



ANGRY STUDENTS

Story page 6

CALL DORA A HULE

But minister describes them as drunkards



Top left: Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya is whisked away from angry students at UNZA SDA Church during the requiem service for Vespers Shimuzhila.
Bottom left: Students conduct a mammoth send off for their late colleague on Great East Road.
Right: Mourners at the funeral in Lusaka yesterday - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala



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Govt’s abuse of donor funds flaming kwacha volatility, says Hamaundu

By Abraham Kalito
Financial analyst Mambo Hamaundu has attributed the recent volatility in kwacha to government’s abuse of donor funds and the subsequent withdrawal of aid by four European donor countries. The kwacha lost value in the latter parts of last month of nearly 20 per cent to breach the K12 psychological barrier in the final week of September from an average of K10.99 and K11.06 per dollar by mid-September. Although the local currency appreciated back below the K12 threshold last week, it has again breached the mark by lunchtime trading, Monday. In an interview, Hamaundu said the withdrawal of aid by donor countries sent negative sentiments about Zambia to the international community and has affected the local currency’s performance.

“...And pronouncements by government have played a critical role to the depreciation. We can agree here that the recent adverse movement against our currency to a big extent has been driven by issues surrounding the aspect of donors withdrawing aid because of alleged corruption or money missing or stolen, we can assign whatever term it

is, but the bottom line is there is a problem with how the donor money was being utilised or should have been utilised. That, too, contributed, but if we have a situation where there is commitment from the policymakers, when you receive money from donors, it is used in a manner that you have agreed with the donor, you know it will not affect your supply side as it in this instance and it will also not send a negative sentiment in the market because withdrawal of donor [funding] does send a negative sentiment in the country,” Hamaundu explained. “And it affects the rate of exchange because if you are a donor, if you are a business player who thinks that there are a lot of things that are not going the way they should be in an economy, your options

would be to ensure that you protect your assets, you will convert from kwacha to dollars so that you do not suffer from erosion of the currency as a result of movement in an exchange rate so that you maintain your asset value. And as Zambians, we are not doing enough to be productive. As you know, being productive is the only way you can ensure that your currency is very stable. Every year, we hear politicians talk about the need to construct manufacturing sectors. This tells you how far we are from being really productive as a country. But if at all we can be productive, our currency can really stabilise.” And Hamaundu added that the kwacha’s depreciation has put traders in an awkward position because they don’t know what price to charge due to the ongoing currency volatility.

“That’s why, ideally, we are better off having a stable currency as a country as opposed to volatile; stable and predictable. Because when you have stability, and your currency is also predictable, you know when it comes to prices of goods and services, whose base is dollar or pound, it becomes a bit easier. But in our instance where the rate like we have seen as we are were going towards the end of September, the rate moved from about K10.3 [per dollar], coming into October it even reached K12.8. Then there was an appreciation from K12.8 to K11.3, and again, the movement of depreciation has started to levels around K11.8 to K11.9 against the US dollar. All this has happened within a space of less than 30 days. Now, if you are a business player, if you are a trader who imports

goods, where are you expected to peg the prices of goods that you are selling? But if it was a situation where one knows that the general direction was now that of depreciation and it’s highly likely that we might reach K12, then the traders will assume the prices of K12 per dollar. But in this instance, it’s very difficult for business people to peg a price,” narrated Hamaundu. “The psychology surrounding money matters is generally that, when the prices are going up, they very rarely come down even when the exchange rate comes down. If the price is pegged against the dollar, and the dollar loses pace against the kwacha, it is very rare that the appreciation of the kwacha is passed on to the consumer. Especially in things like groceries, you know toiletries, these things that are used every day. But

if you are looking at rent where your rent is pegged in dollar, then it will be easy to determine how much you will pay in kwacha. But on these other commodities, it stays up there unless the movement in appreciation in kwacha is quite significant and noticeable by the consumers, then the price will drop. And the other aspect is, of course, as consumers, we are not that sensitive to demand for a price reduction because many a time the argument by a business persons is that we bought these stocks at a high rate and we are not even sure whether this reduction in the exchange rate will be sustained or will be held at this level for a long time. That’s why you find that the business person is put in an awkward position and the only option that they have is to get a bit more from the consumer.”

LAZ offers legal services to Vespers’ family

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) says it intends to reach out to the deceased UNZA student’s family to provide the requisite legal support in order to ensure that ends of justice is met in the matter. In a statement issued and signed by the LAZ Council,

the association condemned police for teargassing hostels which led to Vespers Shimuzhila’s untimely death. “The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) joins carious organizations, institutions and individuals who have condemned the conduct of Zambia police officers at

the University of Zambia (UNZA) Great East Road Campus on or about 4th October 2018, which led to the untimely death of a fourth-year student Vespers Shimuzhila. LAZ condemns the excessive force used by the police officers who are reported to have followed unarmed and

peaceful students who were in their rooms after the demonstration and threw teargas canisters in the rooms. Although LAZ does not support any unlawful action of the students, such as blocking of the Great East Road and endangering the lives of motorists and other road users, LAZ condemns

in the strongest possible terms, heavy handed and disproportionate police action that violates individual human rights,” the LAZ Council stated. The association expressed interest to offer legal support to Vespers’ family in order to ensure that justice prevails.

“LAZ also calls on the Inspector General of police to institute prompt and thorough investigations into the incidence and to make the findings public. Any officer who will be found wanting should face the law. LAZ also expects that this incident will not end quietly but that justice will be done in the matter. LAZ intends to reach out to the deceased student’s family to provide the requisite legal support to ensure that ends of justice is met,” stated the LAZ Council. “LAZ sincerely regrets the death of Vespers Shimuzhila and its deepest sympathies and condolences to her family and colleagues LAZ expects that the government will take the necessary action to support Vespers’ family. LAZ demands that police officers should follow the law at all times in such situations and act professionally. The police have a noble and public duty to maintain law and order in public but they are not expected to act outside the confines of law in any situation.”



