



# HH IS USELESS...

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is not only a disgrace to Zambians but to himself and his family. And Lusambo claims UPND members of parliament have been jostling to see President Edgar Lungu because they have lost confidence in Hichilema.

## If I was still on the street I would have called him stupid, Bowman

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Former foreign affairs minister and 2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba walks with former Prime Minister Gen Malimba Masheke whom he visited on Wednesday

### UPND suspends Kafue council chair for attending Lungu's cleaning event

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### Drug theft scandal leaves chaos at KGH, as patients risk fake lab results

By Mukosha Funga

Chaos has rocked Kafue General Hospital since a medicine theft scandal was exposed in June this year, in which the hospital medical superintendent and other laboratory managers instructed junior officers to manipulate stocks and cover

up theft of HIV test kits.

In the last two weeks, Kafue General Hospital has been operating with dysfunctional lab equipment which has been giving false test results and putting patients at risk, a situation which management is aware of but has allowed to continue.

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### External, Domestic debt swells

By Abraham Kalito

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says external and domestic debt has increased to \$9.51 billion and K54.6 from \$9.37 and K51.9 billion, mainly on account of payment of some new disbursement.

And Mwanakatwe says debt repayment in 2019 will increase significantly on account of the continuous depreciation of the Kwacha.

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### Lungu could lose 2021 if opposition unite - report

By Stuart Lisulo

President Edgar Lungu could lose the 2021 general election if opposition political parties decide to form a broad-based

coalition, says the latest Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report. And the EIU has predicted that the Zambian government

will fail to clinch the much-needed International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic bailout package due to continued heavy borrowing.

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### PAC chases West PSs for failure to show proof of govt expenditure

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### Civil servants are stealing because ministers are dull, charges Kambwili

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**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
Lusaka Minister Bowman Lusambo says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is not only a disgrace to Zambians but to himself and his family. And Lusambo claims UPND members of parliament have been jostling to see President Edgar Lungu because they have lost confidence in Hichilema. At a media briefing, Thursday, Lusambo joined Minister of Information Dora Siliya and Eastern Province Minister Makebi Zulu in challenging Hichilema to prove that ZAFFICO and ZNBC had been sold, saying if the claims were true, he would resign. Asked what government

# If I was still on the streets, I'd have called HH stupid - Bowman

would do if Hichilema failed to provide evidence, Lusambo said all they wanted was for Zambians to know that Hichilema was useless and that if he was still on the streets, he could have called Hichilema stupid. "For us, we want the people of Zambia to know that Hakainde Hichilema is useless, and he wants to entice the people of Zambia.

By the time I was in the streets, I would have called Hakainde Hichilema very stupid but as a minister, I can't say that. And Hakainde Hichilema is best described as a buffoon. The buffoon is a person who wants to excite people," Lusambo said. "It doesn't mean that if you are an opposition political party leader you are destined to govern the country, we have seen opposition

political party leaders who have been there for checks and balances. This guy has failed to compete with His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, now he wants to start lying to the people. I can assure you that he's not going anywhere. If he's very intelligent, or clever, this is the time for him to leave the political scene because he won't get out of it. We will face him head on politically

because we have been in this game for quite some time. Hakainde Hichilema, let him grow up." And Lusambo claimed UPND members of parliament had been jostling to see President Lungu because they had lost confidence in Hichilema. "If he has failed to perform politically, he can do better as a kachema than the things that he's forcing himself

to do which he can't do. He thinks he has support, even in Southern Province he doesn't have support. We received members of parliament here from the UPND who were coming to confide in me that they want to see the President because they have lost hope in the party and it's leadership because the person who's imposing himself to be a leader of that party has failed," said Lusambo. "And I want to challenge MPs like Gary (Nkombo), Jack Mwimbu, the people that have been in Parliament for quite some time, they have a job to advise this man called Hakainde Hichilema. Hakainde Hichilema is not only a disgrace to us Zambians, he's a disgrace to himself and a disgrace to his family. If I was Jack Mwimbu or Gary Nkombo, I can't allow to be led by that failure. He has failed not only once, he has failed five times, he has continued to fail even in Parliament. I can't be led by a person like Hakainde Hichilema in a party, a failure. For us we have a President who has a vision," said Lusambo.

# GBV cases soar to over 6,100 in 3rd quarter

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
The Zambia Police Service has recorded 6,114 cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases countrywide during the third quarter of 2018, indicating an increase of 1,018 cases from last year. Last year, 5,096 cases were recorded during the same period. In a statement issued, Thursday, police public relations officer Esther Katongo stated that a total of 664 cases of child defilement were recorded, out of which three cases were against boys, while 661 were against girls. She further stated that Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of child defilement cases, totalling 320. And Katongo stated that Southern Province recorded 73 cases; Central Province 63; Eastern Province 60 and Copperbelt Province 49 cases. "Lusaka Province recorded the highest number of child defilement cases with 320 translating to 48.2 per cent of the child defilement cases reported countrywide; Southern Province recorded 73 cases translating to 11.0 per cent, followed by Central Province with 63 cases or 9.5 per cent; Eastern Province had 60 cases or 9 per cent, and Copperbelt Province recorded 49 cases translating to 7.4 percent," Katongo stated. "Other provinces include; Western and North-Western provinces, both with 29 cases each translating to 4.4 per cent, Muchinga had 17 cases or 2.6 per cent; Luapula had 14 cases or 2.1

per cent; Tazara had five cases, which is 0.8 per cent; Northern Province recorded four cases representing 0.6 per cent, while Airports Division recorded one case representing 0.2 per cent." Meanwhile, Katongo stated that a total of 124 cases were reports of rape, while 23 cases were attempted rape. She further stated that the country recorded 37 cases of indecent assault, out of which two were against male adults, 26 against female adults and nine against girls. She stated that 12 cases of incest were reported countrywide. "Further on sexual offences, the country recorded 37 cases of indecent assault translating to 0.6 per cent of the total reported GBV cases out of which two were against male adults, 26 against female adults and nine against girls. 12 cases of incest involving six female adults and six girls were reported countrywide," she added. Katongo disclosed that 25 GBV-related murder cases were reported, adding that 2,094 cases of assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) were recorded countrywide. "24 GBV-related murder cases were reported translating to 0.4 per cent of the total reported cases out of which 11 victims were female adults representing, five were male adult victims, five girls, while three were boys. 2,094 cases of assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm were recorded countrywide representing 34 per cent of the total reported cases out of which 1,586

were female victims while 508 were males representing 75.7 per cent and 24.3 per cent respectively," she stated. Katongo stated that Central Province recorded the highest cases of assault totalling 573. "Central Province recorded the highest reported Assault OAHB cases with 573 cases translating to 27.4 per cent, followed by Eastern Province with 344 cases representing 16.4 per cent, then Lusaka Province, which recorded 336 cases representing 16 per cent. Other provinces are Copperbelt with 228 cases or 10.9 per cent, Western, 199 cases which is 9.5 per cent, North-Western, 126 cases or 6 per cent, Southern had 115 cases translating to 5.5 per cent, Muchinga, 78 cases translating to 3.7 per cent, Luapula and Tazara Divisions recorded 30 cases each translating to 1.4 per cent, while Northern Province recorded 26 cases or 1.2 percent and Airport Division recorded the lowest with nine cases of the total reported assault OAHB cases," she stated. Katongo disclosed that during the same period under review, two cases of human trafficking were recorded in Luapula Province involving two females. "486 cases were for failing to provide necessities reported GBV cases while neglecting to provide food etc. for children had 200 reports. A comparison with the third quarter of 2017, 416 defilement cases were reported compared to 664 in 2018 third quarter translating to an increase of

248 cases. There were 1,644 cases of Assault OAHB in 2017, during the period under review compared to 2,094 in 2018 and this indicates an increase by 450," stated Katongo. "17 GBV-related murder cases were reported in the third quarter of 2017

compared to 24 cases in third quarter of 2018 showing an increase by seven cases. The continued rise in cases of GBV may be attributed to many interventions put in place by the Police Victim Support Unit and other stakeholders in combating the vice."

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*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday sent away controlling officers from Western Province after failure to attach supporting documents for various expenditures.

Speaking when he and his team appeared before PAC to respond to audit queries cited in the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended 31st December 2017, Western Province Permanent Secretary Sibanze Simuchoba kept on referring to documents which were not attached to his submission. The permanent secretary was responding to queries surrounding the provincial administration expenditures and repeatedly indicated that receipts and disposal details for various stores were accounted for and that documents were ready

# PAC sends back W/Province PS for failure to show proof of expenditure

for verification when in fact not. Committee Chairperson Howard Kunda, however, noticed the omission of the supporting documents and asked the PS to pause and show supporting documents. "Just on that PS, for us we take time to go through these documents that you submit and also whatever you have referred to, we would like to have it attached. So we can't see the schedule five (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v). We can't see those documents. Could you please just take us to where those documents are so that we can refer to them," Kunda interrupted.

In response, Simuchoba said the documents were not included in the submission. Before the PS could proceed with his submission, Kunda asked for a five minutes break to liaise with other committee members on how to proceed. Soon after the break, Kunda guided that the hearing would not proceed without the missing documents. "You know PS, we have gone through your submission and we are not able to relate. These schedules that you are referring to in your submission...for example from schedule four to schedule nine, we

can't see those schedules. So if you were not referring to these, we would not be concerned, but we have gone through and we have seen that some of these issues are very important for us to look at what you have done as compared to what you are saying in your submission, including the letters that you have written, some it's 31st October 2018. So we would like to see those documents that you are referring to so that we can make informed decisions as we interact with you and to give the benefit to the people out there who are our masters," Kunda said. Kunda then sent away

the controlling officer and asked him resubmit and attach all the cited documents on Wednesday 14th November at 11:00 hours. "So based on that, we feel that you need to put your house in order so that when you are coming, you come with proper information that will relate you whatever you are saying. Then we can proceed and hear you but the way it is now, it's very difficult. In fact some letters are referring to permanent secretaries from all the provinces including State House but we are not able to relate to what you are saying. What is it that

you are talking about? for example State House PS is indicated here but we can't follow. So let us have the way you have submitted but it should have all the documents that you are referring to because we are not following. So you will be required to come back on Wednesday next week at 11:00 hours so that you can come and give us the documentation or in fact you will need to submit to the secretariat those documents, put properly and referred to your submission. Having said that, you are free to go but we don't expect that these issues will come back the way they are," said Kunda.

# PSs, civil servants stealing because they have dull ministers who don't know anything – Kambwili

*By Mirriam Chabala and Zondiwe Mbewe*  
National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili has charged that permanent secretaries and civil servants are thieving because they have dull ministers who do not understand anything. And Kambwili has warned that if the Patriotic Front government removes the provision that allows retirees to remain on payroll until they are paid their benefits, they will exit from office before 2021. Speaking when he featured on Diamond Television's Costa programme, Wednesday evening, Kambwili said President Lungu had devalued the position of minister by appointing people who were

ignorant about many issues. "President Lungu has devalued the office of minister. Look at some of the individuals that are holding the office of minister. Under normal circumstances, can those people be ministers? I don't want to go to individuals. But scrutinize them yourselves and see the calibre, their qualifications, and then see if indeed... you can't imagine what this man (President Lungu) wants to achieve. I really don't understand the recent appointments he has made. Can you ever think that this President is serious and wants to achieve something? The quality of a minister also matters," Kambwili said. "If a minister does not understand anything, that is what Permanent Secretaries

are taking advantage and the officials in the ministry to steal at will because they know that 'we have a dull minister'. Where there are clever and intelligent ministers who are able to articulate issues, who are able to analyze issues and interpret issues, there is no way that a ministry can suffer stealing like that. But the calibre of ministers we have today leaves much to be desired. That is why today I don't even admire to be a minister." Kamwili observed that civil servants were being tempted to steal because they were not getting sustainable salaries. "Civil servants are being tempted to steal today because they are failing to make ends meet. I don't

support stealing but look, if you are taking home pay K1,200 and you have children to send to school... so you get tempted. So pay these people well to keep them from stealing. Even in the Bible, the Lord's Prayer says 'Lead us not into temptation'. But when you lead people into temptation, the results are just like the President said 'Ubomba mwilbala eba ifya mwibala'. Let's accept that things are bad under this PF/MMD. Because 18 out of 30 of the ministers are former MMD, the people that we moved out of power are the ones who are running government," Kambwili, who also warned that Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya would make the PF collapse.

