

LUNGU READY FOR 2021 RULING

...if he's disqualified, he'll focus on remaining time, says Amos

By Mirriam Chabala
Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says President Edgar Lungu is not bothered with the forthcoming Constitutional Court's ruling over his eligibility to contest the 2021 general elections. *To page 5*



President Edgar Lungu is welcomed by Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe at State House upon arrival from an undisclosed vacation yesterday - Pictures By Eddie Mwanaleza/State House

Kwacha hits 12 per dollar

By Stuart Lisulo
The kwacha has depreciated against major currency convertibles to breach the K12 per dollar psychological barrier for the second time this year. *To page 11*

Chidyerano was a source of GBV - Gender Minister

Story page 11

Mumbi sues CK, demands K100m

Story page 10

2018 was a frenzy year of corruption scandals - TIZ

By Mirriam Chabala
Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) says when those in authority live in denial that corruption has become rampant, attention is diverted from dealing with the problem. And TIZ has noted that silence from government on issues of public concern only fuels speculation. *To page 10*

Police arrest Mwashingwele for pulling down Mayor's billboard

By Mirriam Chabala
Police have arrested Katuba UPND member of parliament Patricia Mwashingwele on grounds that the lawmaker incited people in her constituency, Monday, to pull down a billboard of Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa that had been erected in the area beyond the borders of Lusaka District. *To page 11*

EU to create 10m African jobs with €40 billion investment

By Abraham Kalito
European Union (EU) Head of Delegation to Zambia and COMESA Alessandro Mariani says €40 billion worth of grants will be disbursed between 2020 and 2025 to create over 10 million jobs for Africans. *To page 4*

Cyber laws designed to protect African govts from criticism, observes Gwinji

By Stuart Lisulo in Grahamstown, South Africa

African governments trying to introduce cyber laws in their respective jurisdictions want to protect themselves from criticism more than to address bullies, media practitioners say. And social media usage in Zimbabwe has quickly been monopolized by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government since his dramatic rise to power last year, observers in that country say. Speaking during the 2018 Highway Africa Conference at Rhodes University's Eden Grove Complex in Grahamstown, veteran Zimbabwean journalist Thando Gwinji told delegates that African governments trying to introduce cyber laws want to protect themselves more than to address the growing problem of online bullies who abuse other social media users. Gwinji revealed that the Zimbabwean experience shows that the proposed Cyber Crimes Bill in that country is more motivated to shield public officials from repeated criticism. "We have a lot of issues to fix in our governments as Africans. And as we know, there is a lot of trying to fix the citizens instead of working with the citizens for the sake of development.

What I noticed with the Cyber Crimes Bill that is currently being developed in Zimbabwe is that, it protects the State more than it protects ordinary citizens, and it is the same discussion that is also going on in Zambia," Gwinji said during a plenary session dubbed: "Social Media: bullying, harassment and silencing of voices. What can be done?" "Now, if we are not vocal in trying to make sure that we are also consulted on the Bills, policies and laws, then we might also be at a disadvantage because, let's face it, the traditional,

mainstream media is slowly dying, and if we lose our social media rights, we lose access to information, not just information, but a lot of other things as well. So, we also need to protect those rights as well as much as we are protecting ourselves from discrimination and cyber-crimes." Earlier, during a "Digital Citizenship" panel discussion, Delta Ndou, a Zimbabwean media practitioner with over 15 years' experience, argued that President Mnangagwa's administration has rapidly

monopolized the social media space in Zimbabwe since his dramatic rise to power last year after former President Robert Mugabe was ousted in a coup. "Social media is widely used in urban areas, but in Zimbabwe, WhatsApp is the most common form of social media; that's where people share news articles etc. A very curious thing happened in November, 2017, which is that it transformed the dominance of voices online," Ndou said. "In the 2013 elections, the dominant voices were pro-MDC, and if you had a

pro-ZANU-PF voice, you were likely to be drowned out by other voices. But now, enter this new administration, and they have managed to harness social media in the most phenomenal way!" She explained that President Mnangagwa has now mastered how to utilise social media using the youth to control the political narrative and further his own political interests. "President Mnangagwa was saying at a rally; 'some of us are old, we don't know these social media things, so, you young people in

the party, go there into those social media spaces and bludgeon them!' And then, we found these leading opinion shapers, influencers on social media platforms peddling pro-ZANU-PF sentiments! It was very confounding because these were people who, prior to that, were very anti-ZANU-PF," revealed Ndou. The 2018 Highway Africa Conference, which attracted over 100 delegates from across the globe, was held under the theme: "Digital Citizenship: the changing relationship of media and society."

We're delivering diversified, export-oriented agriculture sector, says PF

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF government is delivering a diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector. And Mwila says government is also delivering several large-scale irrigation development schemes and support services countrywide, like the Mwomboshi Dam project in Chisamba which is costing US \$28.3 million and the Kafulafuta Dam project on

the Copperbelt, costing US \$450 million. In PF's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Mwila highlighted PF's achievements in their seven years in power. "As the PF government continues to work towards actualizing the Vision 2030 goals; it is imperative that its performance over seven years [2011-2018] should be assessed against the stairway or building block to the Vision 2030 goal. It cannot be overemphasized that the

stairway or chief cornerstone to Vision 2030 is the 7NDP," Mwila stated. "The 7NDP for the period 2017 to 2021 and its attendant development outcomes are underpinned by five strategic pillars: economic diversification and job creation; poverty and vulnerability reduction; enhancing human development; environment for a diversified and inclusive economy; reducing developmental Inequalities." Mwila stated that the PF

Government was delivering a diversified and export-oriented agriculture sector as espoused in the 7NDP. "As a result, the production and productivity of multiple crops has significantly improved through intensified agricultural mechanization as well as increased land area under cultivation. The number of farmers participating in production has also increased significantly," he stated. Mwila further stated that various programs aimed at improving production and productivity, like the Farm Power and Mechanisation Enhancement Programme and the Irrigation Development Programme, were being implemented. "Further to that, various programmes aimed at significantly improving production and productivity from farm to agro-processing and manufacturing at sector and enterprise level are being implemented," he stated.

through the Irrigation Development and Support Project. "The objective is to inter-alia increase yields per hectare as well as the value of diverse products marketed by smallholders benefitting from investments in irrigation in selected sites served by the project," he stated. "There are four components to this project including: (a) irrigated agricultural support services; (b) public infrastructure; (c) private and cooperate investment, and (d) management and coordination." Meanwhile, Mwila stated that government was also delivering several large-scale irrigation development and support services countrywide, such as the Mwomboshi Dam project in Chisamba and the Kafulafuta Dam project on the Copperbelt. "The Mwomboshi Dam Project in Chisamba, is a US Dollar 28.3 million Project funded by the World Bank. The Project will have the capacity to hold up to 65 million cubic litres of water, making it Zambia's largest irrigation dam. The Kafulafuta Dam Project on the Copperbelt, is a US Dollar 450 million project. The dam project is being funded through a loan secured from Exim Bank of China; one of the outcomes will be the provision of clean and safe water in Masaiti, Mpongwe, and Ndola and Luanshya districts," stated Mwila.



A man helps a rider to his feet after falling with a motor bike in Lukulu East district of Western Province on Sunday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Why should ERB continue fixing fuel prices?

Obrian Ndhlovu

The months of October and November 2018 have seen sharp declines in the price of oil on the global market. The commodity is now trading at just over \$50 per barrel from as high as \$75 at the beginning of October. In a typical market setup, consumers should have been crying to petroleum dealers to also reduce the pump price. But alas, it is the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) to dictate. So why is it like this? In this article, I try to look at the rationale for price fixing by ERB and argue that in this era and age, there is no justification for ERB to employ this extreme mode of price regulation. The balance or imbalance between the number of sellers and buyers in a market gives room for exploitation. On either side, buyers or sellers, the bigger the number the less influence an individual player has on the price determination. The influence in this sense refers to an individual player's ability to set a market price or at least influence its setting. The amount of influence will depend on, inter alia, what others call market concentration.

When a market has a single seller, called a monopoly, the seller enjoys control on the price. They can decide to increase or lower at will. With little or no alternatives available to buyers, the buyers are stuck with the exploitative seller. This could have been the case with ZESCO whose product has no close substitute. In order to prevent such exploitation of consumers, regulation of the price is enforced. Today, every Zambian knows that the ERB determines how much ZESCO will charge for electricity. When there are few more sellers, competition will ensure that no single seller exploits consumers. Consumers can now switch from one supplier to another. I will refer readers to what happened to Post and Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) and Zamtel with the coming of Telecel (now MTN) and Celtel (now Airtel) on the market. When PTC (Zamtel) was alone on the market, it was easy for them to disconnect or suction ailing customers and would employ all sort of bureaucracy on reconnections. This story or experience is still well known. Not only has the service improved but the prices of the services has also gone down.

In some markets, it is the buyers that are few in number. This enables the few to have considerable influence on the price and therefore be able to exploit the situation to their advantage. This is

often the case in the cotton subsector. While there may appear to be many buyers of cotton, their cooperation and partitioning of the market coupled with contract farming emanating from input supply restricts the number of buyers for each farmer. A cotton farmer faces only one potential buyer. The buyers set prices, and however bad, the farmer has no choice but to sell. We saw sharp reductions in the price around 2012 leading to some protests by farmers. We saw slogans of 'boma ilanganepo' surfacing and in some extreme cases, farmers burning their already harvested cotton to ashes. The reason stakeholders were calling for government intervention was because of an imperfect market, one with few buyers.

As we can see from the foregoing, price regulations is necessary in a number of cases but not in all scenarios. Regulation is necessary when the market is not competitive enough often arising from too few sellers or buyers. Other imperfections such as information asymmetry associated with the market for healthcare do not always necessitate price regulation. This is why private healthcare providers are at liberty to charge any fees. Regulation ends on setting 'rules of engagement'.

