering their decision 'wednesday unreasonable,' read the affidavit.

She stated that the LAZ acted contrary to provisions of article 23 of the Constitution by singling her out, thereby discriminating against her. Mushipe further stated that LAZ acted beyond their legal power or authority by suspending her in its ruling without a fair

hearing as the complainants (Constitutional Court judges) were not called to be cross examined with regard to the complaint lodged by them. She added that LAZ cannot act as the complainants and adjudicators at the same time.

Mushipe further stated that LAZ should stop suspending lawyers without the due process of the law as it was unconstitutional and a clear violation of Article 18(9) of the Constitution.

She observed that LAZ, unlike the Judicial Complaints Commission, subjected suspended members to public ridicule by publicizing the said suspensions before the disciplinary committee or the courts of law had adjudicated on the matter, and as such subjected her to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Mushipe now wants the court to order that the suspension of her practicing license was unconstitutional. On August 27, LAZ suspended Mushipe's practicing certificate and referred the matter to the disciplinary committee saying her misconduct was contemptuous and clearly unacceptable from an advocate.

Party officials at liberty to comment on policy matters because PF deploys govt officials - Sunday

By Sipiliwe Ncube

PF media director Sunday Chanda says party officials are at liberty to comment on policy matters because it is the party which deploys government officials.

And Chanda says PF will not hesitate to shame civil society organisations that hide under the veil of CSOs when they, in fact, drive political agendas.

In an interview, Chanda said the party employed those in government, therefore, nothing restrained PF officials from commenting on policy matters.

"In dealing with the perception that sometimes there is a mix up between party and government interface to a number of issues and whether or not the party should comment on matter of policy or whether that should be the preserve of government alone. What is very clear and anyone who is familiar with the PF constitution will understand that the party forms government and in other ways the party deploys people into government. The Head of State when he is contesting as a presidential candidate, he does so on account of being adopted by the party. So he stands on the party ticket, the vice-president stands on the party ticket, all [PF] members of parliament stand on a party ticket, they are adopted by the party. And they are adopted by the party to implement the party's manifesto. Note the party's manifesto is what goes to inform what becomes government policy," Chanda said.

"So the place of the party in relation to government is very clear. What is very clear is that there is nothing that restrains the party from pronouncing itself on matter of public policy especially as government does implementation. We have a right for instance to raise the flag when we know that what

is being rolled out in not in line with the PF manifesto because at the end of the day, come 2021, we will go back to the Zambian people and the Zambian people will not judge us on the basis of how attractive our policies were, they will judge us on the basis of how we remained faithful to the social contract that we have with the Zambian people. And remember that the social contract that exists between the patriotic front government and the Zambian people is not any policy document, it's a PF manifesto from 2016 to 2021. We own that manifesto and we monitor its implementation. So when we deploy our colleagues in government to implement this manifesto, it's just very important that we monitor how this manifesto is being implemented."

And asked why PF always seemed to be against the civil society organizations, Chanda said it was because some CSOs were driving political agendas.

"We have got no issues with Civil Society Organisations. As a matter of fact, we believe that civil society organizations play a very important role in the life of any democratic state. Civil societies comes in to provide the credible checks and balances and we know that there are civil society organizations out there that still remain and uphold the integrity that must go with the civil society space. However, we also know that there are civil society organizations that hide behind the clock of CSOs. These are politicians hiding behind the veil of the CSOs. And we have said to these colleagues, 'either you come out and face us as politicians or we are going to piece that veil and expose you for you are. You mustn't abuse the civil platform and yet you are pursuing and pushing political agendas.

We know that some of our colleagues in these civil society organizations were promised to be press assistants to some of these opposition political parties had they won the last election and we know that some of them even applied to contest on opposition political party ticket in different parts of the country as members of parliament," Chanda said. He said if China announced some funding to CSOs in Zambia, even those that were speaking strongly against that country would line up for it.

"And the question is 'how do you move from being the chief executive officer of this NGO to apply to be considered as a candidate on a political party?' unless you've gone to bed with that political party. And because they were not adopted and because the opposition did not win the elections and because some of them are not the press relations or assistant to whoever they thought would be president and some of these people are not in parliament because they were not adopted by these NGOs, they have still come back and continued to masquerade as civil society organizations whose opinion we must embrace as neutral and coming from well-meaning civil society organizations," Chanda added.

Chanda, however, said there were still some credible CSOs giving "professional advice" to government.

"We also know that there are civil society organizations that would wish to champion a regime change agenda for the simple reason that they would get funding from outside and we know that donor funding is just donor funding and tied to particular conditionalities. When this is a case, we are saying to our colleagues [that] you are better off putting Zambia first. I can tell you that if for

an example China announced that it's got funding for civil society organizations, you would see how many of these civil society organizations that have been calling China names would line up with project proposals to get funding from China. And some of them we know them by name, we know them as individuals and we know how politically aligned they are because we've lived with them and we have dealt with them. But there are civil

society organizations that are very credible such as the Centre for Trade and Policy Development (CTPD). When they do their analysis, even when they disagree with the government, you can tell that they are giving an opinion on a particular matter because that is their role. It's professional advice. But we have go NGOs that exist to make the patriotic front fail, and we are going to respond to them politically," said Chanda.