"The Dora [Siliya] who made MMD lose are the Doras who are answering on behalf of PF, what a shame! Even Sata must be turning around in his grave with anger. These people like Dora Siliya are the same ones who made MMD go down and today the same chaps have come to destroy PF because they are used. That Dora Siliya was on court over the single sourcing of the radar at the Airport, today she is defending the single sourcing of Topstar. She can defend anything as long as she is eating. But time for reckoning is very soon and these people will start answering to charges." Meanwhile, debating the Ministry of Labour and Social Security budget in Parliament earlier, Kambwili

warned against scrapping off the provision which allowed retirees to stay on the payroll until they had been paid their benefits. "70 per cent of the jobs that have been created are by Chinese investors. But when you look at how much they pay the people, it's an insult! Some people are paid as low as K250 per month by these investors. Yesterday, (Tuesday), I got very worried when I heard the undertones from the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Justice over the issue of retirees remaining on the payroll," Kambwili said. "That you want to come and bring an amendment to remove that particular provision that allows retirees to remain on the payroll, let's have mercy on the poor people. I want to send a friendly warning: if you want to leave before 2021, try and play with such provisions." Kambwili charged that government was the biggest violator of its own labour laws, adding that they patronise the Chinese too much to the extent that they were now taking advantage. Kambwili also promised that when he became Republican President, the PF would see how to run a country. He further observed that the US \$4.3 million that government spent on the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza would have been better spent on paying retirees than putting it in their pockets and those of the Chinese.

# ERB probes Mpika fuel tanker-fire incident

*By Abraham Kalito*  
The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has urged petroleum transporters to strictly adhere to regulations and safety requirements to avoid accidents following an incident where two tankers caught fire in Mpika. In a statement issued, Thursday, ERB director for consumer and public affairs Fred Hang'andu stated that the board was investigating the incident and would take appropriate action to determine whether there was a breach of licence conditions following the incident, which took place last Saturday. "The ERB has been investigating the fire incident that happened in

Mpika on Saturday 3rd November, 2018, involving two tankers, which were allegedly carrying fuel for Mount Meru. Considering the hazardous nature of petroleum products and the strict regime under which transportation is governed, our interest in this matter is mainly premised on the need to take appropriate action should we determine that there was a breach of licence conditions. We are, therefore, engaging Mt. Meru with a view to getting their side of the story before we conclude our investigations in the matter. In light of this unfortunate incident, the ERB would like to urge all petroleum transporters operating in the country to ensure that fuel

tanker drivers strictly adhere to safety requirements and only park vehicles at designated locations," stated Hang'andu. "Further, members of the public are advised to be highly safety conscious around petroleum facilities and when in the vicinity of petroleum products transporting vessels. It should be noted that fuel is highly fire-prone, posing grave danger to human life and the environment in the event of spillage of fuel or slippage of fumes. Therefore, in the event of a fuel tanker accident, members of the public should keep away from accident scenes and immediately alert relevant authorities, such as the Fire Services Department, Zambia

Police and or indeed contact the ERB, free of charge, on 8484. The ERB shall provide more information on this matter once investigations have been concluded and facts established. The key safety issues on which petroleum tankers operating in Zambia are assessed include the following: presence of fully functional fire extinguishers; valid drivers' certificate for transportation of dangerous goods training; valid driver's license; no faulty electrical wiring, which could result in a fire; state of the tyres, including combination. Re-treaded tyres are not allowed on the tractor (horse) of the tanker; display the mandatory symbolic warning signs on the tanker."

*By Stuart Lisulo*

President Edgar Lungu could lose the 2021 general election if opposition political parties decide to form a broad-based coalition, says the latest Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report. And the EIU has predicted that Zambian government will fail to clinch the much-needed International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic bailout package due to continued heavy borrowing and weak fiscal policy.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) is expected to adopt a tighter monetary policy stance, starting this month, when the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meet to address the weak kwacha and high inflation.

In its latest country report published, Wednesday, the EIU has predicted that President Lungu could lose the 2021 general election if opposition political parties decide to form a broad-based coalition.

"Our baseline forecast is that Mr Lungu will win in 2021, albeit without any commanding margin and amid deep popular dissatisfaction. Nonetheless, this forecast

# Lungu could lose 2021 polls if opposition unites – EIU

could change if opposition parties agree to form a broad-based coalition," the EIU stated.

The Report observed that the opposition political fraternity, especially the leading United Party for National Development (UPND) remain vulnerable, a situation which if allowed to persist, will help the PF to retain power.

"The Economist Intelligence Unit expects the election to be extremely tight. The PF will be under the spotlight for its patchy record on official corruption, as well as economic mismanagement, which will be a serious concern by the time of the election. The UPND is the most viable contender for the Presidency, but has become relatively directionless since the 2016 election. The opposition vote is also vulnerable to being split among different parties unless alliances are formed," it stated.

The EIU stated that although President Lungu, being the incumbent, was likely to emerge victorious at the 2021 polls, Zambia would remain gripped by widespread political instability before and after the general election.

"Although the ruling PF, led by the President, Edgar Lungu, is forecast to retain power, Zambia will face substantial threats to political stability in 2019-23. Pent-up frustration could develop into violence at any time, given the widespread perception of worsening corruption, combined with the prospect of poor employment opportunities, fragile public-sector finances and fears of creeping authoritarianism," the Report reads.

"In particular, unrest could break out when the Constitutional Court rules on whether Mr Lungu is eligible to stand for another term in the 2021 election; although the Court met in May to discuss the matter, it postponed a ruling and a new date has not been set. Mr Lungu has publicly warned the Court that there will be chaos if he is deemed ineligible for another term; however, as the President appointed the court's judges, such a verdict is unlikely."

It further warned that the run-up to the 2021 election would be another unstable period during which President Lungu's government will again look to narrow the political space aggressively.

"Indeed, there are likely to be crackdowns any time that Mr Lungu feels his position is vulnerable; these in turn risk building resentment. Another layer of risk emanates from the growing influence of China in State affairs," the EIU stated.

And the Report predicted that the IMF was unlikely to agree to Zambia's much-needed US \$1.3 billion economic bailout package due to continued heavy borrowing and government's weak fiscal policy.

"Because the 2019 national budget includes plans for heavy external borrowing, we no longer expect the government and the IMF to agree on a loan deal within the forecast period. We now expect austerity to kick in from 2022—after a general election—at which point the budget deficit will begin to decline, but up to this point there have been substantial upward revisions to our forecast for the external debt stock," it stated.

Meanwhile, the BoZ is expected to adopt a tighter monetary policy stance, starting this month, when the MPC meet.

"After a period of easing, the Bank of Zambia has held its policy rate steady at 9.75 per cent since February, 2018, to protect against budding inflationary pressures. With the kwacha under pressure and prices likely to rise relatively quickly as a result, we expect the BoZ to adopt a tighter stance at its next Monetary Policy Committee meeting in November, 2018," read the EIU Report.

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*By Daniel Chansa*  
Chingola Mayor Titus Tembo has ordered the removal of all traditional doctors’ adverts in the district. Tembo said the banners and stickers were not only making the district dirty but contributing to moral decay.

The Chingola Mayor said this when he met the traditional doctors at his

# Chingola Mayor bans traditional doctors’ adverts

office and gave them a seven day ultimatum. “It is always good to engage

with stakeholders before any decisions are made. In the interest of making our

district clean, we need to remove these banners and stickers around. They are

not just making the district dirty, but (contributing to) moral decay,” Tembo said. “You (traditional healers) are given seven days to remove banners and stickers which contribute massively in making the city dirty. As Mayor I have made this move of holding discussions with this group as this was the only best and mutual way to resolve the matter.” Tembo said the local authority did not want to just move in and remove the banners as this was going to send a negative signal to the traditional healers.

He further advised the traditional healers to start using the media to advertise their services saying this was the best way they could avoid littering the town. “I have even invited media houses in this meeting so that they also tell you how they can be advertising your services as the media channels have proved to be more effective in terms of marketing,” said Tembo. “In order to supplement the efforts the government is making to put up good road network in the district so that Chingola becomes a better city, efforts from all stakeholders are required.”

## Full Constitutional bench to hear Chanoda's contempt

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
The Constitutional Court has adjourned hearing of a matter in which former Director of Public Prosecutions Mutembo Nchito has asked it to cite PF sympathiser Chanoda Ngwira for contempt of court for threatening two Supreme Court judges. The Constitutional Court says Mutembo’s application can only be heard by a full bench of five judges but only three judges were present, hence the adjournment. Mutembo had applied for leave in the Constitutional Court to commence contempt proceedings against Chanoda for threatening Supreme Court justices Mumba Malila and Albert Wood with criminal action if they did not step down. He stated that Chanoda’s threats against the judges

tended to lower the dignity of the Court.

Chanoda had written letters to justices Malila and Wood, threatening them with criminal action for giving witness statements in a matter in which Mutembo is challenging his removal as DPP in the Constitutional Court. And when the matter came up for hearing, Thursday, justice Enock Mulembe adjourned the matter to November 20, this year, because they were only three judges present in court. He said Mutembo’s application could only be heard by a full bench of five Constitutional Court judges.

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## Mwanakatwe announces increased debt

*By Abraham Kalito*  
Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says external and domestic debt has increased to \$9.51 billion and K54.6 from \$9.37 and K51.9 billion, mainly on account of payment of some new disbursement. And Mwanakatwe says debt repayment in 2019 will increase significantly on account of the continuous depreciation of the local currency, Kwacha, against major convertibles. Meanwhile, Mwanakatwe says government has saved

\$10 million in the sinking fund in readiness for the Eurobond loan repayment in 2022 and beyond. Speaking during a quarterly press briefing in Lusaka, Thursday, Mwanakatwe said external and domestic debt had increased. “You may wish to note that a total of K38 billion was collected in revenue and grants over the period January to September, 2018, and was 1.1 per cent higher than the target of K383 billion. Total expenditure over the same period

amounted to K50.3 billion which was below the target of K51.4 billion by 2.1 percent,” Mwanakatwe said. “The external debt stock as at close of the third quarter was US\$9.51 billion from US\$9.37 billion at end of the second quarter of 2018. The increase in the quarter was on account of payment of some new disbursement. Debt service for three quarters of 2018 amounted to US \$545.02 million. The stock of domestic debt mainly government securities, as at end of third quarter

2018 amounted to K54.6 billion from K51.9 billion at the end of second quarter 2018. Total guaranteed debt was at US \$12 billion as at end September, 2018. Government acknowledges the rising vulnerabilities from its debt profile and is committed to implementation of austerity measures to ensure movement back to moderate debt risk distress. Verified domestic arrears as at end second quarter stood at K14.7 billion compared K13.9 billion recorded at the end of quarter one of 2018.” And Mwanakatwe said the kwacha’s depreciation would negatively impact debt repayments and make the process costly. The kwacha has significantly depreciated in the third and fourth quarters to breach the K12 per dollar psychological barrier in September, before regaining to settle at around K11.60 by early November, from an average of K10.99 per dollar in mid-September. “We certainly are going to see an impact because as you know we have to buy dollars to be able to service our dollar Eurobond, so this is why for us, it’s important to maintain a stable kwacha. And I’m happy to say that it hasn’t really gone off the roof. So, it’s something that we want to see coming down (appreciating). Normally, the last quarter is strained because dividends are being paid. So, we would like to believe that some of this pressure is coming from demand to pay dividends by companies,” Mwanakatwe explained.