UNZA students mourn Vespers at the Mandahill foot bridge in Lusaka yesterday

THE IMPACT OF HIGH DEBT LEVELS
ON THE 2019 NATIONAL BUDGET

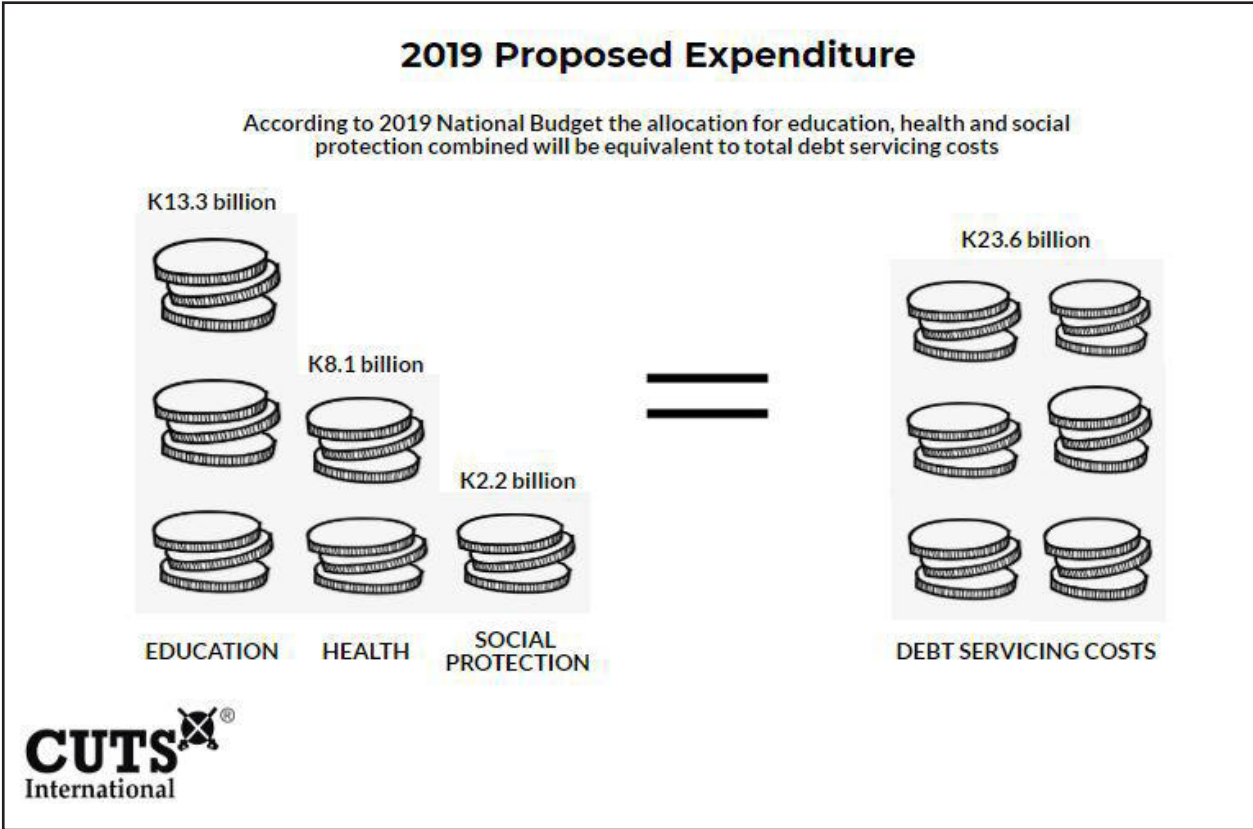
#DebtConcernsMe

Over the past two weeks we have discussed the high debt levels the country has accumulated and the implications this has for Zambians. On the 28th of September 2018, the Minister of Finance announced the 2019 national budget which showed the impact of debt on the national purse. Debt payments have consumed the largest allocation of the national budget amounting to K23.6 billion or 27% of the entire budget. The amount allocated to debt servicing in 2019 is equivalent to the total allocation for health, education and social protection combined, showing that debt obligations alone are now consuming the majority of national revenues at the expense of the much-needed social spending.

As debt levels are increasing the Government needs to increase its revenue in order to provide public services and also pay back its debt. The Government does this through taxation and charging fees to raise revenues domestically and reduce its reliance on borrowing. However, taxes need to be raised fairly as there is a risk of stagnating private sector led growth and squeezing ordinary Zambians into poverty by leaving them with little money to meet their basic needs.

This year a number of taxes and fees have been imposed, such as the borehole tax, increased toll gates and the government is set to introduce internet calling tax. The 2019 budget has come with the introduction of new taxes as well as increases in different taxes and fees to finance the different plans set out for next year. Some of these taxes will hit low income consumers the hardest. The government will introduce a 30 ngwee excise duty on non-alcoholic drinks, increase the rate of carbon emission surtax on vehicles and increase the charge on fees and fines. Additionally, the National health insurance scheme will be implemented which will involve deducting a percentage of citizens' income. This all adds to the pressure that ordinary Zambians are feeling.

One of the key policy changes is the plan to abolish VAT and replace with sales



tax. VAT is a consumption tax placed on a product whenever value is added at each stage of the supply chain from production to the final point of sale. On the other hand, sales tax is a consumption tax imposed by the government on the final sale of goods and services. The rate and mechanism at which sales tax will be charged has not yet been announced but the introduction of the tax is likely to result in consumers paying more for goods and services. This is because VAT is a refundable tax and thereby producers do not overprice their commodities. However, with sales tax this is a non-refundable deduction on money made from sales and to offset the impact this will have on the seller's profits, he or she is likely to increase prices of goods passing on the cost to consumers. The sales tax has not been developed yet so its impact is hard to predict, but as government makes its plans, it needs to consider the risk that the tax will further squeeze consumers.

It is commendable that in an attempt to broaden the tax base, compliance initiatives and new taxes were introduced targeting corporate sectors particularly the mining sector. This should be applauded because taxes are collected from industry players more capable of paying tax. The government should avoid reliance on fees, fines and taxes on consumer goods because these are 'regressive,' meaning that all individuals are hit by them regardless of income. Taxes on ordinary Zambians come at a time when families are feeling the pinch: the depreciation of the Kwacha (itself linked to Zambia's debt position) is likely to increase inflation, with September food

prices 8.6% higher than the year before. We can see evidence of this squeeze in how fees and fines are set to increase next year in line with inflation, but the Pay as You Earn (P.A.Y.E) thresholds are unmoved. All this creates a worrying picture for the wellbeing of ordinary Zambians

Higher taxes threaten to increase the cost of living on individuals, push low-income earners into poverty, and also slow down economic growth if individuals have less money for consumption of goods and services. While government needs to improve revenue to pay off its debt, poorly executed taxation policies threaten to derail the government's ability to raise money, as well as leave ordinary Zambians suffering. We are calling for the objective of the tax system to be progressive and for taxes to be designed in a way that ordinary people are not made worse off but wealth is redistributed from those more capable of paying taxes to the poor and most vulnerable in society.

Continue to follow the series for the next coming weeks and follow the conversation on social media #DebtConcernsMe.

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For more information contact: The Centre Coordinator, Consumer Unity and Trust Society, 298 Ngwerere Road, Roma, Lusaka. Email: lusaka@cuts.org Phone 097 8 055 293



Zambia will remain poor for many more years to come – Research Institute

By Abraham Kalito
Indaba Agricultural Research Policy Institute (IAPRI) Executive Director Chance Kabaghe says Zambia will be poor for many more years to come because of government's hesitance to invest heavily in the agricultural sector. And Kabaghe has asked government to crop-diversify from maize as a measure to fight malnutrition and encourage people to eat health food. In an interview with News Diggers in Lusaka, Kabghe said the agricultural sector employs 50 per cent of Zambians and that failure to invest heavily in it means failure to effectively fight poverty among the citizens. "I think I would like to really emphasise that the only way Zambia can really move out of poverty, the only way our small dwellers in the rural areas and also in the urban areas can have more money in the pocket is by concentrating on agriculture. Our data shows that agriculture employs more than 50 per cent of our people. That's earnings of more than 50 per cent of the population. And therefore, it is important to invest carefully in

agriculture and these other sectors. We talk about the mines, yes with the mines we have foreign exchange, but they only employ 1.9 per cent of the Zambian population. So, the impact to the general population in this country is not that much from the mining. If you really need economic impact, good nutrition,

money in the pocket, lets invest in agriculture. The fact that government has reduced its investment in agriculture also means that

poverty is not going away any time soon," Kabghe said. "I think the first thing one notices from the analysis is that there is a decline of budget

investment in agriculture. This year it is 6.1 per cent when in actual fact the target that is agreed by governments at the AU (African Union)

level through the Maputo and Malawi declaration is that 10 per cent of GDP should be going to agriculture. So really, we are meeting that target." And Kabaghe asked government to crop diversify from maize as a measure to fight malnutrition and encourage people to eat healthy food. "The second thing which is positive is that we have seen some increase from last year to Fisheries and Livestock's. And also, the good sign is that government is saying come next year we are going to go 100 per cent with the e-voucher. Its definitely much more efficient the e-voucher than using our traditional system. This year the implementation of 2018/2019, we are saying it will be 40 per cent traditional and 0 percent e-voucher. But the view is that we should go 100 per cent. Its more efficient and the farmer is given the choice to choose whatever he wants. And that therefore meets what we are talking about as agricultural diversification. So, this particular budget does not give that diversification because of the 40-60 per cent in the e-voucher. We should not just concentrate on maize. And there are people who are changing their eating patterns significantly. Let's add value to maize and maybe feed our livestock. So, we are not saying that we should stop investing in maize," said Kabghe. "Maize should be there but that should not be the emphasis of government because for the past years we have been talking about maize and maize. Let's move away and invest elsewhere. We have seen also a declined investment in research and development. I think those are very important. Any country that has developed in the world it's because of research and development. We would like to see more money going towards research. There is an area that we have done well in agriculture as a country and that is the seed industry. So, we are saying what is in this seed industry that has made it to do so well? And what has come out is the fact that the seed industry is private sector led. Its very transparent and its very predictable. We are the biggest export of seed not only in this region but the whole of Africa. If we have done well in that area then we can surely diversify and do well in other areas too."



CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano with others at a public discussion forum on the state of the economy and public investment in children at Southern Sun Hotel in Lusaka last Friday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Munali Nickel to commence operations in 2019

By Stuart Lisulo
Munali Nickel Mine is expected to resume its long-awaited operations by the first quarter of next year after successfully securing US \$40 million to commence production. In a statement issued from its Mazabuka base, Southern Province, Munali Nickel

Mine is expected to finally resume its operations early next year after successfully securing restart financing of US \$40 million. "After successfully securing re-start finance in the order of US \$40million, the decision was taken in June, 2018, to bring the mine back into production with the first

ore production planned for quarter one, 2019. All key personnel have since been recruited," the statement read. The mine has been under care and maintenance for seven years, but has

undergone significant developments, such as underground blasting, that have occurred ahead of formal commencement of ore production. "On September 14, 2018, after seven years of care and maintenance, a successful blast underground was undertaken. Construction of the first-ever Dense Media Separator (DMS) Plant in Zambia, which will improve head grade from 1 per cent to 2 per cent and improve recoveries is in progress and is expected to be commissioned before the end of the year. Some key mining equipment has arrived on site, while rehabilitation of some available units was ongoing. Process plant rehabilitation was on schedule. Orders for other new mining equipment have been placed. The mine site has been fully fenced, as required by government legislation," read the statement. Munali Nickel Mine located in Mazabuka District,

which is about 80Km south of Lusaka, and has been on care and maintenance since November, 2011. Consolidated Nickel Mines (CNM) acquired the rights to operate the mine from the owners Jinchuan Group out of China in 2014. CNM, through its local subsidiary, Mabiza Resources Ltd (MRL), has completed numerous studies on the Munali property to improve the economics of the operation to enable the mine to come back into production. Nickel prices on the international market have generally been depressed in recent years, but have steadily climbed to US \$12,400 per tonne, according to the London Metal Exchange (LME). Prices for the metal are equally set to increase drastically in the medium-term, mainly driven by significant growth in demand for battery-powered vehicles in industrialised economies, among other factors.

