

ZRA collected K10m on rent income from landlords - Mwanakatwe

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe says the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has so far collected K10.3 million from individual properties in withholding tax on rental income between January and June this year. *To page 3*

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No more houses for future former presidents - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says going forward, the law which mandates government to build houses for former Heads of State will be scrapped off.

And Rupiah Banda says he hopes other former heads of state can adopt his model of getting money from government and building their own houses. *To page 3*



President Edgar Lungu is joined by other government officials in handing over a retirement house to former president Rupiah Banda (c) in Lusaka's Makeni area yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry (State House)

Nakacinda takes over Felix Mutati's seat in Parliament

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Mangango loss shows UPND is finished - Pilgrim

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I'D FRANK TALK

WITH LUNGU

...we've agreed to heal Zambia - HH

By Mirriam Chabala
Hakainde Hichilema has sent a message of hope to citizens struggling with various economic challenges, pledging to liberate citizens from their struggle once he becomes Republican President. And Hichilema has described the private meeting he recently held with President Edgar Lungu ahead of the national political dialogue as "open, polite and frank". *To page 5*



By Zondiwe Mbewe

Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited has sued Dahamos Distributors Limited in the Lusaka High Court, demanding payment of over K2 million for the cooking oil supplied to the company.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Mount Meru stated that it was in the business manufacturing edible oils and stock feed.

It stated that under oral agreement entered between Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited and Dahamos Distributors Limited, the latter obtained

Mount Meru drags Dahamos to court over K2m debt

cooking oil from the former up to a limit K700,000, adding that Dahamos Distributors was supposed to pay for the cooking oil after a period of 30 days. Mount Meru further stated that Dahamos Distributors deposited bank transfer advice slips in their bank, which indicated that

Dahamos had advised their bank to transfer K700,000 into Mount Meru's account. "Dahamos Distributors Limited deposited bank transfer advice slips in Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited's bank. The bank transfer slips indicated that Dahamos Distributors Limited had

advised their bank to transfer K700,000 into Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited's account. The K700,000 transaction was supposed to be for the cooking oil that Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited would supply to Dahamos Distributors Limited," read the

statement of claim.

It stated that it then proceeded to supply and deliver the cooking oil to Dahamos Distributors Limited, but added that despite Dahamos' purported bank transfer advice slips; there was no money, which was transferred into their bank

account.

"Despite Dahamos Distributors Limited's purported bank transfer advice slips, there was no money, which was transferred into Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited's bank account," the statement further read. Mount Meru disclosed that as at March 30 this year, Dahamos Distributors owes it K2,077,159 for the supply and delivery of cooking oil.

"Despite several reminders and meetings, Dahamos Distributors Limited has neglected or refused to pay the K2,077,157 due to Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited. By reason of the defendants [Dahamos Distributors Limited] actions, the plaintiff [Mount Meru Millers Zambia Limited] has suffered loss and damages," read the statement of claim.

Mount Meru is now claiming K2,077,157 due from Dahamos Distributors Limited for the cooking oil supplied to it between June 1 last year, and March 30 this year, as well as costs.

China Jiangxi sues ZNFU over K342,338 debt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

China Jiangxi Corporation for International Economic and Technical Corporation Zambia Limited has dragged Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) to court for failing to settle K342,338 for the construction of an office block and conference facility.

China Jiangxi, which has sued Jervis Zimba in his capacity as ZNFU president, is also demanding payment of K350,052, retention payable after handing over the project.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, it stated that on July 21, 2012, the parties entered into a construction contract where the company was to construct ZNFU's two storey office block and conference facilities on Tiyende Pamodzi Road at the Lusaka Show ground. China Jiangxi stated that it was a term of contract that the contract price would be K14,002,109,999.54 and the contract period would be 53 calendar weeks.

"It was a further term of contract that the period of honouring payment certificates by the employer shall be a maximum of 21 days

from the day that the certificate is approved by the project manager and delivered to the employer and that delays in honouring payment certificates beyond 21 days shall attract interest at the rates established by the Bank of Zambia," read the statement of claim.

And China Jiangxi stated that in due performance of the contract, it handed over the facility to ZNFU in May, 2015 and a certificate of completion was duly issued.

It disclosed that in breach of the terms of the contract, ZNFU had neglected to settle the retention fee amounting to K350,052.75 and the outstanding sum of K342,338.68 for the main construction work, adding that as a result it had suffered loss and damage

"On January 5, 2015, upon execution of the certificate of practical completion by the parties, a sum of K350,052 which was the retention sum required to be paid one year after handing over the project by the plaintiff, should have been paid by the defendant to the plaintiff, but this has not been paid despite the office block having been handed over to the defendant in May, 2015," read the statement of claim.

"Despite taking possession of all the constructed office block and conference facility, the defendants have not also settled the final outstanding sum of K342,338.68 which should have been paid

28 days after issuance of certificate of completion despite repeated pleas to do so.

China Jiangxi now claims settlement of K350,052.75, the retention payable after handling over of a project,

settlement of the sum of K342,338.68 being outstanding balance due which should have been settled 28 days after issuance of certificate of completion, damages, interest on all sums found due and costs.

Lusaka woman gets 2 years for stealing TV

By Mukosha Funga

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a former Food and Beverages supervisor at Water Falls Hotel to two years imprisonment for stealing a Samsung LG plasma worth K3,900, property of her former employers.

In this matter, Violet Moono, 25, of Lusaka's Kaunda Square was charged with theft by servant.

Particulars of the offence were that on November 10, 2018, Moono, being employed as a Food and Beverages supervisor at Water Falls hotel, allegedly stole a Samsung LG plasma television worth K3,900, the property of her employers.

When the matter came up for plea before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Thursday, Moono admitted stealing the TV.

"Yes, I stole it," Moono said.

Asked why she stole, Moono said that it was because she did not have a television at home.

Facts in this matter are that; on

the material day, a maintenance supervisor at Water Falls Hotel received a report of a missing 32 inch Samsung plasma television from room six.

The matter was then reported to the hotel's security department which later instituted investigations into the matter.

It was then discovered that the missing television was at Moono's house and it was recovered.

"Officials from the security department called all the workers and interviewed them over the missing television. Moono and the rest of the workers expressed ignorance about the missing television. The matter was reported to Chelstone Police Station where investigations linked Moono to the missing television. An employee at Water Falls Hotel informed the police that the missing television was at Moono's place. The television was recovered from Moono's house," read the facts.

In mitigation, Moono asked for forgiveness saying she kept her mother and was paying school fees for her young sister.

"I would like to apologise for the inconvenience I caused. I keep my mum and pay school fees for my younger sister," she said.

However, magistrate Chanda said theft by servant was a very serious offence which could not go unpunished.

She added that she was sure that the theft had been going on for a long time.

"Stealing from your employers is a very serious offence because your company entrusts you with their property. I'm sure this has been going on for a long time," she said. Magistrate Chanda said she had to punish Moono to deter would be offenders.

She therefore sentenced her to two years imprisonment.

After the sentence was passed, Moono was seen crying.

No more houses for future former presidents, says Lungu as he hands over RB's mansion

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says going forward, the law which mandates government to build houses for former Heads of State will be scrapped off.

And former president Rupiah Banda says he hopes other former heads of state can adopt his model of getting money from government instead and building their own houses.

Speaking when he handed over Banda's retirement house in Makeni, Thursday, President Lungu said the law would be scrapped off because it disadvantaged others who served in government.

"Let me extend my apologies to all families of former presidents for the delay in completing retirement houses. Let me also assure the families of the Zambian people that government will endeavour to complete houses at the earliest

possible time. Therefore, I wish to direct all institutions involved to expedite the processes involved as our aim is to complete all former presidents' retirement houses as soon as possible. I wish to note that government has been paying rentals for transit homes for all the former presidents' families, this is as the families await the completion of retirement houses. As I have said, it is my government's duty to ensure that all former presidents are comfortable in accordance with the provisions of the law and the law, we will respect," President Lungu said.

"Further, I wish to reiterate my earlier pronouncement that government will not build me a retirement house even though it is a constitutional requirement. I have my own money and I can build my own house. And going forward, we will scrap this law because I have seen

that equity does not seem to be applied when we are dealing with retired leaders. Dr Kaunda had deputies, where are they in the picture of retirement? Mr Rupiah Banda had his deputies, where are they? The success that these two great leaders contributed to Zambia was not personal, the success was because they are working as a college, collectively. So going forward, this law, unfortunately will be scrapped, we want to find a much more equitable retirement package for all those who have been serving the public."