And on questions relating to the listing of shares of ZAFFICO on the Lusaka Stock Exchange (LuSE), Mwanakatwe expected the listing to oversubscribed given the huge public interest in the State-Owned Enterprise (SoE). “ZAFFICO, we are going to list. And ZAFFICO is doing well. And we will keep you posted to the process. There is a process to list and we do want to ensure that this is a successful listing. And we will keep you posted as in how that will go. It suffices to say that, ZAFFICO is doing very well and I don’t think that this is a listing that can be undersubscribed. So, we are looking forward to Zambians participating in this listing and we will keep you posted on how it will be going,” Mwanakatwe replied. Meanwhile, Mwanakatwe said government has saved \$10 million in the Sinking Fund in readiness for the Eurobond loan repayment in 2022 and beyond. “Yes, the Sinking Fund is alive and I think we have gotten in there about \$10 million. Yes, we have \$10 million that we have put in there and I think we do have time until 2022 when the first Eurobond of \$750 million is going to be redeemed. That’s the first one; remember we have got three Eurobonds,” said Mwanakatwe. She said government was gearing up for serious talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who were already in the country ahead of next year’s Article IV consultations.

## Kafue UPND suspends council chair for attending Lungu’s cleaning event

*By Oswald Sichone in Kafue*  
The Opposition United Party for National Development in Kafue has suspended their Kafue Town Council Chairman Thomas Zulu for conduct likely to bring the name of the party into contempt, ridicule and disrepute. UPND Kafue Constituency Chairman Albert Hadunka confirmed the suspension but declined to give further details as Zulu’s suspension was done by the UPND district committee. Impeccable sources within UPND in Kafue revealed that the party was very upset with Zulu for attending President Lungu’s cleaning exercise in Kafue a fortnight ago where Zulu allegedly declared openly to support and work with the Head of State. “The matter in which the Council Chairman, Hon. Thomas Zulu, was found wanting was heard on Monday 29th October 2018 by a joint District / Constituency Executive Committee. The following were the reactions from the Council Chairman: 1. That he was very sorry for his behaviour and the

embarrassment he caused to the Party President and the Party ad a whole 2. He is very remorseful for what he did and asked for forgiveness. 3. He does not work with the PF and not even President Lungu. 4. He is very loyal to the UPND Party and it’s top leadership 5. He does not know President Lungu either in a personal capacity or as a political ally,” the source said. “The committee after considering all the merits and demerits of the case ruled as follows: 1. The Council Chairman must make a public apology immediately through the electronic and print media to retract his embarrassing behaviour. 2. The Council Chairman must apologize in writing to the Party President for the embarrassment caused to the Party President. 3. Both apologies in 1 and 2 above should be done in 48 hours time failure to which the Party will meter out stiffer punishment including suspension from the Party and duties as a civic leader.” The committee appealed to the UPND

national leadership to guide on what steps to take next. “The top party leadership will us guide on further action due to the other implications that may include even expulsion from the party,” the source said. And in a letter dated October 27, 2018 addressed to Zulu and signed by Clifford E. Mwaba, the UPND district chairman, the former has been suspended from performing party functions for a period of three months. “In order to maintain discipline in the party and more to protect the good name of the party, the district committee has ruled that: you be suspended from your party for a period of three months with immediate effect. During this period of the suspension, you should not carry a function behalf of the party” read the letter. When contacted, both UPND District chairman Mwaba and his Secretary Meddy Muleya declined to comment and referred all queries to Zulu whose phone went unanswered.



# Our Vision Our Motivation Our Inspiration

By Andyford Mayele Banda

The amount of energy that we are spending yearning for change should be the same amount of energy that we must spend to search for a sustainable vision for Zambia. Hence, we applaud News Diggers for this initiative of giving key political parties the platform to spell out their visions. We also expect News Diggers readers to take this initiative seriously not as a battle of political parties but a process to search for the truth.

In order to have the right leaders, we must first understand their true intentions. Many people seek political positions for various motives. Others are in politics to supplement their success from other avenues of life and believe they must usurp power to put icing on the cake. Others are envious of their colleagues who have acquired power and privilege, and want to be like them. Others still, out of bitterness or past misunderstanding, seek political opportunity so that they can mete out revenge on their political opponents. Others are chancers while the majority are just in the wrong lane.

Our motivation to form PAC was out of a sheer belief that apart from abuse of resources, the country was and is still under utilising its resources and opportunities. We knew then and we still know now that we have the vision that would stir this country to greater heights. We knew that a PAC government would do more to implement policies that would support small businesses, create jobs and create an entrepreneurial ecosystem that would support economic opportunity and growth. PAC will utilise Zambia's geographical location where we are surrounded by a population of over 200 million people to create sustainable opportunities for local people and make it a trade centre in the region. A PAC government will be so innovative in ensuring that the natural resources that are untapped are utilised to generate more revenues for the country. A PAC government will do more to entrust our resources in the hands of local people.

Now more than ever, we need a new leadership that has a profound belief in the potential of this country. We must break a system that supports a few individuals and create a system that supports everyone. The big-contract syndrome will be done away with under a PAC government. All jobs that do not require special skills must be shared and done by Zambians. We must understand that for our economy to get back on track, our people must have disposable income to spend within the economy so that businesses can thrive.

The PAC leadership did not have any political background. Zero name recognition. People's Alliance for Change (PAC) was born out of a firm belief that the country was in desperate need of a total overhaul in its political leadership. The crisis of then, which is still a crisis of today is lack of a selfless and determined leadership that would bring a new vision to stir our country Zambia to greater heights.

Around August 2015, at the height of one of the worst economic era of this nation evidenced by load shedding, depreciation of the kwacha, fuel hikes and many other challenges our people faced, we realised that the leaders we had, which are unfortunately still the ones managing the country today, could not inspire our country to greater heights by rising above the challenges to provide hope for the future.

It was evident that there was no clear road map in a number of areas that needed urgent attention such as the rise in unemployment, lack of a support base for small businesses, robust agro policy, innovation in the tourism sector and a general concern to move with the demands of our time. Coupled with that, the mismanagement of public resources and a sense of no care were scaling up. We realised that the challenges our country was facing did not arise from lack of opportunities or resources but a deep crisis in leadership.

We also noticed that the opposition political parties did not offer a clear vision for the country in order for our people to have a clear alternative

that would stir the country to greater heights. In desperation for numbers, opposition political parties were busy recycling people who had failed. It became clear that even if they were to form government, no real change would occur. Like Sir Albert Einstein said, "We can't solve problems using the same kind of thinking that created them". Our politics became so polarised that only a change in the way we relate and do our politics was the only way to salvage our country and this needed a new set of new-generation politicians.

True to our belief, the situation has actually worsened today on the political and economic scene. It's like we were prophets who foresaw the future. After scrutinising the political landscape, we concluded that we had one clear choice and from then onwards we needed to pursue an alliance with the people that would bring about change. Hence, we called ourselves the People's Alliance for Change (PAC).

As PAC, we still believe in the same ideologies that we started with; that the country is in dire need of a paradigm shift in its leadership. The leadership mantle must be passed on to a new generation in order to stir the country to the next level. Our politics must change.

All this will be impossible to achieve with institutions that have been infected with corruption and gross mismanagement. Thus, we will need to restructure operations of government and the Anti -Corruption Commission in order to move with time and achieve our intended results.

We have a vision to share with you and in this vision we want you to practically see yourselves in our plans. We want you to see how you will get various opportunities from being employed to running small businesses. Follow us as we go with you on this journey.

**Andyford Mayele Banda is the president for PAC**  
**People's Alliance for Change**

# A foreigner's guide to dating a Zambian man

By Sampa Kabwela

Welcome to Zambia! In addition to the anti-malaria tablets, mosquito repellent, sunscreen lotion, A-Z vitamins, maps, a copy of Lonely Planet, GPRS, energy bars - which we all have here - I thought I should share with you insider information into our men, the Zambian man. Oh! before I forget, this guide is written with the 'Western' woman in mind.

While in Zambia, should you find love or plan to marry a Zambian man, here are a few things you need to know in advance. By all means, this is just a guide; there are variations to the Zambian man and your experiences on the ground might as well be the opposite, but typically this is what you must expect. I repeat, there are variations to the Zambian man.

First things first, our men don't 'split the bill!' The Western idea of splitting bills is not Zambian. When a Zambian man invites you for dinner, he will not add the caveat 'it's on me' because, by default, it's on him. Our men are raised to settle dinner bills! If you meet a Zambian man who stares the bill, disappears to the bathroom or expects you to half pay (without you offering or insisting) he is either a freeloader or has picked up the habit from the diaspora. It is not that we Zambian women can't settle the bill, far from it, it is just what it is, men pay bills here. Ditch the equality argument. Here, in our country, men pay bills in the same way that you don't open car doors for your men. Frankly, it can be shocking for us Zambian woman who find ourselves on a date with your men to be expected to half pay for dinner, we don't do that here, but we have now assimilated.

The display of affection in public, which comes naturally with your men; kissing, touchy-touchy doesn't come naturally with our men. You will not be kissed in public or looked into the eyes every so minute and be re-told how much you are loved. It

is not that our men are not romantic, or unloving, far from it, it's just what it is over here. Affection is expressed in privacy and in most cases behind a locked bedroom door, not even the living-room is private enough. Some men, fresh from the diaspora kiss in public; looking all laboured, stiff and contrived as if under duress. Here, us Zambian women know what we know, our men love and adore us, and they do so relentlessly and hard.

If your idea of a man is one who can cook, run his own bath and clears the table after eating; you have arrived in a wrong country in search of a wrong man. Without exception, a Zambian man does not do dishes! He doesn't cook either unless of course, he stays alone. This birthright cuts across class, religion, ideology and ironically even the most liberal and learned of them all. Even those who wear the western diaspora badge of honour may adopt a questionable or even a convincing accent, acquire the taste for salmon and even enjoy Mozart, but dishes they do not do! Our men are Kings! Ruling over small kingdoms, some with as few as a single subject and living in palaces as little as one room, but mighty kings nonetheless. As a wife, this is how your palace life might look like. In the morning you will prepare or run a bath for the king, and you will also un-run it. It is his irrevocable right to have clean ironed clothes at all times as it is your irrevocable duty to ensure that all his clothes are clean and ironed at all times.

The right of your Zambian man to eat is solely your duty. He is incapable of fixing himself any meal even if its just pouring cereal, sugar and milk in a bowl. The kitchen is one area of the house he has little knowledge of; it's a foreign land, a minefield.

Forget the culture so ordinary and common where you are coming from where the kitchen is the centre of the house, a place in which your

lives are lived and shared, trading the goings of the day; where even if a man can't cook, he helps with peeling onion, cutting tomatoes, keeps you company or minds the babies.

I will be pleasantly surprised if you will find yourself among our men one who can spend more than two minutes in the kitchen at any given time. You will be a special woman if the Zambian breed of a man you will find is one who can make a meal even once in a year or one who can find sugar from the kitchen without turning the entire kitchen upside down.