A look at the fuel subsector will show that the market has thousands of buyers, sufficient to prevent any single buyer from having individual influence on the price. The supply side has also seen a growth in the number of oil marketing companies (OMC) and fueling stations especially in big towns or along the line of rail. There are more OMCs than telecommunications companies, probably as many OMCs as are milling companies. This comparison, good or poor, is meant to give an indication on how many is many-enough. The number of OMCs and dealers is more than what a consumer needs to choose from, sufficient to guarantee fair competition in the market. Given a chance, the market is probably capable of setting a better price in the fuel market. I say better in the sense of a price that would be affordable to consumers but also high enough to ensure sustainable supply. The ERB has for many years failed to find this price and it is certainly not a one-price-fits-all places. Having one price for all corners of the country is surely problematic. This is because the market conditions in Lusaka will not apply for instance in Sinazongwe. Forcing everyone to sell at the same price simply forces

all OMCs to fight for trading space in Lusaka and other towns along the line of rail. What happens to off-the-grid towns? To date, many remote districts or town have no presence of fueling stations. The last time I travelled to Zambezi, I was told to carry extra fuel using unconventional means because there was no reliable supply of the commodity beyond Solwezi town. Profitability is low in these towns: first because of low demand for the commodity which is a natural phenomenon. Second, the profit margin is also low because of price regulation given a high transportation cost. Unless government bears the transportation costs, the private sector is unwilling to incur extra costs for no extra revenue. We know ERB has established regional depots but this has not sufficiently equalized the supply cost as evidenced by lack of reliable supply in remote towns.

I have also taken the liberty to check around the globe on how other countries are managing the pricing of fuel. Information is scanty but Global-Petrol-Prices considered 97 countries of the world and found that in more than 60 percent of the countries, the price was market determined. These included big economies such as US, UK and also small economies such as Uganda. In 15 percent of the countries, regulation was limited to price ceiling. This is where the regulator sets the maximum prices. Only about 24 percent of the countries employed the most extreme form of price control, fixed price. This is where Zambia is. While there may be partner countries doing the same, the vast majority of countries in the sample are doing it the other way. It is possible that if all countries were taken into consideration, the scenario could have been different.

Going forward, there is need to rethink the role of regulation in the fuel subsector. In any case, the 2008 National Energy Policy sought, inter alia, to improve petroleum pricing by ensuring full price deregulation and competition at the pump as well as ensuring low cost retailing in rural areas. This is an indication that government long realized the need to liberalise the market. There is a possibility that the market is now well established and efficient enough to set appropriate prices, prices that will ensure supply everywhere in Zambia, all the time. Zambia does seem to have strong justification to warrant continued fixing of the price by the ERB. In any case, Zambia is among the few countries that have maintained this practice.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a 26-year-old carpenter of Lusaka's Marapodi Compound to five years imprisonment for robbery.

In this matter, Zodeki Chiseki was alleged to have stolen K1,200 cash, and a Techno phone valued at K400 from a resident, using violence. Chiseki was initially charged with two counts of breaking into a building and committing a felony, as well as robbery, but the first count was later on withdrawn by the State after a plea of not guilty. In count one, it was

Lusaka man gets 5 years for robbery

alleged that Chiseki, on October 27, 2018, in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together with other person's unknown, did break and enter the shop of Lister Kapenda Mapula and stole an HP computer desktop, three men's suits, an adapter and two motor vehicle

spanners, altogether valued at K12,639.

In the second count, it was alleged that on October 28, 2018, Lusaka, Chiseki did steal K1,200 and a Techno phone valued at K400, altogether valued at K1,600, from Martin Chisanga and immediately after

stealing, did use or threaten to use actual violence to the said Martin in order to overcome resistance to it been stolen.

And when the matter came up before Magistrate Felix Kaoma for plea, Monday, Chiseki said he understood the

charges.

He, however, pleaded not guilty to the first count and admitted the second count.

Chiseki said he used violence when getting the said items.

In mitigation, he asked for leniency from the court, saying he would

not repeat the offence. "I'm asking for leniency. I will not repeat what I did. I have learnt my lesson in prison," Chiseki pleaded. In his ruling, Magistrate Kaoma said he had considered the mitigation and noted that the convict was a first offender. He said the convict had pleaded guilty and thus deserved leniency. Magistrate Kaoma, however, sentenced him to five years to deter other would-be offenders. After the sentence was passed, the State made an application to have count one withdrawn under section 88 A of the CPC, which was granted.

By Abraham Kalito

European Union (EU) Head of Delegation to Zambia and COMESA Alessandro Mariani says €40 billion worth of grants will be disbursed between 2020 and 2025 to create over 10 million jobs for Africans.

And Ambassador Mariani says the EU has pumped in over US\$100 million for the construction of the Great North Road, especially the highway between Mpika and Kasama.

Speaking during a breakfast meeting in Lusaka, Monday, Ambassador Mariani announced that the EU had resolved to pump

EU targets to create 10m African jobs with €40 billion investment

in an unprecedented €40 billion due to be disbursed to African governments in the region in a bid to create as many as 10 million jobs across the continent and enhance the EU-Africa partnership.

He, however, cautioned African governments not be solely reliant on the

grants, but use the funds as a catalytic element to help finance various projects at a lower cost.

“The Initiative, which is called the European Investment Plan, that one we put ourselves 4 billion euros and generate investment for 44 billion euros because the private

sector is putting their own money. This is one thing. Then in the next framework, which will be in the year 2020, we want to invest, as EU, 40 billion euros. Now, how much this is going to generate, still we have to calculate. But you understand that, also there, we have to do a

multiplication because we will try to get as much as possible [to get] the private sector on board. So, this can generate even more, maybe 400 billion euros, but I don't want to say it because it's too early. But the 4 billion euros, which translated into 44 billion euros investment in Africa,

is already happening,” Mariani told stakeholders during a media breakfast at Southern Sun Hotel.

“What we have presented to you is something of great interest to Zambia and COMESA. What we have presented is a new Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs. I would like to quote the President of the European Union (Commission), Jean Claude Juncker, in his state of the nation address: ‘Africa doesn't need charity; it needs true and fair partnership.’ We Europeans need this partnership just as much. We are, therefore, proposing a new alliance for sustainable investment and jobs.’ So, the two key words of the new alliance are investment and jobs. This alliance, as we envision it, would create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next five years. 10 million jobs could be created in Africa in the next five years. I believe we should develop the EU-Africa agreement into a continent-to-continent free trade agreement as an economic partnership between equals. So, this partnership is important for creating a continent-to-continent free trade agreement in the long-term. The grants that the EU provides to Africa should work as a catalytic element in order to facilitate the financing of projects, and financing of operations at a cost, which is lower than when there is only the loan element.”

And the EU envoy said the EU has pumped in over US \$100 million for the construction of the Great North Road, especially the highway between Mpika and Kasama.

“...The grant dramatically decreases the cost for your operations. We both want a strong Africa with jobs for its youth, better business climate, peace and security for all in this partnership; we have really tried to be partners of really great value for the continent and Africa in general. The Great North Road, which we intend to fund, is approximately US \$70 million in grant and US \$100 million in loans to Zambia. This is more or less the combination. And the time-frame is that work can begin late 2019 to 2020. And, like I said, this is meant strictly for the Great North road,” said Ambassador Mariani.



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By Mirriam Chabala
Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says President Edgar Lungu is not bothered with the forthcoming Constitutional Court's ruling over his eligibility to contest the 2021 general elections.

And Chanda says Zambia's diplomatic credentials have continued getting attractive as evidenced by the kind of international figures that have visited the country for various programmes. Meanwhile, Chanda says there has been a slow down in debt contraction after the President gave a direction to concentrate on finishing projects that are nearing completion.

Speaking on Diamond TV's Costa show, Sunday

Lungu not bothered about eligibility ruling – Amos

evening, Chanda said President Lungu had no prejudicial position.

“Whatever the outcome of the court case on the 7th (of December), the government continues to run because there is a five year mandate for the President in office until 2021. He is not bothered about anything,” Chanda said.

“He's the President elected for five years, between now and 2021. This is

not a decision that takes him to 2026, whichever the ruling, there will be a Presidential election in 2021 and the winner of the 2021 elections will rule from 2021 to 2026, so it's just the exaggeration of issues and unnecessary portrayal of events. There is no prejudicial positions from the President. The debate has been going on, the opposition say the President is not qualified... they are talking, members

of the ruling party are saying the President is qualified but outside of that, the judges will make a decision.”

And Chanda said Zambia's image to the international community was outstanding.

“You must separate mere reckless talk and reality. In many years, the diplomatic credentials of this country have never been this high. You have seen foreign Heads of State coming



in, members of the Royal Family...he's sixth in line to the throne, he's one of the senior members in the British Royal family. Ministers, Presidents, when we seek an appointment with a foreign Head of State, you can ask...If our diplomatic credentials are down, the Prime Minister and King of Japan would not be seeking audience with us. President Xi Jinping, just everyone...So the diplomatic credentials of this country under this President have been very high, you can ask PS Lombe or anyone in the diplomatic circles. So it is a complete falsehood trying to say the country's diplomatic credentials are very low,” he said.

Meanwhile, Chanda said there was no reckless borrowing in President Lungu's administration.

“There is no recklessness in terms of borrowing from China. The way Zambia borrowed in 1964, in 2006, it's the same way it will borrow against what it thinks it can pay. Even at a time when Dr Kaunda's government had a cash crisis and they had to print mealie- meal coupons... Zambia has never defaulted on its debts, so the strategy is to borrow in a manner where Zambia is not exposed to a possibility if default. That must be made very clear, there is no default now, there is no default being foreseen because the borrowing is within the accepted threshold. There is a slow down in debt contraction because the President has given direction to make sure that we accelerate to complete the projects that are nearing completion. To move towards concessional and zero interest loans,” he said.

Chanda also said President Lungu was committed

to the fight against corruption.

“The President has made it very clear that he will not stand on an anthill and shout corruption or give directions to arrest people just because someone has made an allegation. The President is committed to institutionalising the fight against corruption, giving the investigative agencies the independence they need. There was a lot of pressure from members of the Patriotic Front who were extremely unhappy with the FIC at one point, didn't he (the President) meet her (FIC director general Mary Tshuma) and gave her the assurance, the independence and autonomy she needed to operate? Isn't she still in office?” he asked.