He said he recently visited veteran freedom fighter and UNIP secretary general Grey Zulu whom he felt was not living comfortably enough, compared to Dr Kaunda. "Only the other day, I went to visit Mr Grey Zulu, he is relatively comfortable. But I think he wasn't the only one who worked with Dr Kaunda, there

are others, so many, it is a good scheme but I think it has not been applied properly. Let's apply it equitably, that's what I am saying. When I became President in 2015 I said so and somebody said, 'no, you are not entitled to a house because you have only served one year six months, you are not eligible because that's not a term'. When the matter came again, they said 'you have served one term already, so you are not going to come back again in 2021', anyway, that's politics but for housing purposes, I am saying no more houses," said President Lungu.

But former Banda said he hoped other former heads of state can adopt his model of getting money from government and being in charge of constructing their houses. "My highest gratitude must be reserved for His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu,

the President of the great Republic. Your Excellency, right from the start, you showed not only personal interest in the successful completion of this project but also as a sitting president, you were able to propose a new and more progressive approach on the broader question of how former Heads of State retirement should be dealt with going forward. Your Excellency, you went out of your way to accommodate my proposals for doing this project differently from what was the practice before," he said.

"Whereas previously and by statute, the state was the one that was completely in charge of the entire process of procurement of all services, including the selection of architects, construction company and supervision of such projects. In my particular case, you allowed me to choose my own architect, contract a construction company and I was able

to personally supervise the construction from start to finish in very close collaboration with the line government ministries who were always ready, when I called them, to come and assist me. I can only hope that other retirement homes for former presidents that are yet to be completed... I am aware of the fact that many of them have left us, but I hope that the system will apply and that they could benefit from this model so that surviving families can see their houses being completed more expeditiously and to their satisfaction."

He said President Lungu must have been feeling proud to be handing over his retirement house.

"What is happening to me here today, me and my family, has happened to me before when I was vice-president. I was privileged to be instructed by president Mwanawasa to hand over the presidential house to Dr Kaunda the first president. I recall my feelings then and I said it loudly then, I will say it again, because I guess that's how you are feeling. I felt greatly honoured that it was me who had to hand over the house to Dr Kaunda, the father of this nation, I felt like his son, his elder son who has built a house for him and is handing it over to his father. I am sure some kind of that feeling is in you Mr President, knowing how much you care, not only for me but for all the former presidents. It must be a great feeling for you because it was a great feeling for me," said Banda.

ZRA collected K10m in rental income tax from landlords – Mwanakatwe

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Finance Margaret Mwanakatwe says the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has so far collected K10.3 million from individual properties in withholding tax on rental income between January and June this year. Mwanakatwe was responding to Nangoma Independent member of parliament Boyd Hamusonde during questions for oral answer in Parliament, Wednesday, who asked: "(i) how much revenue government collected in form of withholding tax on rental income on commercial properties countrywide from January, 2016 to June, 2018, year-by-year; (ii) how much revenue in form of tax on rental income on residential properties is collected on average per month; (iii) what the total number of rented commercial and residential properties captured by the Zambia Revenue Authority as of 30th May, 2018, was; and (iv) what measures

government is taking to increase the collection of withholding tax on rented properties."

In response Mwanakatwe, who is also Lusaka Central PF member of parliament, said government collected a total of K124.9 million in revenue from properties occupied by commercial entities for the period January to June, 2018. She added that the total amount of revenue collected from individual properties was K10.3 million for January to June 2018, whereas, the average number of tax payers that paid withholding tax on rentals in this period was 4,504.

"The total amount of revenue collected from properties occupied by commercial entities was K124.9 million for the period, January to June, 2018; K255.9 million in 2017 and K328.3 million in 2016. The total amount of revenue collected from individual properties occupied by individuals was K10.3 million for

January to June, 2018. K19.9 million in 2017 and K17.8 million in 2016. The average number of tax payers that paid withholding tax on rentals in this period was 4,504 of which 2,531 were companies and 1,973 were individuals," Mwanakatwe narrated.

She further said ZRA had engaged a tax agent to facilitate the collection of tax on rental income.

Mwanakatwe added that the agent, which is currently working on a commission basis, would help in identifying and registering more tax payers who were renting out their properties.

"Zambia Revenue Authority has engaged a tax agent to facilitate the collection of tax on rental income. The appointed agent will help in identifying and

registering more tax payers who are renting out their properties; commercial and residential. The agent is working on commission basis depending on how many tax payers they will bring on board. These efforts will also be complemented by other initiatives, such as the use of third-party data aimed at registering more tax payers," explained Mwanakatwe.

UNZA student in court for trafficking in marijuana

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A University of Zambia student has been dragged to court for allegedly trafficking in over nine kilogrammes of marijuana and being in possession of 0.2 grammes of Diazepam.

In this matter, Allan Muvundo a Special Education and History student, is charged with three counts of trafficking and being in possession

of psychotropic substances, as well as unlawful wounding.

He has however denied the charges.

In count one, it is alleged that on November 12 this year, Muvundo trafficked on 9.918 kilogrammes of marijuana without lawful authority.

In count two, it is alleged that on the same date, Muvundo had in his possession 0.2 grammes of Diazepam drug.

In count three, it is alleged that on the same date, Muvundo unlawfully wounded Jerry Chiwambo.

And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Thursday, Muvundo said he understood the charges but denied committing the offences.

The matter has been adjourned to November 29 this year, for commencement of trial.

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By Mirriam Chabala

UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema has sent a message of hope to all Zambians struggling with various economic challenges, pledging to liberate citizens from their struggle once he becomes Republican President.

And Hichilema has thanked some members of the Patriotic Front, who he said called him on the phone to give messages of good will as he appeared before the Ndola Central Police Division for questioning on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Hichilema has described the private meeting he recently held with President Edgar Lungu ahead of the national political dialogue as "open, polite and frank".

Addressing a press briefing in Lusaka, Thursday, Hichilema acknowledged that he was aware of all the

Don't lose hope, HH tells Zambians; I had frank talk with Lungu

challenges that Zambians were facing due to the harsh economy and assured them that things would get better soon.

"With all the challenges that we have in our country, I am here to give you a message that do not lose hope because a better tomorrow is around the corner, and there is no doubt about that for me. The reason why I

do what I do, the reason I chose to seek public office is because I know that you can have a better life as citizens of Zambia. I know that God gave us more than our fair share of resources. I know that we can work with these resources to make your lives better. I know that our singular duty as leaders is to take our people back to work, our youths who are

unemployed, do not lose hope," Hichilema said.

"Our women who have lost their small businesses, you must not lose hope, you must retain your hope because we exist, we stand for you even under difficult circumstances because we know that you come first. I am aware, as a businessperson, that your lives will be better very

soon. I am aware that that young guy who is not in school today can be taken to a classroom tomorrow, and not just to learn academic subjects, but also to be taught life skills. I know you've been asking that when is this going to happen. It's soon. You just know that it is soon."

And Hichilema thanked everyone, including those in PF who wished him well on Tuesday this week, when he appeared before the Ndola Police Divisional Headquarters for questioning on alleged seditious practices.

"This police call-out generated mixed feelings, anxiety amongst the people, fear amongst some people and it is also true to say anger amongst other people. People were reminding themselves of what could happen, that Tuesday in Ndola. So, the air towards Tuesday was heavy in Ndola, you could touch it, you could feel it in your hands. The nation's ears, eyes and minds were drawn to the Copperbelt, undoubtedly. Some people were just calling me on the phone without saying anything, but cry. Others would insult, but what I am trying to say is that several people reacted differently. There is no doubt that Tuesday could have turned out very ugly had police allowed things to go out of hand. But I must say that the police conducted themselves very professionally and I commend them for that," Hichilema said.

"I also want to thank all of you; I want to thank the citizens of this country for conducting yourselves well before, on Tuesday and after Tuesday. It is my duty and I shall say it here that for the first time. I am not sure whether it was the fear or the worry of what Tuesday might have become, very surprising to many, but I am not surprised that we received a lot of calls from PF members, known PF members giving us their encouragement and basically accepting that the country needed to be reconstructed and that we can only do it together, that's a milestone. It is an indication that citizens of this country are beginning to accept that they should

not be divided by artificial or imaginary lines. They are one people and they suffer the same consequences, they suffer the same economic challenges. So, it is our duty to help bring our country together. So, thank you to those members of PF, and I am aware that others are just afraid to say anything in case they are misunderstood."

Meanwhile, Hichilema described the private meeting he recently held with President Edgar Lungu ahead of the national political dialogue as "open, polite and frank".

"I wish to confirm to all our members, supporters and other citizens across the country that after a long wait, as you may have heard, the country now has agreed that dialogue is essential in order to deal with many challenges that affect our country. It is agreed that the Church mother bodies shall lead the dialogue process. I want to thank the Church leaders for accepting to undertake this obligation. A few days ago, I met my colleague, ECL, for us to talk about the importance of dialogue and that we cannot pull our legs anymore. We cannot continue to have the luxury of living ordinary lives in our homes when citizens are hurting and I am glad to say to you that the meeting was open, polite but also frank, very frank. We agreed that we must provide leadership in our country at this moment and the dialogue process was one platform that we needed to utilise effectively," revealed Hichilema.