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CAUSE FOR CONCERN: *Explaining Zambia's Debt*

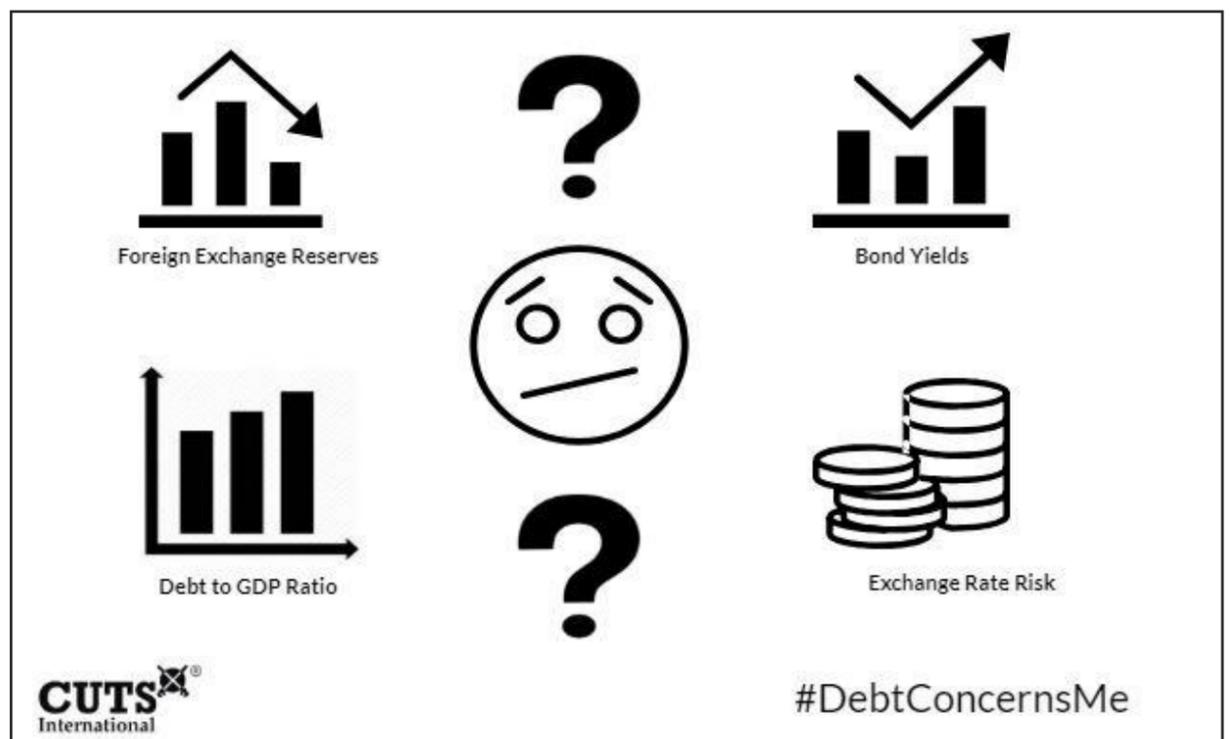
#DebtConcernsMe

There is no doubt that Zambia's debt is rising dramatically. In 2011, total debt was recorded at US\$3.5 billion and has risen to \$US14.4 billion as of March 2018. These debt levels are alarming: it's been almost one year since the IMF declared Zambia at high risk of debt distress, and in this time debt has risen significantly up the domestic news agenda. Zambia's debt risk has also made international news, with the Economist running two articles on Zambia's debt in a recent edition.

However, more often than not, the people that talk about debt are economists. Talk of bond yields, debt to GDP ratio, foreign exchange reserves and exchange rate risk is important but can be confusing. But we all need to discuss debt as it affects individuals, businesses and public services. Over the next six weeks, CUTS will explore why Zambia's debt should concern us all- what it is and why it matters. We believe Zambia could be on its way to a full debt crisis, but we also believe that as a country we have time to act to prevent this. So we want to take this opportunity to explain the public debt, what it means and set out why together Zambians - individuals, CSOs and Government - need to work collectively to solve it.

Understanding Zambia's debt

Zambia's situation is similar to a household that borrows money beyond its means to repay. Let us give you the example of Mr. Chomba, head of a household, who is married with three children. He earns a monthly salary of K7000 and on average spends K5000 for basic needs such as transport, food, utility bills and so on. The family also has a car - it's not fancy but it works. However, Mr. Chomba has decided they need a new one and gets a loan from the bank to pay for it. But Mr. Chomba not only owes the bank the money he borrowed, but also has to pay interest. The problem is that over a period of time, the loan repayments exceed his monthly earnings. His family now has less money and cannot afford basic needs because of the burden of paying back the loan. His children have to drop out of school as he cannot afford to pay school fees because he can no longer provide as much as he could for his family. If Mr. Chomba had planned carefully and obtained the loan to invest in a business that would generate more income



"Foreign Exchange Reserves, Bond yields... confused about National debt issues? This week CUTS International has launched a series which brings you everything you need to know about debt." #DebtConcernsMe

for his family then getting the loan would have been justified. He would have borrowed to increase his income and eventually pay back his loan. However, he borrowed beyond his means to repay, leaving him and his family in a worse off position than before he got the loan.

Zambia's debt has not been spent in a way that has increased growth but has become a burden on the economy. Interest payments alone consume a huge proportion of the national budget. Total domestic Government revenue - the money the government makes from taxes, fees and levies - was K39.2 billion in 2017 (Zambia Revenue Authority 2017 Annual Report). Meanwhile, Zambia's interest payments to service its debt in 2017 was K9.8 billion (Ministry of Finance, 2018). This means that interest payments - often called 'debt servicing' costs - amount to 25% of the Government's revenue. This is equivalent to the total health, social protection and Farmer Input Support Program (FISP) budget allocations for the 2017 national budget. As debt rises, these payments will increase.