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Establish Commission of Inquiry into Vesper’s death, PF appeals to Lungu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF media director Sunday Chanda has called on President Edgar to establish a Commission of Inquiry into the death of UNZA student Vespers Shimunzhila. And PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza says government would require US\$26 million every month to subsidize fuel consumption. Vespers, a fourth year student, died of suffocation after police fired teargas into her room, causing a fire. Speaking when he was flanked by Mwanza on Radio Christian Voice’s ‘Chat Back’ programme, Monday, Chanda said politics could not be divorced from Vespers’ death. “It’s very easy to point fingers [but] the clarion call here is that, we are calling on the Head of State, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to establish a Commission of Inquiry into this matter. Besides the investigations that are happening, let’s have a Commission of Inquiry into this matter. Let us understand, what were the factors at play? Let us understand who was involved? And how did this happen? We saw a statement from the Minister of Information [Dora Siliya], which touched on a number of areas and you cannot take away politics from what happened at UNZA resulting in the unfortunate death of Vespers,” Chanda said. He said so many political players had been named in the death of the student hence the need for an inquiry to ascertain who was to blame.

“There are so many versions that we are hearing about UNZA. We had comrade Chilufya Tayali raising a number of issues; we have the opposition UPND accusing government and accusing President Lungu and we have Mr Hakainde Hichilema being accused in this matter; we have the President’s name being accused in this matter; we have KBF accusing Minister Stephen Kampyongo and to put these matters to rest, let us have a Commission of Inquiry to ensure that we deal with the problems of UNZA once and for all. So, we are calling on the Head of State to take decisive actions on this particular matter. But the blame game will not just do,” he insisted.

Chanda said Zambia must not allow people to make political capital of Vesper’s death. “What is clear again is that there is need to depoliticize UNZA. You cannot have someone thinking if they are going to get their political career...or ignite their political fortunes or the easiest way that they can get into State House is by calling on Zambia to rise against the government, and you influence another student to do certain things before their meal allowances could fall due. We are not going to have institutions, such as the University of Zambia to be a breeding ground for anarchy. It is immoral for anyone to try and make political capital

out of this matter because someone has lost a child, someone has lost a sister and someone has lost a friend. It is immoral for anyone to try and draw political capital out of this death,” Chanda argued. And commenting on government’s decision to bar Kenyan law professor Patrick Lumumba from entering the country, Mwanza branded the foreign academician “a plagiarist” who wanted to fuel confusion. “Our being here, myself and comrade Sunday Chanda, is as a result of being invited. We did not just walk into this station and start talking because we don’t own this station because there are rules in this station. A child in a house just doesn’t go into

a bedroom of a parent unless is called and allowed to go in the bedroom. So, there are rules in every house, there are rules in every nation, there are rules in every company. And Zambia has got an internal wing, which deals with internal intelligence, that is Home Affairs. And, therefore, to begin with, I find that the denial by the State to allow I don’t know if he is Professor Lumumba or it’s plagiarism Lumumba to come into this country should not even raise eyebrows! First of all, who is he? And what was he coming to do here, which we, as Zambia, can’t do? Mr Lumumba uses his tongue to make money by going round countries and say a lot of alarming

and flaming statements against governments! And he does so at a fee; he is being sponsored to do those things,” Mwanza claimed. He insisted that Zambia will not allow anyone to spoil its bilateral friendship with China. “And we, as Zambia, have a country to protect. I heard ‘plagiarism Lumumba’ saying that he was not a security risk because he doesn’t carry arms, but the Bible is very clear that of all the things that God has created, the most destructive is a tongue, small, but very destructive! And we know that we have got a genocide in Rwanda where 800,000 people were massacred all because of tongues, because of what people were saying on radio,” Mwanza charged. “Prof Lumumba was here to come and incite Zambia against the Chinese people, inciting Zambia against a group of people so that we can have xenophobic sentiments against our own bilateral friends who have done so much for this country. The relationship between Zambia and China has not started today, it started in 1955. And we cannot allow ‘plagiarism Lumumba’ to come here and start inciting our own people against our bilateral friends, for what benefits? So, to hear that there are some people who were even defending ‘plagiarism Lumumba,’ I was surprised because how would you defend a foreigner at the expense of your own country?” And on fuel increment, Mwanza further claimed that if government was to continue subsidizing fuel, it would have meant scouting for US \$26 million every month to cover up for the subsidies. “There is no one who can claim that ‘vote for me [because] I will reduce the price of fuel,’ that is a lie because we don’t produce fuel. So, to claim that when we vote for you, fuel will be at K5 is simply a lie. And I don’t want our people to be misled; you cannot reduce the price of a commodity that you yourself don’t produce. It is impossible because the price of that commodity is determined by the owners of the commodity. So, if the government, for instance, was to continue to subsidize fuel, it means that this government has to look for US \$26 million every month to subsidize the fuel, but government cannot be subsidizing fuel because even if you look at the fuel consumption, the huge consumption goes to the multi-nationals. And government cannot be losing US \$26 million every month to cover up for these subsidies,” argued Mwanza.



NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale speaks to journalists shortly after attending the funeral Church service of Vespers Shimunzhila at the SDA Church along Katima Mulilo Road in Lusaka yesterday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Harry Kalaba rubbishes PF summons: Stop wasting my time

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba says party Secretary General Davies Mwila should stop wasting his time by asking him to exculpate himself because that will not change the lives of suffering Zambia. The Patriotic Front disciplinary committee has summoned Kalaba and former party deputy chairperson for elections Kelvin Bwalya Fube (KBF) to exculpate themselves for alleged gross misconduct. According to ZNBC, Mwila said the party has written to the duo and given them two weeks to exculpate themselves, while the verdict will be passed in December. But reacting to the summons, Kalaba said he had not yet received the letter, but said if that was the case, he would only exculpate himself if Mwila assured him of bettering the lives of Zambia in exchange. “I have not received that letter, but I have heard it [and] here is what I want to say: It is very sad that at a time when the nation is mourning the loss of a young life, a young girl who was shot

in unexplained circumstances by unrest police, Davies Mwila should have the guts and the energy to begin talking about Kalaba Harry to exculpate himself. We are all busy trying to mourn the death of our child, but here is what I have to tell Mwila: if Mr Mwila assures me that the price of fuel will come down when I write to exculpate myself to him, then I will do that; if Mr Mwila assures me that my exculpating myself will help improve the living standards of the Zambia people and that farmers will receive their fertilizer on time during this farming season, then I will do that. If Mr Mwila and those that are using him assure me that they will stop brutalizing our children in the higher learning institutions, then I am ready to exculpate myself,” Kalaba told News Diggers! in an interview, Monday. He said Mwila should stop wasting his time the same way he wasted it for the people of Chipili constituency. “But if those things will not be done, Mr Davies Mwila should stop wasting my time! He should not waste my time the way he wasted the time of

the people of Chipili constituency! The Zambia people are looking for solutions at a time such as this. The Zambia people are looking for ways of parents taking their children into school. We have got millions of poor people whom we have driven out of the streets and they can’t pay for their children in schools; we have parents whose children have failed to go into college and yet they have got very good grades, and it is true that we have got qualified students who have finished universities and colleges and they can’t access a job because the jobs that are available are for people that are linked to Mr Mwila and his people,” he said. And Kalaba, the former Foreign Affairs Minister, added that he was busy finding ways of returning the country back to good shape. “I am busy right now trying to find ways and means of bringing Zambia back in our hands and so I will not allow Mr Mwila to waste my time! And I even wonder what is Mr Mwila smoking? That he can’t even read the...in which he should be reacting to issues,” said Kalaba.

