



IT'S 8 PLANES

...5 from Russia, 2 from Italy plus President's anti-missile 'Ferrari in the Sky' from Israel

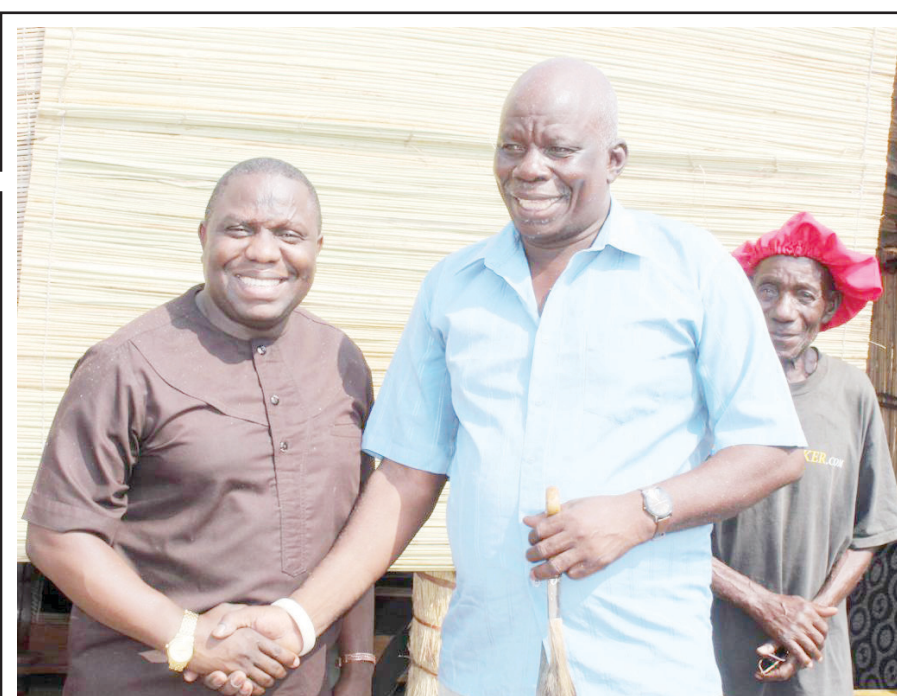
By Joseph Mwenda
Government has procured eight planes, five from Russia, two from Italy and one from Israel, government insiders have told News Diggers.
After Minister of Transport and Communication Brian Mushimba declined to answer questions around the deal, Defence PS Stardy Mwale confirmed that govt bought five planes from Russia, but remained mute on aviation deals with Italy and Isreal.
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Don't give plots, jobs to opposition - Mukanga

By Mukosha Funga
PF elections committee chairperson Yamfwa Mukanga has instructed council officials not to give plots or jobs to members of the opposition.
And Mukanga says some members of parliament are not visiting their constituencies because people are putting them under pressure with money demands.
Meanwhile, Mukanga has asked Eastern Province residents to turn up in full capacity and vote for President Edgar Lungu in 2021.
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Day of Prayer is just a scam, says Mukuka

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Political researcher Dr Cephas Mukuka says Zambia is swiftly drifting from its proper Christian values into hypocrisy as can be seen from the way national affairs are being conducted.
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Harry Kalaba paying a courtesy call on Chief Nyimba Kashingula of the Lozi people in Limulunga, Western Province. Harry says he is confident of winning 2021. *Story page 11*

PF will win 2021 with ease; we are putting more money in people's pockets - Mwila

By Mukosha Funga
Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the Patriotic Front will win 2021 with ease because Zambians believe in President Edgar Lungu.
And Mwila claims the Patriotic Front is putting more money in people's pockets.
Meanwhile, Mwila says the Patriotic Front is serious about the fight against corruption.
Speaking when he featured on Chipata's Feel Free Radio "Face to Face" programme, Monday, Mwila there was no doubt that the ruling party would win 2021. *To page 11*

Kambwili needs mental check up, says Sunday

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Rev Sumaili struggles to explain her Ministry's achievements to ZNBC
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\$25M British American Tobacco cigarette factory boosts job creation

By Abraham Kalito
British American Tobacco (BAT) has completed the construction of US \$25 million cigarette manufacturing plant at Lusaka's South Multi-Facility Economic Zone, which will increase and localize its brand portfolio in Zambia. BAT Zambia managing director Godfrey Machanzi said in an interview that the plant had so far created 72 direct jobs for locals, and a further 2,500 jobs in formal and informal sectors. "We are very committed towards contributing to the country's economic development agenda as this plant will contribute to the overall growth of the economy in many ways; this is just one of the ways. I can say that the construction of the factory is also evidence enough of government's continued resolution of creating an enabling environment for investors to invest in the country. The company once had a factory in the country, but it was closed. We are now back with a much bigger plant and this shows just how much confidence we have in the Zambian economy. There are many reasons that led to the closure of the first plant, but the fact that

we have constructed another one, is testimony of the confidence we have in this economy. Just like in many others countries where tobacco is produced, tobacco production supports many jobs

By Mukosha Funga
All Peoples Congress leader Nason Msoni has described the procurement of a luxury presidential jet as reckless and criminal conduct. On Sunday, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Stardy Mwale said the Zambia Air Force had a constitutional mandate to protect President Edgar Lungu in the sky, and as such, the defence wing would procure the necessary defence mechanism to achieve this objective. Mwale rubbished the Africa Confidential exposé which revealed that the Zambian government had gotten a US\$400 million loan to procure an anti-missile VIP jet for the Head of State, but admitted that the defence modernisation committee had been investing in latest military

up and downstream, therefore, making a positive impact in the country's economy," said Machanzi. "May I also take this opportunity to urge government to help in regulating the sector

aircrafts to replace the old fleet. "The Constitution of the Republic of Zambia mandates the Zambia Airforce (ZAF) to provide air support and maintenance of the highest standards of aviation security to the President and all government officials duly authorised to use the air assets of the State. In this regard, to carry out this onerous constitutional mandate, the Zambia Airforce, in 2012, embarked on a programme to replace its ageing fleet of transport and fighter aircraft and other associated air defence equipment. This procurement of aircraft and associated air assets is a lengthy process and still on going due to the time it takes to select appropriate aircraft and equipment and the laborious legal procedures in line with the Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) Act," stated Mwale. "The upgrading of our air defence system is in line with the mandate given to the Defence Modernisation Committee, which was appointed by His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata. This Committee has regularly briefed His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia on the progress being made in the procurement process. Whenever budgetary allocations have been available, and

because illicit tobacco trade has continued to be the biggest challenge making Zambia the highest incidence of illicit-imported tobacco products in southern Africa. This means that the locally-

procurement guidelines completed, we have, as an on-going process, purchased the required air and ground defence assets to respond to the defence and security needs of the country." But in a statement, Monday, Msoni said it was better to be quiet sometimes. "It is totally nonsensical and childish to refute

something that is already bought and is being delivered to your backyard. Surely even if your brains have gone on vocational leave is buying (3) fighter jets and (2) Presidential Jets a priority? It is even more honourable perhaps to just keep quiet than just blubbing a lot of nonsense that is made to merely mislead the public. Mr Stardy Mwale is the Permanent secretary and controlling officer of the Ministry of Defence and he knows very well that ZAF can't purchase the military equipment without his

produced tobacco faces unfair competition as the products from outside are sold at cheap prices. These cigarettes smuggled from neighbouring countries has significantly contributed

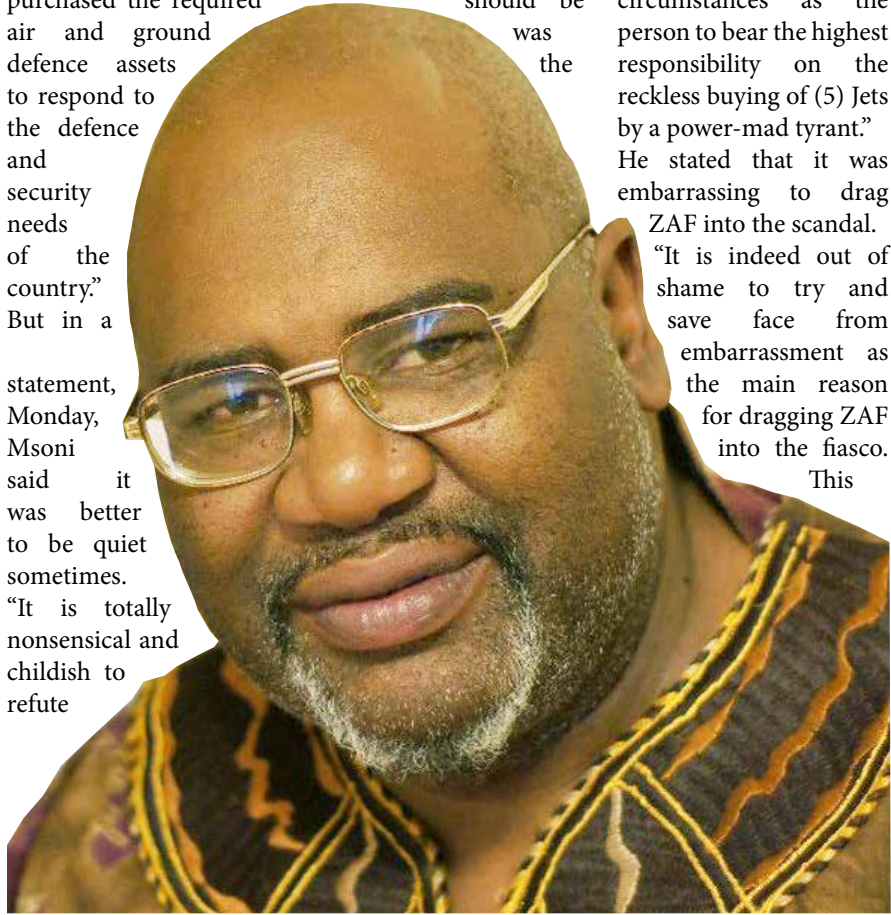
express permission and approval. If it was a loan then the next question should be was the

correct procedure followed when diverting these funds towards the purchase of the (5) Jets?" Msoni asked. "ZAF does not exist in a vacuum where it is not affected by the prevailing fiscal constraints that have negatively affected the national budget. We think pushing reckless purchases and liabilities on a gaged Military institution is wicked most unfortunate and is absolutely criminal in its entirety. We don't think it is fair and reasonable to force a heavy load of liability down the throat of the newly


to the illicit tobacco market. We, however, express our gratitude to government for the support before and during the construction of the plant, and the fair and balanced business regulations."

appointed ZAF Airforce commander who can't speak for himself in the circumstances as the person to bear the highest responsibility on the reckless buying of (5) Jets by a power-mad tyrant." He stated that it was embarrassing to drag ZAF into the scandal. "It is indeed out of shame to try and save face from embarrassment as the main reason for dragging ZAF into the fiasco. This

Country is not at war to hastily buy military Jets and bypass the purchase of medicines and other urgently needed hospital paraphernalia. Again it is Mr Lungu's judgment and moral compass we are questioning in this scandal. This repugnant purchase of Presidential jets speaks to moral bankruptcy and redundancy of thought on the part of Mr Lungu. This is a tragic betrayal of a nation by a person entrusted with the Presidency. What a way to pay back to citizens! what an ingrate," stated Msoni.