If our everyday experiences are anything to go by, you will cook all the meals, juggle the children, run around and all other things. For his part, he will await his meal while reading a paper, face-booking, texting, anything, but the kitchen. After eating, do not expect the simple but loaded gesture of appreciation expressed by taking one's plate to the sink. He can't because by doing so, risks becoming less of a man, stripped of respect and masculinity.

Pregnancy; our men don't hang in labour wards witnessing the messy and bloody business of birth. At most, he will be outside the labour ward. It will be pretty much a normal day for him, if he is the English premier league type, he will be watching his match until he gets the phone call from the hospital. The new baby will pretty much be your business too.

I can hear you dismissing this guide arguing that the man I describe is ancient, extinct, traditional and chauvinistic. The man I describe is young, Western-educated, liberal and exposed. When it comes to power structures and male privileges in a home, our men are notoriously traditional.

*Sampa Kabwela is an artist, mother and works for an international development organisation. She can be reached on [lyrical.zambia@gmail.com](mailto:lyrical.zambia@gmail.com)*

By Zondiwe Mbewe and Mirriam Chabala

Minister of Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela on Wednesday diverted from departing the labour ministry's budget to taking jabs at UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema, whom he accused of attacking the Chinese during the day but working with them at night.

And Chitotela says the opposition has resorted to inciting citizens because they know that their chances of going to State House are diminishing.

In his debate, Chitotela started by bragging that without PF taking over power in 2011, workers wouldn't have been enjoying before pointing his arsenals towards Hichilema.

"Today, without the PF taking over the reins of power, what the workers are enjoying wouldn't have been enjoyed because it never existed before we took over. It is under the leadership of PF that we came up with the minimum wage on the workers that are not protected. And Zambians out there are listening, some of the

# Chitotela takes jabs at HH in budget debate

opposition members that are speaking loudly, they joined together with the union and took PF to court to fight that Zambian workers were not entitled to what you had given them. This government will not allow Zambian workers to suffer, we will protect their interest," Chitotela said.

"I want to assure the Zambian people that we, in PF, we don't believe in selling State assets, we believe in keeping them for the future generation. Some people before privatisation were nothing, literally nothing! They took advantage of privatisation and they enriched themselves! Today, they are aspiring to come and take over leadership so that they call companies and enrich themselves. We know them, during the day they are

attacking Chinese, [but] in the night, they are writing letters to the Chinese and telling them: 'I want to come and work with you when I come into power.' They are thinking, what they want to come and do is what we are doing, no!"

He charged that some big political leaders were failing to take care of their farm workers.

"When I was deputy Minister of Labour, there are big political leaders that are running farms who were paying their workers K300! If you can fail to keep your workers at your farm, you want to come and take care of the country? You can come and promise Zambians that you will give them K5 million when you are failing to take care of the workers at your farm?...I know that some have been

dealing with AVIC during the night and then they attack them during the day. I want to caution the Zambian people that we know them; you know them that their interest is to come and auction this country. We tested them, we gave them more responsibilities to participate in privatisation and they enriched themselves and disadvantaged majority Zambian people. He went to the Copperbelt and misled the people."

He charged Chitotela, before he was guided by the First Deputy Speaker Catherine Namugala to focus on debating the budget as the route he was taking was unhelpful.

And speaking on Hot Fm's Hot Seat yesterday, Chitotela said the opposition had resorted to

inciting citizens because they know that their chances of going to State House are diminishing.

"If President Lungu was not performing, you think people could have been talking? But because he's performing, those who think their opportunities of going to State House are diminishing, they have resorted to everything possible to frustrate and to incite citizens. Now what we need to do is to tell Zambian people the truth that 'this is how much it (toll plazas) cost and this what your government is doing'. So clearly, our friends [in the opposition] have intentions of inciting people to rise against government, which in itself is not a good thing. They (opposition) are using corruption to hoodwink Zambians into believing

them because they know that in terms of deliverables, we will not be questioned," he said.

Meanwhile, Chitotela said government had so far constructed 30 tolling points out of the 40 Toll Plazas earmarked to be put up countrywide.

"We did state that we will be able to construct a total number of 40 toll plazas across the country with different structural designs. So far a number of 30 toll plazas are under construction and they are at different levels of completion. We have what we call 'the next generation' which is the highest in terms of the toll plaza. We have what we are calling 'booth and boom' and of course we have what we are calling 'simplified toll plazas'. These come with different cost profiles and specifications and different structural designs. So I can confirm that yes we have the Chongwe toll plaza which is among the first category of the next generation. What informs the type and quality of the toll plaza is the traffic volume on the road," said Chitotela.

Earlier this week, President Edgar Lungu commissioned a toll plaza worth US \$4.3 million or K50 million on the Ndola-Kitwe Highway, which he named after former president Michael Sata. To those in the PF, this is another milestone in the development of road infrastructure and they would like all Zambians to treat it as such. But several things are wrong about this particular development because a number of things don't just add up.

Firstly, we would like to agree with Honourable Chishimba Kambwili who says President Lungu showed a high level of unkindness to his predecessor and founding father of the ruling Patriotic Front by naming a levy collection facility after the man who was against taxes. Surely, those who still doubt that President Lungu and Michael Sata have nothing in common must have chosen to close their eyes to what is going on. Anyone who knew Michael Sata would have to say that he would never have accepted to be associated with schemes that are meant to defraud the people, in a manner that President Lungu is doing.

We are not here to exhort late president Michael Sata as an angel. Maybe, where he is today, he is an angel, but when he lived among us, on earth, he was not. He had many faults and failings. But one thing you could never accuse. He was one who wanted to find simple solutions to even complex problems. Michael Sata would definitely not have loved to be associated with the tollgate scandal, which President Lungu was blessing this week.

President Sata was never happy that the few who are employed were being overtaxed, while foreigners were plundering the wealth

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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# A crime scene with four pillars, a few roofing sheets, a concrete slab

of the country. That is why he campaigned on the theme of lower taxes. He was not concerned about lower taxes for big companies; it was about the poor Zambians. This is why he didn't always have very good things to say about the Chinese. But it is not only the Chinese who are plundering resources, while the poor Zambians are being overtaxed. The mining companies in this country don't pay their fair share of taxes. Many of these companies have made corrupt relationships with our politicians. But that is a discussion for another day.

Today, we are talking about the four pillars, a few roofing sheets and a concrete slab, which have cost us K50 million. Dear readers, you don't have to be a civil engineer or a quantity surveyor to know that that is corruption. Not long from now, President Lungu will be asking those with corruption evidence to come forward, yet when he

was commissioning that toll plaza, he was visiting a crime scene. The man was literally standing on corruption. As he jumped in one of those booths to collect tolls from the poor motorists, he was meddling in a corruption scandal.

The explanation from his Infrastructure Development Minister Honourable Ronald Chitotela that there is a lot of sophisticated equipment installed in those booths is simply nonsense! Look around Lusaka, Honourable Chitotela, and point us at a house that is worth US 4.3 million, then we compare the features. In fact, it will take him a long time to find a house that was constructed at that cost in the Capital City. So, President Lungu and his inner circle are just taking Zambians for granted, and this is not correct.

Getting back to the naming of that corruption scandal after Mr Sata, we have to ask ourselves the question; why did President

Lungu find it necessary to name those four pillars, a few roofing sheets and a concrete slab after Mr Sata? Even if there was no corruption involved and the cost of erecting those four pillars, putting a few roofing sheets a slab was acceptable, there was no justification for naming it after Michael Sata, a man who promised lower taxes; more money in your pockets. This is an insult to a man who literally saved Mr Lungu's life by winning the 2011 elections and giving him a ministerial job! If President Lungu is not grateful to president Sata for what he did for him, it was better to just let the laying man stay asleep, because at the rate we are going, it will not surprise us when they start naming public toilets after him.

The reason why public buildings and other infrastructure are named after deceased leaders and other notable statesmen and women is to honour

their memory and engrave what they stood for. In other words, a structure named after an individual becomes more or less a monument of that particular individual. What is President Lungu telling us about what he thinks of Michael Sata with those four pillars, a few roofing sheets and a concrete slab?

Such disrespect for others is very unfortunate, especially when it is being portrayed by those who are accidentally benefiting from Mr Sata's sweat. As the Bembas would say: "Kwena abafwa nga balabwela, katwishi!" Meaning that if the dead would come and see what is being done in their names, heads would roll! We can only imagine what Mr Sata would say if he would come back.

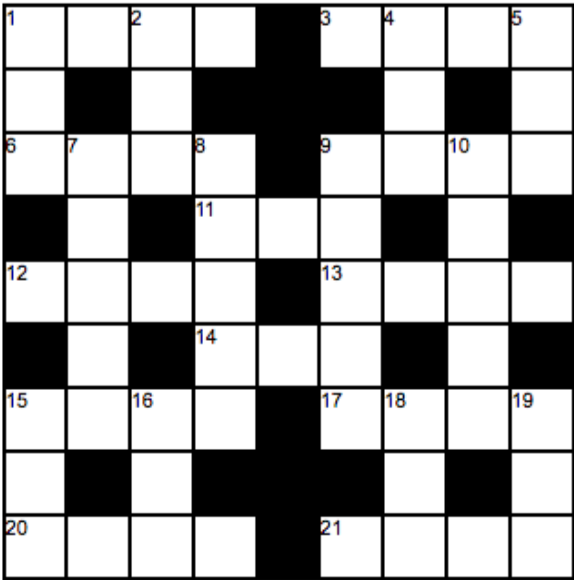
But the problem with those four pillars, a few roofing sheets and a concrete slab, is not only that they have been named after Mr Sata. What is more worrying

is the shamelessness of glorifying the abuse of public recourses. How can a President of a poor country like ours, brag that he will continue borrowing money to waste in this manner that we are seeing at that crime scene? What is the justification for this impunity?

Instead of going to celebrate those four pillars, a few roofing sheets and a concrete slab, we would expect that heads would be rolling. But we are not surprised, those four pillars few roofing sheets and a concrete slab are joining a long list of shameful public scandals that don't seem to concern President Lungu at all. We had the US \$1 million fire tenders, which a minister discredited as wheelbarrows; there was the ambulances that cost US \$288,000; we have the US \$1.3 billion Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway, which will gobble US \$1.3 billion; the Digital Migration scandal that gobbled US \$273 million; the presidential jet at US \$140 million. What about the solar hammer mills? Where are the 2,000 solar hammer mills, which we bought at US \$200 million? We were told that the price of mealie meal would reduce, why is it increasing?

President Lungu should learn from our history. There is nothing that unites our people more than corruption. That is the fight that every Zambian understands very well. Every president who has thought that the Zambian people are docile and don't understand corruption, has come to a bad ending! We would also beg President Lungu not to associate his benefactor president Sata with his government's public scandals. If they have nothing to name after Michael Sata, they should leave him alone.