By Mirriam Chabala
Thousands of citizens yesterday joined University of Zambia students for Vespers Shimuzhila’s requiem mass at the UNZA SDA church along Katimamulilo Road in Lusaka. People from various sectors, ranging from staff at the University of Zambia, political party leaders, business executives, musicians, students from various higher learning institutions and ordinary citizens, all clad in black, turned up to pay their last respects to Shimuzhila, who suffocated after police threw a tear gas canister in her room. Around 07:40 hours, musician and civil rights activist Maiko Zulu led thousands of UNZA students from the Great East Road Campus in a march past to the Church. Other students, however, took advantage of their day to protest against police brutality, proceeding to the Mandahill footbridge where they sat on the road and

mourned their colleague. The massive march took social media by storm as netizens shared the unbelievable pictorial scenes of protesters practically putting business in the part of Lusaka to a stand still. No police were spotted attempting to stop the protesters and motorists opted to use alternative routes. The students then returned to the church for the service, which began at exactly at 09:50 hours with the campus choir giving an opening hymn titled “Does Jesus Care”, depicting the hardships that humans go through and what remains of loved ones when one dies and how God looks at everything from Heaven. Pastor Evans Manjimela led the Church into a sermon, encouraging Vespers’ parents to accept the death of their

daughter and rely on God for comfort. “You and your wife [Mr and Mrs Shimuzhila] you were saying that this year you are done with Vespers and I am sure you were budgeting for her graduation. Little did you know that this will be a special graduation. The gathering we were waiting for is not one where the pastor is speaking, we were waiting for the gathering were the VC speaks and gives the degrees. But as it is, death is a mystery to us. We don’t send out children into the University in order to collect a coffin, we send them in the hope that when they graduate, they will be a blessing to the family and to the nation. When Vespers left the village, everyone knew she has gone to the University but this afternoon you are going to Namwala and you are not taking a graduate, you are taking Vespers in a coffin.

And in times like this, as human beings, our hearts are failing us, except to the turn to the Lord. Because of this, may I invite you, painful as it is, read the word of God,” said Pastor Manjimela. In her tribute, Vespers’ sister described the deceased as a God-fearing child whose life was exemplary and outstanding. “Vespers was nurtured in a Christian home. She was very exemplary upwards. I grew with Vespers in Namwala, she was my age mate. It was our dream to come and study at the University of Zambia one day. But Vespers started by going to Rusangu University and when things didn’t work out well at Rusangu University, she applied at UNZA and she was accepted in 2014 and when I heard that she was accepted at UNZA I was very happy. Vespers has left a very big gap, her death

pains a lot. She faced a lot financial difficulties and she was not even on bursary. Her death is really painful, he dreams have been cut short. Who is going to save the students from these injustices?,” asked Vespers’ sister. Meanwhile, speaking to Journalists after the service, UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema dispelled allegations that he instigated the October 4 protests at UNZA, saying Vespers’ death would have been prevented had law enforcement agencies been responsible. “To say that I am politicking is the most stupid and irresponsible thing to say because I am not responsible for paying university allowances. I am not responsible for commanding the police to do what they did. So therefore, the people responsible for this death unfortunately and indeed the injuries of other students who are still ill lies squarely on those responsible for meeting obligations such as student allowances. But what they do? They gave themselves salary increments when student salaries and salaries for civil servants have not been paid. So I am not responsible, I will be responsible when our time comes,” said Hichilema. Also addressing journalists were NGOCC Board Chairperson Sara Longwe and the organisations’ executive director Engwase Mwale who bemoaned the failure by the law enforcement agencies to protect the lives of students. “It’s shame to Zambia that we should live in this way. Even if there was a riot, those riots needed to be dealt with

properly. I hope this is a lesson to the security and to everyone of us, including the students that if we have a grievance, we should find ways in which we deal with such things,” said Longwe. Mwale, on the hand, called for dialogue over students’ welfare. “We want to have a situation in future where the government can be able to sit down with the students to be able to discuss the various aspirations that students have so that they can come up with a lasting solutions that is amicable in a lot of ways,” said Mwale. And speaking during the service, University of Zambia Vice Chancellor Prof Luke Mumba said there was no justification for the loss of life. “As a custodian of our university, I am heart broken. When I heard about the unfortunate things happening at Great East road campus that night, I visited campus in the middle of the night and tried to pacify the situation. I witnessed about 19 students in the night being rushed to the university clinic for attention and among those was Vespers. Little did I know that that was going to be the last time we were seeing her. Nothing whatsoever can justify the taking away of a life, the death of Vespers has left a big dent on our university. As a university we are resolved to make the university environment safe. We will strive to achieve a conducive environment for studies,” said Prof Mumba. Vespers’ body has since been transported to Namwala district in Southern Province for burial.

It’s premature to blame police for Vespers’ death, says Kampyongo

By Tenson Mkhala
It is premature to blame police for Vespers Shimunzila’s death, says Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo. And Kampyongo has announced that police and other law enforcement agencies are conducting investigations into what transpired prior, during and after the UNZA riots on October 5, 2018. “The investigations which are currently being conducted by the Zambia Police and other investigative wings will cover what transpired for the period prior to the riot, during and after the riot at the higher learning institution. And further to the investigations, there will be an inquest which will be constituted where other people who might have other pieces of information concerning the same will be allowed to provide the information to the team that would undertake the inquest. The result of the inquest will be supplemented by the postmortem report for the deceased’s student and once this information is put together, the nation shall then be informed accordingly. The Ministry shall ensure that investigations are carried out professionally and that those who will be found wanting will be dealt with according to the law,” Kampyongo said before asking Shimunzila’s family and students to stay calm as they wait for the report. “We are monitoring the situation and we have police and other investigative wings have already received some pieces of information which will help them as they get into the investigations...As to the blames that are being apportioned on Zambia Police, it is premature now to apportion the blame on the Zambia Police. You must

be aware that what prompted the Zambia Police to get to the learning institution was to go and restore order. They were called upon to go and restore order when the riot had already broken out. And can you imagine if the police did not move in?” Meanwhile, Kampyongo has warned that should any officers be found wanting for conducting themselves in an irresponsible manner, they will be dealt with within the confines of the law. “And I want to appeal to those

that want to take advantage of this situation to preach lawlessness that they will certainly be dealt with within the confines of the law and that also goes to those that have either taken to social media to issue disparaging remarks that they will equally be pursued because we have only one country and we can't allow this country to go into flames by people that want to be reckless. We also don't want to speculate with regards to political influence in these matters but like I have said,

all the events prior to the riot, during and after the riot will be probed and at that point, we will then see if there will be other people that could have participated in the riot. If indeed there will be officers that will be caught up and found to have unprofessionally conducted themselves, there are appropriate measures that will be taken and it won't be the first time but whatever will be taken will be within the provisions of the law and professional code of conduct,” said Kampyongo.


Dora Siliya reacts emotionally after students call her “hule” at the funeral

By Mukosha Funga
Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya yesterday angered members of the public when she sent out a tweet saying government could not continue funding drunkness and violence at UNZA. Siliya also tweeted that unruly students who started the riot on October 6 were responsible for Vespers’ death. Siliya, was among thousands who attended Vespers’ requiem mass at the UNZA SDA church along Katimamulilo Road in Lusaka. When the service ended, some angry students hurled unprintables at the Information Minister, demanding an apology for claiming that the protest at UNZA had been sponsored by the opposition. “Hule! (prostitute),” the students were heard shouting as they surged towards her. Siliya, however, was immediately whisked away to her ministerial vehicle by ministry staff. When approached by journalists for a comment, Siliya declined to give an interview before her car drove off. A few minutes later, however, Siliya tweeted; “I attended the service for Vespers. Mostly calm but for a few

drank students who feel shouting unpalatables at Govt serves them well. We need to dialogue on how to fund higher education going forward. Tax payers supporting drankness and violence at UNZA can’t continue”, sparking outrage from her followers. Miss Bwalya replied: As a taxpayer I ask you not to speak on my behalf on this one. Speak on behalf of the cabinet and your boss. Your government’s ineptitude and ‘drankness’ has led us to this dark hour. blacktwiter replied: Actually it’s more painful to realize that our tax payers money is wasted in paying your salary and allowances, I just wonder when you are getting fired, you are undoubtedly the most useless chief government spokesperson our country has ever produced. Choolwe Chuma replied: But Dora you irritate. This post was going to be solely about Vespers if you genuinely cared. But no, in your ‘learned’ capacity, you had to throw in a couple of jabs. Zero empathy. Henri Mwanabaleya II replied: Baby girl check your spellings. We need to dialogue also on why Tax payers money should pay ministers who can’t even spell correctly!!! It’s Drunk n Drunkenness.