Chanda dispelled allegations that PF was not allowing the opposition to freely interact with citizens. “We have had so many by-elections, haven't you seen any public gathering by the opposition? The president of the UPND, Mr Hakainde Hichilema just a day ago had a big meeting at Intercontinental Hotel, did you see any interference in there? The case you are talking about in Eastern Province, how did Mr [Harry] Kalaba know that those plain clothed people, whoever it was, they were intelligence officers and police? Police officers carry their uniforms with a number, so if you are able to identify... sometimes we must move away from the realm of conjecture and be specific, this intelligence officer, how did he identify him? That incident, did it really take place? I don't want to cast doubt, I do not know of that incident, we learnt through the Mast [Newspaper] that that incident took place, I have no details,” said Chanda.



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DANIES CHINSEDA, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ZPPA.

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.
RODGERS MUYANGWA, MANAGER - ECONOMIC REGULATION ELECTRICITY - ERB

Above everything else, I highly valued the practical examples used during the training. We plan to send many other managers for John Maxwell training.
GIFT SIKAUDI, DIRECTOR- PLANNING, INFORMATION AND RESEARCH- ZEMA.

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!
BRENDA MWILA CHIME - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, KARIBA NORTH BANK EXTENSION POWER CORPORATION (KNBEPC).

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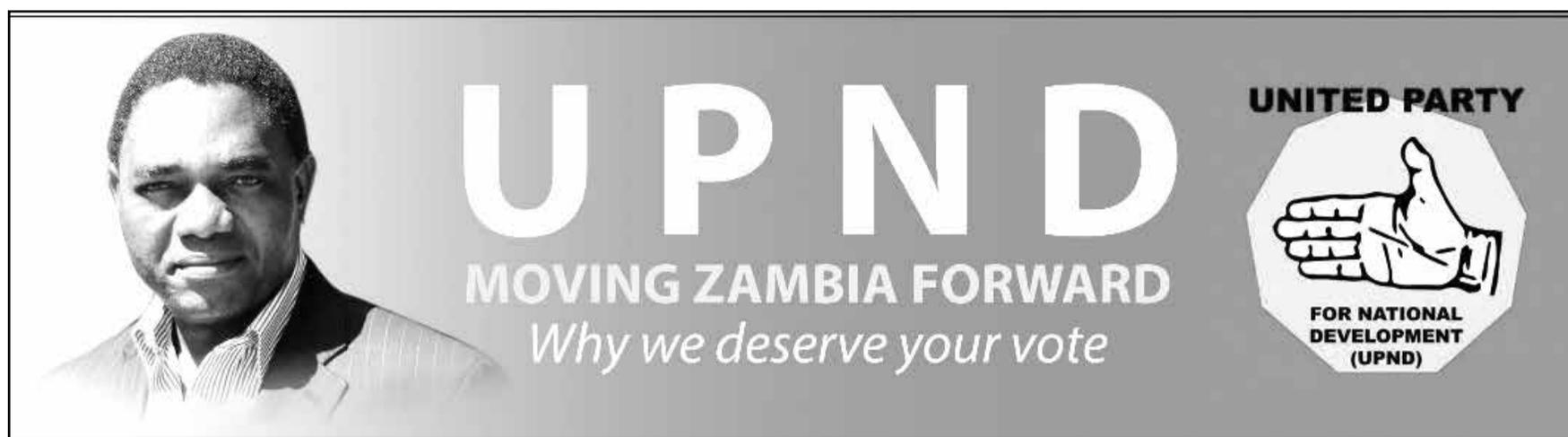
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THE DREAM OF 1998 LIVES ON 20 YEARS LATER: THROUGH THE EYES OF HAKAINDE HICHILEMA

The United Party for National Development (UPND) has been in existence for the past 20 years. The UPND President Hakainde Hichilema delivered a message to the anniversary celebrations at International Hotel in Lusaka last week which is summarised below:

The seed that has seen the party grow to where it is today germinated during Anderson Mazoka's time. That seed which was planted by the leadership then has blossomed to where we are. Mr Mazoka attempted to launch his political career in the MMD by standing as treasurer in a ward in Bauleni in Lusaka. He won the seat but the top leadership of the MMD overturned the results. Mr Mazoka was subsequently expelled from the MMD. That was not a bad thing at all as marked the genesis of the seed that was to be planted to create the UPND which is 20 years old this year. If he was not removed from that position in Bauleni, there would have been no motivation to form the UPND. The seed which was sown is grown and that seed is taking deep roots in this country. We thank Mr Mazoka for his vision. This country is not our own, it is not for us to say that we own it, it is a vision for the people of Zambia. It is a vision for Africa. It is a vision for them. A child of any country in Africa wants a prosperous country where they were born. That's the seed and the seed has taken deep root 20 years down the road. Thank you to the Mazoka family.

The UPND has made tremendous achievements since the early days, since a few of us sat and said "you can't run an organisation without basic tools!" As a mere cadre, just a simple cadre, I offered to be the first guy to buy a vehicle for this party. Since those days, the party has grown. I can summarise the growth of this country from the north, South, East, West. We come from a situation where the party used to get less than 3000 Presidential votes in the whole of Northern Province.

From 29 votes, in 2011 as a Presidential candidate to 7,000 votes in Kaputa and today we as a party are proud to have 4 councillors in Kaputa depicting the fact that your party has favourably grown because of your efforts and I need to thank all of you.

Today, Zambians are heavily taxed in every corner of the country. We said at the rate our colleagues are borrowing, we shall be back into a tax burden. We are in a worse debt burden. But we have a duty as citizens collectively to help stop the rot. And this is what we need in this country, together as one and not to continue arguing on whether the country has been wasted. We really need to work together. The level of greed is very high, I have never seen this level of greed by people occupying government.

His Grace Archbishop Mpundu did talk about us being children of God. Is it correct, for someone to take 10 people, 20 people maximum to spend \$ 68 million to buy a jet to be utilised by less than 20 people. With that money, one can educate students from colleges and universities over a four- year programme. 30,000 students can easily be educated. How do you come to that decision, that I will use \$68 million and will not fund 30,000 students in college for four years but make yourself and other 19 friends rich. I can't just get my head to work this one around.

Where do we want to go as a party? As a people? First priority as it was in 1998 for this party, so it is now! It is to drive economic development for social good. Jobs! Education for all our children. We as the UPND in government will never spend \$68 million on a Gulf stream jet. That is what my fellow presidents in the opposition are fighting against every day. That's what the church is doing every day and that should be the common agenda. And the common agenda needs a common vehicle to take the country to where it should be. That is what this 20-year-old party stands for.

And this country cannot have so much poverty amidst too much wealth. This is an inherent contradiction. But the missing commodity is the quality of leadership. That is what is missing because God has given us everything. This party, 20 years down the road believes in our ability to work with all people of Zambia with the abundant resources of our country and make the lives of our citizens better. That's where we want to go. We want a country where we can have freedoms and respect human rights.

That's what this party wants to do. That is where this party wants to go together with the rest of Zambians.

I don't want people who are UPND to cheat themselves that they can do it alone. If you are able to do it alone, that is only one stage. The other stage needs diversity of skills. And this country has produced these things. We have to bring the skills together. We can't have a country where violence becomes normal. It is our duty to say we are turning this country, with our colleagues who have a similar vision to a place where no citizen will feel vulnerable. We shall also manage to stamp out corruption going forward. Corruption is stealing too much of orphan's money. It's tied to greed, the level of debt that we have acquired is due to the high corruption in the country. We cannot however, do any of these things without us reuniting this country.

We acknowledge in the UPND that we don't have all the skills to run this country. That is why we need all opposition leaders here, we need everyone else out there. The UPND in government will have too much activity that people will be over stretched, a few people will be overstretched, so we need a few more people who are willing, who are skilled, who are sympathetic to the suffering masses.

I say thank you to all the members, from elected officials to the youths, many of whom are languishing in jail for crimes they didn't commit because of what has been said as institutionalized crimes. Using state machinery to put away citizens who are only asking for a better life. And I say to friends, we need to take responsibility to fix that which is wrong. There will be pain, but it is necessary pain. Those who fought for slavery to end, endured a lot. They went through trauma which cannot be compared to what we are going through today tackling slave masters in the cotton fields. Had they not done that, most of us would be on the market as commodities. There is need for generational responsibility in moving our country forward. That was and is still the UPND vision 20 years later.

Speech by UPND President Hakainde Hichilema to mark the party's 20th Anniversary on November 30th 2018

Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama
 Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist
 ...Only in **Diggers!** Ear to the ground

Goal Driven Business - Reality Check

Before you consider expanding your business and seeking financing, you will need to ask yourself the important question, "What business am I in?" Businesses are not all the same. Running a fleet of buses is different from running an advertising business. A food business is different from a welding business. For the transport business, your major pre-occupation is to understand the best or mostly traveled routes. On the other hand, an advertising business may take a lot more in terms of professional skills and client segmentation. You may not need to convince potential clients that they