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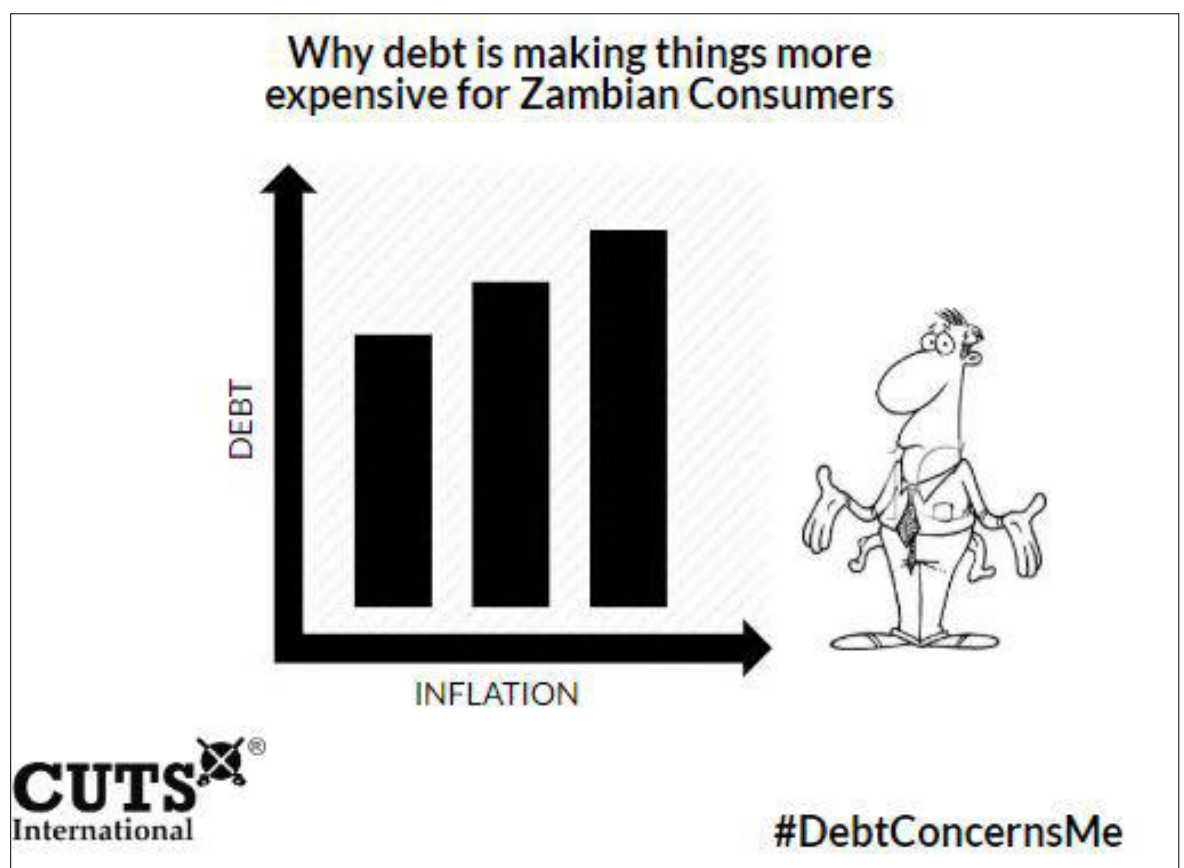
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Why debt is making things more expensive for Zambian consumers

The adverse effects that high government debt has on everyday life are widespread; however, much of it goes unnoticed. In the immediate term, the impact of government debt on consumption is not very noticeable, but in the long run, the effects of it can be just as hard hitting as the increased tax burden we discussed last week. In continuing the series on how debt concerns you, this article explains the linkage between high government debt and inflation and what that means for consumers in their everyday lives. Over the course of a month, you buy lots of different things, the price of which is impacted by a number of different factors, such as the cost of labour, the exchange rate and costs of doing business in the country, such as taxes.

At 7.9%, September overall inflation, the rate at which prices increased in September, was stable -- just below the target of 8%. However, this year we have seen food prices rise 8.6% from the year before; and last week Monday we saw fuel prices rise from K13 to K16. The country's debt levels are not the only cause of price increases, but debt is at the heart of many of the reasons and provides the explanation for why we can expect further inflation. According to the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection's (JCTR) Basic Needs Basket (BNB) for the month of September, an increase in the cost of living is expected from the current K5356 for a family of five. The importation of oil dominates many other expenditures and forms a major part of Zambia's import bill. Because of this, adjusted fuel rates are expected to negatively impact the prices of essential goods and services such as food, water, sanitation, electricity, health care and housing.

Debt has a strong link to the stability of the Kwacha, which, in turn, impacts the everyday lives of consumers through inflation. Over the past few years, the Zambian government has been issuing bonds. When a government issues a bond, it is accepting a loan to finance certain activities. Foreign investors buy government bonds in order to make money through interest repayments. These investors assess whether to invest in a country by assessing how likely the country is to default, that is, not pay back its debt. This assessment is done by analysing the economy's immediate and long-term performance. Foreign investors assess the country's financial position, plans for managing debt



and prospects for growth through documents such as the medium-term expenditure framework and budget.

Lately, investors have been becoming concerned about Zambia's debt levels being unsustainable. We see this in the high interest rates on Zambian debt. We also saw evidence of this in September when investors drastically reduced investment in government bonds. As buying bonds requires converting foreign currency to kwacha, demand for the kwacha fell, contributing to the depreciation of the Kwacha by 20% from K9 to K12 to the dollar that month.

When a currency is weakened, importing goods become more expensive. Zambia being a country that is heavily reliant on imports will be adversely affected by the depreciation of the currency. This means that anything imported becomes much more expensive. The increase in petrol prices, driven by a combination of rising oil prices and Zambia's weak currency, is the most dramatic example of debt-fuelled inflation. However, food prices are increasing steadily, and as businesses adjust to higher import prices, more prices will increase in the near future, leaving Zambians increasingly squeezed.

The picture does not look very positive for the value of the kwacha. Firstly, the government has not offered investors reassurance that it is managing the debt position, as the kwacha has continued falling in value after the budget announcement on 28 September. Secondly, the country's foreign exchange reserves, which the Bank of Zambia uses to buy kwacha and stabilise the currency, are under pressure. The Minister of Finance announced that the reserves had fallen from \$2.1bn in December to \$1.8bn at the time of the budget and are

below target. As the reserves are needed to pay increasing debt servicing and petrol costs, the Bank's scope to manage the value of the currency is limited.

While inflation has been triggered by the depreciation of the kwacha in September, debt has created other long-term and emerging pressure on prices. Businesses pass on borrowing costs caused by high interest rates to consumers, as well as the risk of reduced cashflow due to government arrears. Furthermore, tax increases will also create inflation as businesses pass any additional costs of doing business.

The last few weeks have shown just how the country's debt position is hitting ordinary Zambians pockets. Not only do citizens have to pay off the debt through increased taxes, incomes are being squeezed by inflation. And the country is in danger of entering a spiral as economic growth slows and investor confidence drops further, driving ever higher inflation. The budget offered an opportunity for the government to provide investors with assurance that the country was stabilising its finances. Instead it borrowed nearly K30 billion. If it is to stop inflation hitting ordinary Zambians, the government needs more transparency in the scale of the problem and more credible plans to address it. Otherwise, we will all pay.

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

Facebook - Consumer Unity Trust Society - CUTS Lusaka

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By Zondiwe Mbewe
PF Media Director Sunday Chanda says NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili should consider subjecting himself to a thorough mental examination, adding that it's sad that the latter believes insulting President Edgar Lungu is a mark of great opposition politics.
On Saturday, Kambwili said when he featured on IWAZE Radio in

Kambwili needs mental a check-up, mocks Sunday

Chingola that the late president Michael Sata entrusted President Lungu with so many responsibilities because he was the only drunkard with no presidential ambitions. He explained that president Sata was aware that there were too many people with presidential ambitions in the party, hence his decision to use President Lungu to act in

his absence as a way of unifying the party. But responding to Kambwili's remarks in a statement sent to News

Diggers! Monday, Chanda stated that Kambwili's remarks exposed his lack of respect for late president Sata.
"The ruling party is concerned that Honourable Chishimba Kambwili continues to open his mouth and immediately puts his foot into it. We are worried at the rate of inconsistencies from the rogue parliamentarian that we now think it's a question of poor or fractured judgement. The reported interview carried in News Diggers! exposes the lack of respect by Kambwili for the late president Michael Sata," Chanda argued.
He stated that Kambwili was frustrated and he believed insulting President Lungu was a mark of great opposition politics.
"In Kambwili's fractured recollection of things, he alleges that president Sata made irrational decisions. Yet this is the same Kambwili who seeks to masquerade as a 'small Cobra.' He is frustrated because his mimicking of president Sata has not worked for him. Kambwili believes insulting President Lungu is a mark of great opposition politics. It's sad that our brother sees everything in reverse. He is a victim of circumstance and we keep him in constant prayers," Chanda charged.
And Chanda stated that Kambwili should subject himself to a thorough mental check-up because the rebel Roan PF member of parliament needed more sympathy than anger.
"It's in the best interest, therefore, that he seriously considers subjecting himself to a thorough mental check-up. If a hospital facility is stigmatized, Parliament has a number of medical doctors who can do justice. We, therefore, reaffirm that Honourable Chishimba Kambwili needs more sympathy than anger," stated Chanda.



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Businesswoman admits assaulting Zaloumis

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A thirty - year - old businesswoman has admitted in the Lusaka Magistrates’ Court that she assaulted local farmer, Maria Zileni Zaloumis, popularly known for her successful tomato farming business, when the two were in a fight. Mubaba Mangilashi is

alleged to have assaulted Maria on September 15, this year, occasioning her actual bodily harm after she allegedly found her husband in Maria’s house. The story of Mubaba and Maria had recently made rounds on social media, alleging that Maria grabbed Mubaba’s husband, Justin Phiri.

According to a Facebook posting by Mubaba, she confirmed having engaged in a physical fight with Maria after she found her husband in Maria’s house, a person she considered as her mentor and friend. Mubaba had further stated that she felt so much pain and betrayed after a person she considered as her

mentor, started hanging out with her husband. And when the matter came up for plea before Magistrate Alice Walusiku, Monday, Mubaba admitted having assaulted Maria. She further explained that the assault occurred when the two engaged in an argument.