Why does debt matter?

High debt levels leave Zambia in a very difficult position. A lot of the country's debt is contracted in foreign currency which means if the kwacha weakens due to external factors, such as the copper price falling unexpectedly, the amount that Zambia owes in real terms will increase significantly. High debt servicing costs weaken the economy by forcing the government to spend money on interest payments when it should be spending on national development. Health, education,

social protection are just three areas which are significantly impacted, as money spent on interest cannot be spent on these sectors. A lack of investment in these services has a long-term impact on the social well-being of Zambians. High debt levels also leave the Government unable to pay its obligations to companies and contractors who have been engaged for various development projects: this is called payment arrears and at the moment Government owes K13.9 billion. We will discuss the impact of arrears and public debt in general on businesses in more detail later in the series.

The impact of high debt levels should concern everyone, as everyone will be affected whether by businesses closing, or hospitals lacking medicine. Amid all the debate, there is no doubt that debt in Zambia is increasing at an alarming rate. Zambians will be the first to pay the real price for the country's debt, as our social services are underinvested and economy weakens. On Friday 18 September, the Government will be announcing the 2019 budget, and we will see the direct impact of debt servicing on social services.

CUTS is therefore, actively working to get more transparent information from government on the reality of Zambia's debt. Follow this series to find out more over the next six weeks, and follow the conversation on social media #DebtConcernsMe.

For more information please contact: The Centre Coordinator, Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) Lusaka, 298 Ngwerere Road, Lusaka. Email: lusaka@cuts.org Phone: +260 97 8055293

CUTS
International



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist



...Only in **News Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

Creating A Career

By Simon Sakala (Guest Columnist)

This week, I will discuss creation of a career, which is the last part in the series about creating employment. As a recap, in order to create employment, firstly, one has to discover what is in her or his hands. Secondly, she or he has to find the work that can be done with what is in the hands. Thirdly, the work has to be converted into a job, that is, work that is remunerated. Creating a career is the fourth and crowning stage. A career is a field for a pursuit of consecutive progressive achievement especially in public, professional or business life. It is a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling. In this definition, a career has three characteristics. Firstly, a career has to be pursued. There is need to be consciously occupied with the desire to improve the quality and quantity of the work the job entails. However, most people are stuck in one place because they are very passive on their job. They just commute to work leaving everything in the hands of the boss or employer. They just hope and wait for that pay raise or promotion without doing anything to make it happen. Secondly, there has to be achievement resulting from the pursuit. For any form of achievement to occur, first of all, there must be clarity as to the form and size of it. Moreover, there has to be a clear direction in which all effort should be applied in order to make that achievement. There must be deliberate consistent effort directed at making things to happen. Most people grind at the same level or place in their job for years without any achievements they can point to. Such people do a great disservice to their job and deny it the opportunity to give them a great career. Thirdly, the achievement has to be progressive. There

has to be clear measurable progress every quarter, half-year or year. Progressive achievement not only makes for a great career, but it also paves way for the younger generations to help them find a place to participate and the leadership and motivation to inch forward.

In order to create a great career out of my job teaching English and to get the best benefits from it, I decided to divide my work into three groups of activities. The first group of activities are purely for income. The activities include my regular teaching work at my school and at other strategic places. I decided I was going to create an income that would afford me a good lifestyle, a descent place to live and resources to take care of my family and provide my children a good education. I also decided I wanted to work in such a way that I did not need to work longer hours than I was happy with. Rather, I needed to work smarter so that I could increase my income while reducing work hours. I did not want to work on public holidays or commute long distances to work, which are common practices in teaching English in Japan. In order to achieve these goals, I had to plan my time and select my clients carefully.

The second group of activities are the capacity and value building activities. Capacity building activities are those activities that empower me to do more and better, whereas the value building activities are those that increase my value or help me earn more per unit time. The goal of the activities in this group is to enhance my brand. The activities in this group include continuous personal education, client education, creating systems, enhancing both the front and back stage of my school and developing subsidiary business models.

The third group of activities are those for creating

future business. This group of activities include creating networks through volunteering and reaching out to strategic individuals and organizations. I also create low cost, short term programs to attract potential future core programs clients. Moreover, I strengthen weak connections and I orchestrate referrals through offering incentives.

The secondary result of my effort to enhance my career has been the creation of an iterative eight arm process that can be applied in any endeavor. I call the process the eight arms to successful endeavor or the EASE loop. The eight arms are standards, system, organize, satisfy, brand, influence, enrolment and profit. Standards represent what you want to achieve. It is the goal and its quality. For example, the standards in our school are not just to help students speak English, but to help them acquire superior English skills. The system refers to the systems, including technology and processes employed to achieve the standards. Organize refers to the roles and working relationships of all parties involved. Satisfy refers to realization of satisfactory results, inline with the preset standards. Brand refers to the brand that is created as a result of the quality of results. Influence is simply the influence that the brand commands. Enrolment refers to the quantitative growth resulting from increased influence. The last arm, which is profit, refers to the profit resulting from the quantitative growth.