"As long as the business appears to be attracting cash, owners will believe things will always remain this way"

need a bus to travel. But you will have to do a lot of explaining if your business is about life assurance or advertising. The type of people you recruit for a transportation business may not be as sophisticated as those in an advertising business. Even the business volume between the two lines of business may actually be different. For a public transport business, money flows in and out in quick intervals. But for an advertising business, money comes in after some real hard work in terms of marketing. However, it may be quite some huge chunk of money and at the end of the year; both business-lines may enjoy same levels of profitability. For a business with one-off or seasonal payments, its expansion pattern and financing mode will be different from the one with daily incomes. Before we consider the external circumstances that affect the effectiveness of your financing decision,

your business may need to look at the overhead costs. As the business grows, overhead costs grow by even higher margins. In most cases, some overheads costs are difficult to detect. In my experience working for a quasi-government organisation, I discovered that the overhead costs were actually rising at higher margins than growth of the business annually. The company had gone into the mode of increasing salaries at higher than growth in inflation as a way of subsidising the cost of living for employees. Whereas the company gross revenue was rising by about 10 percent per annum, salaries were adjusted by over 12 percent per annum. A number of other prerequisites such as travel and housing allowances, annual bonuses, gratuity, redundancy packages and contributions to pension schemes were also tied to the value of the actual salary. At 12 percent increment in salaries, the actual growth in fixed costs translated into an unsustainable level of gross expenditure. Businesses that fail to figure out the most efficient and optimal level of salary adjustments end up with serious liquidity challenges and any borrowings will just suffocate the business. In other words, overhead expenses may appear to be fixed but do not remain fixed in reality. Such overhead expenses like rent, telephone, salaries, pay as you earn, pension scheme contributions and energy are paid monthly but generally change every time particularly in high inflation economies. For large businesses, owners make very serious cash commitments based on their perceived business growth and make very few consultations with their finance managers who see things a little different. As long as the business appears to be attracting cash, owners will believe things will always remain this way. They usually forget the impact of intermittent expenses that have a very strong impact on the business. The most crucial expense such businesses overlook are loan repayments. It is exciting to get a loan but depressing to pay

back. Most businesses will actually attempt to manipulate existing loan repayment arrangements to buy time and in the process use the liquidity to meet other needs. An average company will also overlook some obligations that are due to revenue authorities and other statutory bodies. They will deduct tax contributions from employees but decide to channel the money into the normal cash flow. Other significant expenses that generally get ignored and yet remain very significant for the business are insurance premiums, dividends and training needs of the company. These build up overtime up to the point where the company begins to fight with court bailiffs, lose some privileges with suppliers of goods and services and the business eventually grinds to a halt. It is important that before seeking new financing for the business, the entrepreneur must understand the depth of these fixed and intermittent expenses and whether or not they can be cut. The most vital business value for an upcoming entrepreneur is to carry out feasibility studies to ascertain whether or not the business can really stand in a given environment. It is suicidal to access new financing without gaining a comprehensive analysis and understanding of the business and all the associated challenges and opportunities. It is best that any new assumptions, particularly on the cash flow are based on these realities. The best advice for any business is to avoid making fresh commitments such as increasing borrowings without understanding the nature of the fixed costs and the need to put the house in order. As a business manager, one must be very forthright by acting timely. At times, the decision may be about retrenching some employees, especially those found to be adding less value in the business. It is a tough decision that can only be implemented by entrepreneurs with strong business values. (This is an extract from my book, Business Values for Our Time). Wishing you Merry Christmas.

By Mirriam Chabala

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) has advised Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) on the Copperbelt to reconsider its downsizing plans on the workforce of the mining company, saying the decision might have far reaching consequences. NDC acting spokesperson Misheck Moyo said in a statement that it was understood that most mining companies were faced with a lot of operational challenges but that some of the challenges could be resolved through consultations with relevant stakeholders. Moyo stated that there was no need for Mopani mine to cut down on its labour force at a time when citizens were facing serious economic

NDC advises Mopani mines against job cuts

challenges. "Mining firms should be sensitive and sober in handling labour matters. We are disturbed with revelations that Mopani Copper Mines (MCM) on the Copperbelt plans to downsize its labour force. According to correspondence, MCM intends to retrench at least one thousand miners. This will be undertaken through the voluntary separation scheme at both

the MCM Mufulira and Kitwe divisions. The reasons advanced by MCM to streamline its labour force are basic and not really convincing. The metal prices on the international market are relatively stable. There is no need therefore for MCM to reduce its labour force at this critical period when jobs are hard to come by. MCM has been a good investor throughout the years. This is a company that has remained stable even

at the height when metal prices had plummeted. We are wondering why Mopani now wants to cut jobs at such a time," Moyo stated. NDC urged all unions in the extractive sector not to entertain calls for job cuts, especially this time. "The NDC is urging all the unions in the extractive sector not to entertain calls for such job cuts. However, threats by mining conglomerates to reduce labour at this time of the

year are not strange. We are fully aware that unions in the mining sector will soon be meeting respective mining houses to negotiate for improved salaries and other working conditions for its members. In such situations, it is common for most business entities to resort to blackmail so as to hoodwink stakeholders. We urge Mopani Mines not to fall into such a trap. Mopani Mines is a good corporate citizen. As a party, we urge

them to reflect on their plans which will certainly have far reaching consequences if left unchecked. We understand, that most mines have operational challenges. However, these challenges can be resolved ably through consultations with relevant stakeholders," stated Moyo. "We further urge unions in the mining sector to speak out with one voice and ensure that no jobs are lost. It is rather strange that only one particular union is speaking out against the pending job cuts. We want to implore unions in the extractive industries not to depart from their core business of speaking out for workers. Workers should be effectively represented by their elected representatives."

When we first heard about the call for re-registration of vehicles in August this year, we were made to believe that the move was meant to facilitate for online payments of road tax. In our view, that was a welcome move because, indeed, the queues at the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) can be really annoying.

A person with a day job cannot succeed to take a 30-minute break and rush to RTSA for tax payment. If it's a new car registration, someone has to be there literally the whole day. In many cases, when you find there are no queues at RTSA, it means two things; their system is down or there is no network. So, introducing an online payment mechanism that would eliminate all the hustle and bustle sounded like a progressive move.

But like is the case with many other policy decisions coming out of this government, the trickery was hidden in the detail. We were fooled into thinking that this car re-registration exercise was going to be at government expense. Now that it has been revealed that car owners will have to pay for the re-registration before paying for road tax, government has come up with all sorts of senseless justifications.

We could not believe the words that were coming out of Transport and Communications Minister, Brian Mushimba, as he tried to justify this extra toll

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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RTSA, ZRA incompetence as viewed by Mushimba

on motorists. In fact, his explanation went far into detail, exposing the weaknesses and redundancy of some government institutions and their mandates.

“The reason for the exercise is this, as a country, we have a requirement for census for the people and for other strategic assets for national planning purposes. We are supposed to have a census on the vehicles every 10 years. But we have not done that since the 70s. So, as we speak today, we don't know the number of vehicles we have in this country. So, government cannot plan properly; the roads that we need to have and the fly-over bridges they need to design because of the traffic volume that we have in the country. So, that's number one,” said Honourable Mushimba.

“Secondly, we have struggled with criminalities being

committed using vehicles and what we've discovered is that when someone commits a crime and the police get their number plate, when they go to RTSA to run it, that number is a clone number plate, it's a duplicate and does not probably exist in the RTSA system. So, what RTSA is doing is to adopt technology in reading number plates biometrically, using the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). What it means is that if your vehicle is stolen, within a very short period of time, it will be tracked.”

Let's just go back to “as we speak today, we don't know the number of vehicles we have in this country, and so government cannot plan properly for the roads.” We are not sure whether the Minister was trying to make us understand how incompetent RTSA is, that it doesn't keep records of the cars it registers or he meant to

reveal that the statistics that Mr Zindaba Soko gives to the public are fake.

It was exceedingly disappointing to hear the Minister declare government's ignorance on the number of cars that citizens are bringing into the country, and it was even more annoying to hear government's plans to make people pay in order for the system to get this information.

We feel disappointed because this should be the easiest data to capture, really. As far as we are concerned, three State institutions should have this data on the fingertips: RTSA, the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) and the INTERPOL Department at Police Force headquarters. With the introduction of tollgates, the Road Development Agency (RDA) and the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) can actually give supplementary data on

car records because they capture all vehicles that pass through their facility.

If these government institutions are so incompetent that they cannot capture this simple data with the existing mechanisms, as the Minister is suggesting, how can the people of Zambia expect that their stolen motor vehicle will be captured and brought back? Let's not forget that we are talking about a country where robberies occur right at the police stations, in full view of armed officers. How can such a police service track down a stolen car in Nchelenge? And if we may ask, what would the people do if they paid for this service, and government failed to find their stolen car?

Look, Honourable Minister, save your energy because we already get it; this vehicle re-registration exercise is just another money-making venture that

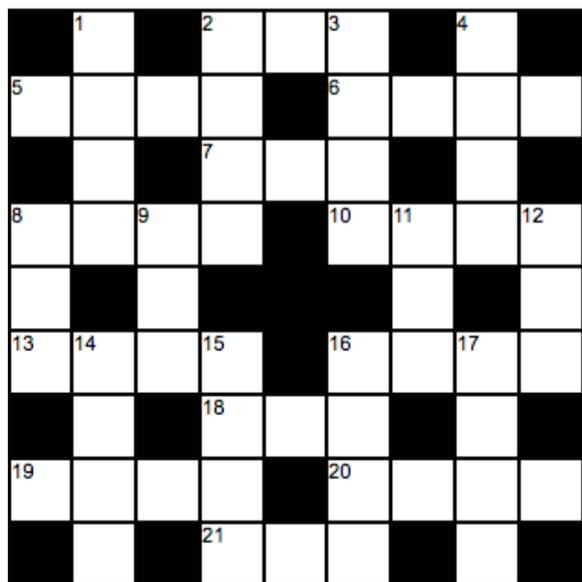
the government has identified. It is not any different from the toll plazas, Internet calling tax, national health insurance scheme, borehole levy and withholding tax on people's rented property, among many other syphoning tricks.

This is what happens when a government spends money that it doesn't have; it resorts to extorting from its own citizens! This trend of syphoning money from people will not end because this government is very arrogant with borrowing. They can see clearly that citizens are bleeding from all these taxes, but they keep increasing the cash burden.

If the Minister insists that this is not another money-making trick by the government, then it leaves us with no option but to speculate that perhaps the system simply wants to install the so-called biometric chip so that they can track down the movements of targeted political foes; otherwise, the census excuse is total nonsense!

So, we are sorry Honourable, but you have failed us once again. In our view, you must sit down and tell us how far you have gone in phasing out small commuter minibuses as you promised, because the 2019 deadline you talked about is knocking.