However, after hearing her explanation Magistrate Walusiku entered a plea of not guilty and adjourned the matter to October 29 for commencement of trial. Meanwhile, the matter in which a 38-year-old businessman of George Compound is alleged to have had carnal

knowledge of his seven-year-old son against the order of nature has been adjourned to October 31 for continuation of trial. Victor Mukuka is charged with one count of unnatural offence, but had pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Nsunge Chanda last month. Particulars of the offence are that Mukuka, on dates unknown, but between January and May 10, 2018, in Lusaka, had unlawful carnal knowledge of his seven year-old son against the order of nature. However, when the matter came up for continuation of trial, Monday, it failed to take off and was adjourned to October 31. Last month, Mukuka’s neighbour Anna, a hairdresser, had testified that she had been neighbours with Mukuka since 1997 and he was currently divorced. She had further testified that at one time when she was in her salon, her six-year-old son told her that the victim had sores. Anna further said that when she checked him, she discovered that the boy had rash on his private parts and sores on his buttocks.

Don’t give the opposition plots, jobs, says Mukanga

By Mukosha Funga
PF elections committee chairperson Yamfwa Mukanga has instructed council officials not to give plots or jobs to members of the opposition. And Mukanga says some members of parliament are not visiting their constituencies because people are putting them under pressure with money demands. Meanwhile, Mukanga has asked Eastern Province residents to turn up in full capacity and vote for President Edgar Lungu in 2021. Speaking when party Secretary General Davies Mwila launched intra-party elections in Chipata, Monday, Mukanga asked council officials not to give plots to the opposition. “At the district level, councils, let us ensure that our people get the benefit. You are the people, do you know, you can mess up our party because when it comes to giving plots, you are giving others, don’t give the opposition,” Mukanga said. “When it comes to giving jobs, you are chasing our people, no! It is wrong. You should understand, these are our parents, our parents need to benefit from us.” At this point, PF media director Sunday Chanda was seen whispering something to Mukanga before he added; “Now in doing all this, you should follow our people, we should follow the procedure. I am not saying that you are given dubiously, no, it is procedure but don’t marginalize our people because our people are working hard to sustain our leadership. Let’s be united like buns...If we don’t do that, you will find

that we will give room to the enemy.” Mukanga also said jobs were in the boat. “In Luapula, we use the boat and the very reason we use the boat is because we are fishermen and when we are fishing, we ensure that in the boat, we have mealie meal, we have pots and we make sure, when you are going in a boat, you don’t go with a suit or a tie because the job is hard. When we go there, we cast the net and when we catch a lot of fish, we put it in the boat and carry on. That’s when you see fishermen, they are not small, they are big and strong like myself. We have reached a stage where we have to look at each other and see if we are moving in the right direction because the boat is the one which is carrying everything. If you want a job, it is in the boat. If you want food, it is in the boat, if you want respect, it is in the boat,” he said. “So this is the time when you need to look at each other and see whether we are moving in the same direction. Elections have come not because people have failed, no...now is not a time to forget one another, it is a time to remember one another.” And Mukanga observed that some MPs were avoiding their constituencies because their people were demanding too much money. “You people, the party belongs to you, starting from the sections, the branches, the wards, constituencies, the districts, it belongs to you. Now, if the party belongs to you, we have gone out every time there is an election to go and vote for leaders. The party voted for councillors,

voted for MPs, in short, these are our children isn’t it? If some of our children are not performing very well what do we do? Do we throw them? You can’t throw water and a dirty child together, no. We call them, sit down, we work together. So what we need to do is that these councillors, we have put them there, let us support them, if they are making mistakes, let them sit down with us and we finalize issues. The same applies with MPs. Me I have been an MP for a long time and I know the challenges that these people face. At times, some people are saying a lot of things about MPs ‘they have money here and there’, at Parliament, there’s no money which they hide in the corner but you think the MP has got money when he comes. Some people are even failing to go to their constituencies because of pressure,” he said. “You are the parents, let us sit down with them and work with them. What I am talking about is unity, when people vote for you, it does not mean that you should now roll up your window, no. And you even start speaking English, ‘No, I am very busy, I cannot see you at this time’, no. We need to be discussing the same way we were discussing when we were voting for you.” Meanwhile, Mukanga asked Eastern Province residents to turn up at full capacity to vote for President Lungu in 2021. “Let’s vote for loyalty and don’t vote for money. Just because someone will come with money last minute, don’t! Vote for people who will take the party forward...Some political parties are talking about democracy, but it is time

we learnt that democracy is practical, it is not theoretical. In our party, we want elections at branch, at ward and at constituency. Now, when elections come at constituency level, My committee is going to conduct committee elections, district elections and provincial elections here...hold these elections without manipulation and if you do that, we are going to have a leadership that will usher in our president in 2021, Edgar Chagwa Lungu and by the way, Eastern Province, we don’t

want those votes you give for 40 per cent, you people, the president comes from here, this time, we want 100 per cent. What we are saying that 2021, Edgar Chagwa Lungu, it is 100 per cent, not 50 per cent. We want you to lead the voting in the country then everybody else should follow., I am sure you are able. You always say you are our parents not so? Then why do you lag behind when it comes to voting? Maybe you are eating too much mice, you should stop,” said Mukanga.

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Fitch’s rating downgrade calls for revised deficit projections - Kanyama

By Abraham Kalito
Economist Chibamba Kanyama says government needs to take a very serious approach to embark on unfettered fiscal consolidation following Fitch Ratings’ credit downgrading of Zambia’s economy to ‘B -’ from ‘B’. Fitch Ratings downgraded Zambia’s credit rating last Thursday to ‘B -’ from ‘B’, and maintained the country’s economic outlook to negative, mainly triggered by government’s substantial upward revision in the budget deficit targets. Reacting to the development, in an interview, Kanyama said the ‘B -’ rating simply called for a revision of a country’s deficit projections so that they were more ambitious than before to signal to investors that the economy will protect the debt assets. “Rating agencies, such as Fitch, usually look at a country’s asset quality to determine long-term prospects. Investor focus on Zambia has been significant in the past five years following the exposure to Eurobonds. We have also had investors participating in government securities for many years and these also rely on rating agencies to make investment decisions. We also have potential creditors to Zambia who eagerly follow the quality of the existing debt assets. The current rating for Zambia calls for a very serious approach on the part of government to embark on unfettered fiscal consolidation. In simpler terms, Fitch is worried that government is not showing much commitment that it will in future begin to reduce the deficit. The worry is that government had shown that it is not in a position to reduce the fiscal deficit to the earlier projected 3 per cent by 2020 as the new projection is 5.1 per cent of GDP,” Kanyama explained. “I know government is being realistic on these projections given the expected low level of economic growth and high debt build-up, but I believe we can do more to bring the deficit down to at least 4.5 per cent, especially if the new mine taxes succeed. A higher government deficit affects the quality

of government assets, increases uncertainty on the fiscal status of the economy with regards to financing options for the deficit and reduces the country’s potential to expand the economy. The ‘B -’ rating simply calls for a revision of a country’s deficit projections so that they are more ambitious than before to signal to investors that the economy will protect the debt assets. How should this happen? Most investors are expecting nothing less than an IMF programme. They believe Zambia is facing a difficult macroeconomic and financial terrane induced by large fiscal imbalances, slowing growth (currently projected to be about 4 per cent in 2018), and huge interest payments on debt.” He said government’s growing payments on

arrears and very high interest rates was affecting asset quality and negatively impacting the economy. “The growing government payments on arrears and very high real interest rates are affecting asset quality. The Ministry of Finance has admitted these challenges exist, hence the austerity measures announced sometime this year. The Minister of Finance has also assured the nation that she will be engaging the IMF during the October Annual Meetings to help send a ‘positive message’ about Zambia. That positive message from the IMF will only be on the basis of an indication that programme talks will resume soon. However, knowing the IMF, they may just be available for a courtesy call without concrete agreements on the resumption of programme

negotiations. They will deliberately push the ball into the court of the Government of Zambia; asking government to prove commitment on some of the austerity measures,” Kanyama observed. “Their first question will most likely be, ‘since you announced austerity measures, what has worked; what indicators can you show us that the deficit is being managed; new debt contraction has ceased and data is pointing to a reducing debt-GDP ratio?’ IMF is not a political organisation, so, no persuasive words can sway them away from the hunger for data. The only language IMF understands is data. By the way, unlike what has been widely communicated, investors are generally not moved by sentiment by private

citizens. Their focus is on fundamental developments of the economy, such as the debt position, fiscal consolidation efforts, economic performance, foreign reserves, and decisions government is making or not making to redress any such challenges. Of late, they have eagerly anticipated detailed communication on government’s debt restructuring efforts.” He said government’s hesitation to communicate the economic performance to investors sent a negative narrative, which would further have impact economic growth. “When government does not say something on what the investors are expecting, investors make [their] own conclusions, usually not favourable. When the Ministry of Finance

website was down mid this year, investors took that as negative sentiment; that government was hiding something when it was a genuine technical challenge. I am at the moment pleased government is showing strong signs of reading the economic situation and taking steps to redress them in a practical way. The technocrats in government are competent enough to advise on best options for the country and the Minister of Finance should do well to allow these advisors to operate professionally. It is through a reality check, proper diagnosis of the economic challenges that we can practically restore confidence to the Zambian economy. That takes focused leadership,” said Kanyama.


It’s 8 planes bought, two for the President - govt sources

By Joseph Mwenda
Government has procured eight planes, five from Russia, two from Italy and one from Israel, government insiders have told News Diggers. Last week, Africa Confidential published an investigative report, revealing that Zambia was in the process of buying a new Presidential Jet fitted with a cutting edge military grade defence system which fires lasers at incoming heat-seeking missiles. Minister of Transport and Communication Brian Mushimba has declined to answer questions around the deal, and referred questions to higher authorities in State House. This left Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Stardy Mwale with the task of explaining the transaction, which he did but without responding specific concerns. “I wish to state also that defence procurement is just what it is, it is informed by geopolitical defence and security considerations. We are not going to tell you on a daily basis why this military unit is based here and not there. We are not going to tell you the configuration of our defence assets, capability and range of assets and why they are being bought,” Mwale said. He said the Ministry of defense

through the Zambia Air Force has purchased five planes and explained that one of the planes would be used for VVIPs, one would be used to maintain airspace and monitor poaching, while the other three would be for commercial purposes. But government sources have disclosed that apart from the five planes from Russia, which include one VIP Sukhoi airliner and the controversial Gulfstream G650 anti-missile presidential jet from Israel, the Zambian government is also buying two C-27J transport aircraft from Leonardo Aerospace Company Of Italy in a separate deal. “I am sure you heard the Permanent Secretary [for Defence] admitting that they are buying fine planes from Russia, one for the President with luxury specifications. That is the Sukhoi airliner. Then there is the Gulfstream 650 extended range which is coming from Israel. But apart from those six, there is now another consignment of military transport planes coming from Italy. In fact a part payment was actually made on this procurement already. So the total is eight planes purchased under the defence modernization committee,” sources explained. So this scandal is even bigger than what has been exposed to the


public. As we speak, I can tell you that arrangements are being made to send pilots abroad for special training in flying this Gulfstream G650. Every one knows the truth around this and that’s why they are quiet, leaving it to Stardy Mwale to handle. Are you not surprised that the Minister of Transport is distancing himself from it? Why, it’s because he knows that this is a complicated issue and he can burn his fingers. Stardy Mwale has been deeply involved in this, so he has no option but to take the bullet and defend.” The sources said there was documented proof showing that Zambia got a loan from Israeli bank to finance the purchase of planes. “Simply ask the government to deny that they got a US\$400 million loan from the Israel Discount Bank for Defence Project. This is information that is in public domain. Look at the 2017 Annual Economic Report released by this Ministry [of Finance], its there, clearly tabulated. They got another US\$55.6 million from Hapalim Bank of Israel, its there in the report,” the sources narrated. “So it will be interesting to hear what government has to say about the loans which are already in public domain. How can they deny? Now, the biggest scandal

is around the Gulfstream 650 extended range because of the price. This is a plane that you can buy for US\$70 million, but we are buying it at a higher price. If anything the figures that Africa Confidential is quoting are way lower than the actual cost the government wants to pay. This is not a question of priority, but corruption because the military grade specifications on this plane do not make sense.” Meanwhile, the Israeli business arena publication “Globe” reports that the deal between the African Country (Zambia) and Elbit Systems is worth US\$240 million. “The company will supply equipment for meeting the operational needs of an entire army in an African country. Israeli defense electronics company Elbit Systems Ltd today reported a \$240 million deal to supply a variety of defense systems to an African country. Elbit Systems declined to state what country was involved, explaining that the country did not want its large-scale procurement of weapons systems to be exposed,” reported the Globe. “Under the terms of the agreement with the African customer, Elbit Systems will supply various weapons systems within two years.”