"We agreed that we will go to this dialogue process without any pre-conditions. Everything that is hurting our people will be brought to the table and we, as two leaders working with the Church, should be able to agree on something that will benefit our people, not anyone of us as individuals. We were also able to touch on things that need to be dealt with in order to bring this country to normalcy. Amongst the things that we said needed to be dealt with is to end violence in our communities. This dialogue should be about issues that will heal our nation and allow us to choose leaders not because of the ethnicity we belong to, or the Church we go to, but because of substance. And what's that substance? To deliver for the people of Zambia. So, I ask all the UPND members to give this dialogue process a chance, let's give it our support. I also don't expect anyone to hide behind the dialogue process to do ugly things. Neither should anyone hide behind the dialogue process to continue the old bad habits that are bringing conflicts in our country."



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The content is very practical. The challenge is now on us to go back to our offices to implement the principles that have been shared here.
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Above everything else, I highly valued the practical examples used during the training. We plan to send many other managers for John Maxwell training.
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I thought I would be going out to attend to my office work, but once it started, I knew I could not afford to miss any of it - I had to stay right through it!
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Fixing the System – Governance!

By Gerald Pule Mulao

When people look at the government they must view it as a solution provider and development partner in the advancement of their lives. Government shouldn't be viewed as a facilitator of corruption for the enrichment of a few people. It shouldn't be a dumping ground for people who have been employed due to their links within the system. The government must not be synonymous with inefficiency, nepotism and corruption.

Reforms

A PAC government will reform and restructure the government in order to bring about efficiency and minimisation of costs. The PAC government will outsource some government functions that do not form the core of running the government. This will be in an effort to ensure that government focuses on its core business; and that is to reduce costs, empower entrepreneurs to run these functions and also stamp out corruption. The PAC will put in place systems that will ensure the civil service operates efficiently. This will include implementing modern information technology techniques to improve the flow of service delivery in the civil service.

A PAC government will be a lean and entrepreneur driven government. Its cabinet shall be led by the President of the Republic of Zambia as overall presiding officer over the nation's affairs. There shall be a Vice President who will deputise the President and preside over Government Business in the National Assembly of Zambia.

The Vice President's main focal area will be Empowerment and Employment in addition to other responsibilities. The PAC government will focus its greatest attention where the need is greatest even as we will push for reforms and restructuring in all areas of governance. PAC has identified empowerment and employment as the main focal point and hence will be driven by the Vice President instead of a Minister. This is to ensure that this critical area of need receives the attention that it deserves.

2. Permanent Secretaries

A Permanent Secretary (PS) is supposed to be the Chief Executive Officer of a Ministry. A PS is at the very core of government operations. Permanent secretaries must therefore be adequately qualified to manage

the functions of the particular Ministries where they are appointed. However, what is obtaining is exactly the opposite. Many Permanent Secretaries are not appointed based on merit but rather based on relationships or connections to the ruling party. This has been exhibited in successive governments, and it has hampered real transformation in the functioning of the government.

Government systems have remained stagnant due to lack of adequately qualified personnel to manage the challenges. Many appointed government officials are politically connected. In as much as any leader must work with a loyal team, as PAC we believe that that team must be qualified for the benefit of this country. Government structures have remained obsolete and have failed to deliver services on time and fairly. Currently, it's not about what you need; it's about who you know. Our politics have been negatively affected. Most government appointments are based on paying back favours and enriching the inner circle to the detriment of the poor majority.

Reforms

In order to bring about reforms in the way government operates the PAC will ensure that a competent public service commission advertises for all appointments of Permanent Secretaries. The President will only be furnished with a short list of the best candidates to choose from to appoint. The PAC will put in laws that will make it difficult to fire Permanent Secretaries that meet their performance management targets. All Permanent Secretaries applying for jobs will be required to bring forward a thesis that describes how they will transform that particular Ministry and how they can ensure government improves service delivery once they are appointed. Key to this will be cost effective, efficient and optimum service delivery.

Diplomatic Mission

Diplomats that have been appointed to various missions have just gone there to warm seats and do business as usual. Most of them like any other political appointments have not been appointed on merit but based on personal connections with people in politics. There is also no clearly laid out plan to ascertain exactly what's to be achieved in various missions especially where there is

opportunity.

Reforms

The PAC government will ensure self-driven individuals are appointed as Ambassadors and High Commissioners in various missions. The PAC will also ensure that missions with areas of particular interest and prospects are properly equipped to ensure the opportunities yield optimum benefit for the republic of Zambia. The PAC will appoint Diplomats who are trade oriented as opposed to being there just registering presence. This will work hand in hand with our plan of opening export markets. Missions must be able to open opportunities for various businesses for Zambians and on the other side channel investors to Zambia.

Opportunities

Hence, there will be proper coordination between the government and missions to ensure that opportunities opened are tapped and investors attracted are made to invest. The PAC government will restructure all its diplomatic missions to ensure that they are reflective of the needs of today.

The PAC will focus on opening markets for Zambians in other countries in order to diversify the economy especially to Agriculture. This is where Zambian farmers can crop diversify and focus on farming products that are needed in certain countries. It will also create an opportunity for manufacturing industries to export finished products to these countries. This will bring about sustainable empowerment programs where the diplomatic missions will ensure there are readily available markets for particular products and services. Diplomatic missions will also ensure Zambians in those countries operate within the confines of the law and within trade agreements signed. This will help missions to adequately protect businesses in countries where the business environment might be volatile.

The Republican President will spearhead all trade agreements are signed between Zambian and other countries.

In the final article of fixing the system we shall tackle reforms in the fight against corruption.

Gerald Pule Mulao

Secretary General

People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

Obtaining a loan in Zambia is suicidal, laments Kamboni

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Getting a loan in Zambia is as good as tying a rope around your neck because interest rates are the highest in the region, says Kalomo Central UPND member of parliament Harry Kamboni.

And Kamboni says the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry is as "silent as water," yet it is meant to help with job creation.

Debating the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in Parliament, Wednesday, Kamboni observed that if the Ministry, headed by Malole member of parliament Christopher Yaluma, was vibrant, it could solve most economic challenges in the country, but has remained quiet.

"This Ministry is as silent as water and yet this is a Ministry that would help create jobs. This is a Ministry which can solve most of the problems the youths are facing, including the old. We have a crisis of jobs in this country! If this Ministry was vibrant, it could solve most of the problems the country is facing. Unfortunately, it's quiet as if it doesn't even exist," Kamboni observed.

And he said doing business in Zambia was the most difficult thing one could ever do,

adding that getting a loan was as good as tying a rope around one's neck due to high interest rates on loan facilities.

Commercial banks' nominal average lending rates have only marginally reduced to around 23 per cent in the third quarter from 24.3 per cent in June, according to Bank of Zambia data.

"It is difficult because the environment is very hostile. Once you want to do business, you will be terribly bruised. You look for the source of money, which is capital, the interest rates are terrible! Getting a loan in Zambia, now, is as good as putting a rope around your neck, as if you want to commit suicide! The interest rates are the highest in the region. Let's say you get a loan to build a hotel, before you even finish building, you will have paid so much interest! The same loan you got would have gone back to pay the interest. The Ministry of Commerce is quiet," he lamented.

Meanwhile, Kamboni said high taxes were also discouraging business in Zambia.

"One area that is discouraging businessmen is tax. Even getting licenses is terrible. When you open a guest house, the council will come: 'you need a license from us for you to

do business'; tomorrow the Ministry of Tourism will also come: 'you are operating illegally, you need a license'; you will have six, seven categories coming. That discourages any businessman. The taxes that businessmen are paying are too much! And when investors come, they end up going to other countries leaving this country," he argued. Kamboni urged the Ministry of Commerce to sit down with other ministries that were involved in introducing

Statutory Instruments (SI's) and ensure that the environment for doing business was conducive.

"The first thing the Ministry of Commerce should do is to sit with all the ministries that are involved in putting these SI's. Sit down and make sure that the environment for doing business is conducive. In this country, we need economic engineers, otherwise, what we have now does not give any hope," complained Kamboni



UPND's Mangango loss sign of diminishing opposition fortunes, observes Pilgrim

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Former UPND vice-president for politics Dr Canisius Banda says UPND's loss in Mangango constituency is evidence of diminishing fortunes for the opposition and a sign that though citizens might be facing difficulties, they still have confidence in PF.