Explaining the application of the EASE loop is beyond the scope of this series of articles. I look forward to having an opportunity to breakdown the EASE loop in terms of how it has helped my school and how it can be applied in other human endeavors. A summary can be found at www.tako-education.com

By Abraham Kalito

The Patriotic Front government has given Zambians enough reasons to be voted out, says Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) board chairperson Bishop John Mambo.

In an interview, Bishop Mambo said the current regime lacks integrity and has made the living standards of Zambians worse than what they had found back in 2011. "I'm joining others to speak with a bleeding heart that the withdrawal of aid from European governments, including Sweden, Ireland and Britain, should be taken as a sign that this government should be voted out in 2021. Those are some of the reasons why this government should be voted out, they shouldn't win. I think for some time now, we have been singing as if it's just a song, that, you need people of integrity to run the affairs of the nation and this government has failed in that area! Because, really, what we will be hearing is

Theft of donor aid is another reason for voting out PF in 2021, says Mambo

that those of us that have been saying things are not well, have been taken to be 'talkative.' They have said, 'why has he been talking since the 1990s?' It's because since then, things have not been well, but they are now worse! Things were improving, but they are now worse off," Bishop Mambo said. "Even the Auditor General's reports which year in and out, have spelled gross theft in the system, government has not taken interest. This government is simply not ready to govern this nation, and their actions speak louder. First of all, they have no regard or respect for the people. And even when this so-called Social Cash Transfer [scheme] was taking place, they were so selective in giving out the money and

majority of villages were not receiving. I'm a village headman and I'm taking from experience. That's not the way you treat people who need help! That's not the way you help people who voted you into power. Come 2021, these people must kiss their goodbyes; you can only vote such people back into power if you want to be slaves of China forever and ever more."

He warned that Zambians would continue suffering at the hands of the Chinese if they don't vote the current government out. "We don't hate the Chinese, but everyone knows that this government is on an agenda with those people. That is why we are always hearing that there is a bilateral signing ceremony; whatever they sign, we don't know. We need to

change the government! You, young people, people like you, are the ones who should stand up now for your country because this country belongs to you. Do something because things are not okay. I'm only saying that the young people, yourself, and others should become the 'Obama's of tomorrow' who should say, 'enough is enough.' The problem is that we have terrible signals coming from within government, but the people in power want to blindfold us into thinking that everything is okay. That kind of governance is dangerous," Bishop Mambo argued. "One wonders what they did with this money because we don't even have a support mechanism for vulnerable children. We should have created

for orphaned children, but this has never even been done. I expected the President to act more than just firing Emerine Kabanshi when this scandal was revealed. By the way, Kabanshi was a sacrificial lamb. 20 years ago, politicians were saying, Zambians tighten your belts because we will become a well to-do country very soon; to this date, we are still tightening out belts. The richer are becoming richer, while the poor are becoming poorer. This government has no shame in lying. They cannot tell us that things are not well, they will keep lying and covering up lies shamelessly." He added that the country had already started experiencing the negative impacts of aid withdrawal and pointed out to the

depreciation of kwacha as one indication.

"I am concerned; many of us are concerned because this withdrawal of aid by developed countries, whether we get to China, or heaven, it's not going to work. It is time we must arise to the occasion and say, 'enough is enough' and we cannot take this anymore. Look at the way the kwacha has lost value within a period of one week following this scandal. Look at the way we are going to suffer in terms of balance of payments, it's serious! This was like a church that was getting a bit of help somewhere, but later on, you forget the people that helped you to be where you are," observed Bishop Mambo, who is also Chikondi Foundation president.

President Edgar Lungu says he is disappointed with the Church because it has taken a partisan position on the issue of national dialogue. His main displeasure is that the Church mother bodies have come out strongly to question the capacity of the Zambia Center for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) to handle a national dialogue process.

“The Church should be in the forefront sowing seeds of love and not discord. I’m saying this in light of what is going on. The Church wants to become political, please don’t be political,” President Lungu said at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium on the Copperbelt on Saturday while officiating at the General Conference of the Council of Churches in Zambia.”

“We have an institution that we established ourselves in ZCID (Zambia Centre for Interparty Dialogue). So for the Church, come as Church not as politicians. Those of the Church that want to come into politics; let them come and we will treat them as politicians. If ZCID has no capacity, come and put capacity in ZCID.”

We were not shocked to hear our Head of State go for the church in this manner despite us remembering vividly that this is the same President who ‘whole heartedly’ apologized for using these exact words last year. We were not surprised because we

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Under PF, Church must pray with open eyes

know the real value that President Lungu places on the Church. This statement is proof to those who still believed in his humility, that this man’s respect for the Church is determined by what he needs from it.

On October 10, 2017 when he met the clergy in Lundazi, President Lungu said he had come to the realisation that he was wrong to condemn the church for being political.

“When you tell us this is wrong, we shouldn’t say ‘the church has become political’. Obviously, I was one of those, in those days, who used to believe that the church was political when they tell me, I remember responding to one colleague who was talking to us to say ‘join politics’ but I think that was wrong,” said President Lungu as the clergy applauded him.

“We belong to the same body, that’s all I can say but I seek forgiveness because sometimes we make mistakes and we discover that there are consequences.”

Anyone who is politically awake can tell that our Head of State sees the Church as a pawn for his political advancement. At his weak moments, President Lungu showers the church with praises. When there is a by-election, he dusts his Bible and arrives at church even earlier than the local congregants, because he needs Christian votes. But when he wants nothing from the Church, he paints it black; he hits hard and leaves it bleeding.