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



...Only in **Diggers!**

Ear to the ground

Proactive entrepreneurs ride above the tide

The power of being proactive is in individuals who respond to situations that create value around them. No one will push you to achieve; it should be a product of your own imagination, hunger and desire. The difference between a poor and a rich person is largely in the power of choices they make. There are people who sulk about everything. They accept failure around them. If anything, they do not even know what success is. The reason they do not know success is because they have no goals.

This past weekend, I was in Ndola for a business conference and was impressed to learn that there were people who travelled from Lusaka. I love speaking at conferences where people make sacrifices and did to hesitate to applaud everyone who made the effort. We have developed a mindset of ‘zangena’ to denote success without effort. Agony is that if you do not know what to achieve, there is no motivation to respond to challenges in life. You accept everything as it comes a long. When you have nothing to achieve, nothing will move you into activity.

On the other hand, there are people who have been oriented very early in life about the power of achieving. Every day, they are pre-occupied with thoughts, ideas and dreams about what to do. They see every opportunity to make money, improve their education and status and respond likewise. They have no idle moment in their lives. They always seek to be creative.

Creativity is about initiating ideas. In the process, these new ideas generate new products and

services. Such people are always happy. They are hardly envious about the successes and achievements scored by their peers. They know that the world of opportunity is an open cheque book and any one who desires can achieve even better. Those who are proactive take responsibility. When they fail, they do not blame someone else. They look at how to do better. They believe no one owes them a living.

The bottom-line is that succeeding in this country requires people who are full of initiative. I have a long series on opportunity but seizing these opportunities hinges on being proactive. It is

"The reality is that challenges always come, but we must aim at never losing concentration"

your responsibility to get that distinction and earn the promotion. Successful entrepreneurs learn to set their priorities right. All success starts from effective self-management. This is because a business does not run in a vacuum. It is run by people who have personal strengths and weaknesses. One moment, we wake up full of knowledge, zeal and commitment. At that moment, we take action; we make decisions that are valuable to the business. We actually see the results for the level of personal discipline we apply.

Even in football, it has been proved that winning is in the mental state of the players. This focus and alertness is a product of discipline. You do not have to wait for the actual game to know if you will win or not. Your level of preparedness, mental alertness and focus gives you immediate confidence that you are going to win. The reality is that challenges always come, but we must aim at never losing concentration. Even when we feel weak and things are not going well in our business, we must develop effective tactics to give us the required level of focus.

Those who achieve in their goals never give excuses. We have brooded enough about the Chinese. They have stolen our opportunities. Unfortunately, opportunity does not wait. At personal level, I always carry a very positive mind. This is the mindset we all carry at Bridges Limited and we are slowly turning the page. I believe that for every negative, there is a positive. I acknowledge the existence of negatives but my focus is on the positives.

An employee of Zambia Airports Corporation manning the security check stopped me on Saturday as I went through the scanning machines, ‘I know I need US\$400 to consult you. But I have an opportunity to hold you here to answer my question: is there hope in this country?’ he asked. I told him necessity is the mother of invention; the best time to invest is when the economy is down; everyone sells cheap but you choose whether to mourn or to see opportunities. It is time for proactive entrepreneurs.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Political researcher Dr Cephas Mukuka says Zambia is swiftly drifting from its proper Christian values into hypocrisy as can be seen from the way national affairs are being conducted.

And Dr Mukuka has insisted that there is need to sit down and iron out differences before rushing to have the National Day of Prayer scheduled for October 18 every year.

Meanwhile, Dr Mukuka says the Church should not allow politicians to bulldoze them, but should maintain their stance of speaking out against injustice and exposing evil in the country.

In a statement, Monday, Dr Mukuka, who is also the Dr Nevers Mumba-led MMD spokesperson, observed that Zambia was swiftly drifting into hypocrisy.

He questioned why the country should rush to hold national prayers without first forgiving each other.

National Prayer Day hypocritical - Mukuka

“As a nation, we are swiftly drifting from proper Christian values into hypocrisy. This is clear from the way we are conducting national affairs. Why rush to hold national prayers minus forgiving ourselves? We are hurting, full of corruption, vengeance, bribery, thuggery, murder, stealing and full of falsehoods! The Lord’s prayer is straight, it says, ‘forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.’ Is it true we have forgiven each other?” Dr Mukuka wondered.

And he stated that he hoped to see leaders move together in harmony as they focused on poverty alleviation, adding that it was wrong to rush into praying, while holding grudges against each other. He further questioned what had happened to the so-called process of national reconciliation and

dialogue.

“What has happened to the process of national reconciliation and dialogue? It’s a shame that we have spent time exchanging bitter words on who should lead the pending national dialogue. This we have done at the expense of the suffering majority, who are hoping to see leaders move together in harmony as we focus on poverty alleviation. It’s totally wrong to rush to praying whilst holding grudges against each other,” he insisted.

“This is the hypocrisy I am talking about. Moreover late president Dr Fredrick Chiluba declared Zambia as a Christian nation, but what is more pronounced and public is the October 18th – National Day of prayers. Again, you wonder at what point things changed.”

Meanwhile, Dr Mukuka observed that the Church’s

voice had been gagged for some time now.

He explained that in most cases, the Church chose to sing praises to the powers that be and totally ignored the evil that was afflicting society.

“Majority citizens depend on the voice of the Church, whose voice is gagged for some time now. Our society is marred with hate and injustices right in the face of the Church. In most cases, the Church leaders have taken sides, hence misleading the flock. They choose when to speak and when not. In most cases, it’s to sing praises to the powers that be and totally ignore the evil, which is eating our society broad daylight,” he added.

Dr Mukuka insisted that the nation needed to iron out differences before rushing to pray.

“We need to sit down and iron out our differences before we rush to pray. Our

hands are dirty, littered with innocent blood of silent majority; the majority crying for justice, which will never come. This is not to be against prayers, far from it. It’s to help us check ourselves and do the right thing before God. We have had innocent people denied entrance into Zambia, yet their mission was to preach the gospel, others was to enlighten our people, government inclusive,” he recalled.

“What type of nation are we? This is the hypocrisy we should cut off before we rush to pray. The voice of the Ministry of Religion and National Guidance has been on ice as well. This is the Ministry, which should be above issues and speak the heart of God and not that of man. We all need prayers, we all need God, and this should be in line with the Christian norms and standards, but this

hypocrisy is taking us nowhere.”

He urged the Church not to allow politicians to bulldoze them, but maintain their stance of speaking justice and exposing evil in the country.

“The Church should not allow politicians to bulldoze them, instead should maintain their stance and position of speaking justice and exposing evil in our society. The prayers should have been halted briefly in order to attract as many people and groupings as possible. Christ came to attract people to himself so as to give them life after death,” stated Dr Mukuka.

“Some major stakeholders have decided to boycott the prayers, mainly because of our hypocritical behaviour as a nation. We need to reflect and check ourselves before many innocent people are misled.”

It has been over a year now since government announced that the process of importing fuel was going to be left to the private sector. After making so much noise about the ‘ingenious’ idea, they backtracked and started saying the Cabinet decision needed the backing of the law.

Meanwhile, government has not been calling for bids of fuel supply. The last time that the public heard of fuel supply tenders, there were hotels and non-aligned dealers winning bids to supply the commodity. After the public raised an alarm, the contracts were cancelled. Since then, it has been silent, but fuel is coming into the country. The cheap Saudi Arabia fuel has been aborted, but fuel keeps coming. So who is supplying fuel to Zambia? When did they get the contract? How long was it and under which process is it renewed?

We find it strange that the process of awarding contracts of fuel supply is never interrogated; yet people are surprised to hear that the price for the commodity keeps going up. We strongly think that there is no way Zambia’s fuel can be cheap if there is no transparency around the procurement process. Our government has intentionally accepted to pay more for fuel supply so that they can push the excess cost on the poor consumer.

Sometimes we sit

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Whose interest does ERB serve?

and wonder if the Energy Regulation Board is truly oblivious to these happenings. If the ERB has no mandate to interrogate and demand transparency in the importation process of fuel, of what value is the regulatory body to the people of Zambia?

We ask this because we find it very difficult for ordinary Zambians to appreciate the relevance of the Energy Regulation Board. The only time the public hears of the ERB is during announcements of fuel pump price adjustments or increases in electricity tariffs.

The activities of Energy Regulation Board and its perception in the eyes of the public is a danger to the prosperity of the country given that it’s an institution that the majority of citizens only associate with misery. The

ERB is merely a conduit for announcing increase to the cost of living for Zambians and the cost of doing business for entrepreneurs.

The handling of the recent historical increase in fuel pump prices leaves much to be desired. The Energy Regulation Board came guns blazing when alert and informed media sensed an imminent fuel price increase. We asked them about it and they insisted that people were just glossing over unjustified rumours.

Before the ink on which the consolation statement was written could even dry, the Energy Regulation Board chairman went ahead to announce a big upward adjustment to the cost of fuel. Who was ERB honestly fooling? This is an institution that does

nothing to educate the public on its mandate. It is an institution with a lot of resources at its disposal, which it fails to use to help work out a mechanism to make energy more affordable for Zambians. The Board and Directors of Energy Regulation Board seem like qualified and competent people but they have nothing to show for their qualifications.

It is unacceptable that Zambia has the most expensive fuel in the region as if it is the only landlocked country on the continent. Some countries with a much smaller GDPs are able to provide cheaper fuel to their people. Even Zimbabwe with its deep economic woes has cheaper fuel. What is wrong with us? The answer is simple – Energy Regulation Board is toothless.