And Dr Banda says this is a wake up call for the opposition to relook at their campaign methods, instead of using scare

tactics and peddling lies. In an interview with News Diggers! Dr Banda observed that though things were tough, citizens didn't want to change government because they still had confidence in the ruling party.

"Citizens are saying that things are tough. But though things are tough, we do not want to change the government. We want this same government which is governing today

to address our concerns. The loss of that seat by the UPND is evidence of diminishing fortunes for the opposition. That the citizens do not have confidence in the opposition parties. It's a sign that though citizens might be facing difficulties, they have confidence in the ruling party," Banda said.

"The confidence the citizens have in the ruling party is ever rising despite many challenges that they

may face today. This is a sign that if the opposition continues on this path, 2021 will belong to the PF. The PF are likely to win again."

He urged the opposition to focus on speaking for the people instead of peddling lies.

"This is a wake up call for the opposition to relook at their campaign methods instead of using scare tactics and peddling lies. Perhaps they should focus on speaking for the people and tackling issues. They were saying that ZESCO has been sold, ZNBC has been sold, ZAFFICO has been sold, the Chinese have taken over Zambia. That's what the UPND and other parties have been saying, scaring the citizens. Which isn't working. They must speak the truth," said Banda.

"For example today, the quantity of money in the citizen's pockets is less than expected. So the opposition should be focusing on the government putting in place measures to cushion the austerity which is in place at the moment. Speaking on behalf of the citizens."

Lungu nominates Nakacinda to Parley

By Zondiwe Mbewe

President Edgar Lungu has nominated dismissed Felix Mutati's MMD national secretary Raphael Nakacinda to parliament.

Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda announced this to journalists, Thursday, saying this was in the spirit of sustaining the alliance

between the PF and MMD.

Chanda said Nakacinda accepted the nomination and he will take oath of office this afternoon.

"This morning, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu nominated Mr Rapheal Nakacinda, the MMD national secretary, he has nominated him to parliament with immediate effect and he will take

oath of office before Mr Speaker this afternoon. The nomination is in the spirit of sustaining the very important alliance between the ruling Patriotic Front and the MMD. The letter nominating honorable Nakacinda has since been delivered to him and Honorable Mr Speaker has been informed of that decision and formalities are underway for

Honorable Rapheal Nakacinda to take oath," said Chanda.

"He has thanked the President for the trust and honor and the President has thanked him for the magnanimity he has shown to serve the country and he has promised to do his very best to advance not just national interest but also the spirit of alliance which is between the PF the MMD."

A week ago when he featured on Hot FM Radio, former justice minister Mr Wynter Kabimba State Counsel said he stopped buying or reading newspapers in Zambia because they have nothing to offer him. The former secretary general of the ruling Patriotic Front added that he avoids print media journalists who like to call him so that he can join those that are practising politics of insults like Mr Chishimba Kambwili.

“Everybody’s ideology is about insults and how to humiliate and demean someone else across there, and you, the press, has contributed. You also think that the only way you can sell the image of your station is by bringing someone here who is calling everybody ‘Pompwe’, ‘nibakabolala aba, ba pompwe (they are thieves, despicable thieves), they are corrupt’, and everyone is cheering ‘eee eee eee this is the message’, and you start running that as a headline throughout the day, as if it changes the price of oil in Iraq. Print media, same, if they don’t put a sensational headline, they think nobody will buy it,” observed State Counsel Kabimba.

“During Michael Sata’s time,” he continued, “when you saw the name ‘Sata’ in the headline, whatever it was they said about him, you bought The Post. That culture has continued. I have stopped buying the print media myself in this country; there is nothing that they can tell me that I can learn from them. I don’t want to be covered for insults. And you know what I tell

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Wynter’s convenient dislike for print media

some reporters when they phone me? I tell them ‘try ba Kambwili, not me on that one.’”

We would like to start by appreciating the criticism from the learned State Counsel. We believe his message is simply that, we who produce newspapers must not be carried away by the foul language of politicians in order to sell our news. He is advising us to follow the issues and give sober debates priority space in our packaging of news. This is good counsel from a man whom we respect so much, and we embrace it.

But we will be dying inside if we pretend that we don’t take issue with the packaging of his criticism for the media that is always there to give him a platform on which he contributes to national debate. We were taken aback to hear that this is how useless and inconsequential we are as newspapers to his political career.

It would have been less

painful to hear this from a riff-raff who has no clear identity in the country and knows nothing about the importance of an independent press that exercises its freedom in news judgement. Hearing this condemnation from a man, who wants to be Republican President in less than three years’ time, was depressing. We expected that State Counsel would know that newspapers give space to as many voices as possible in order to broaden the discourse.

To be honest, this is not the Wynter Kabimba we have known for years – a man who has taught us so many valued life lessons as we developed our careers covering him as a news source. Surely, there is something very serious that we don’t know that is happening to learned State Counsel, and we can’t wait for whatever that is to be unveiled so that our minds can stop speculating.

By the way, we have

difficulties believing that comrade State Counsel Kabimba doesn’t buy or read newspapers at all, because when we make mistakes in any of our stories, he is one of those respected sources who call to say: ‘you have used a wrong word there, the correct word is this one’. So, we think he takes his time to read newspapers because that’s what intellectuals do to stay informed. But assuming that he truly finds newspapers so useless and uninformative, we don’t think it was in his best interest to go on radio and denounce the press in that manner.

We have an idea what is going on here. This dislike for print media that comrade learned State Counsel Kabimba is exhibiting is convenient for him because it suits the slow lane in which he finds himself politically. We believe that Mr Kabimba has taken his political career to the drawing board before he relaunches

himself with vigour again; and while he is in that position, he can afford to find all sorts of excuses for denouncing the free press.

His disgust for Honourable Chishimba Kambwili’s language is one such excuse that we can’t buy for his dislike of the print media. Why do we say this? Well, because there is nothing that Honourable Kambwili is saying against the Patriotic Front and President Edgar Lungu, that himself Mr Kabimba didn’t say about the MMD and former president Rupiah Banda.

In case anyone has forgotten out there, State Counsel Kabimba is the PF Secretary General who led Parliament into removing Mr Banda’s immunity from prosecution because he believed the former president was a corrupt criminal who had looted public resources with the help of his children. This information is still recorded in public domain because comrade Kabimba

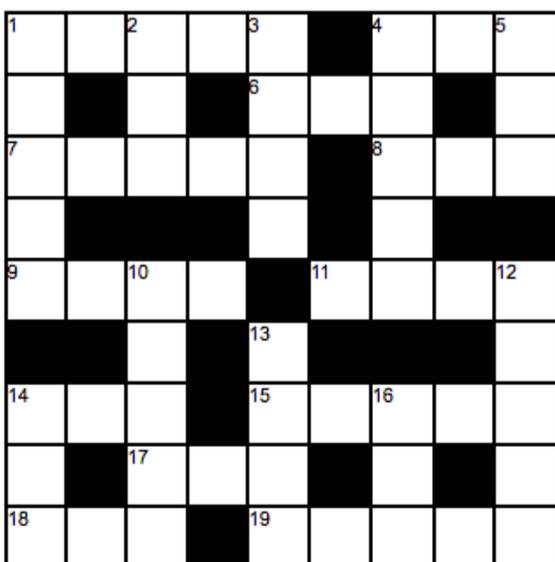
used every opportunity he got on radio, television and newspapers to talk about the “criminality of Rupiah Banda”. Yes, he used newspapers to campaign against the MMD until it was defeated and he used newspapers to expose the alleged criminality of its defeated leader.

That is not all, before he was fired by Michael Sata, the former justice minister used newspapers to wage his battle against his arch political rival in the name of Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba who was Defence Minister at the time. The fight that these two had was worse than the battle of words that Honourable Kambwili is engaging in with the PF, because people died in those violent clashes. We are not suggesting that Mr Kabimba threw a stone at GBM’s camp, but his supporters did.

So, when we look back, we find that Mr Kabimba has been involved in more fierce and deadly political battles, and he has also gone to great lengths accusing a political rival of theft and corruption. Why then is he so disgusted that this man called Chishimba Kambwili is being given too much space to accuse President Lungu of being a pompwe, a thief? Kaya!

Once again, we have embraced the counsel from the learned comrade. But we hope that when the newspapers he dislikes today become of better use tomorrow or in 2021, he will be able to go back on radio and appreciate our small efforts in this thankless job of giving a voice to the voiceless.