Mullie wrote: Out of all the things you could choose to speak on this is your best?? Some ones’ child died,some ones sister,friend, loved one..And this is your pressing issue? Tamwa kwatako aka nsoni or even pretend to be sympathetic. Umm mmm shame! Chilufya Tayali wrote: Yaba! This one.... it is emotive from a Govt Spokesperson. We can’t generalize like that, in my view some of these people uttering unpalatables are not even students but cadre from that party. Despite the backlash, Siliya sent out another tweet, blaming “unruly” students for Vespers’ death. “A few unruly students who started a riot night of 4 oct, endangering the lives of other students, the Public and the Police for no apparent reason according to UNZA press release, as money was expected 6 Oct, must be the first to take responsibility for the death of Vespers,” tweeted Siliya, soliciting more scorn from her followers. Negro Swan wrote: 1) Investigate the instruction the police operate under and ensure it is amended to ensure that NONE of this (burning of rooms &/or death) ever happens again. 2) Discipline those responsible for this blatant abuse of power 3)Resign 4)

Really, do Number 3. Cuthbert wrote: Does HH pay students their allowances? Was it HH that stopped Student Unionism and left students without a way to air out grievances? Tobias Daka wrote: Even if you’re government spokesperson and you’re suppose to tell all lies they tell you. Sometimes it’s to refuse. Self respect. Obvious tweets wrote: Honorable are you aware how far hunger can push a person. The money students get is already barely enough and add to that the delays what did you expect. You dissolved unions and you silenced all modes of dialogue and you refuse to listen #justiceforVespers Ian Mutale wrote: What about the mother to the deceased? How did she look? Did you talk to her and reassure her on how she lives moving forward? Did you also see her family members who were so hopeful for their child in 4th year and looking forward to starting her life? Only drunk students? Racheal wrote: Throwing tear gas canisters through windows into the girls hostels in response to a peaceful protest is excessive force. The excessiveness of the force used is evident in the fact that VESPERS IS DEAD.



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



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

‘They took away everything’ says Syrian entrepreneur

While I was away to Europe past one month, my personal friend and Japanese-based entrepreneur, Simon Sakala, gave readers insightful articles that I am sure you all appreciated. He was using his personal story to amplify my thoughts in the past one year, ‘You are the entrepreneur’! He was urging everyone to awaken that inner tough person so as to add value in exchange for profit. All of us have some entrepreneurship spirit kicking within us. It however, gets obstructed by a number of things. One of those could be a job that pays us a salary. Once you have tested money as an employee, you must be mud to think of running a business that remains unstable in terms of income. Another obstruction could simply be because we doubt ourselves. We do not believe that we can be entrepreneurs in things that we consider to be a hobby or a talent. I recently listened to a presentation by a South African entrepreneur about how he and colleagues have constructed simple lodges in Sioma, Kalabo district where guests pay a US\$1000/night. These individuals were doing something they loved; outings and game viewing! In the process, they decided to live in the bush fulfilling the appetite God had given them. They raised funds to construct simple-looking camp-like structures from which they made money. They emailed friends who equally loved birds and other forms of nature to visit them at a fee. That is how entrepreneurs are born: from what they love doing. This is the picture Simon was communicating to us. This brings me to the other obstacle many of us face: fear and uncertainty. Zambia currently has some form of uncertainty about the exchange rate, debt and competition from the Chinese. Hard

and challenging times usually push us away from entrepreneurship to formal employment. However, it is during those hard times we discover our spirit; the spirit of resilience, passion and focus. When I visited Sweden and Denmark last month, I met a family that was running a restaurant from which I bought my dinners. These were Syrian immigrants who had run away from war. It has been very tough for most Syrians in the past few

“*Enterprise is the only oil we have and we are using it to get back what we lost and we are confident we will make even more.*”

years. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, have fled their home country taking nothing with them. One of the entrepreneurs told me, ‘We lost everything- our houses, business and money. All that we had worked for over many years was destroyed. We only brought one thing with us- our enterprise. Enterprise is the only oil we have and we are using it to get back what we lost and we are confident we will make even more.’ I consider entrepreneurship to be a gift freely

given to humankind. Some exercise the gift, create value in their society and get rewarded as a result. Entrepreneurship is not something you go to school for. It is something within us. Those who discover their entrepreneurial calling will go to school to learn systems on which entrepreneurship thrives such as understanding numbers, making strategic decisions, branding the product or business and to create value over time. When the Syrian refugees lost everything they had, they asked themselves the most important question: ‘What do we have within us that we can take to the market place, sell and make money from it?’ Consider that they had no capital with them. Everything was taken away. It means the starting point for entrepreneurship is not capital. We look within us and start selling our ideas. Somehow, when someone is in the right business; a business that comes from within, capital is found. Entrepreneurship has a way of attracting capital. The Syrian entrepreneurs started baking from home, making chapatti and delivering to fellow Syrians and within a short time, the Danes loved the food. Today, they are running a very busy restaurant. One elderly man who served me regularly would dance while delivering the meal to my table. He knew very few words of English but sufficient for engagement. Entrepreneurship from within has a way of making us happy even when it does not look like. However tough things may be, entrepreneurship always has a break through. Those unemployed young people looking for jobs should not lose hope and focus. Some of you will during these challenging times discover the entrepreneurial spirit. Once you discover it, you will not work for anyone ever!

By Mukosha Funga
Satirical singer Chama Fumba, popularly known as Pilato, has called on President Edgar Lungu to institute an inquiry in the death of Vespers Shimuzhila, a fourth year student who died of suffocation after Police officers fired teargas in her room. Pilato, who on Sunday evening joined UNZA students in mourning Vespers, challenged President Lungu to show leadership by ensuring that the people responsible for her death were brought to book. “I would like to appeal to the President that he must show the human side of him. We want to see the human side of the President, the best

Someone must pay for Vespers’ death - Pilato

he can do is to institute an inquiry into the death of Vespers, some people must pay for the death of this innocent soul. It should not be normal to lose a life in campus, someone has to pay for the death of Vespers, because if it’s tolerated, no one knows what will happen next time, whose child will be killed?” Pilato asked. “So the President must show leadership, he must take leadership, let him institute a commission of inquiry, let us know who allowed the teargasing of students in rooms, let us know why the meal allowances were not paid to students and if we have someone to punish, let us know how that person will be punished. Is the Inspector General of Police going to be fired? Is he going to be taken to court? Is it the Minster of Home Affairs, is it the Minster of Higher Education? We want to know who was responsible for this

unfortunate death.” Pilato said the University of Zambia was not meant to be a death trap for students. “The University of Zambia is a place of learning and mostly the people who are here are poor peoples’ children. So coming here shouldn’t be a deadly project. Our President, cabinet ministers, send their children to the best universities outside the country. So when the poor people sacrifice all

they have to send their children to this University, their children must be assured of safety and that one day they will get their education so that one day they can also become Presidents or ministers. The trending killing of students at UNZA is worrying because among the risks that the poor people will be considering losing their children whilst in school,” Pilato said. “As a country, we must protect ourselves, we must

say no, coming to the University must not mean death of students. So I am here to offer solidarity to the young people here and to tell them that they are not alone, we will support them because their struggle is our struggle. The students of this University are the future of this country, and the future begins now. If we ignore their death and their pain, we are auctioning our own future, so we can only protect our future by protecting the students now.” The musician and governance activist, who was in the company of Zambia’s songbird, Kantu, joined mourning students at October car park where they both signed the book of condolences.

It is unfortunate that President Edgar Lungu was not around on October 8 when the University of Zambia students swarmed the Great East Road to give late Vespers Shimuzhila a mammoth and memorable send off. We hope he saw the pictures on social media, because that was a very strong statement from a united group of youths.

We have always said that there is great strength in numbers. Not a single citizen can stop the police brutality that we are seeing today, but a united people have the capacity to say enough is enough. That is why we saw officers at Manda Hill deserting their police post when they saw the multitude marching towards them. On this day, there was no police officer who could dare stop the students as they took charge of the four-way traffic junction.

It is unfortunate that Vespers succumbed to the chemical gas that police have been using for years on students unselectively. But there are many University of Zambia students who have experienced near-death moments as they suffocated in that awful tear gas. When you hear the narrations of the other hospitalized students, you can see that the death toll could have been higher, had they not offered each other some first aid whilst on the run.

We have covered

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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So, what has abolishing UNZASU solved today?

these riots at very close range for years, we have felt the tear gas pain on many occasions. It is not a friendly chemical gas and a person with asthma or related condition cannot survive. Even those in perfect health who are not used to tear gas suffer. They faint upon inhaling it. Sometimes, we have witnessed riot police chock and suffocate on their own tear gas when the wind blows against them, so they know how deadly it is.