Actually, it is not toothless. It has many sharp teeth, tailor made to bite energy consumers. But the energy regulator has no energy to interrogate the processes under which energy and fuel in particular is supplied to Zambia. In our view, Zambia can have the cheapest fuel because we have a crude refinery plant, which if revamped and expanded, can meet the market demand of the commodity.

Instead of investing in Indeni Petroleum Refinery plant and making it more beneficial to citizens, our government is selling the company to foreigners and giving staggering contracts to the same foreigners to supply finished products. Where is the logic?

This is why, every now and then, we ask

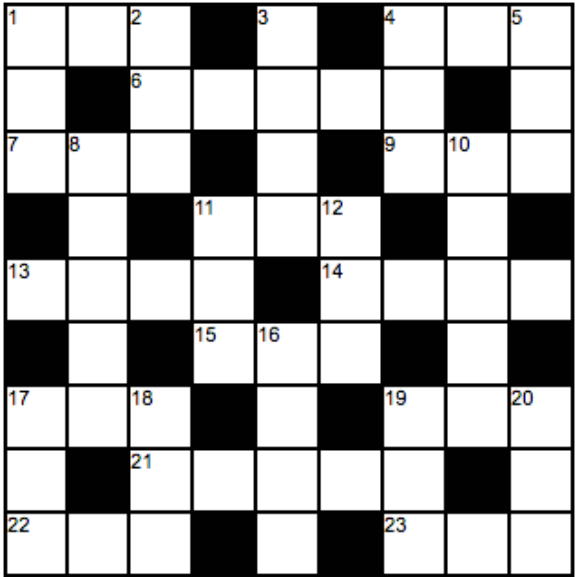
the question, in whose interest the ERB operates. On face value, one would believe that the role of the regulatory body is that of balancing the interests of the energy providers with the needs of energy consumers. But in reality, it is clear that the main beneficiary from ERB services are the energy suppliers and other private investors in the energy sector, most of whom are non-Zambians.

We are sorry to say that in our view, the ERB is a disgrace to this country as it has failed to provide sound policy support to government to ensure that energy, particularly fuel could be made affordable for Zambian consumers.

Just like the Zambia Information Communications Authority has failed to protect Zambian consumers from exploitation and poor quality service by telecommunications companies particularly mobile and data service providers, ERB needs an overhaul.

We think these are some of the issues that our Members of Parliament should be debating. There is need to revisit the Acts that establish these good for nothing regulatory institutions. We demand that the Energy Regulation Board focuses on working out a mechanism that can reduce the price of fuel.

Crossword puzzle 209



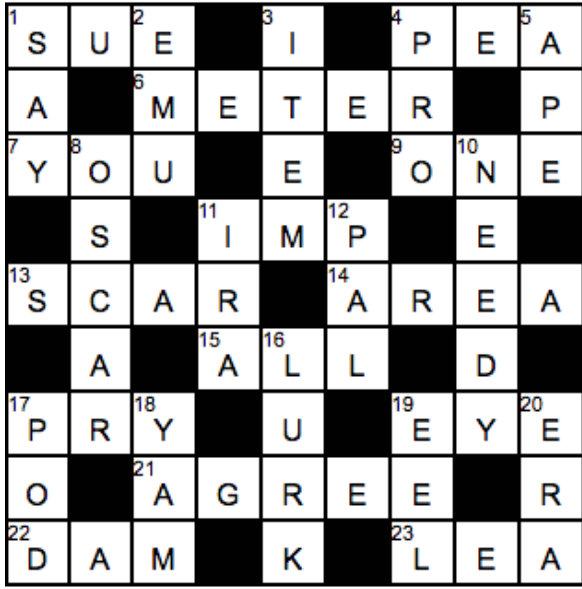
“A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on. Ideas have endurance without death.”
- John F. Kennedy

- Across

1. Chem room
4. Non-neutral particle
6. Utopian
7. Yak
9. Down in the dumps
11. Laid by a bird
13. Loud noise
14. Old flames
15. Black gold, Texas tea
17. Genetic material
19. Dynamite
21. Foamy drink
22. Miniscule
23. Small taste
- Down

1. Big galoot
2. Baby food catcher
3. Ice mass
4. Out of sorts
5. Not used before
8. Once more
10. Large body of water
11. Opinion of oneself
12. Congeal
16. Greek letter
17. Morning moisture on grass
18. Pub order
19. Commandments number
20. Spigot

Solutions to puzzle 208



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.

Africa Confidential's revelations on Lungu buying anti-missile "Ferrari in the Sky"

Editor,

"Edgar Lungu is taking advantage of the rubber-stamp Zambian Parliament, which approves such irresponsible

transactions. Lungu's puppet PF MPs are the most useless MPs since independence! Only regime change can save Zambia." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"And we still have people supporting Lungu with their eyes open, honestly? Lungu needs impeachment. Likando Kalaluka, this country you are destroying, one day will be left for your grandchildren and there will be nothing for them!" - Chris Banda

"I'm sure Lungu wants to use the jets to runway from Zambia, he is already feeling the heat of people power." - Himbula Munamonga

"Those doubting the story think again or continue in your 'dununa reverse' mode. Norway just cut aid to Zambia as a result of this news." - Brian Sichula

"People, we must take action! This is too much. While another corruption is happening at Ministry of Education." - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"All this luxury when the citizens are wallowing in poverty? This is a very clear sign of wrong priorities. Could it be that you're preparing for a war?" - Thamanga Udyé

"Something is very wrong here, it's worrying. And if you are a true Zambian who is concerned about your country, don't rubbish this." - Derick Mushitu



UPND unmoved by arrest threats on HH

Editor,

"But HH mwamuvutisa zoon. What has this man done to you, Ba PF? Seriously, can you tell the nation what he owes you. Everything that happens in the negative, it's HH; in the positive, it's 'BOMA isebenza.' Can't you for once leave the man alone? He is a human being like you. Then you want to invite him to come join you for this ridiculous national day of prayer. Hypocrisy at the highest level! Leave

Mr Hichilema alone." - Agrey Siyunda

"When is this Govt ever going to take responsibility for any of their inequities and admit some of their mistakes? Admitting mistakes is always a first step towards finding lasting solutions to perennial problems like students' unrest." - Mike Phiri

"They have no evidence to arrest HH. Let them waffle." - Adams Kambila

Govt's postponement launch of Zambia Airways to 2019

Editor,

"Zambia Airways is not going to be beneficial to any single person, not even tourists, but except plunderers. This is an initiative driven by foolish pride and unfounded prestige. There are better flights one can board." - Victor Chansa

"This is an absolute failed project. Even the initiators are pretty sure that it's a flop." - Mwalim Nchete

"It's not too late to cancel and move to a more viable high return project." - Arthur Kachemba

"Mark my words; PF have never done anything on time. Even in 2019, they will postpone." - Mweetwa Mweetwa

"The airline business is very technical and tricky. It has its own benefits if you get the business model right. It won't work with PF cadres in management. I would even suggest that the initial 10 years we get well-selected foreign experts to build local capacity. Otherwise, it will turn out to be another Zamtel milking state coffers and insolvent." - Wanosha Wanosha

Zambian troops are not involved in sexual exploitation at peace keeping missions - Chama

By Stuart Lisulo
Minister of Defence Davies Chama says Zambia's defence forces that have taken part in recent peace-keeping missions have not recorded any casualties. According to a press statement issued by First Secretary for Press & Tourism at the Zambian Embassy to Ethiopia Inutu Mwanza, Chama said Zambia's defence forces that had taken part in recent peace-keeping missions have not recorded any casualties. He also said Zambia had no record of any of its troops being implicated in sexual exploitation or physical abuse while in missions abroad. The Minister was responding to a resolution made during the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on

Defence and Security; that the African Union Commission should circulate the draft policy on conduct and discipline for Peace Support Operations (PSO), and the draft policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs. Chama also said Zambia was happy with the progress made towards various African Union Peace and Security flagship programmes such as the operationalization of the Africa Stand by Force and the coming into effect of the continental Logistics base. "The coming together of the African Union Member states to deliberate and plan for the common good of the continent regarding peace and security is encouraging. Member-



Defence Minister Davies Chama follows deliberations during the 11th Specialised Technical Committee Meeting on Defence and Security in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

states are speaking with one voice in order to address peace and security on the continent. This is an indication that Africa is working towards solving Africa's problems with African solutions," said Chama. He said the operationalization of the Africa Stand by force will ensure swift deployment of troops as and when a situation arises in any African state. The Minister further said he was happy that Africa had made a resolution to eliminate conflict. The STC on defence and security, which was preceded by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security Services, has since closed.

By Mukosha Funga
Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs Reverend Godfridah Sumaili says one of her Ministry's achievements has been putting the topic of values on every Zambian's lips. And Rev Sumaili has vowed that her Ministry will continue protecting Zambia's morals by not allowing the likes of Zodwa Wabantu into the country to display their nudity. Asked what achievements the Ministry had attained since its establishment on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Rev Sumaili listed putting the topic of national values on citizens' lips. "I think that this Ministry has done quite a lot, by God's grace. Right now, as we are talking, the topic of values is now on the people of Zambia's lips. Even when we have an election, I think the people are now looking for a leader who has these values. The issue of values has now become a political issue. When choosing leaders, we want to see a leader who has integrity; we want to see a leader who has moral values; a leader who will respect the people; a leader who will respect the law; a leader who loves the people. So, these values are now part of our governance system. These values are now part of our