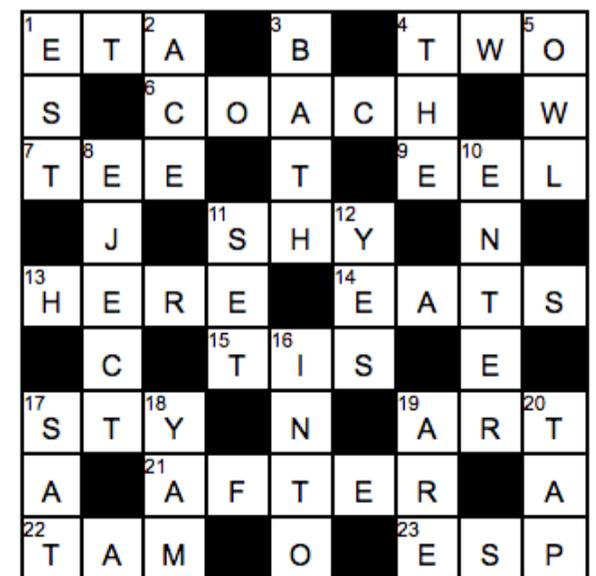
Crossword puzzle 237



“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

- | Across | Down |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Elude | 1. Hot coal |
| 4. Unhappy | 2. Beer |
| 6. Rainbow shape | 3. Simple |
| 7. Grace word | 4. Place of action |
| 8. Type of tree | 5. Make less bright |
| 9. Not common | 10. Royal domain |
| 11. Fender damage | 12. Current style or fashion |
| 14. Constrictor snake | 13. Aid in wrongdoing |
| 15. Flame | 14. Poker action |
| 17. Tell a mistruth | 16. Had eaten |
| 18. Type of cat | |
| 19. Shoe bottom | |

Solutions to puzzle 236



Reader's feedback

'Siliya better deliver ATI Bill, PF will soon be in opposition'

Dear Editor,
 "Deliver it! Very soon, you will be in opposition..." - Mukaba Mukaba Jr.

"Long overdue! HH and indeed the whole public would not even have to be intimidated for their revelations." - Martin Nyanjagha

"But why being tired when it is not the news for the government, but for consumers? Useless Minister I have ever seen!" - Lastone Kazwemu

"And what information do we pay for your ZNBC?" - Mwanamoya Kayebeta

"This is also fake news about you bringing the ATI!" - Nelson Chushi Banda

"Aren't you resigning, madam?" - Ben Chibwe

Amos on Kambwili being 'mad'

Editor,
 "Amos, just come out in the open and admit that Kambwili

has something on you guys. HH just opens his mouth to breath....summoned.

Kambwili has been saying all kinds of unpalatable stuff about you guys, but he has 'free man of the city' status. Talk about biasness." - John Mufichani

"But is his language any different from Kambwili? How do you call another person mad...?" - Ernest Mutale

"I have never seen a spokesperson to the President who has vulgar language like our current one! So, Dickson Jere and George Chellah can't advise this man how to handle issues?" - Nason Nasonizhio Mpundu

"Amos, you won't be in power forever; you will also faint when picked up by police!" - Boyd Moonga

"Even you, your time to faint will come! It's sweet now, but just wait." - Mwengo K. Anthony

"Chandra, the civil servant. You have really worked hard to lower the integrity of the Presidency. I had high hopes that you were going to perform better than your predecessor..." - Jibambo Kafwilapanembo

"If the Chinese are going back, that is excellent news! Deep down, Amos knows the Chinses don't mean well, and aren't welcome. But then, he who survives by dancing, ought to listen very hard and understand the music." - Given Hamoonga



Cops' arrest of ZANIS reporter for filming Hichilema in Ndola

Editor,

"Our country is in the hands of wrong people; arresting someone who is doing his job where he earns his living? Please release the journalist!" - Ogifer Siamankumumu

"Allow the media do their job, please! And why block the lawyers?" - Tatila Tatila

"Why is the police becoming so overzealous lately? What crime is it to film somebody? How are we going to know what is obtaining in the country if the media is not allowed to operate freely? Makes sad reading." - Bismarck Liffumbela

"I feel sorry for the ZANIS reporter." - Kelvin Mukube

"Cry my beloved country! Dictatorship is really taking root. No more freedom of speech." - Thamanga Udeye

"Why arrest an innocent journalist

helping us see what's happening in Ndola?" - Shepherd Shadunka

"Sad development." - Evangelist Petros Muluba

"Honestly, what is this all about?" -

Emmanuel Fulawulu

"May the good God Almighty protect you, HH. Remember, David, Daniel, Joseph; they suffered for others. I have seen that truly you are a selfless leader." - Prince Simon Jr.

'Lungu, HH's meeting long overdue!'

Editor,

"Oh, this is wonderful news! Please give us an early Christmas present with an announcement of narrowing down the differences. And I hope ECL can gag the anti-reconciliation and dialogue toxic trio of Davies Mwila, Antonio and Sunday so that the cordial atmosphere can filter down to both parties' general membership. Ordinary Zambians are sick and tired of these 'cat and mouse' games between PF & UPND!" - Mike Phiri
 "Long overdue! Zambia needs peace." - Mutinta Mulonda

"Good news! Some political sadists may be gnashing their dirty teeth!" - Kangumu Lifalalo

"Very wise to have concealed the meeting. One Zambia, one nation." - Alfred Ntuntu

"Back to the Zambia I know. Feels good to be back, gentlemen!" - Bo Wamu

"I hope this is not just rhetoric and lip service. It must be a genuine process where both leaders are committed to uphold honesty and integrity without treachery, trickery and hypocrisy." - Ackim Mwanamuzenge Neene

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday sent away Fisheries and Livestock Permanent Secretary Dr David Shamulenge after he attempted to submit a disorganised document.

And ministry Acting Director of Finance Vincent Mwaba angered committee Chairperson Howard Kunda when he said the attached appendixes were only available for audit verification by the auditors and not by the committee. This was when Dr Shamulenge and his battalion of 27 supporting staff members appeared before the named committee to respond to audit queries cited in the Auditor General's report for the financial year ended 31st December, 2017.

After being given the opportunity to present his submission to the committee, Dr Shamulenge started by apologising for making a submission which had untagged appendixes.

"Thank you very much chair [but] firstly I would like to extend my apologies [because] our

PAC sends away disorganised Fisheries PS Shamulenge

appendixes are not tagged. We would want the committee to bear with us. I wanted to mention this," Dr Shamulenge apologized.

Then Kunda wondered why the PS could not control the mistake before appearing before his committee.

"But PS, when you know that you are supposed to do this, why are you not doing it? You come here to come and apologise? [or] have you just realised that this is the position? or is it that you are just going through now and you have just seen that your appendixes are not tagged? And it's very difficult to follow. Are you just seeing it now?" Kunda asked.

Dr Shamulenge responded by saying the mistake was noticed earlier before and that he thought it was already corrected.

"No honourable chair. I've been conducting the

meetings with this [and] so I expected them to be tagged. We want to apologise," he responded. Dr Shamulenge was then queried on the 14 missing payment vouchers in amounts totalling K17,780 which were not available for audits at Serenje district fisheries and livestock coordinating offices.

"I wish to submit that the payment vouchers are missing because there was suspected fraud by the responsible officer in question. The officer was suspended on 16th June, 2017 following the allegation of forgery and uttering false documents. The matter was later reported to police under the criminal investigation department (anti-fraud unit). According to the police report dated 10th June, 2018, he was interviewed in connection with the matter and he did not give satisfactory

answers. He was later charged and arrested for forgery and uttering false documents and theft by public servant and will appear in court soon."

Then Senga Hill constituency member PF of parliament Kapembwa Simbao interrupted the proceeding and said he was finding difficulties to find the appendixes.

"I am worried on page two which is on what he is reading, at the end there, there is a statement that 'available for audit verification' but I don't know where these records are because they are not indicated on what appendix. Why I am raising this is because it has repeated on page three. So now what do you expect us to do if we are not being told where to go to see where these things are?" Simbao asked.

This was at a point when acting Director of Finance Vincent Mwaba chipped

in to assist his boss and in trying to do so angered Kunda when he said that the appendixes were bulky and only available to the auditors and not the committee.

"These documents are available for audit verification and are quiet bulky. So it's not that... they needed to be verified by the auditors and not by the honourable members. So we have them with us here [in] a separate file. We are inviting the auditors to verify the documents," Mwale responded.

And Kunda responded by saying "So what are you doing here if you don't want us to look at these documents? You have referred to them in your answer but you don't want us to look at them. What are you doing here? And how do we conclusively deal with this matter? because you have come here to appear before this committee, [and] not [to]

the auditor general. So why are you referring to documents that you have not provided for us to have a look and to see whether what you are talking about is exactly the way it is?"

Then Dr Shamuenge apologized after noticing that his director's response did not mean well to the committee.

The committee asked for a five minutes break to allow the committee peruse the referred bulky document.

After the break, Kunda sent away the PS and his team saying that the "business as usual" way of running things in government was over.