Crossword puzzle 244



“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”
- Rachel Carson

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Wetland 5. An entreaty 6. Ready for picking 7. Neptune's realm 8. Simians 10. Silent performer 13. Hoist 16. Green or waxed veggie 18. Maui music maker 19. Make fuzzy 20. Told untruths 21. Nothing | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Envelope feature 2. Kind of drum 3. Unit of metric weight 4. E-junk mail 8. Everything 9. North pole helper 11. ___ got a secret 12. Ages and ages 14. Wight or Man, eg. 15. Go right or left 16. Bike accessory 17. Word of agreement |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 243



Reader's feedback

JCTR: Mining licences issued to people with 'no capacity'

Editor,
 "The idea is to empower cadres, not real entrepreneurs." - Robby LM

"Well said; if at all there were deliberate policies in terms of finance, technical and exploration of minerals in Zambia, mainly state-run, this would have been a developed nation by now." - Davies Nyirongo

"Finances play a major role in mining; without them, an entrepreneur cannot run a mine successfully. We have seen some mines being closed for not meeting the required parameters in running such ventures." - Grace Shankaya

Amos on President Lungu's 'short vacation'

Editor,

"Not a good enough spin, Amos. Every president across the globe for that matter announces when they take a break & this is respected. Even KK used to announce he was going to Mfuwe or Kasaba Bay on leave & no stories like being disturbed ever emerged!" - Mulopu Kaumba

"Stupidity at its finest! This 'explanation' raises more questions than answers." - Kwa Mwamba

"Amos must be dull; he said it was a 'secret,' and yet he just gave away his location!" - Samuel Chibale

"Kambwili told us already. We know he has gone to make deals on how to sell the elephants donated by Prince Harry." - Adams Kambila

"You see that CK is on top of things!" - Brian N. Mulenga

"Amos has not said the truth here; the President may not even be in Luangwa.

"Lungu's mouthpiece is not making sense at all!" - Keith Moono

"After I have my share of ZAFFICO, I'm going on holiday, too. Are we together?" - Donn M Tutayi



Zambia's declining inflation rate is 'political'

Dear Editor,

"Political inflation goes down. If and only if we will have a true decrease in inflation, then prices on the market will decrease as well." - Clifford Bwalya

"A planned politically-motivated inflation is down, not real inflation." - Harold Michelo

"How? When everything has gone up?" - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"How possible is that when things are still expensive? Inflation in this country should be at least 20 per cent!" - Singived Songiso

"Stop peddling cheap lies! Go out in the streets and malls check prices of commodities; they're way beyond the reach of people!" - Shepherd Shadunka

"This is rubbish! It's not the reality on the ground." - Mat Mat Simaluba

"Mr Sinyenga, how do you compare imported vehicles and aeroplane passengers to the inflation percentage of this poor nation? Go to Soweto Market or Shoprite, then come

and tell us what prices have been reduced for you to say inflation percentage has reduced. Why should you use vehicle importation and air passengers to measure?" - Hem Chin

FRA will be to blame if hunger strikes next year

Editor,

"It's not FRA, which might be blamed, but the government." - Newton Kapambwe

"Despite not reaching their buying target, FRA has completely failed to pay even those who supplied few bags of maize to them. Due to the FRA's failure to pay the farmers, the very farmers have also failed to pay the K400 to redeem their farming inputs to FISP." - Chrispin Chanda

"Priorities set upside down!! There is no political will, no direction and no idea on policy and guidance on the part of those entrusted with spearheading the graduation to farming practices that are not rain-dependent. And this is the case despite the country being blessed with abundant water bodies." - Martin Nyanjagha

"How do we graduate in farming practices when the government is spending money on expensive vehicles for agriculture officials instead of investing in tractors for cooperatives and irrigation equipment to boost agriculture? Instead, the money is invested in luxurious monitoring vehicles." - Emmanuel Phiri



Renowned rapper Slap Dee, whose real names are Mwila Musonda, narrowly escaped death yesterday morning along the Great North Road in Chisamba area. All the passengers on the Toyota Hilux BAA 2780 escaped unhurt

Mumbi sues CK, demands K100m for defamation

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri has dragged NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili to court, demanding K100 million as special damages for defamation of character.

Mumbi says Kambwili defamed her character by alleging that she's corrupt and built her house using bribes from Chinese and Lebanese nationals that get contracts from government.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Friday,

Mumbi stated that on October 17, this year, Kambwili defamed her by alleging among other things, that she was corrupt as she was getting money from some Chinese and Lebanese to build her house, which words brought her standing in her political and professional standing, in question.

Mumbi stated that Kambwili issued the words in a press statement which was published by the media.

She stated that the words complained of in their natural and ordinary meaning meant and were understood to mean that she was involved in bribery or corrupt practices.

Mumbi further stated that the words were further understood to mean that she did not meet the business and professional standards expected from a public figure or honorable MP such as her.

She stated that the words were also meant to mean that she corruptly awarded or influenced the award of several government tenders to the Chinese and Lebanese contractors or suppliers who had in turn built a house for her as gratification or the alleged corrupt activities.

"Further that she lacks integrity, is unethical as a leader and is naturally corrupt," read the statement of claim.

Mumbi alleged that in doing so, Kambwili did not bother to find out the truth before issuing the alleged statements. She is asking the Lusaka High Court to order Kambwili to offer her general and aggravated damages for defamation.

Mumbi further wants the court to grant her an injunction restraining Kambwili whether by himself, agents, servants or otherwise, whomsoever from further publishing and causing to be published, comments or press statements, or utterances bordering on malicious falsehood and damaging to her.

2018 a frenzy year of corruption scandals - TIZ

By Mirriam Chabala

Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) says when those in authority live in denial that corruption has become rampant, attention is diverted from dealing with the problem.

And TIZ has noted that silence from government on issues of public concern only fuels speculation.

In a TIZ members' statement on the state of corruption in Zambia at an Annual General Meeting (AGM), TIZ observed that the first step to fighting corruption was admitting its presence.

"We would like to register our dismay over the limited progress made in implementing the anti-corruption pronouncements.

Only real, concrete and consistent actions will bring about change in the status quo. Reports from the Auditor General, the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) and Investigator General from the Global Fund have revealed that colossal sums of public funds have either been stolen or misappropriated and nothing much has been done about this. A good number of controlling officers and other government officials have been cited for financial impropriety in all these reports and yet these continue to serve in office with no action taken against them. The year 2018 has witnessed a frenzy of scandals all pointing at a systematic and sustained mismanagement of national resources, corruption and abuse of public office," TIZ stated.

"It must be emphasised that our society needs good leaders, a sound civil service and public officers in general who uphold the values of integrity, accountability and transparency. Most importantly, our country needs leaders who can virtuously lead by example. It is only a fact that when leaders fall short of integrity, accountability and transparency, their actions or lack thereof, will come into conflict with the law. In such a case, due process demands the imposition of the stipulated punishment."

TIZ recounted some of the scandals that have still remained unsolved this year. "Government has still not given conclusive statements on the recent controversy and public outcry about the procurement of 42 fire trucks and the award of a contract for the construction of the Lusaka- Ndola dual carriageway. It seems to us

that this dirt has been swept under the carpet because of the notion that Zambians are generally a peaceful and forgiving people who easily forget such narrations of mismanagement. Whatever has happened in these two cases demonstrates the need for government to seriously consider reviewing the public procurement procedures. Clearly, the complaints coming from the citizens in relation to these two issues are founded and these will not disappear into thin air until government offers a credible explanation. We had expected that necessary action would be taken to investigate issues canvassed by the FIC in its Trends analysis report for 2017. But it is shocking to note that what took centre-stage was the condemnation and name-calling of the head of the institution, Ms. Mary Tshuma," TIZ added.

"It remains unfortunate that

instead of commending the work done by the FIC in identifying these financial irregularities, which could lead to predicate offences, the nation was consumed by unnecessary debate on the institutional mandate of the FIC to release its report. It is, therefore, our considered view that all matters raised by the FIC should comprehensively be investigated by the necessary law enforcement agencies and there should be no sacred cows in this process. It is our expectation that government will address in public interest the gift of land reportedly awarded to President Lungu by the Kingdom of eSwatini. We are mindful that this matter is currently pending before the courts of law. Suffice to mention, our leadership needs to be in the forefront of strengthening legislation that will clearly stipulate how the receipt of assets or

gifts by public officers will be treated."

TIZ called on all well-meaning Zambians to 'join hands' in the fight against corruption.

"As Transparency International Zambia, it is our vision that we can achieve a Zambia where individuals and institutions are anchored on integrity. This vision can only be achieved if we truly recognize the magnitude of the problem of corruption in different sectors and we collectively and collaboratively work towards finding solutions. There are instances where our leaders and those in authority, generally, live in denial that corruption has become rampant. This denial serves no purpose and simply diverts attention from dealing with the problem at hand. We stand ready to work with all those that are committed to making Zambia corruption-free," read the statement.

Chasing venders hasn't given us the answers we wanted – Mwakalombe

By Daniel Chansa

Copperbelt Minister Japhen Mwakalombe says the chasing of traders from the streets has not given government the results it needed in some parts of the country, as the sanitary situations remains unimproved.

The minister who is also Chongwe member of parliament said this, Monday, when he opened Ndola Under Bridge to motorists on Dag Hammarskjold Drive.

"...chasing people from the streets has not given us the answer we wanted. We need to keep our environment clean and keep waste management. And in Ndola, we are not going to allow any street vending. We need to give dignity to the people, the traders, marketers, the bus drivers and everyone," Mwakalombe said.

"This work here has cost K10 million. We need to ensure that we keep this infrastructure. There is

no guarantee to investor that can come in a district without proper infrastructure."

He said he was a happy provincial minister because President Edgar Lungu was not listening to his critics. "We have a leader who cares for the people. He is not paying attention to the critics, but a working President. That is why we just call him Mr walk the talk. President Lungu has continued to create a conducive environment for investors. We

can't build an economy without infrastructure. To the business community, come on board and support us. Business can't look at profits alone," said Mwakalombe.

And Ndola Mayor Amon Chisenga said the local authority had been called names over the bridge.

"We were called names, called whatever over this under bridge works. But today am happy that this project has finally come to an end," said Chisenga.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Gender Minister Elizabeth Phiri says she has observed that some men have not accepted women as partners in development.

And Phiri says the recently banned Chidyerano tradition was a source of Gender Based Violence among married couples.

Meanwhile, Phiri says there are many married people who are living in pretense.

Speaking when she featured on ZNBC's Sunday Interview, Phiri lamented that some men were not treating women as partners.

"It is really worrisome [to hear of cases about men and women beating each other] and as a woman, we have discovered that our male counterparts haven't accepted us as partners in development. It could even be as a home setup. Usually, instead of considering a wife as a partner, you find that a husband will always want to be taken like the boss. Of course he is the head of the family but while we appreciate that a man is the head but also a woman should be taken as the neck because a neck carries the head and without a stiff neck, the head will not be able to move properly," Phiri said.