We would like to draw our readers’ attention to what our gallant Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Honourable Catherine Namugala

said about leadership last week. Her remarks came after a Cabinet minister rose to verbally attack UPND Bweengwa member of parliament Kasautu Michele for saying Zambia was poised to have a Chinese President.

“Honourable members on my right, you are not helping the situation. The Honourable member for Bweengwa, granted, is giving the House a little discomfort. But he is expressing his opinion and for as long as he is within the rules of the House and he is not using unparliamentary language, he will be allowed to continue with his debate,” said Deputy Speaker Namugala.

“Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, that Honourable member for Bweengwa has a right to come to this House and debate just like everybody else. My

role here is to help him debate within the rules of the

House. And as I have always said; the hallmark of good leadership is to sit while things that you don’t like are being said, but listen anyway.”

We are afraid that President Lungu, just like his Cabinet ministers who were enraged in the House, don’t have this hallmark of good leadership. The church has not insulted President Lungu or anyone in the PF. Whatever remarks or criticism that the clergy is offering to the government is within the rules of national discourse. But our Head of State can’t sit and listen while things that he doesn’t like are being said. That is the reason why he has gone back to start attacking the church after apologizing.

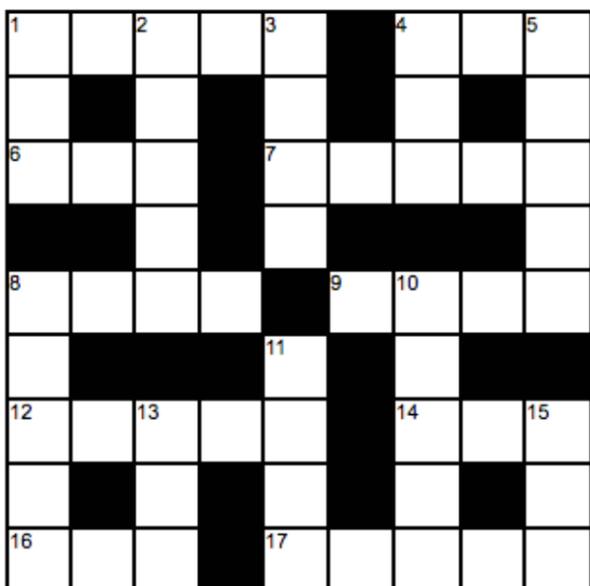
As we draw closer

to the National Day or Prayer, Fasting and Reconciliation, it is fairly expected that citizens do self-introspection over their deeds and actions during the past year. President Lungu must lead by example. Let him take self-introspection into his life since the last time that he knelt down with other congregants on this day to worship. Has he been consistent with his values? Has he been tolerant of other people’s views without retaliating?

The Church must be very careful when dealing with President Lungu. This man is a politician and wants nothing more from you than support for his prolonged stay in power. Never must you give in to the temptation of replacing any of the three Persons in the Trinity with him. Lungu is not God, he is not the Son and neither is he the Holy Spirit. He is just a citizen like any other Zambian who sins everyday and falls short of the glory of God. If you surrender the Church for him to govern, it’s not Lungu who would have failed God, it’s you.

Our little piece of advice to those church leaders who can’t draw a line between their spiritual calling and politics; please if you have to eat with President Lungu, use a very long spoon, otherwise he will excommunicate you from your calling.

Crossword puzzle 194



“To persist with a goal, you must treasure the dream more than the costs of sacrifice to attain it.”

- Richelle E. Goodrich

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steal 4. Hair knot 6. Phys or chem, e.g. 7. Haunt 8. Like sore muscles 9. Edibles 12. 1 and 2 14. A lodging house 16. Edge 17. Coffee-break snack | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sister 2. From Dublin 3. Child’s play 4. Ghost word 5. Unclothed 8. Later on 10. Burger topper 11. Plant starter 13. Hit hard 15. Catch butterflies in it |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 193



Reader's feedback

Africa Confidential's report that PF government losing credibility after bogus denials

ND's OPINION: Call it 'debt Christmas' if you like, the point is, we're so screwed

Editor,
 "Why Dora Siliya is still holding her ministerial position is nothing but mind boggling. She's one of the most dishonest and deplorable cheap propagandists in this thieving government! Whenever there's a thieving expose, she tries to flip or pushback on, it blows right back on her face the very next day. She deserves to be fired." - Donald Oscar Phiri

"Amos Chanda says aid was suspended four months ago.....I wonder why Dora keeps on lying to the nation." - Victor Chongo

"FIC reported about corruption in government institutions, but people were on their necks." - Young Ha Hamid



Editor,
 "Fantastic, credible editorial. Much better than the hogwash from the World Bank." - Trevor Maliwanda Simumba

"You are right, editor. China brings equipment and labour only for the projects and charge it as loan then we pay them through our reserves." - George Mwale

"Well written piece." - Josh Godwin Musuku

Mbulakulima's claim that China was there for Zambia when the West wasn't

"Well articulated!" - Sylvester Mushoke Mushoke

"All thanks to the clueless thief who portrays himself as a humble Christian." - Chitalu Musonda

"PF government is doing nothing to improve the economy of Zambia, but just to destroy. I wish I would have not put my vote on this current government." - John Mwewa

"This is the problem with my party, we are screwed but we are busy sugar-coating the inevitable." - Paul Jones Es