"Welcome back PS. [As a committee] we have made a decision on this issue. I think that you know [that] this time around here, we would like to ensure that you PS are up to date with everything that you are doing and to ensure that we are no longer dealing with a "business as usual" way of doing things. And therefore, issues to do with public finance management have to be taken very seriously because we are losing too much revenue for this country to move forward. So when you indicate that there are documents that you would need us to see and compare with what you are talking about, it is very important that you attach those documents," Kunda said.

"We have seen that in some areas you have just said 'available for audit verification' and in some areas you have referred to appendixes which is the correct thing, but also we would like you to put these documents in order so that it's easier for us and for yourself to refer to these documents that you attach. So therefore, we will ask you to go and prepared yourself properly and adequately so that when you come, you [will] bring a document that is acceptable," Kunda said.

He asked the PS to re-submit before his committee on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 09:30 hours.

PF's win in Mangango only exposes their corruption, says Kambwili

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Because of corruption, PF can win all the by-elections, but they will never win the general elections, says NDC Consultant Chishimba Kambwili.

And Kambwili has warned the Daily Nation to stop messing up his name, warning that he will drag them to court.

Meanwhile, Kambwili says NDC's participation in elections is not for them to win, but to "plant the party".

Commenting on the Mangango parliamentary election results after appearing in court, Kambwili said a by-election was not a determining factor of a party's popularity.

He argued that because of corruption, the PF could win all by-elections, but they could never win a general election.

"PF must learn a lesson from MMD. Because of corruption they can win all the by-elections, but they can never win a general election! Look at the trajectory of PF when it was formed. When we formed PF in 2001, we used

to come number last; we used to lose all the ward and constituency elections. PF won its first ward election in 2004. Before that, we were just last. From 2004, things changed. We took over the entire Copperbelt, Lusaka, Northern, Luapula Province," Kambwili said. "PF are using corrupt money! They are buying people. They are going into elections, two days before elections, they take Chibuku there, chickens, phones and everything! They can win. But during the general elections, all the areas will be on their own; there will be nobody to take phones there. A by-election is not a determining factor whether the ruling party is popular. To the contrary, it just proves the corruption of the ruling party! So, I wish [Davies] Mwila very well. But you know I have always said, Mwila is a very dull person. So, he cannot differentiate sense from nonsense. To him, what doesn't make sense, makes sense."

And Kambwili said NDC's participation in these by-elections was not for them to win, but

"plant" the party.

"We are planting the party. We are going to announce our existence in all the areas," he explained.

Meanwhile, commenting on former UPND vice-president for politics Dr Canisius Banda's remarks that UPND's loss in Mangango constituency was evidence of diminishing fortunes for the opposition and was a sign that citizens still had confidence in PF, Kambwili charged that Banda just wanted to survive by getting some change from President Edgar Lungu.

"Canisius Banda, you think that he's normal? A person at his age, a doctor doesn't own his own house, you think he's normal? Some of these people you should not even talk about them. He failed to pay K14,000 rentals for a property! Doctor ushisakula imishishi (who doesn't comb his hair), you forgive such people. He wants to survive now, he wants to get some contracts; he wants to get some change from Lungu so he will speak everything that will please Lungu. Canisius should be the last

person. When he was in UPND, what was he saying about Lungu? What has changed today? He is like my young brother Antonio Mwanza; they have just gone there to eat. If you go and talk to them away from Lungu, you will hear what they say," Kambwili said.

Meanwhile, Kambwili, the rebel Roan PF member of parliament, warned Daily Nation to stop messing up his name, warning that he will drag them to court.

"And ba Daily Nation, I want to warn you. That story you have carried in the newspaper that I owe somebody K19,000 through a person called Kirby Musonda, who is my employee, I will take you to court! Stop messing up my name. First and foremost, I don't have any employee by the name of Kirby Musonda. Because the Kirby Musonda I know is the deputy media director for NDC. NDC has no employees at the moment, but volunteers. So we don't owe anybody a salary. All the employees who work for Mwamona Engineering are paid on time," said Kambwili.

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Some PF members in Sinda District say the party has lost its grip in the area because the current leadership is doing nothing to promote transparent intra-party elections yet they want to cling to power. In separate interviews, some party members, speaking anonymously, said the district party leadership is appointing some people to various positions without conducting elections so that they are voted for during the coming party elections.

They said the party in Sinda was strong when late Leonard Mbewe was the chairperson, and that with Michael Phiri, who is current the council chairperson, nothing positive was happening.

"There is total confusion

Leadership wrangles grip PF in Sinda

in our party; the party in the district is not all that strong. In fact, you can't tell now whether Sinda is a bedroom of PF because of selfish leadership! Our party is having elections countrywide, but our district leaders are doing private appointments on some people by following them in their homes, which is part of corruption, so that when the people from NEC (National Executive Committee) come, they should be told that the

party is strong and no need of elections," said one member.

And another member added that the district team wanted to cling on to their positions despite people hoping for change.

"The NEC people will be blindfolded because people are being bought to support the current leadership. In fact, as the party, we have so many members who are capable to handle top positions, but the ones, especially the top three:

the district chairperson, Mr Michael Phiri; the district secretary, Mr Best Mwanza and publicity secretary, Mr Fame Mvula are the ones who are trying by all means to remain in their positions, but most members are fed up of them!" they alleged.

However, the members said, Wednesday, that the party held a meeting with some appointed members and those who seem to be active and wise were not invited, which they suspect

was to drill the appointed members what to say when members of the Central Committee arrive.

They also complained that there is no uniformity between Sinda constituency and neighbouring Kapoche as the top leaders don't even visit the structures to see what is happening.

"They want to lead like it's Mulyokela's party, which has no structures, no! We are not happy, the leaders don't move around the constituencies to see how people survive; they don't make party meetings to discuss how the party is moving and problems they are facing. When you have many cows, you tie others and allow others to rest so we have other members who can strengthen the party, we have the men and women who can bring back Sinda District on the political map, but apa awee sivinthu kukuzani vazoona, the party is dead because of poor leadership," they lamented.

They warned the provincial and NEC team to be watchful as they might be told the party is strong in the district when in fact not.

"We have come to you, as our 'Vuvuzela,' because we want our NEC leaders and provincial leaders to know that the statement, which they will be told that the party is intact, is not true! They should be aware that if the party is left like this, then opposition will base their roots in Sinda again and that will be too bad. So, provincial team, NEC team, be informed that Sinda PF is dead because of lazy and poor leadership so if the current leadership continues, then don't be surprised with what might happen and our good signal is a loss of our party in Lusinde [Ward] by-election in Petauke," they explained.

They emphasised that Sinda Independent member of parliament Masauso Tembo was the only one who made the

party tick.

"The party seems to tick though through an oxygen because of Sinda Independent MP who provides support and conducts community meetings where he tells people the goodness of PF government, and it is him who mostly engages the district leadership to have a say, but on their own, they can't organize the meetings. And how can we go like this? If you talk of Kapoche, the party is completely dead as even the MP has nothing to do with mobilising the party!" they added.

And when district party chairperson Michael Phiri was reached for a comment, he argued that no one was blocking the intra-party elections.

"We are not blocking any elections; we follow orders, and the letter we have is that ward elections we will conduct them, but constituency and district elections will be done by the high people and there is no one going door-to-door to solicit for votes. It's democratic and our party is democratic, but for someone to say, 'we are blocking because we want to cling to power' then it's their own baby to nurse as we are not aware of that. They will choose their leaders of their choice, but they have to exercise patience" Phiri explained.

"Why can't they say during the meeting or visit our offices and lodge in their complaints, rather than crying from outside? We are not animals to be feared, where we go wrong, they should speak, but kukamba kamba cabe won't help them nor the party."

When asked about the accusations against his inactiveness, Phiri denied the assertion.

"Okay, if they say, 'I have killed the party' it's okay. But what you should know and what they should know is that every player thinks they are better off [than] others when they are on the bench; the moment they are on the [pitch] failure to the last! So, we will soon have elections and they will decide what they want," replied Phiri.

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A former judge and leading opposition figure has been sworn in as the head of Ethiopia's electoral board.

Birtukan Mideksa is the latest significant appointment of a woman to a key public office.

Ms Birtukan returned to Ethiopia earlier this month after seven years in exile in the US.

She was among dozens of opposition leaders jailed after the disputed elections of 2005 that led to the deaths of hundreds of people.

The BBC's Emmanuel Igunza in the capital Addis Ababa says she faces a key challenge in restoring faith in an electoral board that has constantly faced accusations of being manipulated by the state - and will oversee elections in May 2020.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has carried out wide-ranging reforms since coming to office in April.

These include making peace with neighbouring Eritrea after two decades of conflict, freeing political prisoners and welcoming back armed opposition groups from exile.