Truthfully speaking, it is unfortunate that the top police command has to take blame for the consequences of this police brutality. And sometimes, this blame has to be shared by the politicians who are in charge of disbursing students' funds to the institution. But the reality is that the junior officers on the ground simply lack discipline sometimes.

Whenever police are called in to quell a hostile situation at UNZA, they usually find the rioters have vanished. But they hate the inconvenience of being woken up in the middle of the night and sent to an operation which they find dead. So, they provoke the situation so that they can at least have some action. This provocation often starts by targeting the hostels that are nearer to Great East Road.

When these police officers are shooting into the students' hostels, the intention is not to stop a riot, neither is it to punish those that were burning tyres on the road. It is simply meant to give themselves the pleasure of firing a weapon at an enemy. Tear gas is meant to disperse an unruly crowd, but these officers fire into the dormitories where innocent students are peacefully sleeping. If the

police feel there is need to arrest the students, they have the right to pursue them right into the rooms, identify and arrest the culprits. But they fire tear gas because their intention is nothing more than to harm and kill.

We have observed that this University of Zambia incident has happened at a time when the police command recently got a new deputy Inspector General in charge of operations. After Mr Bonnie Kapeso was sworn-in last week, we recall the interview that he gave to the media at State House. He said he loves riots and he was eager, together with his junior foot soldier officers, to get into running battles with rioting students and criminals.

We would like to caution Mr Kapeso to draw a line and differentiate between

students and criminals. No one complains when police exchange gunfire with armed robbers. Shooting down a criminal is permitted because they are both armed with deadly weapons and there is no dialogue atmosphere. But students don't bear arms; therefore, arresting them should not be a life-threatening exercise.

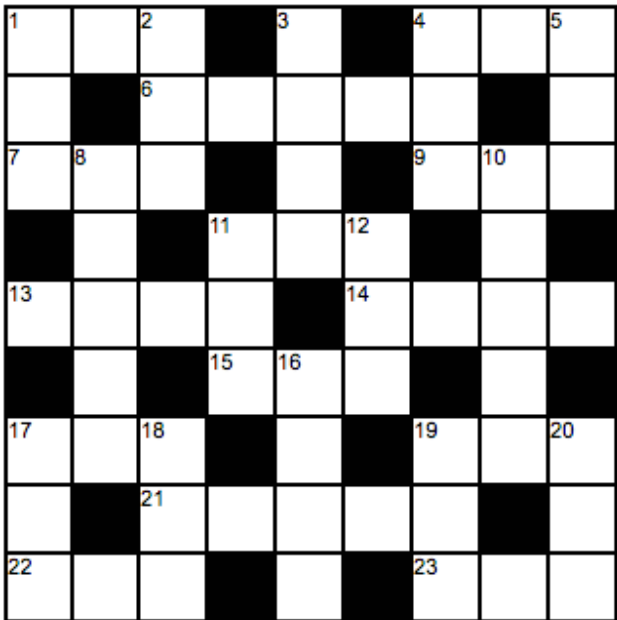
Police must also avoid getting themselves involved in the differences between students at these institutions of higher learning and the government. Since the establishment of the University of Zambia, or indeed any other learning institution, we have never heard of a single incident when a group of students picked up stones and started rioting without any cause whatsoever. Sometimes, the reasons are surely petty and stupid, but they are reasons nonetheless.

Police need to stick to their mandate of ensuring that a peaceful environment exists while the school authorities respond to the students' concerns. If the university finds it fit, they will expel the unruly students, but police must not take sides.

To the government, and the Minister of Higher Education in particular, we would like to remind her of what we said about removing emotions when dealing with students. What has Prof Nkandu Luo solved by abolishing UNZASU? Have the riots stopped? Is she happy that a student has died and she has no union to address? We told Prof Luo that problems don't solve themselves; they need leaders to think and find amicable solutions. Once again, she has failed and the death of Vespers is staring her in the eyes.

To the University of Zambia management, former students and friends of the late Vespers, we encourage them to put resources together and erect a statue for her at the campus. This will be a symbol of police brutality against students. It will remind unruly students of how a life was lost because of rioting and it will also speak to the conscience of the police officers who killed Vespers. Rest In Peace, Mama.

Crossword puzzle 204



"It's not unpatriotic to denounce an injustice committed on our behalf, perhaps it's the most patriotic thing we can do."
- E.A. Bucchianeri

- Across

1. Wild ox
4. Not just any
6. Surmise
7. Large coffee dispenser
9. Loud laugh
11. Female undergarment
13. Rib or mandible
14. Too inquisitive
15. Like some wines
17. Pig home
19. Greek H
21. High-tech message
22. Food from a shell
23. Blemish or spoil
- Down

1. "___ go, girl!"
2. Family
3. Off in the distance
4. Attempt
5. Lodge member
8. Perch for birds
10. Ticked off
11. Plant place
12. Whatever amount
16. Genuine
17. Closest star
18. However
19. Shade tree
20. Earth's atmosphere

Solutions to puzzle 203



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

PF's demand of probe into police conduct after UNZA fracas

Dear Editor,

"After refusing what you promised them? Your crocodile tears; just sit in your seat and drink beer and forget; we don't need your apologies." - Richards Mweetwa

"Stupidity at its best. The reason of the source known clearly. Just accept responsibility." - Tuka Filila Munsenga Kambwili

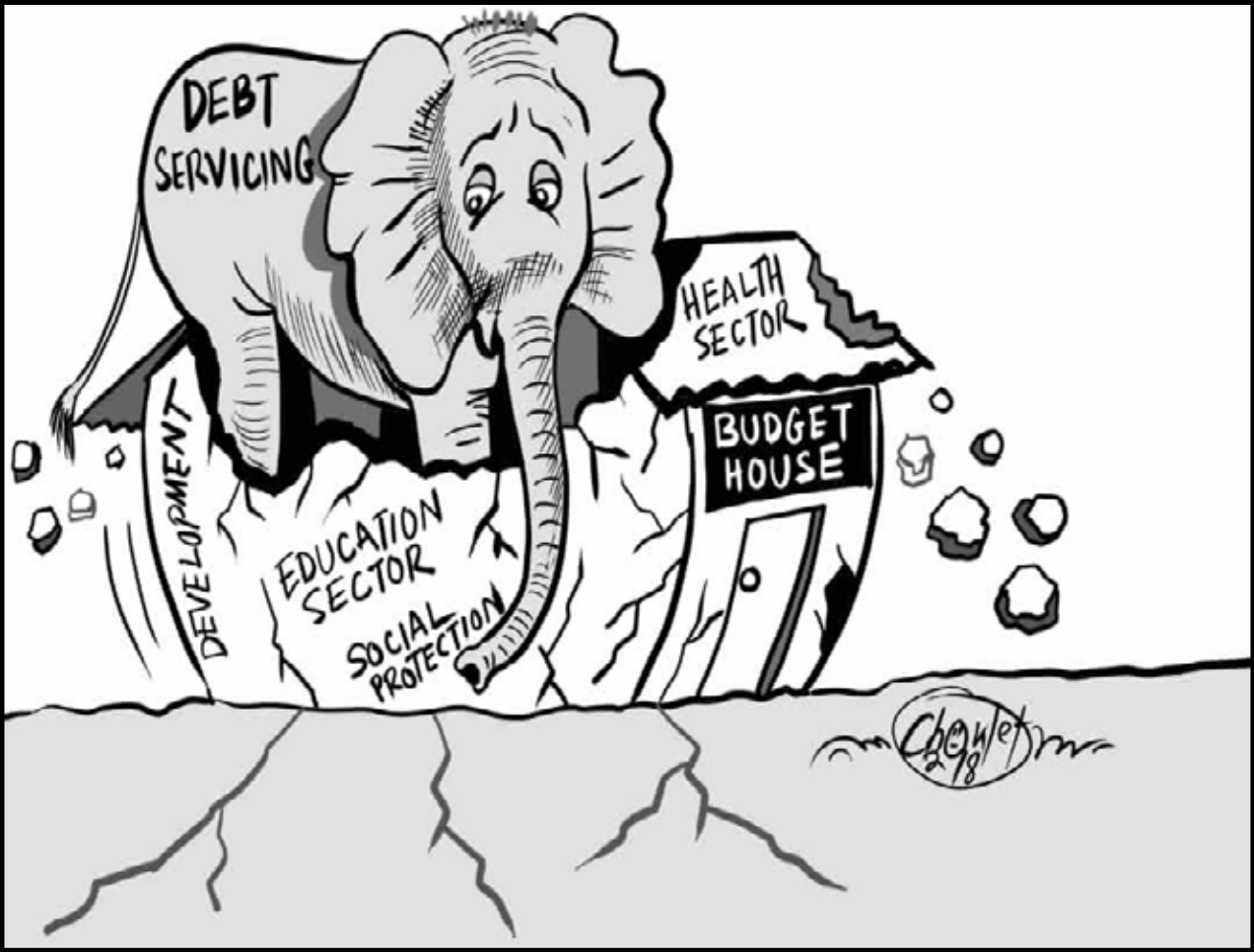
"Asking police to investigate police actions and expecting police to punish themselves...wow!" - Twaambo Power