And Phiri said the recently banned Chidyerano tradition was a source of Gender Based Violence among married couples.

"Cultural norms are the ones that have caused a lot of deaths and this is the reason why as a ministry, the government of His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu is now working with chiefs so that they help us change the face of cultural and traditions so that the evil traditions should not be there. You know the evil tradition is where a woman is advised that she should keep quiet even when she is abused in the house. And we didn't know that there was a tradition

called "Chidyerano" where men exchanged women. And this is a source of GBV because a woman might say 'you are not better than that other man we are doing Chidyerano with,'" she said.

"So we have to thank the paramount chief Gawa Undi for bringing this Chidyerano tradition to a permanent end. So it is when the chiefs come in to break some of the evil traditions that this nation will change."

Phiri said despite achieving gender parity at primary school level, it has not been achieved at secondary and tertiary levels.

"Gender inequalities are still widespread in Zambia. This is because of cultural issues that start from home through the school system where male preference is encouraged. While we have achieved gender parity at primary schools, we have not achieved [it] at secondary and tertiary levels of education," she said.

Phiri said despite GBV statistics being negative, government was making head-ways towards permanently ending the vice.

"What is good is that our Head of State has considered women as partners in development. As you can see that the Patriotic Front is the

Men have not accepted us as partners in development - Lizzie



Gender Minister Elizabeth Phiri with Katuba UPND Member of Parliament Patricia Mwashingwele in Parliament on September 18, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

only party that has embraced women. It is the first of its kind since independence that it has given an opportunity to a woman and my appointment is like God wants to use me through the president to bring change on gender issues because I am the minister of gender. And even when I was sworn in, the first guidance that the president gave me was 'help me to bring child marriage to a permanent end and these gender issues.' So as

a ministry I feel we have to work harder to bring GBV to a permanent end," she said.

Meanwhile, Phiri said there were many married people who were living in pretense. Asked why there were rising cases of women killing their spouses, Phiri said it was a reaction to what they had been going through.

"You know when it has gone beyond what you can handle, it's a reaction to what has been. The cultural

norm of when the woman is being prepared and taken for marriage, the counselors used to tell this woman [that] 'whatever happens in the bedroom, do not share with anybody.' And they were dying in silence and it is that silence that now when these things are too much for this woman, they explode in such a way that it becomes so dangerous that the woman becomes so vicious that she wants to hit back. [And] this is because of not

reporting [because] if these women were reporting, the law would have defended them. [And] those that kill, follow their cases, they never even shared with their relatives. You even wonder [to say] 'why did they kill when this marriage seemed to be very good?' These are marriages that people live in pretense. It is the silence that has caused more deaths in marriages or in any relationship that ends into death," said Phiri.

Police have arrested Katuba UPND member of parliament Patricia Mwashingwele on grounds that the lawmaker incited people in her constituency, Monday, to pull down a billboard of Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa that had been erected in the area beyond the borders of Lusaka District.

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma confirmed the arrest to News Diggers! but while sources told news Diggers that she was being held at Kabangwe Police station.

"Yes, it's true she has been arrested. I think she was arrested in Katuba, in her constituency. The police went and said that she was responsible for bringing down a billboard that had been erected by Miles Sampa. She is at the police right now, though I am not sure, which station she is being held as at now because I am also just trying to find out. But I wonder why a billboard of Miles was put up in Chibombo, I am sure that's what even caused the local residents to be upset that they even brought

down that billboard. But now, the police think it's Mwashingwele who incited them," narrated Kakoma.

"Katuba is in Chibombo District in Central Province and Miles is Lusaka District Mayor, so this arrest is not normal. If Miles wants to erect billboards, let him go and erect them in Lusaka District. He can't go and erect it in another district or another province. But clearly, the billboards have to do with projecting himself, which is actually promoting himself. So, why do that in another person's jurisdiction?"

Efforts to confirm the matter with police were unsuccessful as both the Lusaka Province Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri and Command Spokesperson Esther Katongo could not confirm the arrest, saying they did not know where she was being held.

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"Katuba is in Chibombo District in Central Province and Miles is Lusaka District Mayor, so this arrest is not normal. If Miles wants to erect billboards, let him go and erect them in Lusaka District. He can't go and erect it in another district or another province. But clearly, the billboards have to do with projecting himself, which is actually promoting himself. So, why do that in another person's jurisdiction?"

Efforts to confirm the matter with police were unsuccessful as both the Lusaka Province Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri and Command Spokesperson Esther Katongo could not confirm the arrest, saying they did not know where she was being held.

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma confirmed the arrest to News Diggers! but while sources told news Diggers that she was being held at Kabangwe Police station.

"Yes, it's true she has been arrested. I think she was arrested in Katuba, in her constituency. The police went and said that she was responsible for bringing down a billboard that had been erected by Miles Sampa. She is at the police right now, though I am not sure, which station she is being held as at now because I am also just trying to find out. But I wonder why a billboard of Miles was put up in Chibombo, I am sure that's what even caused the local residents to be upset that they even brought

down that billboard. But now, the police think it's Mwashingwele who incited them," narrated Kakoma.

Kwacha hits 12 per dollar

By Stuart Lisulo

The kwacha has depreciated against major currency convertibles to breach the K12 per dollar psychological barrier for the second time this year.

But the local currency looks set to regain its strength ahead of the Christmas break as early indications suggest it may appreciate.

According to financial market players, the kwacha breached the K12 psychological barrier per dollar to trade above K12.00 on account of continued heightened demand for dollars on the local market with correspondingly limited supply of the greenback.

The local unit was seen trading at a market average of K11.77 and K12.00 by lunchtime, Monday, for bid and offer respectively, according to the Bank of Zambia, down from an average of K11.60 per dollar in early November.

The last time the kwacha depreciated to hit the K12 per dollar barrier was in September this year, where it traded at an average K11.81 and K12.04 by the end the third quarter.

"On Thursday (November 29), the kwacha breached the \$1/K12.00 barrier following a wane in supply from corporates as well as on the interbank. The local unit began the day trading at K11.90/K11.95, a level it maintained until mid-morning, when it was later seen trading at K12.02/K12.07. The mismatch in demand and supply levels continue being the major drivers on the currency pair in the short to medium term," Cavmont stated in a market report.

And check around several bureaus in Lusaka found the kwacha had touched the K12 per dollar mark.

The local unit traded at K11.85 and K12.08 per dollar for bid and offer respectively at Golden Coin Bureau, Cairo Road branch, while Unifinance quoted at K11.80 and K12.03 per dollar at by lunchtime yesterday.

But the kwacha looks set to regain its strength ahead of the Christmas break as early indications suggest it may rebound and appreciate.

FNB Zambia explains that corporate entities will be looking to convert dollars into local currency to meet their usual obligations.

"Today (Monday), marks the first trading day of December and it might be a quiet day, with light trades. However, we could see a hike of conversions by the end of this week as corporates strive to meet supplier obligations as they prepare to go on their December break," stated FNB in its daily treasury newsletter.

UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma confirmed the arrest to News Diggers! but while sources told news Diggers that she was being held at Kabangwe Police station.

"Yes, it's true she has been arrested. I think she was arrested in Katuba, in her constituency. The police went and said that she was responsible for bringing down a billboard that had been erected by Miles Sampa. She is at the police right now, though I am not sure, which station she is being held as at now because I am also just trying to find out. But I wonder why a billboard of Miles was put up in Chibombo, I am sure that's what even caused the local residents to be upset that they even brought

down that billboard. But now, the police think it's Mwashingwele who incited them," narrated Kakoma.

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has denied rumours that he had died and had been replaced by a lookalike.

Some people thought he had been "cloned", but "it's [the] real me, I assure you," Mr Buhari said.

Rumours that he had been replaced with a body double called "Jubril" from Sudan had been widely shared online.

The 75-year-old Mr Buhari, who is seeking re-election in February next year, has been beset by ill health since taking office in 2015. He was on "medical leave" in the UK for three months in 2017.

He revealed after his return to Nigeria that "I have never been so sick", but did not disclose what he was suffering from. He insists he is now in good health.

According to an AFP Fact Check investigation the rumours began late last year and have appeared on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Posts promoting the rumours have been viewed more than 500,000 times.

A former aide to Mr Buhari's predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan, is among the high profile individuals who have promoted the rumours.

'Ignorant and irreligious' Nnamdi Kanu, the leader

Buhari denies death, body double rumours

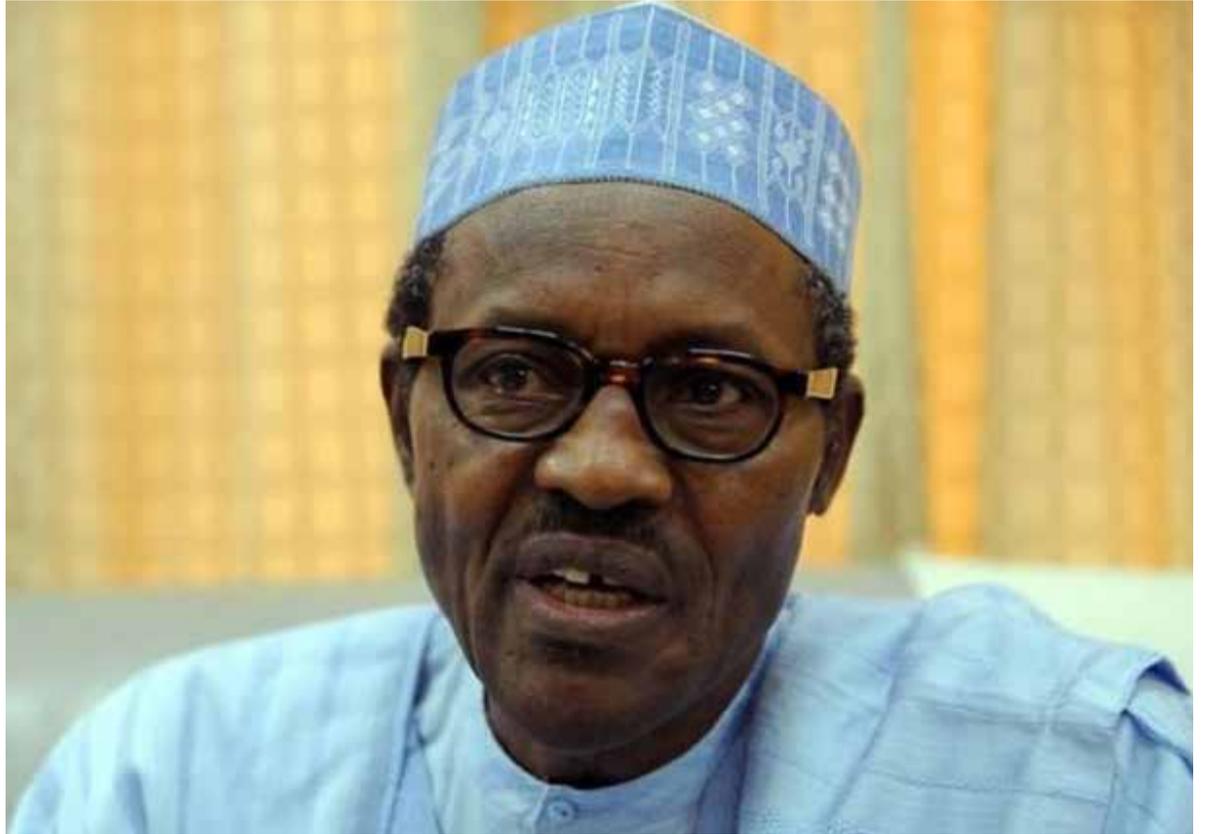
of secessionist group Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipub), has also been fuelling the rumours, AFP found.