"The wise men once said the first step to a solution is to admit the problem." - Robby LM

Dear Editor,
 "The problem is not China, bwana. It's where and how borrowed Chinese money is disappearing so fast!!!!?????" - Richard Zyangwa

"China isn't a problem, but the problem is our headless government who are doing anything to get despicable loans, and spending those monies in unproductive ways." - Bernard Musonda

"It's idiocy and dullness to compare those times of the old when China did genuine works in Zambia to current times when the environment is totally different. Remember, it wasn't free though, even the attitude is way too different. The relationship now is not mutual. It's lop-sided and unfaithful." - Maningi Dibili

"Why does he think the west or China are there to be helping us? Like it matters who was there and wasn't, when or what time...Do you really think this is about love? It's all about business. Stop looking for other countries to solve your countries problems. That's not what we vote for." - Michael Wiz Simz

"Why praise China when we know that it is our money we are getting from them as loans after buying they're fake products?" - Winston Kameya

"Reason China built most rail lines in Africa is for access to market for their fake products." - Mike Nhliziyo

TIZ's analysis challenging govt's claim on lacunas in Constitution for loans approval

Editor,
 "Lovely piece. You see tell from the flow of information that this author knows what he is saying and has extensively read, bravo Ba Lifuka." - Lwendo Ka

"Who is going to deliver us from the jaws of these elected criminals? Shameless cheats! Stealing from the poor masses through so-called constitutional lacunas." - Chiundule Wansimbi

"Let us not abuse the authority we have been given by hiding in the name of constitution lacunas!!" - Kennedy Mulenga

"How does one expect the current PF to respect the law when they do not respect the very bedrock of governance; respect of the people's choice! This PF stole (rigged) the 2016 election and since Zambians seemed to applaud them, they are within their new, but wrong means of governance." - Shilota Kapimpa

"When we have a Minister of misinformation, those are results." - Thomas Mwanza Jr

Russia to upgrade Syrian air defences

Russia is to send new anti-aircraft missiles to Syria, a week after Syrian forces accidentally shot down a Russian aircraft during an Israeli air strike.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the S-300 surface-to-air missile defence system would be delivered within two weeks. Fifteen Russian military personnel were killed when the reconnaissance aeroplane was downed on 17 September. Syria and Russia say Israel was to blame, but it denies responsibility.

In remarks quoted by Russian news agency Interfax, Mr Shoigu said the delivery of the system had been suspended in 2013 following a request from Israel, but added: "Now, the situation has changed. And it's not our fault."

"In parts of the Mediterranean adjacent to Syria, there will be

radio-electronic jamming of satellite navigation, onboard radars and communications

systems used by military aircraft attacking targets in Syrian territory," he said.

The systems will also be able to track and identify Russian aircraft. **BBC**



Official results showed opposition Maldives candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (2L) as the clear winner with 58.3 percent, the biggest margin of victory in any election since the advent of democracy in 2008. **AFP**

Versace fashion house 'to be sold shortly' - media

Italian fashion giant Versace is about to be sold, the country's biggest-selling newspaper said Monday, citing anonymous sources who suggested the deal could come in the next few hours.

Donatella Versace, the brand's artistic director and vice-president of the group, has called a staff meeting in Milan for Tuesday, according to the Corriere della Sera newspaper. Celebrity shoemaker Jimmy Choo, luxury jeweller Tiffany & Co and US fashion group Michael Kors Holdings were listed as possible buyers.

The company in its entirety is estimated to be worth some \$2.0 billion (1.7 billion euros), the report said.

Versace could not immediately confirm the news to AFP.

Twenty percent of the brand, known for its Medusa head logo, was bought by US private equity group Blackstone in 2014, and the family owns the rest.

The group, founded by designer Gianni Versace in 1978, boasted sales of 686 million euros in 2016 and turnover is expected to exceed one billion euros in the "short term", CEO Jonathan Akeroyd said in June. **AFP**

Iran points finger at US allies over deadly attack

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday pointed blame at Arab separatists for a deadly attack on a military parade and accused an unnamed US-backed Gulf state of supporting them. Tehran also summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain for allegedly hosting members of the group suspected of links to Saturday's attack that killed 24 people, according to a revised death toll.

Four militants attacked a parade commemorating the start of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, capital of the border province of Khuzestan. Officials and an eyewitness said the gunmen were clad in Iranian military uniforms and had sprayed the crowd with gunfire using weapons they had stashed in a nearby park. The Islamic State (IS) jihadist group claimed responsibility for the rare assault.

But Iranian authorities blamed "the Al-Ahwaziya

movement" -- pointing the finger at the Arab separatist movement in Khuzestan which includes various groups.

"One of the countries in the south of the Persian Gulf took care of their financial, weaponry and political needs," said Rouhani.

"All these little mercenary countries we see in this region are backed by America. It is the Americans who incite them."

The United States condemned the attack, with its UN envoy saying it had happened because Rouhani has "oppressed his people for a long time".

"He needs to look at his own base to figure out where that's coming from. I think the Iranian people have had enough," said Nikki Haley.

London-based opposition channel Iran International TV on Saturday broadcast a claim of responsibility for the attack from a movement called the "Ahvaz National Resistance".

Another group, the Ahwazi Democratic Popular Front, denied any involvement in a statement on its website,



Soldiers and a Muslim cleric take cover during an attack on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz on September 22, 2018

accusing Iranian authorities of ordering the attack to distract from Tehran's

support for "militias in the region". Iran summoned diplomats

from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain to complain about them "hosting some members of the terrorist group" responsible and "double standards in fighting terrorism," the foreign ministry said.