"Sometimes it's good to shut up because we all know this issue is not going anywhere." - Mukonka Mukonka

"The problem with these people is that everything is politics, politics. Damn, you people, drop politics and face the truth not trying to hide in politics....The thing is that you failed to pay the students on time and you have shut down their way of communication where you banned the union. The only way which was left was to demonstrate and now your police force did the worst.... Then you are here trying to paint others black. This hurts." - Warren Suwilanji Mucheta

"Tear gas is bad and should be banned. I developed either asthma or chronic bronchitis, whatever it maybe, when I went to UNZA. I suspect it's tear gas because I never had that condition before I went to UNZA. I still remember how I felt when I inhaled it; it can surely kill someone. It's sad someone had to die from it." - Henry Chikundula Mwape

"Collect all empty teargas canisters near October Hostel. Empty canister serial number + identical serial number of teargas firing thingy = cop who was carrying it that day." - Jack JB



KBF's 'open letter' to Lungu on choosing between his friends or Zambians

Editor,
"The taste of your own medicine is surely bitter. This chap is just bitter; he was the one going round judges' homes in the night to make "Chapona" president, today ati, 'awehi?' KBF should sit down and suffer with us..." - Musani Zonde Kilitiko

"Waking up judges in the middle of the night has its own consequences." - Rodney Mwiinga

"KBF, apologise to us

Zambians. It's you who put Lungu in power. So, apologise before you join us complaining and condemning this deadly PF govt." - Gallen Mwangani

"We thought you knew ECL better than all of us before he became President, thus, the choice you made us believe in." - Rogers Kapila

"Lungu, you are nothing but a burden to Zambia. I wish you could resign on moral grounds." - AJ Lupupa Chikubabe

Engwase on EAZ having a lot of work to do

Editor,

"Dr Haabazoka is a wrong person to head this Association." - Chanda Emmanuel

"Haabazoka has become impotent since he became EAZ president. He is dining with PF now. I hear he's going to China soon with the President. The man's mouth is full of money from his masters, such that he can't talk now. Wake him up!" - Humphrey Shamz

"Dr Haabazoka's independence is now questionable." - Eddie W Walusiku

"Lubinda Haabazoka is looking for a job. Watch the space." - Wanosha

"He's in a much better position to advise government because his approach is not a one way traffic to criticise government. He tries to find a suitable opening to advise behind closed doors. Remember, government will always avoid open criticism and close out critics." - Cosmas Muyatwa

Pompeo says Kim 'ready' to invite inspectors to nuclear site

International inspectors will be allowed into North Korea's dismantled nuclear testing site, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday, after a meeting with Kim Jong Un in which he said "significant progress" was made towards denuclearisation.

Pompeo met with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang on Sunday to rekindle stalled denuclearisation talks following a landmark summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore.

"Chairman Kim said he's ready to allow them to come in" and see the dismantled Punggye-ri nuclear test site, Pompeo said.

North Korea took apart the Punggye-ri facility in the country's northeast in May but has yet to allow international observers into the site to verify its claims.

The facility, buried inside a mountain near the border with China, was the staging ground for all six of the North's nuclear tests.

The inspectors will be allowed in as soon as the two sides agree on "logistics", Pompeo told reporters in Seoul before leaving for Beijing on a whirlwind diplomatic trip.

Pompeo, however, did not comment on possible corresponding measures to be taken by Washington.

Denuclearisation of North Korea is "a long process", Pompeo said, adding: "We made significant progress."

The top US diplomat also said the two countries were "pretty close" to setting a date and location for the second summit between Kim and Trump.

The visit was Pompeo's fourth to North Korea.

Trump met Kim in Singapore in June for the first-ever summit between the two countries, resulting in what critics say was only a vague commitment by the North Korean leader towards denuclearisation.

Kim "expressed his gratitude to President Trump for making sincere effort" to implement the Singapore agreement, according

to a report on the Pompeo visit by North Korea's state news agency KCNA.

"Kim Jong Un appreciated the positively developing situation

on the Korean peninsula... (and) explained in detail the proposals for solving the denuclearization issue," KCNA said.

The North's official Rodong

Sinmun newspaper carried the meeting on its front page, with eight photos of the two men shaking hands and smiling broadly.

Pompeo and Kim had "a good meeting", Trump tweeted, adding: "I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim again, in the near future."

Washington and Pyongyang have sparred over the exact terms of the vaguely-worded agreement in Singapore, with the US pushing to maintain sanctions and pressure against the North until its "final, fully verified denuclearisation".

Last month, the North's foreign minister told the United Nations there was "no way" his country would disarm first as long as tough US sanctions remain against his country.

After a previous visit to Pyongyang in July, Pompeo had said the two foes made progress on key issues -- but within hours of his departure the North condemned "gangster-like" demands from the US, raising questions over how much the two sides really saw eye to eye.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that he believed Kim would soon meet with the leaders of China and Russia "soon" as a "new order is being created on the Korean peninsula".

As Pyongyang continues to take big diplomatic strides, analysts say the US may soon be pushed into a corner to relax sanctions.

AFP



The death toll from the twin disaster on Sulawesi island that erased whole suburbs in Palu has reached 1,944. AFP

Paper says South Africa's finance minister asked to be sacked, rand falls

South African Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene has asked President Cyril Ramaphosa to remove him after he admitted to visiting the home of the Gupta brothers, friends of scandal-plagued former leader Jacob Zuma, Business Day said on Monday, sending the rand lower.

Nene has become a divisive figure after testimony he gave at an inquiry into allegations

of corruption by the Guptas, in which he admitted to the previously undisclosed visits. He made a public apology about the matter on Friday.

Zuma and the Guptas, who face numerous allegations of using their friendship for mutual self-enrichment, have consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Business Day cited unidentified government sources as saying

that Nene made the request to Ramaphosa at the weekend.

Nene did not answer calls for comment.

"Government sources said Nene approached Ramaphosa after the highly negative public reaction to his apology to South Africans on Friday for the meetings with the Gupta family when he served under Zuma," the South African newspaper said.

It said the issue was likely to be raised at a meeting of the ruling African National Congress party

later on Monday.

The rand fell more than one percent on the report. **REUTERS**

Taylor gets political, endorses Democrats in US midterms



Pop star Taylor Swift is not really known for making political statements, but the "Bad Blood" singer is no longer holding back ahead of the midterm elections in November.

In a lengthy post on Instagram, where she has 112 million followers, the 28-year-old Swift says while she has been "reluctant" to share her political views in the past, she has changed her mind.

She endorsed the Democrat running for the US Senate in her home state of Tennessee, and unleashed a fierce attack on his opponent, Republican

Marsha Blackburn, who currently serves in the House.

"As much as I have in the past and would like to continue voting for women in office, I cannot support Marsha Blackburn. Her voting record in Congress appalls and terrifies me," Swift said.

"She voted against equal pay for women. She voted against the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which attempts to protect women from domestic violence, stalking, and date rape."

Last year, Swift won a lawsuit against a former radio DJ she accused of groping her. **AFP**

Syria rebels say to remove heavy weapons from buffer zone within days

Turkish-backed rebels said Sunday they expected to finish withdrawing heavy weapons from a planned buffer zone in northwestern Syria within days under a deal to stave off a regime attack.

Regime ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey reached the agreement on September 17 for the northwestern region of Idlib on the Turkish border to avert what many warned would be one of the worst humanitarian disasters of Syria's seven-year conflict.

But Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Sunday the deal for the country's last major opposition bastion was just a "temporary measure" before the government retook the region.

"The agreement is a temporary

measure through which the state has realised many achievements on the ground starting with stemming the bloodshed," state news agency SANA reported Assad as saying.

Idlib "and other Syrian territory still under terrorist control will return to the Syrian state," he reportedly said at a meeting of the central committee of his Baath party, employing the regime's usual term for both rebels and jihadists.