## Crossword puzzle 227



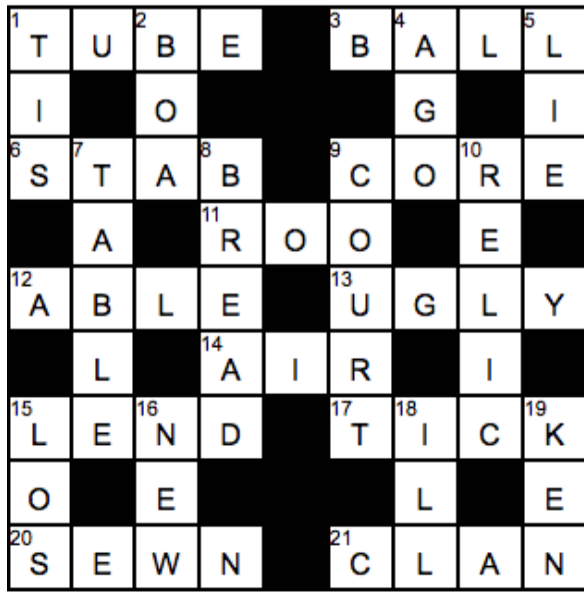
*“Though the mills of God grind slowly,  
yet they grind exceeding small; Though  
with patience He stands waiting, with  
exactness grinds He all.”*  
- Henry Wadsworth Longellow

- Across

1. Faucet problem  
3. Regards  
6. Very old  
9. Resign  
11. Debt reminder  
12. Malicious gossip  
13. Lazy; doing nothing  
14. Foot part  
15. Knight in shining armor  
17. Moderate speed for horse  
20. Scotch, masking, or duct  
21. Owing money
- Down

1. \_\_\_ favor  
2. Frozen water  
4. "I kid \_\_\_ not"  
5. Relaxed  
7. Complain  
8. Me too  
9. Library sign  
10. Snow block house  
15. Head topper  
16. Style of music  
18. Regret  
19. Preschooler

## Solutions to puzzle 226



# Reader's feedback

## Amos' orders to police to storm radio stations that play provocative programmes

Editor,

"Who is Amos to give such orders? Last I checked he was just a kalaliki for the kateka, same level as deputy PS." - Eugene Mulenga

"HH is the most feared man by PF. Amos Chanda, who is he to instruct the police in their duties?" - Noritah Mwanza

"This Amos Chanda has grown wings. Who is he to direct what is discussed on radio stations?" - Mundia Lubinda

"Amos Chanda, are you trying to deprive people the right to freedom of speech? Why don't you want to be criticised? If you have a clear conscience, just explain the truth to people." - Abraham Madzima

"There will be a time when Amos will be chased out of a radio station just like he wants to do to others. For you, Amos, everything you now own will be grabbed from you and maybe the Daily Nation will be able to employ you because I can assure you that, you will have no friends just like it is now." - Chibamba Chilala

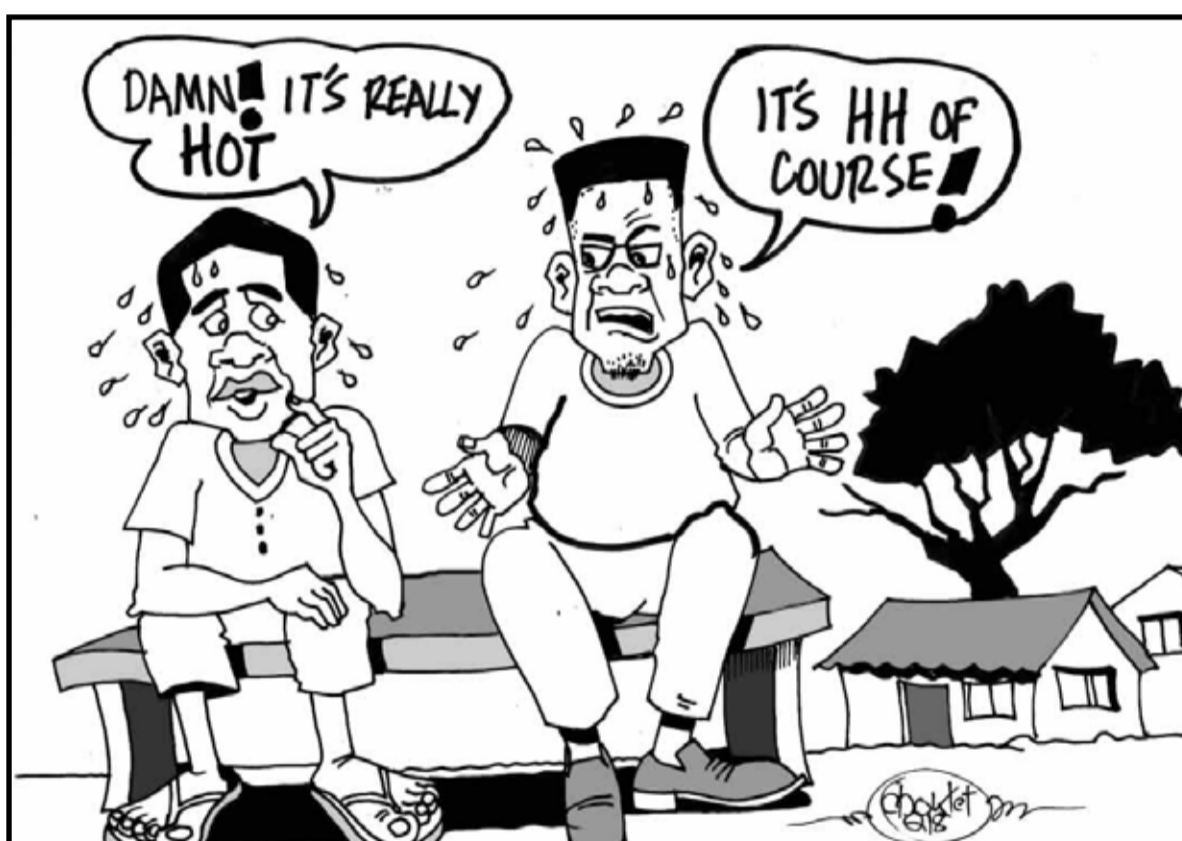
"You will need the same radio stations in future, my brother. Ask Chishimba Kambwili." - John Bwalya

"That is the beginning of the end, those are the last kicks of a dying horse; even the late MMD use to do that, but it was dead and buried." - Davies Tembo Sr.

## 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.



## Chitotela's justification of \$4.3m Sata tollgate

"Chitotela's justification for the high cost of the toll gate is rubbish; what's required is a forensic audit by independent auditors." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Chitotela must just give a breakdown about that exorbitant plaza. No wholesale pricing. We head that enough on the another thieving project, Ndola-Lusaka dual carriage road-gobbling, staggering US \$1.3bn!" - Emmanuel Mwaba

"It has sophisticated features, like what? That's how stupid the government thinks we are! Like the dual carriageway with hotels and the like..." - Geoffrey Chiwaya

"The tollgate has sophisticated features! This is the same justification that was used when buying the fire trucks. The fire trucks, when they finally arrived, the sophisticated features were apparently missing. Fishy." - Sikaanka Kabbudula

"I passed through yesterday and today, some sophisticated cameras were not working; you have to tell the cashier the number plate of the car you are driving..." - Tom Kanyi

"The geographical position of the tollgates is very poor." - Francis Mashowo

## ND OPINION: Posterity is crawling towards Felix Mutati

Editor,

"This is very interesting to read, and as I continued reading, it felt like I was sipping milk. You've made my day; I love you, Diggers!"

"Well-articulated, and hopefully, those guys in Parliament are learning how to go about politics. It's just sad that the Mutati the country celebrated at some point could end up this way! Now, he has a huge problem to which I doubt he will manage to nurse, all those who were MMD: Dora, Vincent, and many others aren't coming back to the MMD; it's finished! Done

and dusted!" - Allan Alinew Lungu

"Wow! This is a great prophecy revealing; I really enjoyed the analytical part; you really gave us good insight. Keep up the good work. Hope you won't stop here, tell another one's fate; we need more of such articles." - Hezron T. Lubemba

"Very true, Mutati's relevance ended when PF was declared winner in 2016 and Rupiah Banda's immunity was lifted, beyond that, it was a matter of saving face." - Bob Kaïma

# ERB respond to News Diggers! editorial

## 'Whose interest does ERB serve?'

### 1. Introduction

We wish to exercise the right to reply following your Editorial of 19th October 2018 entitled ‘Whose interest does ERB serve?’ From the outset, we wish to emphasise that we consider the media a partner and therefore shall be very measured in our response as we respect your right to express your opinion, no matter how adverse it may be to us. We are a public institution and must welcome all kinds of feedback and be open to public scrutiny.

### 2. Whose Interests Does the ERB Serve?

It is common knowledge in the regulatory sphere that a ‘thick skin’ is necessary as the role entails occasionally making tough decisions that may not be popular, but are absolutely necessary for the sustained provision of energy services and products. Our primary role is to regulate the energy sector in a manner that balances the interests of all key stakeholders who include the Government whose policies we implement; the licensees who invest money to run business enterprises in the energy sector; and most importantly the consumers who expect no less than guaranteed supply of energy products and services of the right quality. To effectively serve the key stakeholders, whose interests are often conflicting, entails a delicate balancing act which almost certainly will not always endear us to all the stakeholders. Little wonder, some scholars have illustrated the role of regulators as that of making “all stakeholders equally unhappy”. This is to say effective regulation invariably entails that decisions made, take into account the competing interests of all stakeholders while seeking to strike a balance between those competing needs. In that regard, Government policy is ultimately to provide for full cost recovery and that fuel is not subsidised. This is so that resources are readily available to procure the next consignment. This ensures that fuel is readily available at the pump when consumers need it. Thus, by actualizing Government policy, shortages of fuel are to a very large extent now a thing of the past! For licensees, their margins are determined and set by ERB as part of the cost build-up to the pump price. This means that their earnings per litre are regulated by ERB, and cannot be changed haphazardly. Regulation here serves the purpose of ensuring that consumers don’t pay more than they ought to pay by ensuring that the margins reflect a return on investment for prudently incurred costs. Note that prior to 2nd October 2018, the downstream margins for Oil Marketing Companies, Transporters and Dealers (fuel station operators) were last reviewed in 2016.

Although consumers often feel hopeless and more or less at the receiving end, regulation serves the greater good of consumers ultimately by ensuring that fuel is justly and reasonably priced. Consumers basically want assured availability of fuel to enable them run their businesses and go about their lives with minimal inconvenience/disruption. To safeguard the consumer interest, regulators put in place decision making mechanisms that ensure that regulatory interventions that impact on ordinary lives are made on the basis of sound, predictable and transparent principles. The challenge quite often is that price reviews/increases that appear to hurt consumers in the short term are for the greater good in the long term. For example, pricing fuel at levels that are below cost would be very popular in the short to medium term but very hurtful to consumers themselves in the long term. Without the option of subsidies, selling fuel at prices that are below full cost recovery levels simply means that ability to procure the next consignment is greatly compromised. In real terms, this would translate into fuel shortages in the country. World over, it is a settled argument that it is better to have appropriately priced fuel than “cheap fuel” which shall not be available at the pump when needed! Further, it should be noted that the Cost-Plus Model being used to determine fuel prices allows for price stability through the 2.5% trigger band which guards against frequent and disruptive marginal price reviews to protect consumers. It is mainly on that score that fuel prices were kept stable from February to October 2018, while crude oil prices steadily rose on the world market and the Kwacha depreciated. From the foregoing, it ought to be clear that while regulation seeks to serve different competing interests, most regulatory interventions tend to weigh heavily on the side of consumers who would be at the mercy of corporations largely driven by the profit motive. Granted, those interventions are often forward-looking and therefore not always appreciated immediately.

### 3. Importation of finished products and cheap Saudi Oil – ERB’s role and mandate in this process (of what value is the regulator).

As stated earlier, importation of petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products is the preserve of the Zambian Government which may perform that role directly or through an appointed agent, as Tazama is doing currently. The ERB’s role is to price the consignment in order that costs are fully recovered in line with Government Policy. This entails assessing invoices and determining the appropriate prices in line with the Cost Plus model

and thereafter determining uniform pump prices for the country. In so doing, the regulator ensures a level playing field, assures security of supply of energy products and services and safeguards consumer interests in the long run. In fact, it is through that pricing mechanism that it was determined that the impact of the Saudi Arabia fuel in terms of quantity was not significant enough to reasonably impact fuel pump prices downwards. It should be noted that Zambia’s consignment ordinarily comprises petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products, some of which was the Saudi Arabia Diesel and Petrol, translating into 6 and 13 days stock, respectively. In line with the pricing mechanism, the full consignment was assessed and fuel prices determined via a Board meeting held on 2nd October 2018. What seems to have been ignored is the fact that Zambia’s fuel requirements are procured to normally last for periods of about 60 days, which is received in different parcels. Therefore, the Saudi Arabia fuel could not be priced separately because it was merely a component of the larger whole including bigger volumes of petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products.