The British charge d'affaires "was told that it is not acceptable that the spokesman for the mercenary Al-Ahwazi group be allowed to claim responsibility for this terrorist act through a London-based TV network," said ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi.

Britain said its diplomat

had extended the country's condolences to Tehran and that Iranian officials were planning to lodge a formal complaint with the United Kingdom's media watchdog, Ofcom.

Ghasemi also said Iran expected the Danish and Dutch governments to "hand over the perpetrators of this attack and anyone related to them to Iran for a fair trial".

Denmark said there would be consequences if any such links were established, while the Netherlands said it had heard the Iranian version of events and offered its condolences.

AFP

Deadly attack restricts Ebola treatment in DR Congo

As the death toll from the Ebola outbreak in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo reaches 100, according to the World Health Organization, the health ministry has suspended all outreach work due to insecurity in the area.

This means that teams involved in contact tracing

and vaccination are not able to do their work in the affected areas across North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Over the weekend, at least 18 were killed in an attack by armed rebels, including 14 civilians.

The attack started Saturday

afternoon and lasted for several hours. Heavy gunfire was heard in Beni, a city of several hundred thousand people.

The Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan Islamist group active in the area since the 1990s, is believed

to be behind the attack.

On Sunday, while some residents were in mourning, others gathered in front of the hospital in Beni to protest against growing insecurity in the Ebola-affected area. **BBC**

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ says Shepolopolo may be camped outside the country as they prepare for the 2018 Africa Women Championship. The team just arrived home on Sunday night after their Cosafa outing where they emerged fourth. FAZ Head of Administration Colonel Andrew Siame and Women's Desk Football Administrative Officer Janet Bwalya received the girls on their arrival. And Siame urged the team to focus on the Africa Cup of Nations that provided a bigger platform. "FAZ has put forward a tentative plan for camping but we will wait for CAF to give direction on the host for the tournament at the congress this weekend," Siame said. Ghana was granted the rights to host the 2018 Africa Women Championship but CAF will be giving the final signal this weekend in similar fashion as the men's tournament that will be hosted by Cameroon. "There is already a proposal

FAZ plans international camp for AWC preps

for the team to be camped outside as they prepare for the Africa Cup. We are not very sure if AWC will be played in Ghana but next week CAF meeting will tell us. Even in our planning we have laid an alternative depending on where the tournament will be held. We have made two proposals and we have to wait on that," said Siame. Meanwhile FAZ Vice President Rix Mweemba who was also delegation leader said the team gave a good account of themselves but suffered as a result of injuries. "Injuries to skipper Misozi Zulu,

Rhodah Chileshe and Hellen Chanda affected the team's efficiency at the tournament. They would have performed better and even won the

tournament," noted Mweemba. Zambia finished top in the group after beating Lesotho (2-0), Cameroon (1-0) and Mozambique (3-0).

In the semi-final Zambia faced Cameroon again with the indomitable lionesses winning 1-0. Zambia could not finish third in the third and fourth

playoff as Uganda won 1-0. Hosts South Africa defended their crown after edging Cameroon 2-1 in the final on Saturday.



Tiger Woods soaking up the applause after winning the Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club. AFP



Team Europe poses with the trophy after their Men's Singles match on day three to win the 2018 Laver Cup at the United Center on September 23, 2018 in Chicago. EUROSPO

Serena keen to 'move on' from US Open row

Serena Williams says she is trying to "move on" from the meltdown that overshadowed her US Open final loss but remains perplexed at her coach's admission he illegally signalled to her. The 23-time Grand Slam

champion lost the decider in straight sets to Japan's Naomi Osaka after a fiery confrontation with chair umpire Carlos Ramos that she later blamed on sexism. Williams called Ramos a "thief" and a "liar" in a running row

with the Portuguese official that eventually saw her docked a game. In an interview with Australia's Channel Ten, the American superstar said a male player would not have been treated the same way.

She said women could not get away with "even half of what a guy can do". "Right now we are not, as it's proven, in that same position," she said in an interview that aired late Sunday.

"But that's neither here nor there. I'm just trying most of all to recover from that and move on."

Williams said she felt "on the cusp of this amazing moment" before the 6-2, 6-4 loss to Osaka. A win would have taken her to 24 Grand Slams, equalling Australian Margaret Court's all-time record.

The dispute with Ramos began when Williams was issued a warning for coaching, something her coach sitting in the player's box, Patrick Mouratoglou, admitted to doing.

Williams said she had not seen the Frenchman make a gesture and labelled his subsequent admission "a really confusing moment".

"I asked him 'what are you talking about you were coaching?'," she said.

"We don't have signals, we've never had signals. He said he made a motion, and I said 'OK so you made a motion and now you're telling people you were coaching me?'"

"That doesn't make sense. Why would you say that?" AFP



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Harry Kane admits he has fallen below his own high standards this season but said he welcomes the intense public scrutiny of his game.

The Tottenham striker ended a five-game goalless run for club and country when he put his side ahead from the penalty spot in a 2-1 win at Brighton -- a result that also ended a three-game losing streak for Spurs.

Kane converted a first-half penalty in typically cool fashion to take him level with Jermain Defoe on 143 goals for the club.