Rev Sumaili struggles to explain religious ministry's 'milestones'

family system; they are being talked about in our churches. So, the Ministry of National Guidance and Religious Affairs has brought to the fore the importance of us, as people, respecting values, knowing about values, but also, it has brought to the fore the importance of being together, working together as a family," Rev Sumaili said. When challenged if she could still maintain that her Ministry had made positive contributions in the wake of high corruption levels, Rev Sumaili said; "That is the more reason we need this Ministry because of all these challenges that the country is facing...Yes, you have talked about corruption, it is of big concern and, yes, you will recall that when the President opened Parliament recently, it is an issue that he brought out and government is very serious to deal with the issue of corruption...we are aware, as government, that we have to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission, but also,

it is important that, as government, we tackle this issue of corruption with honesty. We need to put in systems, it is not just about having good people, it is about having proper systems that will ensure accountability, it is about also raising awareness among the people, teaching them the importance of honesty, the importance of respecting public resources. We cannot go far as a country if you are stealing." And Rev Sumaili said her Ministry would continue protecting Zambia's culture by not allowing the likes of Zodwa Wabantu into the country. "We are a sovereign nation. Even in your own house, you don't just leave doors wide open, someone can come in and go out, you don't do that. Somebody has to knock on your door and if you want them to come in, then they come in. The same thing with our nation, Zambia, we need to jealously guard our nation, we cannot open it up to anybody. Remember, we are talking about values,

principles and ethics. We are teaching our people issues of morality, we have our culture and I can tell you that the culture of Zambia is very rich and many nations envy the peace that we have in our nation. We cannot squander it so that the likes of Zodwa coming in, to come naked, why? We cannot allow such a thing. It is not part of our culture, it is not part of our Christian beliefs," she said. When show host Grevazio Zulu told Rev Sumaili that he did not agree that she should police culture and people's beliefs, the Minister said; "No, it is not about policing." Asked how government decided who was a false prophet, Rev Sumaili said it was easy to know them by their fruits. "It is very clear, we said we are a Christian nation, this is how we have defined ourselves as a nation, it is very clear, this is in the preamble of the Constitution...so how do you know if someone is a false prophet or real prophet, the Bible says: 'you

shall know them by their fruit.' We are expecting the servants of God to preach the word of God, to preach the word of Jesus Christ. We are not going to accept a situation where somebody comes in and starts swindling the people of their little money," Rev Sumaili said. "Some of these prophets even come to do events where they sell tickets, but if somebody is going to charge people to hear the word of God, that is not acceptable...we have to help the people, you know there is a lot of desperation out there." Asked whether she was insinuating that adults could not make their own judgement, Rev Sumaili insisted that it was government's responsibility to guide the people. "We have to help them, we have to guide them. You know, people are desperate! There are a lot of social issues; some have been sick for a long time and then someone says: 'I can heal that, pay this', no, that is not the way it is supposed to be

done...you cannot sell the power of God, it is released to the people freely," she insisted. On the production and circulation of pornographic material on social media, Rev Sumaili noted that social media was a threat to maintenance of morals. "It is very sad in a Christian nation, but we know that social media has been a challenge where moral issues are concerned. It is very unfortunate that these things keep circulating and, as government, we have taken it very seriously and I know that ZICTA is doing something about it, we cannot go on like this as a nation. I know it is happening everywhere, but for Zambia, we want to see how we can clean this situation. It is not healthy for our children and even for families so it is something we have taken very seriously, we are discussing it, I know that the Ministry of Communications has already begun to do something about it," said Rev Sumaili.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube in Mongu

2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba says he is confident he will win the election. And Kalaba has asked the people of Western Province to learn how to speak out and avoid living with pain of being neglected by successive governments since independence. Speaking when he featured on Radio Lyambai in Mongu, Saturday, Kalaba said he was confident that he would be elected Head of State in 2021. He said he was in Western Province to consult Democratic Party structures on whether they really wanted him to be their candidate in the next general election. “I will respond to the Democratic Party in due course, [but] for now, I am still celebrating the invitation, [which] they have extended to me. I know that in 2021, the people of Zambia [and] that is why I have come here in Mongu, is to consult because after they wrote a letter to me, the Democratic Party, I want to be sure that, indeed, they want me, so I am consulting the structures of their party to say, ‘okay, you people, do you really want me to stand as your president?’ And so far, they are saying, ‘we want you to be president.’ So, in 2021, I am going to stand as President of the Republic of Zambia and one of my major priorities is Western Province because we have to show our people what it means to work. So, as to whether I am standing for

I’m confident I’ll win in 2021 - HK

[the Republican] Presidency? Yes, I am standing, and I am asking the people of Western Province to stand with me, to elect real change in 2021. As to whether we’ll team up or not team up with anybody, we will cross the bridge when we get there, [but] for now, all I know is that I am going to stand for the Presidency [and] I am supremely confident that I will win,” Kalaba predicted. And Kalaba noted that Western Province, despite being one of the richest in Zambia in terms of natural resources, had been lagging behind economically. “They want to suppress of my rights, but they can’t stop it because man is condemned to be free. So, my encouragement to everybody, even here in Western Province, is begin to speak up so that people can hear you. If you keep quiet and put things in your heart and chest and you only say, ‘no, we will teach them a lesson in 2021,’ it is your heart, which is going to be growing bigger and bigger because of the pain. Those people that you are saying, ‘we will remove them in

2021,’ them, they are always enjoying and drinking red wine, which I’m told helps the heart if at all it does. So, you speak up because when you speak up, they will know that you are not happy because things are not right,” Kalaba advised. He said Western Province was one of the richest provinces in Zambia, but still lagging behind in terms of economic development because of lack of priorities. “This is one of the richest provinces this [which] country has. I am sure Daniel Lisulo is turning in his grave; Nalumino Mundia must be turning in his grave; I am sure Arthur Wina is turning in his grave; Munakayumbwa Sipalo is turning in his grave to see a province that they had advocated for experiencing such huge levels of neglect. There is timber here; there are groundnuts; there are cashew nuts here; there is fish here; you’ve got plenty of water here; you’ve got a lot of sand here; you’ve got the Zambezi plains reaching here all the way up to North-Western Province and yet the province still experiences

lack! It is because you have only gone to procure roads where you can get kickbacks; it is because the country’s wealth is not being distributed equitably and that only a few are benefiting. And that is why I am saying that it is time for us to change roles. We have got politicians being escorted for far too long, [but] we now want ordinary Zambians to benefit from their wealth,” Kalaba said. “But because our priorities are not set right, we should have taken the Chinese to help us here improve our growing of rice. Mongu rice is just above the best, but we are using our foreign friends for wrong reasons. Why? Because this province has been neglected and yet this is a province with the most educated Zambians [and] that is why at Independence, we had five out of 16 ministers coming from Western Province. I told you we had Daniel Lisulo, he was a minister; we had Munakayumbwa Sipalo, he was a minister; we had Nalumino Mundia he was a minister, and we had the two Winas, Sikota and Arthur

Wina because this province has educated elite and yet every five years, Western Province has escorted politicians to comfort and they have remained wallowing in poverty. What I am saying is [that] the time has come for them to do a paradigm shift.” He highlighted some of the economic opportunities in the province, further pledging to transform the province utilising its own natural resources. “Here, in Western Province, when you go to Kaoma, you have got honey, one of the best honey in Africa is coming from Kaoma, [but] how come we don’t even have a factory making honey in Western Province? There in Kaoma, you have got people growing cotton, [but] how come there is even no big plant to employ people? A plant, like we have Mulungushi Textiles in Kabwe, why don’t we have a textile industry right in Kaoma making shirts and trousers? We are all wearing things coming from outside. Here, in Mongu, you have got cashew nut industry, and that industry is even

operating below par; you could even be feeding the whole lot in this region if only our priorities were not warped. We are dealing with bad governance. Look, this country has leaders who don’t care about the ordinary people,” Kalaba said. On the debt situation, Kalaba said because of so much debt, the young generation would have to pay for it. “I can’t say we are safe as Zambians. We have got K50 billion domestic debt. Now, when you have got K50 billion domestic debt, which is about US \$5.5 billion debt, it means that the contractors who are supplying to the armies, that are supplying to the prisons, that are supplying things to the government are not being paid. So, meaning that there is a liquidity squeeze in the economy. Then we have got another nine or close to \$10 billion of foreign debt. We have contracted this money because we are building Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, before we even finish Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, we begin building the Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe airport in Ndola. What kind of priorities are these? So, we have contracted debts, which only our children and grandchildren will have to pay,” he narrated. Kalaba is in Western Province under the invitation of Democratic Party (DP) and is accompanied by United for Better Zambia (UBZ) president Hector Soondo, DP national mobilization chairperson Ian Chapiya and other party officials.

PF will easily win 2021, we’re putting more money in people’s pockets, claims Mwila

By Mukosha Funga Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the Patriotic Front will win 2021 with ease because Zambians believe in President Edgar Lungu. And Mwila claims the Patriotic Front is putting more money in people’s pockets. Meanwhile, Mwila says the Patriotic Front is serious about the fight against corruption. Speaking when he featured on Chipata’s Feel Free Radio “Face to Face” programme, Monday, Mwila said the party would win 2021 with ease. Asked if Zambia was heading towards a one party state, Mwila said the reason why the ruling party kept winning elections was that they were delivering development to the people of Zambia. “No, [we are not heading towards a one party state]. If you have been following, we had by elections in North Western, we won two there, they also won one. But I want to tell you that it is the confidence that the people of Zambia have in President Edgar Lungu and the Patriotic Front, that’s the more reason they are voting for us, nothing else. Because once we make a promise, we fulfill that promise and that is the confidence that the people have in the leadership of President Edgar Lungu. I can assure you that we will

win in 2021 without any difficulties,” Mwila predicted. And Mwila claimed his party was putting more money in people’s pockets. “We keep winning elections because of the confidence that people have in President Edgar Lungu, yes, unemployment levels are high but we have no sat idle as government. We know that investments are the only thing that can create jobs for our people and that it is important that we encourage all those who are coming to invest, to invest in Zambia. Not to insult them the way other people are making remarks on the Chinese. But I think we have seen that the roads that the Chinese are making, people are getting jobs from there and I believe that jobs will only come when there is investment from outside and locally. And the other thing is that yes, we promised the people that we are going to lower the taxes. You will recall in 2012 budget, we did reduce the income tax. Even now, I don’t have the figures now, where we are [but] previously, whoever was getting K3,000, was not supposed to pay tax and I think that it is still there. And not only that, the government of President Edgar Lungu, all those who are workers, the guards and the servants, we had increased on the minimum wage. What that implies is that we are

putting money in people’s pockets because we are able to increase on their income. And those are the people who don’t have unions. And I think that when you increase the minimum wage, basically it is for those who don’t belong to the union so it is the responsibility of government to ensure that we speak for those, the guards, the gardeners, house servants, and that is progress, it is an achievement by government,” he said. On the increment in fuel prices, Mwila observed that consumers would keep suffering if the Kwacha continued to depreciate. “The other issue I want to clarify is the issue of the increase of fuel, why the price of fuel has gone up. There are only two factors, first, all of us are aware that the currency has not been doing well in the past months because the exchange rate was at K10 to one dollar. As we are talking, the exchange rate is at K12.5 to a dollar and we buy fuel using dollars so once the Kwacha depreciates, it means that the consumers will suffer because the price has to go up. Once the Kwacha appreciates, if it comes back to K10, we expect the price of fuel to come down. The other factor, which people have not understood is that the fuel price at the international market has gone up, those are the two factors. And that’s the

more reason we are saying that once the Kwacha starts performing well, we expect the price of fuel to come down. So it is a question of time and how the economy will perform,” Mwila said. “Of course we have the debt but I want to tell the Zambian people that this debt has spread. It will go one up to maybe 2022 and government has to pay, I don’t know whether it is every year of whatever and the Ministry of Finance has never defaulted. So we are just within the range and government are putting in place measures to ensure that we don’t borrow more. But above all, the people of Zambia must ask where has this money been going? It is the roads, clinics and these are projects that the Zambian people are able to see...the people of Chadiza want good roads and once we borrow, that money will go towards those roads, it won’t go to our pockets.” Meanwhile, Mwila said the PF was serious about the fight against corruption. “We are serious about the fight against corruption. This government is very serious and that’s the more reason we are able to act and discipline all those who are found wanting. So government will not sit idle, whoever abuses government funds, government will take action,” said Mwila.