The 42-year-old leader has also given half of the government's 20

Ethiopia opposition figure appointed election chief

ministerial posts to women and last month the parliament chose Sahle-Work Zewde as the country's first female president, a ceremonial role.

Recently he was commended for appointing renowned human rights lawyer Meaza Ashenafi - whose efforts to tackle the underage marriage of girls formed the basis of an Angelina Jolie-produced Hollywood film in 2014 - as the country's most senior judge.

'We are ready for democracy'

After her appointment, Ms Birtukan said she felt her career as a judge would help resolve the conflicts and differences that were likely to arise in her new role.

But she said that Ethiopians across the board had shown they were ready for change.



"The Ethiopian people are ready to build the democratic system they want and to hold the government accountable - and they have showed us

that by paying the sacrifice needed," Ms Birtukan told journalists.

"So, I believe that that public readiness is one good opportunity.

"Even though there's still a lot to be done, we are seeing many institutional reforms in many directions. These are good opportunities.

"And I believe that fact that this government has proved its commitment for a genuine and true democracy is another good opportunity." *BBC*



Chief justice rebukes Trump's Obama taunt

US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts has taken the extraordinary step of rebuking President Donald Trump's criticism of a federal judge.

Mr Trump on Tuesday called a jurist who ruled against his asylum policy an "Obama judge". The president's gibe provoked a stern statement from the head of America's highest court.

Mr Trump has defended his comments, saying Chief Justice Roberts is wrong.

It is the first time the chief justice has spoken against Mr Trump.

"We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges," Chief Justice Roberts told the Associated Press. "What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them." Speaking on the eve of America's Thanksgiving holiday, he said an "independent judiciary is something we should all be

thankful for".

Mr Trump responded on Twitter on Wednesday, saying the top justice was wrong and that "Obama judges... have a much different point of view than the people who are charged with the safety of our country".

He suggested that the 9th Circuit Court, where a federal judge blocked his recent immigration proclamation, opposed his policies on border and safety. *BBC*

Moroccan woman in UAE 'killed lover and cooked him'

A Moroccan woman has been accused of killing her lover and serving up his remains to Pakistani workers in the United Arab Emirates, prosecutors say.

The woman killed her boyfriend three months ago, they say, but the crime was only recently discovered when a human tooth was found inside her blender.

She confessed to police, calling it a moment of "insanity", state-owned newspaper The National reports.

The woman, who is in her 30s, will go on trial pending an investigation.

She had been in a relationship with the victim for seven years. According to The National, she killed him after he told her he was planning to marry someone else from Morocco.

While police did not reveal how he was killed, they said his girlfriend had served up his remains as part of a traditional rice and meat dish to some Pakistani nationals working nearby.

The discovery was only made when the victim's brother went looking for him at their home in the city of Al Ain, which sits on the border with Oman. There, he found a human tooth inside a blender, the newspaper reports.

The man went on to report his brother missing to police, who carried out DNA tests on the tooth and confirmed it belonged to the victim. *BBC*

Angelina Jolie joins BBC Radio for Christmas

Angelina Jolie will guest edit Radio 4's Today programme while Take That will take over Radio 2 as part of BBC Radio's festive schedules. Jolie, who is a special envoy to the UN Refugee Agency, will take over editor duties on Today on 28 December.

She is one of a number of guest editors between 22 December to 1 January, with David Dimbleby first to take charge. On Christmas Day, meanwhile, Take That will celebrate their 30th anniversary with a two-hour show.

The schedule also features such stalwarts as Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College on Christmas Eve. Bob Shennan, the BBC's director of radio and music, said the schedule was "an unrivalled collection of programmes". Jolie is expected to invite a series of guests - including refugees and survivors of conflict - to discuss the global refugee crisis and solutions to violence against women in war zones.

A spokesperson for the actress said she has already begun working with the Today programme team, saying the actress was "grateful

for this opportunity to draw on the BBC's global expertise and network to explore practical solutions to a number of pressing issues of our time." Take That's Christmas broadcast will see the trio play some of their favourite music, telling listeners how each track has helped shape the band. Lead singer Gary Barlow will also

present two hour-long programmes on the station across the festive period: one where he is in conversation with Sir Paul McCartney, and the other with ELO's Jeff Lynne. Radio 2's pre-Christmas schedule includes the broadcast premiere of Craig Charles's Scary Fairy Saves Christmas, the third instalment of the

DJ and presenter's series of modern-day fables. Performed at The Lowry Theatre in Salford with singer Curtis Stigers and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, it will air on 7 December. Christmas morning will come live from comedian Matt Lucas's house, with celebrity guests and music. **BBC**



Akon joins epic Abu Dhabi Grand Prix line-up at MAD on Yas Island



So many huge stars have been announced for Abu Dhabi Grand

Prix gigs lately, it's become hard to keep track.

And another one has just joined the ever-growing list of genuine

world-class talent descending on the capital this weekend.

Lonely hitmaker Akon (that's the name of his song, not a slight on his character) has signed up to play an epic set at MAD on Yas Island.

You'll also know hits such as The Sweet Escape, Smack That, Beautiful and Don't Matter.

He joins Nelly, Future and French Montana on an incredible line-up at one of the capital's biggest party hotspots.

Akon will play at the superclub on Saturday, November 24.

Tickets start at Dhs200 and can be bought through Virgin Megastore.

We can hardly wait. **Time out**

Kim and Kanye donate \$500,000 to California wildfire relief efforts

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West on Wednesday donated \$500,000 to firefighters and victims of a massive Southern California wildfire that came close to destroying the celebrity couple's own multimillion-dollar mansion.

Kardashian, appearing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," said she and West hired private firefighters to protect their home and others in their neighborhood in rural Calabasas, north of Los Angeles.

Kardashian, West and their

three children were among thousands of people forced to evacuate their homes during the 93,000-acre (37,635-hectare) Woolsey fire two weeks ago that spread into coastal Malibu, destroying 1,500 buildings and killing three people.

Kardashian, a businesswoman and star of reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," said the flames "got to our gate. We are still not in our home now. The smoke, the smell is too intense."

She said the couple felt blessed at being able to hire private

firefighters.

"Our house is right on the end of a big park," she said. "We were able to get private firefighters... and they saved our home and saved our neighborhood. I had them make sure they controlled every house on the edge, so it wasn't just our home."

Kardashian, West, and the rapper's fashion company Yeezy and sportswear company Adidas, which makes his sneakers, donated \$400,000 to victims of the fire and to California firefighters.

They also donated a further \$100,000 to firefighter Michael Williams, who fought the blaze in his neighborhood after narrowly escaping from his own burning home.

The Woolsey fire is now 93 percent contained. A separate fire in northern California destroyed more than 12,000 homes and businesses in the town of Paradise and killed 81 people. Another 700 are still unaccounted for almost two weeks after the blaze swept through the town, beginning on Nov. 8. **Reuters**

I should have faced Mourinho, Casillas rues Real Madrid row

Iker Casillas has revealed his regret at not confronting Jose Mourinho during the pair's fractious relationship at Real Madrid.

Although that La Liga-winning side racked up 100 points and scored 121 goals en route to dethroning Barcelona in 2012, Mourinho was far from a universally popular figure in the Spanish capital.

The goalkeeper was dropped midway through the 2012-13 campaign with Diego Lopez preferred in his place, while rumours began to circulate that Casillas was the source of stories leaked to the media regarding disagreements between Mourinho and key figures within the squad. "He was brought in to compete with Barcelona and brought moments of great tension and that Madridismo that I mentioned that I don't like came out, there was a limit that he went to with me that I didn't want to go to," Casillas old Universo Valdano channel Vamos.

"The third year wasn't all good, although we won La Liga and it seems that there were many people

whose relationship was shaken.

"It wasn't good for him, nor for me nor for the club. I think if it happened all over again, I would have taken the bull by the horns and faced Mourinho.

"At that time, I opted to be quiet and I thought that was the way to honour the values of Real Madrid.

"Nobody has wanted to talk about Mourinho to this day and I think it is maybe better to let it be and let it go." *Goal.com*



Neymar to force PSG exit as Barcelona prepare to welcome star forward back

Barcelona have set in motion their 'Operation Neymar' to re-sign the Brazilian striker, with Goal understanding he is ready to call time on his career at Paris Saint-Germain.

The Catalans have been in touch with Neymar's camp to start the process of his comeback to Camp Nou.

Goal's sources in Catalunya understand Neymar, who moved to PSG in 2017 for a world-record transfer fee of €222

million (£195m/\$260m), is unhappy at Parc des Princes and looking for a way out despite just over a year in France laden with goals and trophies.

The star's team have been in touch with several Barca directors, who have responded with detailed instructions over how a deal that just a few short months ago seemed impossible could become a reality.