In one instance, Mr Kanu shared two images of Mr Buhari, one reversed, to allege that the Nigerian leader, who is right-handed, was using his left hand - "proving" that that meant he was a body double.

A scene from the 1997 film "Face/Off" has also been used by those promoting the rumours to show how a dead Buhari's face could have been transplanted to a body double.

Mr Buhari, who is in Poland attending a UN climate change conference, was asked about the rumours during a meeting on Sunday with Nigerians in the country.

His personal assistant shared a video of his answer: Mr Buhari, who will celebrate his 76th birthday



on 17 December, said those spreading the rumours about his health and identity were "ignorant and

irreligious." "A lot of people hoped that I died during my ill health. Some even reached

out to the vice-president to consider them to be his deputy because they assumed I was dead.

"That embarrassed him a lot and of course, he visited me when I was in London convalescing... It's [the] real me; I assure you," Mr Buhari added.

A former vice-president, Atiku Abubakar, 72, has emerged as Mr Buhari's main challenger in next year's election.

The opposition is expected to make the president's health a major campaign issue, but Mr Buhari said: "I'm still going strong."

Denial could 'backfire' By Ishaq Khalid, BBC News, Abuja

Many Nigerians are surprised that President Buhari chose to respond to the extraordinary claim that he has a body double called "Jubril".

The claim has been an online joke for months, generally dismissed as fake news, and largely ignored by many reputable media organisations.

It has, however, been used by Mr Buhari's detractors to call into question the state of his health.

Contrary to the expectations of the president's aides, his statement that he is "not a clone" may lead to greater focus on his health as he prepares for a gruelling election campaign. **BBC**

India woman set on fire by 'molesters'



Schoolgirls staged a protest rally in May after teenagers were raped and burnt alive

A woman in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh is in critical condition after she was set on fire by two men who had allegedly molested her days earlier.

She was reportedly on her way to lodge a complaint with the police on Saturday when the attack occurred.

The woman is alleged to have been previously turned away by police.

Both the accused have been arrested and three policemen

have been suspended, a police official told BBC Hindi.

The woman has sustained serious burns.

Activists say harassment of rape victims by police is not uncommon. And many cases of sexual molestation and assault in India go unreported because of police apathy as well as the stigma attached to rape.

The attack on the 22-year-old woman took place in Sitapur district.

On 29 November, she was

allegedly molested by two brothers in a field near her home. She managed to escape and went to the police station, accompanied by some family members, to register a complaint. But her family alleges that they were turned away by the police.

On Saturday, two days after she was first molested, she was on her way to the police station to make another attempt to lodge a complaint when the accused poured kerosene on her and set her on fire, local media reports

said.

A senior police official told journalists that they were investigating to find out why the officer in-charge of the police station had not registered her initial complaint. He said two constables and the officer in-charge had been suspended for "neglecting" their duty.

Three teenagers were raped and burned alive in unrelated incidents in two different states earlier this year. Two of them died from their injuries. **BBC**

Beyonce, Jay-Z dazzle South Africa at Mandela gig

Beyonce was leading an all-star line-up including Ed Sheeran, Jay-Z and Usher in Johannesburg at a concert to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela.

The concert was the climax of a year of events celebrating the centennial of Mandela's birth in 1918, and part of a campaign to tackle poverty, child malnutrition and boost gender equality.

This year's Global Citizen Festival is being held at Johannesburg's 94,736-capacity FNB stadium and began at 1200 GMT.

Thousands of music fans, many of whom had received free tickets to reward their activism and campaigning work, flocked to the stadium hours before the gig began.

"It's really important to be here because we all support what Global Citizen is doing, it's helping out a lot of people," said Lesedi Mosita, a banker.

"I do follow the cause, I have done my share, I have tried to support as much as I can -- but I am mostly excited to see Beyonce."

As well as a constellation of global stars that also included Pharrell Williams and Coldplay's Chris Martin, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted fellow heads of state from Ghana, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Williams received a rapturous reception for his rendition of "Get Lucky", with many cheering fans holding phones aloft and dancing exuberantly. **AFP**



Michelle Obama offers her advice to the Duchess of Sussex

Former US First Lady Michelle Obama has shared some words of wisdom with the Duchess of Sussex about adjusting to life in the spotlight.

"Like me, Meghan probably never dreamt that she'd have a life like this,"

Mrs Obama told *Good Housekeeping Magazine*.

"The pressure you feel - from yourself and from others - can sometimes feel like a lot," she went on.

"So my biggest piece of advice would be to take some time and don't be in a hurry to do anything."

"I spent the first few months in the White House mainly worrying about my daughters, making sure they were off to a good start at school and making new friends before I launched into any more ambitious work. I think

it's okay - it's good, even - to do that," Mrs Obama continued.

Mrs Obama pioneered a number of initiatives during her eight years in the White House, with a special focus on children's nutrition and health. Meghan has already become involved with new projects since joining the Royal family earlier this year, including a charity cookbook to help those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. Prior to her engagement to the Duke of Sussex, she had already been a vocal campaigner about a number of causes throughout her acting career, including female empowerment - a passion shared by Mrs Obama.

"What I'd say is that there's so much opportunity to do good with

a platform like that - and I think Meghan can maximise her impact for others, as well her own happiness, if she's doing something that resonates with her personally," Mrs Obama told the magazine.

She also said she found "great hope" in young women today, who she described as "charging forwards" in areas like maths and science. Mrs Obama is currently promoting her memoir, *Becoming* - which became this year's best-selling US book just 15 days after its publication.

The Duchess of Sussex is due to give birth next spring, and recently announced she and her husband will move into their home in the grounds of Windsor Castle to prepare. **BBC**

69-yr-old man told he cannot legally change his age

A Dutchman who wanted to change his date of birth to boost dating prospects has lost his legal battle to do so.

Emile Ratelband, still aged 69, wanted to change his birth date by 20 years to avoid what he called discrimination.

"We live in a time when you can change your name and change your gender. Why can't I decide my own age?" he said.

But the court disagreed, highlighting that many rights in law are based on a person's age, and changing it at will could cause many problems. There was no legal basis to make such a change, it said.

"Mr Ratelband is at liberty to feel 20 years younger than his real age and to act accordingly," the judges said, but changing his legal documents would have "undesirable legal and societal implications".

Mr Ratelband, who calls himself a "positivity trainer", made headlines around the world with his unusual request.

Ahead of the hearing, he made TV and other press appearances, saying he felt discriminated against in both employment and on the popular dating app Tinder - and said his doctors had told him he had the body of someone in their 40s. **BBC**

James not looking for Madrid return, favours Bayern stay

The Colombia international will see a two-year loan in Germany come to an end next summer and has expressed a desire to

make a permanent move. James Rodriguez has reiterated his desire to make a permanent move to Bayern Munich, rather than return to

Real Madrid.

The Colombia international first linked up with the Bundesliga champions in 2016 after being deemed surplus to

requirements in Spain.

A two-year loan switch was sanctioned, and that agreement will come to a close next summer.

Bayern have the option

to complete a purchase at that stage and James hopes they will activate that clause.

The 27-year-old is currently sidelined through injury and has struggled to reproduce his form from last season as the Bavarian giants have struggled as a collective.

He is, however, enjoying his time in Germany and would like to see it extended.

James told those in attendance at a meeting with a Bayern fan club: "It's a different situation to last year because I am playing less.

"If I have to go because of lacking play time, then I will. But I would like to stay because I really feel the love of the fans and the whole Bayern family."

James suffered knee ligament damage in November, with Bayern announcing at the time that he was facing up to

"several weeks" on the sidelines.

Positive progress is being made in his rehabilitation and a return to action is already being chased down.

It could be that he returns to Niko Kovac's plans before the end of the calendar year and a winter break in Germany.

James added: "I hope that I will recover completely in one to two weeks."

Bayern's next outing will see them play host to Nurnberg on Saturday before wrapping up their Champions League group stage campaign with a trip to Ajax.

They will then take in domestic meetings with Hannover, RB Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt before the Bundesliga shuts down until mid-January.

Kovac could do with seeing his side end 2018 with a flurry of wins, as a disappointing showing so far has a dominant force in German football sat fourth in the table, nine points back on leaders Borussia Dortmund. **Goal.com**



Pablo Barrera of Pumas fights for the ball with Guido Pizarro and Jesus Dueñas of Tigres during the quarter finals second leg match between Pumas UNAM and Tigres UANL as part of the Torneo Apertura 2018 Liga MX at Olimpico Universitario Stadium on December 2, 2018 in Mexico City, Mexico. AFP

Arsenal should have sold Ozil, kept Ramsey

Arsenal would have been better served selling Mesut Ozil and using the money saved on his contract to keep Aaron Ramsey, says Ray Parlour. The Gunners were forced to dig deep last season in order to keep a World Cup winner on their books, with a lucrative extension agreed in February.