Justin Bieber feels "Remorse" for Selena Gomez as she continues treatment

It's been two days since news first broke of Selena Gomez entering a treatment facility to help address ongoing issues related to anxiety and depression. "Selena has been trying really hard recently to remain focused, and not

let her health affect her," a source told E! News earlier this week. "She has been actively writing new music, and moved to Orange County for a change of pace and a fresh breath of air. Ultimately, with all of her arising health issues, Selena

started to feel super overwhelmed." TMZ reported Wednesday that the 26-year-old "Wolves" singer suffered an apparent "emotional breakdown" following two recent hospitalizations related to her Lupus and her kidney transplant in

2017. According to the outlet, Gomez received medical attention at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles after her white blood cell count became increasingly low. As for how Gomez is doing now, a source told E! News Thursday, "She

is getting the help that she needs. She is already feeling better than she did last week." E! News has also learned how Gomez's ex Justin Bieber is reacting to her health news. "Justin and Selena are not in touch but him hearing

the news about Selena definitely upsets him," a source tells E! News about the duo, who decided to take some space in March after rekindling their romance. "He feels sad and remorse for Selena and knows how it is to go through a difficult time. Justin also feels guilty. He wants to help everyone. He truly wants Selena to be happy, and it's upsetting to know she's battling health issues."

Following his split with Gomez, Bieber went on to rekindle his romance with Hailey Baldwin. In July, the 24-year-old "Baby" singer proposed to the 21-year-old model while on vacation in the Bahamas. Last month, news broke that the couple had officially tied the knot.

"It has been overwhelming for him since they tied the knot and he's not good at handling his emotions," the insider says of Bieber. "He's been very emotional, but he always means well and is coming from a good place."

"Justin's focused on his wife and the life they are building together, but he's having a hard time not letting his emotions get to him," the source continues. "Hailey's been a great supporter for Justin and definitely has his back. Their personalities really work well together. Justin and Hailey both have taken a step back and aren't rushing the wedding process right now. They are happy at where things are right now in their relationship and are trying to live their lives as normal as possible."

"Many people around him believe that Hailey coming back into Justin's life has made him a better person, but ultimately Justin still battles his own issues from time to time," the insider adds. "Hailey has made Justin more spiritual and they are happy to be on the same religious path together. Life as newlyweds have been going well, but they are also in the stage of figuring out real-life/marital situations together, which are hard adjustments." **EONLINE**

Meghan and Harry: Duchess of Sussex expecting a baby

The Duchess of Sussex is pregnant and is due to give birth next spring, Kensington Palace has revealed.

The news has been announced as she and Prince Harry begin a tour of Australia.

Kensington Palace said the couple "appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are delighted to be able to share this happy news with the public".

The baby will be seventh in line to the throne.

The Queen and other senior royals were told about the pregnancy on Friday, when members of the Royal Family gathered in Windsor for Princess Eugenie's wedding.

Meghan attended the wedding with Prince Harry, wearing a long, dark blue coat, which sparked speculation she could be expecting.



That speculation intensified when she was seen clutching two large folders in front of her

stomach as she arrived in Sydney for the 16-day trip to Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand.

It is their first official royal tour since they got married five months ago. Their first engagement

is on Tuesday, when crowds of wellwishers are expected to congratulate the couple. **BBC**

Ariana Grande and Pete Davidson Break Up and Call Off Engagement

It's over between Ariana Grande and Pete Davidson.

The 25-year-old singer and 24-year-old SNL star have broken up following a whirlwind romance that began this summer and an engagement in June. News of the split comes a month after her ex Mac Miller was found dead at age 26. The singer mourned the rapper's death publicly on Twitter and stepped away from the spotlight.

"It was way too much too soon," a Grande source told People of the singer and Davidson's split on Sunday. "It's not shocking to anyone."

TMZ, which first reported the news, said the two

broke up this weekend and that the acknowledged that it was not the right time for their relationship to take off.

Grande and Davidson have not commented on the breakup.

Soon after they got engaged, Grande and Davidson moved in together to a \$16 million New York City apartment that she bought. They recently adopted a piglet, Piggy Smalls. Grande called the pet an "emotional support pig."

Mac's death came more than a year after 22 people were killed in a suicide bombing at the singer's concert in Manchester. Grande was not physically

harmful, but she was left with PTSD.

"Given the events of the past couple of years, Ariana is going to take some much needed time to heal and mend," her team said in a statement on September 17. "She will be staying close to home and using this period to spend time with her loved ones and work on new music without deadline."

Ariana soon canceled a scheduled performance on SNL's 44th season premiere, although she did accompany her Davidson to the live taping. During the show, their relationship and engagement were often mentioned to in sketches. **EONLINE**

Vin Diesel's Bloodshot gets full synopsis

The first full synopsis for Vin Diesel's Bloodshot has been revealed as the film teams up with the Game4Paul fund-raising charity. PR Newswire have reported that the upcoming superhero film is selling a wide range of signed merchandise from the movie, which will help support Reach Out Worldwide's (ROWW) mission to provide natural disaster relief around the globe.

Some of the items include signed posters, comics and a custom-painted Xbox One. The article goes on to share a full synopsis of the Valiant Comics adaptation. It reads: "Ray Garrison aka Bloodshot, a deceased soldier resurrected by weapons contractor Rising Spirit Technologies through the use of nanotechnology. Suffering from total memory loss but imbued with an array of staggering new abilities, Ray struggles to reconnect with who he was while learning what sort of weapon he has become...aided by a team of fellow augmented combatants codenamed Chainsaw." Diesel himself will be playing Bloodshot, and he'll be joined by Outlander star Sam Heughan, Guy Pearce and Baby Driver's Eiza Gonzalez. There are currently no details about what characters the majority of the actors will play, but the film is in pre-production and is expected to start shooting in July. Bloodshot will give Dave Wilson his directorial debut, while Diesel will be collaborating on the project with executive producers Matthew Vaughn (Kingsman: The Golden Circle) and Dan Mintz (Iron Man 3). **YAHOO**

October continues to be very good for Sony Pictures as "Venom" stays atop the box office charts with a strong \$35 million second weekend. Combined with the \$16 million opening for "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween," that's enough to push the studio's total annual domestic gross past \$1 billion for a second straight year. After scoring the best October opening ever with \$80 million, "Venom" has found a foothold with general audiences this weekend as it holds its drop-off to 55 percent, well within the range for many Marvel Studios films in their second weekend. Though the drop is likely to be steeper next weekend with the arrival of Universal's "Halloween," it won't faze Sony at all. The \$100 million blockbuster has already made its money with a 10-day total of \$142 million and a global total of well over \$300 million. Sony's "Goosebumps 2," meanwhile, is in a tight race for the No. 3 spot on this weekend's charts with

'Venom' conquers Box Office Again as 'First Man,' 'Goosebumps 2' open to \$16 Million

Universal's Neil Armstrong biopic "First Man," with "Goosebumps" currently estimated for a \$16 million opening from 3,521 screens. While the Jack Black sequel is looking at a start lower than its 2015 predecessor (\$23.6 million), it also has a much lower \$35 million budget. A domestic total run of \$60 million is now within reach for this film as it tries to serve as a family alternative to "Halloween" and "Venom." Though Sony hasn't had

as many explosive hits as Disney, WB, or Universal, the last two years at the box office have been a dramatic turnaround for the studio's fortunes. After Sony Pictures Entertainment reported a loss of \$719 million in 2016, hits like "Spider-Man: Homecoming" pushed 2017's total back out of the red with a \$376 million profit. That was followed by the \$962 million global total of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," as well as other hits like "Peter Rabbit" and "Hotel Transylvania 3," leading to Sony extending the contract of their Motion Picture Group head Tom Rothman last month. Elsewhere on the charts, "First Man" is going to face a tough battle if it wants to leg out at the box office after earning an estimated \$16.5 million start from 3,620 screens. The film earned a B+ on CinemaScore to go with its 88 percent Rotten Tomatoes score. IMAX, which provided cameras for the film's lunar scenes, accounted for 22 percent of the movie's revenue with \$3.7 million from 405 screens. While all those results are solid and consistent with Universal's projections, the studio wants the film to perform like the Oscar Best Picture winner "Argo," which opened to \$19.6 million in mid-October 2012 and showed incredible endurance with a \$136 million domestic run. "Argo" earned an A+ on CinemaScore, though, so if "First Man" isn't leaving as big an impression with early audiences, it might be difficult to build the word of mouth necessary to find long-term success in this competitive October market, even though reactions have been mostly positive. **MSN**



'Genius' behind 'Teletubbies' in new go-to-sleep kids show

"Teletubbies" creator Andrew Davenport has come up with a new show "guaranteed to stop children climbing the walls", BBC bosses claimed Sunday. Davenport, an actor and puppeteer known as the "J.K. Rowling of the under-fives", also wrote and made the worldwide hit "In the Night Garden". The British public broadcaster believes that his new series called "Moon and Me" will transport the next generation of toddlers to the Land of Nod. It got its world premiere Sunday at the MIPJunior children's entertainment market in Cannes, France. Davenport introduced the show by video link from Atlanta, Georgia, where he is rushing to finish the first series for the BBC's pre-school CBeebies channel. Commissioning editor Michael Towner called Davenport a "genius" and said the show's calming combination of story and song is "guaranteed to stop children climbing the walls". "If any of you didn't have a lump in your throat

towards the end of that, you are not human and you shouldn't be working with children," he added, after the first work-in-progress episode was shown. A mix of puppetry and stop-motion animation, "Moon and Me" turns on a doll called Peppianna who lives in a toy house with her five friends including Mr Onions -- who begins every sentence by saying "onions" -- Collywobble, Lilyplant and Lambkin. Full of typically Davenport catchphrases such as "Tiddle tiddle", the show also contains a magical character called Moon Boy that could double for its creator. Towner described how Davenport -- a legend in pre-school television -- had turned up to his office in Salford with "his trademark aluminium wheelie case and proceeded to unpack books tied in ribbon and individually wrapped boxes containing the clay maquettes of all the characters. "As we read through the script, we looked at each

other and said, 'We have to have this!' But this being the BBC, we couldn't afford to fully fund it but we asked him to find some partners for us and he did." The 50-episode show -- which has taken more than two and a half years to make -- will also be shown by Universal Kids in the US later this year. Davenport, who left his home in London for rural Georgia so he could work "18-hour days on the show", said he wanted to create a "toyhouse story for contemporary times". But before he wrote a single line, the former speech therapist spent months researching how small children interacted with toy houses. "I worked with (psychologists at) the University of Sheffield to create a toyhouse play observation project. The house we were using was rigged with cameras and microphones so we could really get to see what it was like to be a toy subject to the play of a child. **AFP**

England fans' disorder in Seville unacceptable, says FA

The behaviour of some England fans has been unacceptable before Monday's Nations League match against Spain in Seville, says the Football Association. A group of supporters were dispersed by riot police on Sunday night.