### 4. The public only hears of the ERB during fuel price increases and electricity tariffs.

Understandably, fuel pricing particularly in cases of increases will receive greater prominence in the media than any other news from ERB. This is because it has an immediate impact on the general public. Similar prominence is given to electricity tariff announcements for the same reasons. However, ERB seeks to engage the public in different regulatory interventions as a routine. For instance, there is currently an ongoing awareness campaign on the Fuel Marking programme which seeks to assure product quality and safeguard Government revenue in the petroleum sub sector. Further, there are deliberate efforts to engage the public in regulation by seeking out participation in key regulatory activities including the following:

- Licencing is processed transparently to the extent that the public is always invited to make comments on all applications being considered. It is our wish that more participation would be attained in that regard;
- Monitoring the quality of energy services and products has various interventions such as Grading of Filling Stations and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for licensees to allow for easy participation by the public to encourage excellence in the provision of energy products and services;
- Tariff determination is an elaborate process which allows for public participation and ought to be highly interactive through

vigorous advertising and public hearings in different parts of the country. We wish to encourage more participation in such processes as there are various opportunities for doing so;

- Enforcement action meted out on erring licensees is publicized to inform the public about our efforts to safeguard their interests and also discourage would-be offenders; and
- Lastly, complaints handling is among the most publicized interventions with avenues including the Toll Free Line 8484, the Mobile Office, radio programmes and various outreach programmes available to enhance the ERB’s accessibility to the consumer.

Notwithstanding the above, we constantly seek new ways to further collaborate with the media and the general public to ensure that our role is fully appreciated by all stakeholders. Particularly, we are making efforts to forge stronger alliances with the media to maintain public interest in the energy sector.

### 5. Handling of the last Fuel Price adjustment leaves much to be desired

In the last price review of 2nd October 2018, on which your opinion appears to be largely premised, the delicate balance of stakeholder interests was attained by sticking to the regulatory principles and Government policy, while taking into account the greater good of security of supply. The guiding principle in relation to pricing of fuel is currently underpinned by full cost recovery to guarantee security of supply as procurement of oil/fuel ought to be self-financing. Thus, the cargo of petroleum feedstock and finished petroleum products was assessed and priced based on the Cost-Plus Model, which has been used for about 10 years now. Most specifically, a ministerial statement was issued on the floor of Parliament by the Hon. Minister of Energy Mr. Mathew Nkhuwa highlighting the processes that preceded the price review announcement. We note that the statement was widely covered by News Diggers and shall for that reason alone therefore not restate the facts.

### 6. It’s unacceptable that Zambia has the most expensive fuel as if it’s the only landlocked country.

As earlier stated, the ERB merely ensures that the fuel is sold at prices that allow for full cost recovery to ensure that ability to purchase the subsequent cargo is not compromised. The readily available statistics suggest that Zambia’s prices vis a vis its geographical position and infrastructure set-up are highly competitive. Currently, Zimbabwe is the most expensive while Zambia is just slightly higher than some countries that have in-

built advantages such as access to the coastline like Kenya and South Africa. For the avoidance of doubt, the current regional prevailing prices are as illustrated in the graph below: In the face of rising global oil prices and the depreciating Kwacha since the previous review in February 2018, failure to effect changes in prices would have greatly compromised the country’s ability to procure adequate stocks for the next consignment.

### 7. MPs should debate these issues as there maybe need to revisit Acts that established these good for nothing regulatory institutions.

ERB is a public institution which is always open to public scrutiny and is quite often the subject of public discussions and obviously cannot escape discussion in parliament. As reported by News Diggers, the ERB was yet again the subject of parliamentary debates on 9th October 2018 where the 2nd October 2018 fuel price review was debated extensively, with the Saudi Arabia Oil deal taking centre-stage. This is among many other instances where the role of the ERB has been discussed and its decisions debated in the house. For all intents and purposes, such debates are healthy!

Without doubt, the ERB fulfills a cardinal role not only in the energy sector but also the national economy in Zambia. It is worth noting that the ERB remains a highly regarded regulator in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, the African continent and even beyond. Little wonder it is constantly being called upon to share experiences with newly established regulators in the region and countries that are considering setting up regulators. Suffice to say, with a handful other regulators in the region, the ERB is viewed as a pioneer and worthy example of model regulators in the SADC region.

### 8. Demand for ERB to focus on working on mechanisms that reduce the price of fuel.

As earlier stated, there are many factors that impact the price of fuel which may not be within the control of the ERB. Fundamentally, the international oil prices and exchange rate between the Kwacha and major trading currencies will directly impact local fuel prices. As emphasised on different fora, Government continues to seek ways to moderate the prices of fuel. Most recently, some cost lines in the price build-up of fuel were removed. These and other measures being considered are in our estimation envisaged to positively impact the prices of fuel in the medium to long term.

**Fred Hang’andu**  
**DIRECTOR CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

*By Mukosha Funga*

Chaos has rocked Kafue General Hospital since a medicine theft scandal was exposed in June this year, in which the hospital medical superintendent and other laboratory managers instructed junior officers to manipulate stocks and cover up theft of HIV test kits.

The managers accused of stealing and covering up the theft of medical supplies have neither been suspended nor fired, but have continued to work at the institution while those who were suspected of blowing the whistle have been put on forced transfer.

Meanwhile, in the last two weeks, Kafue General Hospital has been operating with dysfunctional lab equipment which has been giving false test results and putting patients at risk, a situation which management is aware of but has allowed to continue.

In June, News Diggers published audio recordings in which Kafue General Hospital (KGH) medical superintendent, a Dr Mapani, KGH laboratory in charge Mandona Chungu, her former deputy Judy Mwanza and senior laboratory technician Peter Zulu were heard instructing their juniors to fill in back-dated stock control cards and scratch them to make them look old so that the audit can go smoothly.

They were heard warning that, should the audit reflect the missing laboratory commodities,

# Drug theft scandal at KGH leaves chaotic aftermath, as patients risk fake test results

they would all be charged to pay for the very expensive medical kits for up to five years.

According to impeccable sources, hospital management intentionally subjected the laboratory to high temperatures without air conditioning, thereby rendering the equipment faulty and unable to produce accurate test results; a move that was seen as a trap to implicate the lab technicians who had been at loggerheads with management over the theft scandal.

“Since you people wrote that story about theft of drugs at the district hospital, it has been chaotic. At first, it seemed something positive would happen because the auditors came back and they interviewed everyone individually, trying to get to the bottom of the whole thing. But after that died down, those who were in the forefront forcing people to manipulate entries to fool auditors started threatening those they suspected of leaking information with transfers. Right now, some people have just received transfer letters to rural health centres within the district,” the sources said.

The sources observed that the transfers were not done in a procedural manner.

“When you look at the letters, they were written on the 9th of October but this is when they have been handed out (November 6). Another thing is that the letters were signed by the district office, instead of the provincial office. Those who were in the forefront trying to make people do wrong things, Judith Mwanza and Mandona Chungu, are the ones who have pushed for those transfers as they are running the affairs of the lab from district health office illegally. They were not officially transferred to go to that office but they found themselves there to push for that so that they can protect their interests and bring in puppets who won’t question when drugs and test kits go missing,” the sources said.

And the sources narrated that management intentionally stopped maintaining the laboratory in a bid to trap the workers.

“All this time, they were just keeping the letters, probably

hoping to dismiss us if we made a mistake. They tried to trap us by completely abandoning the lab, management stopped maintaining it so the air con became faulty and temperatures got too high and the machines stopped working effectively. We could not give out any results from the lab because you’d find that the same sample, you will get three positive results and two negative results, so which one do you give to the patient?” wondered the sources.

“We went to the acting medical superintendent and complained that we are unable to run any tests because we were getting false results. When we told Dr [Hubby] Makukula that, he just said ‘go ahead, I will protect you.’ He just said the department should go ahead and produce wrong results and he will protect us but we resisted because we took an oath to save the lives of people. How could we tell people who were HIV negative that they were HIV positive knowing fully well that the results were

not credible? The machines were literally writing that the temperature is too high. Those tests we run require a certain kind of temperature to produce correct results.”

The sources added: “In hindsight, what they were trying to do is to pin us down so that if we produce wrong results, they could dismiss us and say we are incompetent. The medical superintendent would tell us, ‘we will pin you, you thought your teeth were sharp enough.’ That’s Dr Hubby Mukukula who was saying that, he is acting medical superintendent. We insisted that it was better to make referrals if the air con remained faulty. Dr Makukula would tell us, even in front of student nurses, that ‘I don’t care if the results are correct or not, you must produce them,” said the sources.

“We told them that the machines, some of them the temperature maximum is supposed to be 18 degrees, cold freezing. Then the temperatures, where we are supposed to work from with

different test kits, the maximum you can work is about 27 degrees but the room temperature was about 39 degrees. And even the fridge where we put blood, the fridge should go up to eight, that is the maximum, between two to eight but it was going up to about 9.5. And we said if we transfuse this blood into this patient, this blood will react. It was such a mess. This had been going on for two weeks and instead of giving people wrong results, we would get samples in the morning, and take them to some health centres to run tests and only bring back results in the afternoon. And also those health centres have limited reagents so we couldn’t manage to run tests for all the patients.”

The sources narrated that Dr Makukula would openly threaten lab technicians saying, “We can send you to a remote area, you are a small fish in a pond.”

Meanwhile, Dr Makukula’s phone was off and he was therefore unable to comment.

## Nevers' national secretary survives jail in MMD leadership wrangle case

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*

The Nevers Mumba-led MMD acting national secretary Winnie Zaloumis escaped a seven-day imprisonment after she reversed her earlier decision of refusing to answer a question during cross-examination in the matter involving the party’s leadership wrangles.

Earlier, a lawyer representing the Felix Mutati-led MMD, Jonasimba, asked the court to send Zaloumis to prison for seven days for refusing to answer a question rightly put to her.

In this matter, Zaloumis has sued Mutati, Mwansa Mbulakulima, Raphael Nakacinda and George Kangwa in the Lusaka High Court, challenging the legality of the convention that was held in Kabwe that elected Mutati and others into office.

When the matter came up before High Court Judge Sharon Nwala for cross-examination, Wednesday, Zimba asked Zaloumis when Reuben Sambo became MMD national secretary, but in response, the witness said she didn’t remember.

Asked again when Elizabeth Chitika became national secretary, Zaloumis said the party had a meeting at Ibis Gardens on March 14, 2016.

But when asked whether that’s where Chitika became national secretary, Zaloumis chose not to answer.

And when Zimba insisted three times, Zaloumis said, “I choose not to answer I’m here as national secretary,” she said.

This prompted Zimba to make an application, requesting that Zaloumis be sent to prison for seven days for refusing to answer a question.

He added that the witness had a right to decline when she was not sure about the evidence she was asked to give.

And Madaika said there was no provision in civil proceedings to incarcerate a witness for failure to give evidence, adding that the provision was quoted out of context.

“The section he’s quoting in the CPC is for criminal proceedings, this is a civil case. She has a right to decline when she’s not sure about the evidence she’s asked to give. There’s no provision in civil proceedings to incarcerate a witness for failure to give evidence. The provision has been quoted out of context. The application lacks merit and we pray that it should be dismissed,” Madaika said.