While they were able to get those talks over the line and prevent a key man from dropping into the free agent pool, it appears as though Ramsey will be slipping the net.

The Wales international has seen an offer of fresh terms taken off the table and, despite continuing to impress, is set to move on at the end of the season.

Former Gunners star Parlour believes Arsenal have got their priorities wrong, telling talkSPORT: "My personal decision would be that I'd

rather keep Ramsey than Ozil.

"I think Aaron brings a little bit to the team.

"Mesut Ozil is a great player, I'm not doubting that, but you can leave him out. We didn't miss him [against Tottenham], whereas I thought Ramsey made an impact in the second half.

"Aaron has been there a long time, he's been there for 10 years, so you've got to look that as well.

"Some players would sulk and say, 'I'm leaving at the end of the season, so it doesn't really matter', but his attitude has been spot on.

"He knows he's leaving at the end of the season, but he was brilliant in midweek in the Europa League.

"I would rather have Aaron Ramsey."

Ramsey stepped off the bench to provide two assists during Arsenal's

4-2 derby win over Tottenham on Sunday.

Those efforts saw him set a new Premier League record, with an important

contribution being made amid the uncertainty surrounding his future.

Ozil, meanwhile, was nowhere to be seen

at Emirates Stadium, with an untimely back problem keeping him out of Unai Emery's plans. **Goal.com**

Croatia court drops Modric perjury charges

A Zagreb court has dropped charges that Croatia football captain and Real Madrid star Luka Modric gave false testimony in a corruption trial, a court spokesman said on Monday.

"There is not enough evidence that he (Modric) committed the criminal offence of perjury," Kresimir Devcic told AFP.

The ruling, which closes the case, comes as Modric is hoping to be awarded the 2018 Ballon d'Or in Paris on Monday for taking his team to the 2018 World Cup finals in Moscow.

Croatia lost to France in the

final but the small nation was overjoyed by its historic run, which temporarily quieted anguish over corruption and other problems plaguing the sport.

In March, Croatian prosecutors had charged Modric, 33, with committing perjury during evidence he gave in the multi-million-euro corruption trial of former Dinamo Zagreb boss Zdravko Mamic.

Modric testified in June last year over the details of his 2008 transfer from Dinamo to Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

He went on to join Real Madrid in 2012.

Mamic and three other defendants were found guilty of charges of abuse of power and corruption that cost Dinamo, the current Croatian champions, more than 15 million euros (\$17.3 million), and the state 1.5 million euros.

Mamic, who is currently in hiding in neighbouring Bosnia, was sentenced in June to six and a half years in jail.

Prosecutors allege cash was embezzled through fictitious deals related to player transfers. **AFP**



Lameck Banda fit for Congo DR COSAFA clash

By Alex Chilumbwe
Under-20 coach Charles Bwale has declared Lameck Banda fit to play in the second game of the on-going Mopani Copper Mine COSAFA tournament against Congo DR tomorrow despite having been withdrawn in his first match against Malawi following an injury. Banda was withdrawn in the 62nd minute and was replaced by Prince Mumba who scored a brace to guide the young Chipolopolo to victory. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Bwale confirmed that Banda's

injury was not fatal and would play in the team's second game of the tournament. "It is not a very serious injury and I can confirm that he is going to play in our second game. He even managed to train with us this morning but cautioned him not to force it if he feels any discomfort. I know it is not easy to play freely after an injury because one ought to be more cautious than before. This can affect one's way of playing," Bwale noted. He further admitted that Banda's injury had raised concerns and

worry not only among his teammates but the entire technical bench too. "I have so much confidence in him so like his teammates; I got worried about his injury. Of course there are replacements that can take up his duties but the young lad is a fighter. The whole squad got worried yesterday but we all got over it and hoped for the best. With or without him, we would still do just fine," said Bwale. Meanwhile, skipper Edward Chilufya said that the morale in the squad had been heightened following their 2 nil triumph over Malawi. "We are now just looking forward to our next game against DR. After the win yesterday, the morale has gone up and we are determined to win all the group matches and proceed to semifinals. We will attack more and defend better so that we do not have loose ends," said Chilufya.

Tony Parker #9 of the Charlotte Hornets passes the ball against the Utah Jazz on November 30, 2018 at Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. AFP

Shocked Kashala clarifies FAZ interest in hosting AfCON 2019

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ has expressed shock over people's reaction concerning the story published in the *Daily Mail newspaper* yesterday indicating that the association expressed interest in bidding to host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations after CAF stripped off Cameroon the hosting rights on Saturday due to unmet conditions. The CAF team visited Cameroon according to a statement released on Saturday, and discovered that the West African nation had not yet met all the preparedness conditions attached to hosting the continent's most prestigious tournament. CAF also added that the tournament could not be postponed due to other important programmes on its calendar. In a story published by Daily Mail, FAZ general

secretary Adrian Kashala indicated that the association has interest to bid and host the tournament and soccer fans on the FAZ facebook page were not having it. Kashala in an interview with Goal Diggers! said he was both shocked and disappointed by people's reactions over his statement and urged them to calm down and let the association do its work in peace. "It seems people cannot differentiate between showing interest and actually saying that that is exactly what will happen. I even said that we would consult the relevant authorities before putting pen to paper. We cannot just act alone because we understand how big a responsibility it is to host AfCON," said Kashala. Soccer fans on the hand said that there were too many issues FAZ needed to solve before showing

interest to host the continental showpiece. Other things bemoaned by fans ranged from few modern stadia, lack of good transportation means and the national team having failed to qualify for the

tournament. Chipolopolo's ambitions to qualify for the tournament were buried by the Black Mambas of Mozambique following their home and away losses in the qualifiers encounter. CAF is set to announce the new hosts for the tournament on December 31. Meanwhile, South Africa's Sports minister Thoko Zile Xasa declared his country ready to host the prestigious tournament as one of the bidders.

can only create rivalry among players," Himoonde cautioned. The Zambia national team dropped five places on the FIFA/Coca-Cola world rankings to rank 82nd in the world thereby recording its worst ranking for the year 2018. Statistics released by FIFA, Wednesday, indicated that Zambia is 17th on the continent and 82nd on the globe. Meanwhile, Mozambique who beat Zambia in both AfCON qualifier encounters benefitted from their win and notably ascended on FIFA ranking and moved five places up the table.

HH counsels Chipolopolo

By Alex Chilumbwe
Former Zambia National team defender Hichani Himoonde says the national team players have a task to improve Zambia's FIFA ranking, saying the loss to Mozambique in both home and away fixtures in the AfCON qualifiers contributed to the downward mobility in ranking. Himoonde also said that to successfully improve Zambia's ranking, players must not hold on to past failures and successes but work extra hard to make the new records for the country. In an interview with Goal Diggers! the former Power

Dynamos defender noted that football comparisons only created rivalry as opposed to finding solutions in instances that the national team was not doing well. "It is the national team's duty to improve the country's football ranking. They are the ones playing and I am positive that they understand this. This does not mean that they should be miserable although the ranking dropped because of their home and away losses to Mozambique in AfCON qualifiers. Comparing current and former rankings cannot solve anything, in fact it

can only create rivalry among players," Himoonde cautioned. The Zambia national team dropped five places on the FIFA/Coca-Cola world rankings to rank 82nd in the world thereby recording its worst ranking for the year 2018. Statistics released by FIFA, Wednesday, indicated that Zambia is 17th on the continent and 82nd on the globe. Meanwhile, Mozambique who beat Zambia in both AfCON qualifier encounters benefitted from their win and notably ascended on FIFA ranking and moved five places up the table.

HH COUNSELS CHIPOLOPOLO

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Fury says Wilder will avoid rematch 'at all costs'

Tyson Fury said on Monday WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder will try to avoid a rematch with him "at all costs" after their epic draw in Los Angeles.

Wilder retained his belt on Saturday after a thrilling 12-round battle ended in a split decision draw at the Staples Center.

The result means the American is still in a position to achieve his dream of unifying the heavyweight division against Fury's fellow Briton Anthony Joshua, who holds the WBA, IBF and WBO versions of the title.

After the bout, Wilder said he would prefer to target Joshua's titles in a bid to unify the division but would be satisfied with either a rematch against Fury or a chance to take on Joshua.

But Fury said that Wilder could try to avoid him.

"I've got a funny feeling he's going to get his running shoes out and stay away from me at all costs," he told Britain's ITV network.

"I'm only getting better, and better and better. I can beat them all but they need to fight me. We need to give Britain the biggest fight in British boxing history and that's me and Joshua.

"Let's make it happen. The country wants it, I want it, everybody wants it. The only people who don't seem to want it is their team," he added.

Wilder's trainer Jay Deas told BBC radio he would want Wilder to take on Fury again before a potential fight with Joshua.

"If it's something that people would like to see again we would absolutely love to do it. Both guys put on a tremendous fight," Deas said.

"If it was up to me -- and only me -- I would like to do the Fury fight first because I think there is unfinished business.

"If the money makes sense in the UK I would love to do it there. Deontay has never had a problem with travelling. That's not the issue at all." *AFP*



New Orleans' Anthony Davis goes after a loose ball on the way to a 36-point performance in the Pelicans' win over the Charlotte Hornets - AFP

Klopp charged over wild celebrations after Liverpool win

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was charged by the Football Association on Monday after he raced onto the pitch to celebrate his side's late winner against Everton in the Merseyside derby.

The German was overjoyed by Divock Origi's 96th-minute goal that sealed the 1-0 win and raced over to Reds

goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

He apologised for his actions but the FA announced he had been charged with misconduct. Klopp has until 1800 GMT on Thursday to respond to the charge.

"Immediately after the game I apologised to Marco Silva when we

spoke to each other," Klopp said following the match. "I told him how much I respect his work.

"What can I say about it? I didn't want to run. It was not in my plan. I didn't want to run to Ali (goalkeeper Alisson), I couldn't stop obviously. Not cool, but it happened." *AFP*