Video footage showed fans kicking wing mirrors off parked vehicles and one man throwing a glass at a passing car in central Seville, although some complained of heavy-handed policing. "We condemn the unacceptable behaviour

witnessed in Seville," the FA said. "With the Spain fixture still to come on Monday night, we urge those following the team to respect our hosts and act in a responsible manner." There have been no reports of any arrests or serious injuries,

but the FA said it would work with police to help identify any England fans involved in trouble. "We will sanction any England Supporters' Travel Club member found to be responsible for disorder," it said. **BBC**



Barcelona's Belgian defender Thomas Vermaelen will be sidelined for around six weeks after picking up a right hamstring injury while on international duty, the Spanish giants said. **AFP**

The Messi and Ronaldo era is phenomenal – Guardiola

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola believes the football world is witnessing an era of "two phenomena" with the exploits of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Over the last 10 years, Ronaldo and Messi have hogged the plaudits and they are still going strong despite entering their thirties. Every Ballon d'Or award since Kaka won it in 2007 has been taken home by either Ronaldo or Messi, with the two tied on five each. Guardiola knows what Messi is like to coach first-hand from his time at Barcelona and he believes his personality rubs off on team-mates, adding that he and Juventus star Ronaldo are a cut above everyone else. "Leo is a competitive, fierce animal," he told reporters at Festival dello Sport. "That helps others to be competitive. He hates to lose and plays like when he was a kid. In big matches, if the team helps him, he makes the difference. "Together with Cristiano [Ronaldo] we have lived and are living an era of two phenomena. "They have spent 10 years scoring 50 goals a season. It's incredible. It's not one year, it's year after year, more and more." Luka Modric appears to be the biggest threat to the duo's Ballon d'or run, though, as the Croatian recently picked up the FIFA award for Best Men's Player. **YAHOO**

Kenya beat East African rivals Ethiopia 3-0 in a Group F 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifer at the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi on Sunday. Michael Olunga, Eric Omomdi and Victor Wanyama found the back of the net for the Harambee Stars in an emphatic win. Victory moves Kenya three points clear in their group and a step closer to making their return to Africa's showpiece for the first time in 15 years. The game got off to a frantic start inside a packed stadium with a flurry of chances for the hosts, followed by an opportunity for the visitors at the other end of the park in the 12th minute. Walia Ibex captain Getaneh Kebede found himself in a pocket of space before letting fly, but his rasping effort flew just wide to the relief of Kenyan shot-stopper Patrick Matasi. The Harambee Stars duly opened the scoring two minutes later albeit through a touch of fortune. Olunga's left-footed turn and shot took a decisive deflection

Kenya thump Ethiopia to take control of Group F

off Anteneh Tesfaye before looping over a helpless Samson Asefa's head and into the back of the net. Omomdi doubled the hosts' lead four minutes later. The midfielder with a powerful finish following good work down the left flank to send the home fans into absolute ecstasy. Kenya continued to boss proceedings for the remainder of the half, but couldn't add to their tally. Nevertheless, the hosts were well in control at the break. Tesfaye's afternoon almost went from bad to worse in the 51st minute, but Olunga failed to make him pay after he had gifted the ball to the striker inside his own penalty area. Kenya duly got their third in the 67th minute through

Tottenham Hotspur Omomdi inside the area. The hosts continued to control proceedings up until the final whistle, with Reshad chopped down Olunga squandering a late

chance to grab his brace after bursting through on goal. Kenya will now await correspondence from Caf on whether or not their clash against Sierra Leone will go ahead as scheduled next month. **SUPERSPORT**

Bolt fumes over drug test notice

Sprint legend Usain Bolt says he's stunned after being handed a drug testing notice despite retiring from athletics and having no professional contract as he bids to launch a football career in Australia. The 100m world record-holder quit athletics last year and is yet to be offered a deal by Australia's Central Coast Mariners, where he is currently on trial. "So guys I've retired from track and field looking to become a footballer but look at this," Bolt said Monday via an Instagram video as he zoomed in on the notice. The demand for the out of

competition test -- to collect urine and blood -- appears to have been issued by Football Federation Australia. "How am I going to get a drug test today? I'm not even a professional footballer yet. Seriously," said Bolt. "So I asked the lady, 'Why am I getting drug tested when I haven't signed for a club yet?' and she said they told her I'm an elite athlete so I have to get tested. Okay then." Despite his displeasure, it appears the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority guidelines mean he is eligible to be tested. Their legislation defines an athlete

as a "person who competes in sport" if "the sport has an anti-doping policy". The eight-time Olympic champion, who dominated sprinting after taking double individual gold at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, is now bidding to become a professional footballer. He made his case on Friday by scoring two goals for the Mariners in a pre-season friendly. The superstar, a massive Manchester United fan, has been handed a chance to train with the A-League side for an indefinite period in order to pursue his dream. **AFP**

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ President Andrew Kamanga has expressed disappointment with the result Chipolopolo recorded against Guinea Bissau in their return match of the AFCON qualifiers. Kamanga noted that Zambia would have held on to the lead and even scored more goals had they concentrated and not allow goals he called premature. He said this in an interview with Goal Diggers! “It was disappointing to see them lose. A draw

Disappointed Kamanga demands Namibia win

would have been better not a loss. We are the soccer giants of our region and we have won the AFCON title before yet we played like we were the least favourites. We also had a lot of chances that we wasted. It is really not an encouraging result,” Kamanga said. The football chief further advised Sven Vandebroek and his boys to settle for nothing but a win against Namibia in the next group fixture. “I think only straight wins in the remaining fixtures can put us on the advantage. The coach and his squad should ensure we win against Namibia so that we do away with the maths that surrounds our chances of qualifying. It is not okay for a football giant to struggle to qualify,” said Kamanga. Guinea Bissau tops group K with seven points while Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia have four points each. Top two teams in each group will qualify for next year’s AFCON.

Buffaloes volleyball team seal 2nd place with Nkwazi win

By Alex Chilumbwe
Green Buffaloes volleyball team last Sunday claimed the official runners-up position in the Midlands Volleyball Association league after thrashing High Flying Nkwazi 3-1 in week 15 of the league. Buffaloes’ floating long ball hitter Aaron Sinkala made most points for the army side in the first set of the game while their multi-tasking vice skipper Richard Phiri alternated between setting and blocking thunderous spikes from the towering Nkwazi players. The set ended 25-20. The second set was not good for Buffaloes as the police side mounted numerous above the net blocks while charging the army side handsome fines paid in points. Nkwazi managed simple but clever points that saw them win the second set by exactly two points as the rule demands. The set ended 27-25. The third set was an easy one for the combatants as they swept through the police court side effortlessly this time relying less on Phiri and Sinkala. Gabriel Mubanga stole the show by managing to make points out of the aces from team setter Joseph Bwalya. Mubanga was outstanding with power spikes that saw the game finished 25-17. “It was an easy one for us although we had lost

concentration in the second set. A little team talk before the second set got us back on our A-game and got won the game. I wish this is how we have been playing the other games that we lost to UNZA and City of Lusaka,” said Buffaloes vice skipper, Richard Phiri. All clubs in the league have two games in hand before the trophy can be handed to the champions Green Eagles who have so far only lost two games. Even if the ZNS side lost in the two remaining fixtures, no club can level up with it in points. The same applies for Buffaloes on second position.

Nkwazi will finish third while it is not clear on fourth position as UNZA and City of Lusaka were sharing each having two games in hand.



Solomon Sakala of Zambia tackles Carlos Eiubaloof in a match where Guinea-Bissau came from behind to defeat Zambia 2-1 in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Bissau on Sunday.

By Alex Chilumbwe
Copperbelt province Basketball Chairperson Andrew Nyirenda says government is neglecting minor sports disciplines in the province. Nyirenda mentioned that Rugby, Basketball and Football were the only surviving sports but bemoaned their poor facilities that he said were a danger to sportsmen and women. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Nyirenda said Levy Mwanawasa stadium was the only government sports arena in the province that was in good condition. “Apart from the Levy Mwanawasa stadium, government has no other sports structures in

Nyirenda bemoans govt’s neglect of minor sports

Copperbelt. We have on several occasions tried to engage the Ministry of Sports but to no success. We are always told that there is no policy that supports minor sports in the country,” Nyirenda explained. Nyirenda further said Basketball had survived on the Copperbelt because players had passion for the game. “Basketball would have died a natural death like Badminton, Netball and Tennis. It is only surviving because players have passion for the game. Mining companies that used to support Basketball are no longer supportive on basis of high production costs that they incur. Old sports structures have been sold to churches and youths have nowhere to channel their energies to,” Nyirenda bemoaned. The Copperbelt basketball league comprises teams from all over the province unlike the Midlands one. Some teams covered distances of more than 70 kilometres to reach game venues and fulfill their fixtures. Lunga Bullets’ Agripa Chama resounded on the logistical challenges some teams were faced with. “It is tough for most teams. There are only four teams with stable sponsorship yet in the league we are more than 12. It is sad to see them struggle to fulfill fixtures because it takes away a lot from them. Kitwe is the central venue for most teams but it is not easy to play when one is physically and mentally tired. Government should really find solutions so that the huge number of unemployed youths can find solace in sports unlike watching them commit crimes out of boredom,” advised Chama.



Madrid need to sign Icardi, says Capello

Real Madrid should be looking to sign Inter striker Mauro Icardi "immediately", claims former Blancos boss Fabio Capello.

"I am a fan of his," Capello told Radio Rai.

"He is a specialist in the penalty area, as was Cristiano Ronaldo, and if you put three balls in the area he hits all three.

"If I were Real Madrid, I would sign him immediately."

Icardi, who Inter are hoping to tie to fresh terms in the near future, has managed 112 goals in 190 appearances for Inter. The Argentina international will be hoping to add to that tally when he returns to domestic action in a derby date with AC Milan on Sunday. **Goal.com**

Rashford misses too many chances for a striker - Merson



Marcus Rashford is "not a natural goalscorer" and has not done enough to earn a central striking berth for Manchester United and England, says Paul Merson. The 20-year-old frontman has stated in the past that he

hopes to operate down the middle for club and country once fully established as a senior star.

He has, however, been stuck in wider berths by both Jose Mourinho and Gareth Southgate on a regular

basis.

That is because he faces fierce competition for places from the likes of Romelu Lukaku and Harry Kane, who have both shown themselves to be prolific goal-getters over a number

of years.

Rashford has been unable to match their achievements as yet, with former England international Merson suggesting that he still misses too many chances to be the focal point of any given attack.

He told Sky Sports ahead of a potential Nations League outing for the Three Lions against Spain: "I don't think he's a gifted finisher, he's not a natural goalscorer.

"People will say he scored three in three for England before the Croatia game, but he's not a natural goalscorer.

"When you're playing for a top club, and playing for England, you need to be putting chances away. You look at Romelu Lukaku scoring two the other night for Belgium - he's a goalscorer.

"There was a header against Newcastle from six yards out, he put it wide, and the chances in Croatia the other night, you can't play up front for one of the biggest clubs in the world and miss chances like that. You need to be putting them away to play up front for Manchester United." **Goal.com**

CHIPOLOPOLO

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ President Andrew Kamanga has expressed disappointment with the result Chipolopolo recorded against Guinea Bissau in their return match of the AFCON qualifiers.

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MUST BEAT

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