But in response, Zimba argued that the provision was correct because it was all-encompassing, adding that the act of declining to answer a question was criminal in itself.

“The act of declining to answer a question is criminal in itself. This witness has refused to answer a question properly put to her. I pray that the court deals with the witness in the appropriate manner set out at law so as to ensure that witnesses don’t waste the court’s time,” Zimba said.

At this point, Judge Nwala reserved ruling on the application to 14.00 hours on the same day.

And when the matter resumed, Judge Nwala said the refusal to testify was punishable as contempt of court.

She added that the consequences of refusing to answer a question was that; the court may adjourn the matter for a period not exceeding eight days to which that person would be committed to prison, unless they consented sooner to do what was required of them.

“I have considered the application and section 151 of the CPC states that whenever any person being present in court, refuses to be sworn, or having being sworn refuses to answer any questions put to him or her, neglects to reproduce any document, which he is required to.... the court may adjourn the case for a period not exceeding eight days, and may in the meantime commit such person to prison unless he sooner consents what is required of him,” Judge Nwala said.

And Judge Nwala said the provisions of the CPC were applicable in civil proceedings and, therefore, Zimba’s reliance on section 150 of the CPC in making the application was appropriate.

She, thereafter, asked Zaloumis to go back to the witness stand and asked her whether she had refused to answer the question put to her.

In response, Zaloumis said she was willing to answer the question.

And when Zimba continued with his cross-examination, he reiterated his earlier question on whether Elizabeth Chitika was still national secretary.

In response, Zaloumis said Chitika was not national secretary.

## If saying ZAFFICO, ZNBC have been sold is a crime, arrest me, says Mwaliteta

*By Mirriam Chabala*

Lusaka District UPND chairman Obvious Mwaliteta says government should not threaten those questioning the alleged sale of ZAFFICO but instead explain the correct position, arguing that citizens have a duty to hold leaders accountable.

And Mwaliteta has challenged the investigative wings to arrest him if alleging that ZNBC and ZAFFICO have been sold is a crime.

Mwaliteta was commenting on declarations made by Eastern Province Minister, Lusaka Province and Chief Government Spokesperson; Makebe Zulu, Bowman Lusambo and Dora Siliya, respectively, who recently pledged to give up their ministerial positions if Hichilema produced evidence that the Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) had been sold.

“Honourable Makebe Zulu, Hon. Dora Siliya and Hon. Bowman Lusambo should first look at where they are coming from. They are not coming from PF; they don’t even understand the PF manifesto of lower taxes, more jobs and more money in people’s pockets. They are MMD...and now, it’s like the PF have realised that these guys who have come from MMD are confusing the policies of the Patriotic Front. This is why, now, they want to please their master by challenging my president, HH. But I want to tell them that there is no need for

HH to produce evidence because the evidence is there. If you, the government officials, you are saying that you want to offload shares, you want to sell shares. Unless if you are saying that you are giving out shares, then that’s not selling. But if you are going to sell even one per cent or two then you are selling,” Mwaliteta insisted.

“If they (PF) haven’t sold any shares in ZNBC then they should come and arrest me. We want to challenge them that they should have resigned the time when the fire tenders where bought at US \$1 million, They should have resigned when they bought the ambulances at that price; that was evidence enough. It’s evidence that there are no medicines in the hospitals today, that today, even in universities, students are struggling to get their allowances. It is evidence enough that today when you look around, the poverty levels are too high and people are struggling to have three meals a day. There is evidence enough because up to-date there is no fertiliser to give the peasant farmers, and we are in November. So, can they resign on those issues, which are more important than the politics they are doing to try and please their master.”

Mwaliteta wondered why government was becoming too aggressive when questioned about the alleged sale of national assets, instead of just clarifying the queries.

“If you list your property on the stock market, is it not for someone to get some shares? When you list something on the stock exchange, you are inviting other businessmen to get some shares. So, you are selling some shares. So, I don’t know when we are saying that the shares they sold in ZNBC is as good as the shares they want to sell in ZAFFICO. They are challenging HH over ZNBC, [but] what is TopStar doing in ZNBC? They should not play undercover; they should not take Zambians for granted. Zambians know everything that is happening. In fact, they (PF) have become very unpopular because they are not being truthful. If at all they wanted, they should have just explained to Zambians what exactly it is they are planning to do with ZAFFICO by listing it on stock exchange,” said Mwaliteta.

“What will be the benefit for the Zambian people, who are the owners of that company? That is what they are supposed to do; they are not supposed to start hiding and threatening people to start hiding because they have the power to arrest people. For how long are you going to arrest us? You are not going to keep on threatening people, our job as the opposition is to offer checks and balances. So, if they are not going to give us room to question whatever they are doing in fear that they will arrest you.”

In BBC One's documentary called Prince, Son and Heir: Charles at 70, Prince Harry praised his father Prince Charles for stepping in and walking Meghan Markle down the aisle on their wedding day in a last-minute casting switch.

Just days before their May 19 nuptials at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Meghan's dad, Thomas Markle, pulled out of doing the honors after suffering an apparent heart attack. He did not attend the wedding, either. Upon that news, Kensington Palace published a note on behalf of the Duchess of Sussex. "Sadly, my father will not be attending our wedding," she said. "I have always cared for my father and hope he can be

# Prince Harry reveals what happened when he asked prince charles to walk Meghan Markle down the aisle

given the space he needs to focus on his health."

When Thomas' health became a cause for concern, the Palace released a statement that said, "This is a deeply personal moment for Ms. Markle in the days before her wedding. She and Prince Harry ask again for understanding and for respect to be extended to Mr. Markle in this difficult situation."

Prince Charles was then asked to do the honors, a request that he was reportedly "touched" by.

ne day before the wedding, it was formally announced that the Prince of Wales would escort his future daughter-in-law inside the chapel. The Palace said in a statement, "Ms. Meghan Markle has asked His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to accompany her down the aisle of the Quire of St. George's Chapel on her Wedding Day. The Prince of Wales is pleased to be able to welcome Ms. Markle to The Royal Family in this way."

According to the new BBC documentary, Prince Charles accepted the offer immediately and did not hesitate at all. "I asked him to and I think he knew it was coming, and he immediately said 'Yes, of course, I'll do whatever Meghan needs and I'm here to support you,'" Prince Harry revealed.

The Duke of Sussex added, "For him that's a fantastic opportunity to step up and be that support, and you know he's our father so of course he's going to be there for us."

EONLINE

# Secrets We Learned About Beyoncé Through Her Mom Tina Knowles' Instagram Account

While Beyoncé is notoriously private on social media, choosing to carefully curate her feed and offer crumbs of personal photos and news to ravenous fans, her mother, Tina Knowles Lawson, isn't as selective.

In fact, she often offers up the whole damn cookie on her Instagram feed, which is a treasure trove filled with corny jokes, over-posting from family events and the occasional appearance from her superstar daughter, along with granddaughter, Blue Ivy.

Since joining the social media platform in August 2015, Tina has amassed 1.8 million followers, with many of them always on the look out for a Queen Bey sighting. And when Tina, 64, delivers, she really delivers, inadvertently offering fans a glimpse into the star's private side off-stage. And guess what? She's actually just like us...often embarrassed by our mom on social media.

And there was no better example of that then this past October, when Tina got a little too snap happy at the Halloween party Beyoncé and Jay-Z hosted.

Though she ended up changing the caption, Ms. Tina revealed Queen Bey called her "TMZ" after she posted 29 (Yes, that's right: TWENTY NINE) Instagram posts from the event.

"MY daughter sent me a message this morning 'good morning paparazzi TMZ,'" she wrote in the original caption. "I hope you really enjoyed it because it probably won't be a next time!!! I think next time they're not going to invite me, or they are going to take my camera!! What yal think?"

Ha ha Ha ha ha!!!" (Click open the tweet above to see the original caption.)

Clearly, someone got another message soon after that because Tina then changed the caption to "MY Super fly! His Foxy Brown!"

The "paparazzi" call-out by Bey seems to be an ongoing theme for the Knowles fam, as Solange also has poked fun at Tina's documentation, calling her "Mamarazzi."

Since joining Instagram, Tina has taken to posting a

corny joke of the day, which finds her recording a selfie telling a--you guessed it--really corny joke. Now, if you follow Ms. Tina you know she is very serious about her lighting, and will sometimes record a few

videos at once to post later. It seems Bey finds this as hilarious and amusing as we do, as you can hear her yell in the background of one corny joke post, "You found that light!"

Tina later explained in a

video that her daughter had talked to her about her corny jokes post, saying, "Beyonce was telling me the other day I shouldn't do corny jokes all the time, but I told her when you get my age you gotta find your light!"

EONLINE

# From Elizabeth to Lisbeth - Claire Foy's transformation

When director Fede Alvarez chose Claire Foy to star in the latest film in the "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" series, he had no doubt the 34-year-old

actress would easily transform herself into the intrepid cold-as-ice hacker Lisbeth Salander. After all, the British actress has experience playing a fearless

woman with ice running through her veins when needed -- Queen Elizabeth II. "I saw 'The Crown' one day and I was like, 'That's it, this

is all Lisbeth,' because as crazy as that sounds, there is so much in common with the challenges of playing someone like Lisbeth or Elizabeth,"

Alvarez told AFP in a recent telephone interview from Rome.

Fresh off her Emmy-winning turn as the British monarch on Netflix's popular drama, Foy is tackling one of the heroines of modern crime fiction -- Salander, a Swedish hacker -- in "The Girl In The Spider's Web."

The film, which opens Friday in US theaters, follows Salander as she is hired to hack into a defense program that can control the codes for the world's nuclear weapons.

The role -- previously played by Noomi Rapace and Rooney Mara -- represents a departure for Foy, allowing the actress to showcase a different, darker side.

But the Uruguayan director says her regal role prepared her well.

"They are very similar characters," Alvarez said.

"The queen is never allowed to show she's angry or sad, always keeping a straight face in front of very different situations ... and Lisbeth doesn't allow herself to show her true emotions -- she's pushing those emotions deep inside her."

AFP



British actress Claire Foy -- shown here at a New York screening of "The Girl In The Spider's Web" -- won an Emmy this year for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in Netflix's "The Crown"

# Jeff Sessions fired: Kathy Griffin, John Legend, Josh Gad and more celebrities react

President Donald Trump fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions Wednesday, and celebrities had a lot to say about it.

"I need that little elf to stay on longer until Mueller is done," Kathy Griffin wrote in a NSFW tweet.

"Goodbye Sessions. Couldn't have happened to a worse guy," actor Kumail Nanjiani began a series of tweets. "Big fight coming. Get ready."

"The president is a (expletive) embarrassment," tweeted singer John Legend.

"And it's all happening," wrote "Frozen" actor Josh Gad.

"The Good Place" creator Mike Schur turned to Sessions' interim replacement, Matthew Whitaker. He tweeted a screenshot from a Q&A in which Whitaker called Marbury v. Madison, the Supreme Court case that established judicial review, a "bad ruling."

"Cool choice," Schur wrote. "Like making the Surgeon General a guy who gives people a bolt of whiskey and hacks off their legs with a saw."

"POTUS picked a Supreme Ct Justice who thinks Presidents are above the law," John Legend added.

USATODAY



Demi Lovato is spotted with a new man by her side, Henry Levy, after they grabbed drinks together in West Hollywood, Calif. Photo: Backgrid



## WHICH PARTY DESERVES YOUR VOTE?

Building on its accolade as a trendsetter in promoting national discourse and objective news reporting, News Diggers now introduces a platform for political party players to debate topical issues affecting citizens.

We have picked the Patriotic Front and four other top political parties seeking to form government in 2021 and offered them a full page each in the print edition of News Diggers on which to publish their agenda.