The fitness and form of the England captain has been a hot topic in recent weeks, with suggestions he has looked jaded, but he seemed closer to his best at Brighton.

"I would 100 percent rather have the focus than not have it," Kane said of the analysis of his form by fans and media.

"I have scored three goals this season, which is not terrible. Obviously when you set standards in other seasons and other games, people will talk if you do not reach them and I am the first to analyse my

game and see what I could do better.

"Of course, I feel I could have done better in most games this season. Brighton was probably the first game I was truly happy with my all-round performance."

The 25-year-old said strikers are under the microscope more than other players.

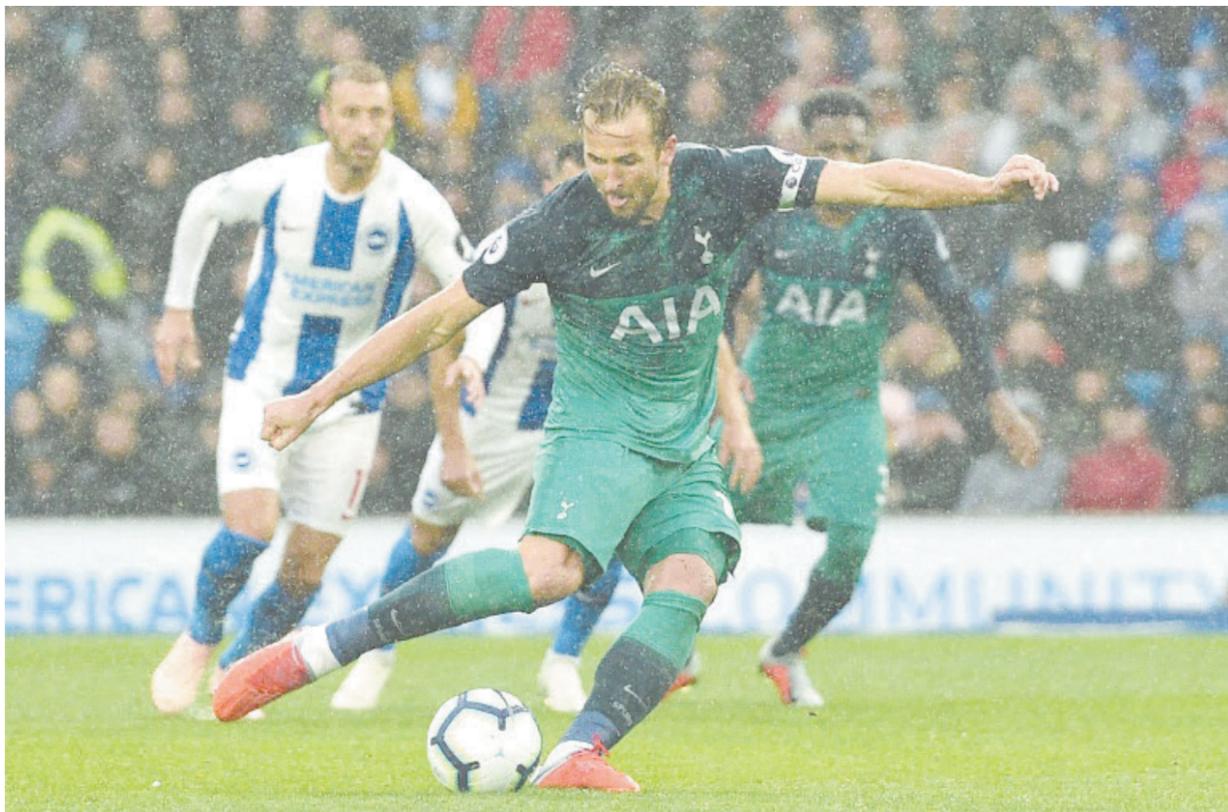
"As a striker, you go through good spells, bad spells," he said. "The most important thing for me is to work hard for the team, to do a good shift for the team. I am always pleased to score."

Kane said the Tottenham players are in good physical shape despite the demands of the World Cup.

"A lot of us played in the World Cup and a lot of people have been talking about that but we all feel fit and sharp," he said.

"It is important we proved that. A lot of people speak about tiredness and fatigue but we all feel fine. We all feel good." *AFP*

Harry Kane admits he has been below par for Tottenham



Tottenham striker Harry Kane scored from the penalty spot against Brighton

LINOS STICKS TO HIS GUNS

...administrators must stop exploiting players

By Alex Chilumbwe

Footballers and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (FAWUZ) general secretary Linos Chalwe says he does not regret any comments he made on football administrators in the country. Chalwe appeared on a SuperSport programme dubbed Soccer Africa where he bemoaned selfishness of football administrators, and

urged them to be more transparent and prioritise footballers' interest. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Chalwe explained his comments. "Football administrators should actually be thankful that I helped them realise that it should be beyond their positions. They would not be administrators without footballers themselves but they forget about their well-being in the end. A football

players puts in a lot and he or she needs to be taken care of. I do not regret any comment that I made especially that there was no offence in any of them," Chalwe said. Chalwe further called on footballers in the country to familiarise themselves with the chain of communication and learn their rights and privileges within the football fraternity. "I would also urge footballers to see to it

that they learn their rights. They need to see how long they should wait for their allowances, bonuses and the like. Deal with such things as soon as possible, call us to give you ways about them so that you are able to make the most out of your talents. Do not start bemoaning issues that took place four years ago today. You are the most important stakeholder in all this," advised Chalwe.