First of all, Barca are insistent that, after director Pep Segura's

recent public comments over the possibility of the Brazilian returning, the next step must come from the player himself. The club board are aware that the manner of Neymar's exit left a large part of the fanbase disillusioned with his behaviour, that he rushed his departure and did not conduct himself in a manner fitting of the illustrious club.

As a gesture of goodwill, Neymar could make a public statement

assuming his rashness in leaving in such a fashion, a move that would calm wary supporters.

A salary cut may also be necessary. Neymar takes home almost €40m with PSG, a figure out of Barca's reach given their current problems to keep wages under control.

The Blaugrana board sees such a reduction as essential for the deal to prosper, while Goal understands that Neymar would also be willing to negotiate lower terms.

"If the war of lawsuits continues, it will be impossible for Neymar to return," a director of the Catalan club told Goal in reference to several court wrangles that continue to loom over the player and club in Spain.

The 'DIS case', dating back to his first days at Barca after completing his controversial transfer from Santos, is still being heard, while Neymar's writ over an alleged €26m in unpaid back wages and a counter-suit from Barca over €30m in bonuses from his renewal are also outstanding.

If both sides are serious about his return, they must bury the hatchet and put the lawyers to rest.

PSG too will have to be compensated after

receiving comparatively little in return to date for their mammoth investment.

Once Neymar meets the conditions set by Barca's road map detailed above, the club will then turn their attentions to the Ligue 1 giants.

In order to avoid hostilities, either open or brimming under the surface for years to come, Barca believe Neymar must force the issue, making a public recognition that he is not happy at PSG and wants a change of scenery.

Such a move would soften the Parisians' stance at the negotiating table and permit talks to occur, with the Catalans open to using either Ivan Rakitic or Ousmane Dembele as bargaining chips.

Neymar is well aware of what must be done to seal his return to Camp Nou. He and his camp have been informed of all Barcelona's requirements, and it is up to him to show that he is serious about joining up once again with Lionel Messi and Co.

If he does not comply, from Barca's perspective it is very simple: there will be no emotional comeback for their prodigal son. *Goal.com*



Karina Ibragimova of Kazakhstan (r) and Kellie Anne Harrington of Ireland compete during their 60 kg category semi-final fight at the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi yesterday. AFP

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ president Andrew Kamanga has advised soccer fans to take heart and not trash the female football national team following their 4-0 loss to Seven times African champions Nigeria, at the on-going African Women football championship in Ghana on Wednesday. Kamanga urged soccer fans and well wishers to keep supporting the ladies adding that their level of playing had improved. He also said that they played very well against a team that has the biggest number

Kamanga appeals for calm among soccer fans

of professional players based in Europe. "I want to appeal to soccer fans and other people not to give up on Shepolopolo yet. They played very well despite conceding four goals to nil against Nigeria. You have to keep in mind

that the Nigerian starting eleven plays professional football in Europe except for their goalkeeper while we only have one professional player who did not even play due to an injury. They deserve our support as they prepare to face South

Africa in their last group match," said Kamanga. Meanwhile, Zambia's top female FIFA referee Gladys Lengwe expressed happiness that the ladies almost held Nigeria to a goalless draw up to half time. She noted that the late first half goal

caused panic among the defenders as the second half kicked off. "I know there are people like me that thought it would rain goals right from the start but the girls were simply amazing. They even managed to create

chances too but Nigeria's late first goal left the defenders disturbed and started panicking in the second half. Otherwise they should be applauded for their determination, and support them so that they beat South Africa," said Lengwe.

ZAVA appeals to clubs not to miss Zone six opportunity

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambia Volleyball Association (ZAVA) vice president Kwasi Masole has appealed to respective clubs whose teams have qualified for Zone six games in South Africa to see to it that they all attend the prestigious tournament and possibly clinch professional deals of playing abroad.

Masole said qualifying for Zone Six games was one of the conditions some clubs were given by their management adding that it would be a shame if they failed to honour the achievement.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Masole also noted that Zambia had incredible volleyball talent that is attractive to other countries where the sport is bankable.

"I will feel bad if none of our clubs manages to travel to South Africa for zone six games. These youngsters were told by management to play for everything and that management would sponsor their next endeavours. Time is running out and it seems only two out of four clubs will travel. It is disappointing. This is their chance to be spotted by other countries and play the game professionally. Right now, the biggest player in South Africa is Zambian," said Masole.

Meanwhile, Southern Province Volleyball Association vice-president in finance, Kabulo Hakayobe, noted that there was a need to establish a linkage between Zambia and neighbouring countries that hold the sport in high esteem like Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

"These countries can have the chance to scout in us and we would do the same like the case in Basketball. This is one of the ways we can retain the glory that Volleyball used to enjoy not long ago. The talent we have in Zambia is too good to watch it go to waste," said Hakayobe.

Green Eagles, Indeni, Chalube, Kamwala Magic and Super Select are the clubs scheduled to travel to South Africa for Zone Six games while the national sports council says only two have so far confirmed that they will travel. The tournament kicks off next month.



alah Mejri #50 of the Dallas Mavericks drives to the basket against the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. AFP

Kamanga must go, demands Lusambo

By Alex Chilumbwe

Lusaka province minister Bowman Lusambo has expressed disappointment at the dwindling fortunes of football in Zambia, and has lumped the blame on FAZ president Andrew Kamanga.

Lusambo said that he had not come to terms with the senior national team's failure to qualify for AFCON for the second time, consecutively.

In a statement shared on his Facebook page, the minister said it was only prudent that the current FAZ executive steps down to save face.

"As a former football player and ardent football fan, I wish to join millions of Zambians in expressing my disappointment in the senior national team for failing to qualify for 2019 AFCON. The age group teams such as Under 23, Under 20 and Under 17 do not have any solid structures to talk about. The team has even flopped at COSAFA and

officials." Lusambo also echoed allegations surrounding operations at Football House, ranging from failure to clear the immediate former Chipolopolo coach Wedson Nyirenda his unpaid seven-month salaries to reduction of the association's annual allocation from Zurich. "Allegations that immediate past Chipolopolo Coach Wedson Nyirenda had gone unpaid for seven months have not been challenged by FAZ. Chipolopolo has been failing to play quality friendly matches even during sanctioned FIFA days. The FIFA audit found glaring irregularities resulting in Football House losing a good share of its annual allocation from Zurich. The much talked about KoPa kit has flopped, the team now appears like a Sunday afternoon social football team. It is now becoming agonisingly painful being a Chipolopolo fan," lamented Lusambo.

CHAN. The female sides including the one participating at the ongoing Women AFCON in Ghana just registered a miserable loss to Nigeria, complicating its chances of qualifying to the World Cup. Reports of bailiffs at Football House paralysing operations are a regular occurrence and one expects progress like this?" he wondered. "As the catalogue of failures keep piling up, it becomes non-negotiable that the current FAZ Executive led by President Andrew Kamanga should reassess its mandate, resign to save our beautiful game from the ugly misfortunes that have besieged it. President Kamanga, as leader of this sinking ship should take the blame, show leadership and step down. It is clear that he has failed to plan, he has failed to exhibit leadership, he has failed to inspire and he has lamentably failed to unite the football family. His tenure has been marred by resignations of key

KAMANGA MUST

GO - LUSAMBO

By Alex Chilumbwe
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...the list of FAZ failures is too much



I'm a Superman from Planet Zlatan

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's unique perspective on life has seen the Swede bill himself as "Superman", with a mercurial talent claiming to come "from my own planet - Planet Zlatan".

A man currently on the books of MLS side the LA Galaxy has never shied away from generating headlines and making himself the centre of attention.

A remarkable career has taken him from Malmo to Los Angeles via Ajax, Juventus, Inter, Barcelona, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United.

He has always done things his way, and is not about to change at 37 years of age.

"I came from my own planet, with something that no one has seen," Ibrahimovic told BBC Sport.

"I'm a guy from this area that they think is the ghetto. They saw me differently, they did not make me feel welcome, they did not make me feel like everyone else, but I came with something else and now they follow that. I came from my own planet - Planet Zlatan." *Goal.com*



Lovlina Borgohain of India (in blue) and Chen Nien-Chin of Taiwan (in red) compete during their 69 kg category semi-final fight at the 2018 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi yesterday. AFP

Ronaldinho's cars seized

Ronaldinho's ongoing dispute with Brazilian authorities has led to the Barcelona legend having luxury vehicles and other personal possessions being seized during a raid on his home.

The World Cup winner and his brother Roberto were convicted of illegal construction in February 2015 and ordered to pay 8.5 million Brazilian Real (£1.7m).

Along with company Reno

Constructions and Incorporations Ltd., they were found to have built a sugar mill with a fishing platform and a pier in a permanent preservation area on Lake Guaiba without permission. *Goal.com*