Last month's agreement is to create a 15 to 20-kilometre (9-12 mile) demilitarised area

ringing the Idlib region.

Under the deal, all rebels in the buffer zone must withdraw heavy arms by Wednesday, and radical groups must leave by October 15.

The National Liberation Front (NLF) announced Saturday that it has begun withdrawing heavy arms from the zone as part of an agreement between Russia and Turkey.

"We began to withdraw our heavy weapons from the demilitarised zone to rear positions," NLF spokesman Naji Mustafa told AFP.

"The operation will last several

days," he said, adding that the weapons will be held by fighters deployed in positions outside the demilitarised zone.

The NLF is the main Turkey-backed rebel alliance in the Idlib region, but jihadist heavyweight Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) holds a large part of the province and the zone.

HTS, led by former Al-Qaeda fighters, has yet to announce its stance on the buffer zone deal.

The Idlib region includes most of the province of the same name, as well as adjacent parts of the Hama and Aleppo provinces. **AFP**

NSCZ urges sports professionals to learn financial literacy

By Alex Chilumbwe

National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) has advised sportsmen and women in the country to learn financial literacy in order for them to have a safety net in case of career termination due to injuries. Council general secretary Raphael Mulenga noted that sportsmen were not making reasonable investments with their hard-earned money in their respective disciplines. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Mulenga highlighted some of the reasons sportsmen and women should have keen interest in acquiring financial literacy. "It is always unpredictable in sports. Fatal injuries and accidents happen anyhow and it would be unfortunate for one to quit sports on such conditions without a reasonable job or business to act as safety net. The little money acquired should not only end up in posh cars or visiting fancy clubs. Invest some of it in businesses so that when you retire or get injured, it does not seem like you never earned anything at all. Think of your families' future too," Mulenga advised. And Mulenga further reminded sportsmen and women in the country to consider sports as full time employment. "When you are a professional sportsman or woman, you are in full time employment. Report anything that hinders your progress in terms of allowances or bonuses to the council

and we will gladly help. You are working just like any other person and you need to get what is meant for you. We now have a number of volleyball and basketball players that play out of the country and are doing well. In the past it had always been footballers. It does not matter the kind of sport you play professionally, make the most out of it," said Mulenga.

Jurgen Klopp blasts 'senseless' Nations League

Jurgen Klopp has branded the UEFA Nations League "the most senseless competition in the world" as he prepares to see many of his squad leave on international duty following Liverpool's drab 0-0 draw with Manchester City. The two sides -- along with Chelsea -- are all locked on 20 points at the top of the Premier League table, separated only by goal difference after Sunday's matches. Klopp is pleased a hectic schedule of seven matches in 23 days is now over but is unsure what the next fortnight will bring for his players. "If somebody would have told me after eight matchdays you have 20 points, I would say with that fixture list, 'I'll buy it, let's start with the ninth matchday'," said Klopp. "The boys unfortunately go away again now and have to play Nations League games, the most senseless competition in the world of football." Klopp said players need a proper break to be fresher, pointing to the case of Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson who played for England at the World Cup in Russia. "If you want to see fresher (players), give them a summer break," he said. "For Jordan Henderson it was exactly two weeks, which is funny. But that's how it is. "That's why I say going away is not a big problem but now you call a manager of any country and ask him to leave out one or two players and he says, 'I am under pressure as well' because now it's Nations League. "I don't exactly know what you can win but there is some final next summer or something so that's it." **AFP**



Trent Alexander-Arnold swapped a soccer field for a chess board when he took on world champion Magnus Carlsen. YAHOO

Phiri hopes for more media coverage of Basketball

By Alex Chilumbwe

If we continue receiving such support from the media and the corporate world, our sport will be as big as football in the country, says Midlands Basketball Association (MIBA) president Maziko Phiri. Phiri also noted that basketball had little publicity from the media in the past years despite its competitiveness. He said this in an interview with Goal Diggers! "We have always managed to fill up sports halls but we just did not receive as much attention as we are receiving now. The media in Zambia had little to do with us although our league has always been competitive. If we continue receiving such support from them and the corporate world, we will officially no longer be called a minor sport and be as big as football," Phiri said. Asked about the familiarity of his MIBA surbodinates with the media, Phiri noted there was need for the two to establish a better working relationship for the growth of the sport. "A few of my surbodinates are familiar with ways of treating the media. They do not understand how the media is an overriding and important part of any sport as it gives information. The media should be able to have any information about the sport at any given time and they should also keep in mind that some people do not know the importance of the media. A viable working relationship between the two should be created and maintained," said Phiri. Meanwhile, Zambian FIBA referee Trustone Botha warned Zambia Basketball Association (ZBA) players against hindering the growth of the sport by misbehaving on the court. "All players should keep in mind that the growth of this sport is dependent on them. This calls for excellence in discipline both on and off the court. You cannot expect your sport to grow when your behaviour is saying a different story. Even this publicity we have started enjoying from the media can go away if players' behaviour is terrible," said Botha.

Former England captain Terry retires from football

Former England captain John Terry announced his retirement from football on Sunday with the 37-year-old central defender now set to pursue a career in management. Terry, who spent the bulk of his career with Chelsea, captained second-tier Aston Villa last season. Now the Birmingham club reportedly want him to join their coaching staff as part of a new-look set-up, with Thierry Henry in the running to take over as manager at Villa Park after Steve Bruce was sacked earlier this week. "After 23 incredible years as a footballer, I have decided now is the right time to retire from playing," Terry said in a message posted on his Instagram account. Terry, capped 78 times by England, recently rejected a chance to play for Spartak Moscow, saying a move to Russia was not right for his family. His last game as a professional was Villa's 1-0 Championship play-off final defeat by Fulham in May -- a loss that denied Villa a return to the Premier League.

But his club career will be best remembered for his time at Chelsea where he won five Premier League titles, five FA Cups, as well as the Champions League and Europa League, although he did not play in the two European finals. "As a 14-year-old, I made my best and biggest decision: to sign for Chelsea Football Club," added Terry, who also thanked his family for their support. "Words will never be enough to show how much everyone at the club means to me, in particular the fans...I hope I have done you all proud wearing the shirt and the armband." He also referenced his time at Villa by saying: "It was a privilege to represent such a renowned football club with great fans. "I look forward to the next chapter in my life and the challenges ahead." Terry made 717 appearances for Chelsea, scoring 67 goals, and was widely regarded as one of the best English centre-halves of his generation. **AFP**

CHIPOLOPOLO NEED BUSTELE

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ technical director Janny Sikazwe has appealed to soccer fans to go in numbers and support Chipolopolo boys in their AFCON qualifier clash against Guinea Bissau tomorrow. Sikazwe said fan's support always goes a long way in bestowing confidence in players and that it indicated solidarity. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Sikazwe also advised support should be given in a good manner. "Let us all go there and support our boys. This is a very important game for them and the country at large as it will either fatten or lessen our chances of qualifying to Africa Cup of Nations next year. However, soccer fans should support in good ways and not get too excited irresponsibly. We do not want any bad behaviour that would attract FIFA's attention.

Let us just go there and support peacefully like the good people we are," said Sikazwe. Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck will be looking for maximum points against Guinea Bissau in order to fatten the chances of qualifying for next year's AFCON. Zambia is bottom of group K with one point, while Guinea Bissau tops the group with 4 points.



Four-star Mbappe helps PSG break 45-year record in the French top-flight after scoring four goals within 13 minutes in their 5-0 thrashing of Lyon on Sunday. Photo credit - news.cgtn.com

Nadal, Djokovic to play exhibition in Saudi Arabia

World No 1 Rafael Nadal on Sunday said he has agreed to play an exhibition match against fellow Grand Slam title winner Novak Djokovic in Saudi Arabia in December.

The match between the two stars will take place at Jeddah's King Abdullah Sports City on December 22.

"Thanks for the invitation and looking forward to playing and visiting for the first time," Nadal said on Twitter.

Nadal, the reigning French Open champion, has 17 Grand Slam titles to his name.

Former world No 1 Djokovic, now at three

in the rankings, won Wimbledon and the US Open this year to take his majors collection to 14.

Djokovic and Nadal have played 52 times in their careers with the Serb leading their head-to-head 27-25.

Saudi Arabia has hosted a series of international sports events in recent months. The first women's professional squash tournament took place in January while last month saw Britain's Callum Smith knock out compatriot George Groves in a World Boxing Association super middleweight boxing bout in Jeddah. Supersport

Barcelona's Lionel Messi walks off the pitch with a dejected look after his team were held to a 1-1 La Liga draw against Valencia at Mestalla in Valencia, Spain on October 7, 2018.

Photo credit - REUTERS/Heino Kalis