Starting November 6, 2018, the top leadership of these political parties will go into detail explaining why they deserve your vote.

- Mondays: Patriotic Front
- Tuesdays: United Party for National Development
- Wednesdays: National Restoration Party
- Thursdays: National Democratic Congress
- Fridays: People's Alliance for Change



These articles will further be published on all our social media pages. We now call on you the readers to evaluate and give them feedback by commenting as follows:

For a party you would vote for, comment starting with: "Yes Vote" and add a very short reason if necessary

For a party you wouldn't vote for, comment starting with: "No Vote" and add a very brief reason if necessary

Voting wisely means understanding what you are voting for, know them now.

Supporting democracy from the home of investigative journalism

# Usyk vs Bellew: Oleksandr Usyk wants Anthony Joshua fight in 2019, says promoter Eddie Hearn

Oleksandr Usyk's team have expressed their desire for a heavyweight showdown with Anthony Joshua in 2019, promoter Eddie Hearn has confirmed. The Ukrainian holds ambitions of challenging for titles in the top division, but must first overcome Tony Bellew at Manchester Arena on Saturday night, live on Sky Sports Box Office, with all four of Usyk's world cruiserweight belts at stake. Matchroom Boxing boss Hearn has already secured a multi-fight deal with Usyk and admits he could become Joshua's second opponent next year, with the unified heavyweight champion due to make his first defence at Wembley Stadium on April 13. Asked when Usyk will move up to heavyweight, Hearn told Sky Sports: "After the Bellew fight. "Basically if Usyk wins this

fight, and probably if he loses this fight, he goes to heavyweight straight away. "That's [Joshua] the one

they want." Discussing a possible timescale for a Usyk fight, Hearn added: "Joshua will

only fight twice next year, so it will be the one after. "It won't be the first one, because I think Usyk

will want to fight at heavyweight first. There are loads of fights out there for him."

Joshua still hopes his opening fight of the year could be against Deontay Wilder, who defends his WBC title against Tyson Fury on December 1, while Dillian Whyte is also being considered as an alternative opponent for April. But 'AJ' has already identified a method to defeat Usyk, if they share the ring in the future, and believes fellow Brit Bellew can deliver a fight-ending punch this weekend. "Usyk is really like a perfect boxer," Joshua told Sky Sports. "I hope Bellew is working on his counter punches as well, because that's the way to knock him out I think. "Let him tippy tap, and get in his rhythm, and then just kind of explode. As we've seen, Bellew can counter punch, and he's got a dirty left hook on him. "If he can land that, I think he'll do well." SKYSPORTS



Juventus's Leonardo Bonucci scores an own goal, the second for Manchester United, in Wednesday night's UEFA Champions League match at the Allianz Stadium, in Turin. Photograph: Stefano Rellandini/Reuters

Manchester City needed no help to swat aside Shakhtar Donetsk 6-0 to move to the brink of the Champions League last 16, but got a boost with a farcical penalty award that led to even manager Pep Guardiola to call for the introduction of VAR. Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai remarkably pointed to the spot when Raheem Sterling tripped himself up as he bore down on goal midway through the first half with City already leading 1-0 through David Silva's opener. "It's not (a penalty)," said Guardiola. "VAR doesn't exist in UEFA so that is the problem." Despite some controversial calls, the use of video referees was largely deemed successful at the World Cup and will be introduced in the Champions League next season. However, Guardiola, who was sent to the stands for protesting a goal City had wrongly ruled out in a quarter-final elimination to Liverpool last season, called for it to be used in the competition this term. "The referee must be helped by the technology. It's not nice to score a goal in that (way) but it happened to us last season against Liverpool so the referee must be helped." Sterling also apologised

# Champions League needs VAR, says Guardiola as City gain from comical penalty

to Kassai after kicking the ground as he attempted to chip the ball goalwards. "I went to chip the ball and don't know what happened," said the England international. "I didn't feel contact. I scuffed the ball, apologies to the ref." Ahead of the game City had been in the news for the wrong reasons in recent days with a series of allegations published by German magazine Der Spiegel claiming the English champions attempted to bypass UEFA's Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations. Whatever storm clouds may be brewing in City's boardroom, it appears they can do no wrong on the field as they warmed up for the Manchester derby on Sunday by smashing six goals for the second time in four days.

A lack of atmosphere had been blamed for City's surprising record of three defeats in their previous

three Champions League games at home. The latest of those to Lyon in front of plenty of empty

seats at the Etihad in September has now been long forgotten as back-to-back victories over Shakhtar

and Hoffenheim have put City in a commanding position at the top of the group. AFP



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates with team mates after scoring their third goal defeating Viktoria Plzen 5-0 on Wednesday to move into a tie on points with AS Roma for the lead in Champions League Group G

# MBA president hails conduct of basketball players

*By Alex Chilumbwe*  
Midlands Basketball Association president Maziko Phiri has commended all the basketball teams affiliated to the association for their good conduct both on and off the court. He recalled that the 2017 season was full of petty fights and most games were

cancelled due to such fights that characterized them. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Phiri advised team officials and their players to maintain

their good conduct and serve as role models to the B league teams. "Last year our league was scandalous. We recorded a number of physical fights

and verbal ones to an extent where some players and officials were suspended. I'm glad to announce that 2018 has not recorded anything of this kind so

far," exclaimed Phiri. Phiri also revealed that all league games scheduled for the weekend had been postponed owing to lack of a venue.

He indicated that it was the second time league games had been postponed, and attributed the postponement to the volleyball association that had booked NASDEC for their three day long tournament. "I know teams may wonder why we have not opted for OYDC since it is not booked. That venue has doubled its fee for booking and the association relies on the participation fees that teams with games on each weekend pay. That is the same money we use to pay referees and staticians so if we stretch our financial capabilities, we will not be able to finish the league games," explained Phiri. Phiri added that the league games would resume next week on Friday.

## I can't be like Mwepu, says Mwepu

*By Alex Chilumbwe*  
I have had a hard time explaining to people that there is a difference between me having Enock Mwepu as my role model and wanting to be him, says Kafue Celtics striker, Francisco Mwepu. Francisco who is also part of the 25 man provisional local squad that is training for the Mambas encounter also appealed to soccer fans

in the country to learn to differentiate between him and his elder brother Enock who also played for Kafue Celtics before his blowup. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Francisco explained how the comparison between him and his brother made him feel. "It was all kind of frustrating at the start but now I am getting

used. The sad part is that soccer fans expect me to be an exact copy of my brother. I can only work as hard as he does because he gave me solid advice before my kind of play became attractive to a wider audience," Francisco said. Young Mwepu further noted that since his brother joined the Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg, he had been

put on a time machine as to when he would also rise to football fame. "You know it was going to put me under pressure if I took to heart anything I read on my social media page. Apparently I am supposed to do everything that my brother has and is doing in the football fraternity all at once. On the other hand, I trust the process so I am not going to be

hard on myself. It is part of the discipline that Enock taught me; keeping my mouth shut and letting my talent do the talking," summed Francisco. Francisco Mwepu is the only inclusion from Division one among the local provisional 25 man squad ahead of the AFCON qualifier game against Mozambique on November 17 in Mozambique.

*By Alex Chilumbwe*  
Zambia will not face Kenya at the Africa Women Championship after CAF reversed Equatorial Guinea's disqualification. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced yesterday Wednesday that Kenya who had been admitted after the disqualification of Equatorial Guinea will have to lose their slot. This means Zambia will now play Equatorial Guinea on November 18 in their opening match in a group that has Nigeria and South Africa. The CAF statement was availed to the media by FAZ yesterday. CAF STATEMENT: On November 7, 2018, the Appeal Board of Confédération Africaine de Football held a meeting in order to decide on the appeal of the Federación Ecuatoguineana de Fútbol of the decision of the Disciplinary Council of September 8, 2018. Regarding the eligibility protest against player Annette Jacky Messomo during the match no. 30 Equatorial Guinea vs Kenya played in the frame of the Total African Women's Cup of Nations 2018, the Appeal Board decided as follows: 1. The appeal lodged

by the Federación Ecuatoguineana de Fútbol is admissible; 2. The decision no 001-CAI-08.09.2018 is overruled; 3. The player Annette Jacky Messomo is eligible to play for the National Team of Equatorial Guinea; 4. The National Team of Equatorial Guinea is reintegrated in the Total African Women's

## Copper Queens to face Equatorial Guinea after Kenya loses slot

Cup of Nations 2018. Equatorial Guinea became the first nation other than Nigeria to win the Women's African Football Championship

in 2008. They made their international tournament debut at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup and lost all their three group stage

matches against Norway, Australia and Brazil. The Nzalang Nacional, (their official nickname) are the third women's team out of five from the

Confederation of African Football to qualify for a FIFA Women's World Cup with Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire being others.

## More netball players to boycott SA tournament

*By Alex Chilumbwe*  
The number of boycotting netball national team players has escalated to 10 as of yesterday, and this time the players are demanding for the disbanding of the netball association executive if the players are to honour the international duty call on November 27 in South Africa for the Diamond Challenge tournament. On Wednesday, five players vowed not to play for the national team until the netball association took care of their concerns that they said had been ignored for too long. The concerns range from low allowances, confiscating of donated kit and the general welfare of players at national team level. The new boycotting group has however noted that their grievances were unheard because the association executive had

overstayed in office and gotten comfortable. One player said the association had not been changed since 2009 when she got into active netball in the regular category. "I strongly believe that the executive has gotten too comfortable because they have held on to those posts for too long. We do not even know who elects them back into office; we just keep seeing the same faces all the time. Their livelihoods have improved because of netball while ours are in a sad state," lamented one player. Another one recalled the association treasurer's good intentions that were overshadowed by bad intentions of the other executive members. "There are instances when we see our treasurer take out of her pocket to help us but she cannot manage to help all the twelve players alone. Her colleagues have never emulated her good deeds;

all they think about is shopping for themselves. If we keep honouring the national team calls under such circumstances, we will retire from this game without single exhibit of its benefits for our children," bemoaned another one. Association president Getrude Mukumi when contacted for a comment, said she would issue a statement on the concerns raised by players in due time. Calls to reach the association general secretary went unanswered. Meanwhile, the netball national team is expected to travel to South Africa for the annual Diamond Challenge tournament on November 27. It kicks off on November 28 to December 1. The Zambia national team has not gotten into camp yet but Mukumi said she was positive the team will travel.

**By Alex Chilumbwe**  
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# SHEPOLOPOLO TO FACE GUINEA

*...after Kenya loses Africa Cup slot*



Reigning World Chess Champion Norway's Magnus Carlsen (L), and challenger US' Fabiano Caruana attend a press conference in London yesterday on the eve of the First Move Ceremony for the World Chess Championship 2018 Match. Norway's Magnus Carlsen will seek to cement his reputation as history's greatest chess player on Friday when he launches a defence of his crown against the first US title contender since Bobby Fischer in 1972. AFP

## Injured Coutinho out for two, three weeks

Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho has a muscle tear and will be out for two to three weeks, the Spanish La Liga giants said Thursday. "Tests undertaken on Thursday morning have confirmed that Philippe Coutinho has a small rupture in the femoral biceps of his left leg," Barcelona said. "He will be out for approximately two to three weeks."

The 26-year-old Brazilian will miss Sunday's clash against Real Betis. But the Catalan club, currently top of La Liga table, are expected to welcome star forward Lionel Messi back following a three-week absence with a broken arm. Coutinho will also miss Brazil's friendlies against Uruguay and Cameroon on November 16 and 20 respectively. AFP



LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers shoots the ball against the Toronto Raptors on November 4, 2018 at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California. AFP