



POLICE STOP OPPOSITION

“No protest during festive season”

By Mirriam Chabala

Police in Lusaka have denied the nine opposition political parties permission to conduct a peaceful protest against government expenditure of public resources, citing limited manpower in the service to protect them this festive season.

Speaking shortly after a meeting with Lusaka Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri, ADD president Charles Milupi, who spoke on behalf of the other parties expressed disappointment that Police could deny them a permit when they had followed the necessary procedure.

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Former foreign affairs minister and 2021 presidential aspirant Harry Kalaba joins an artist on stage during the Democratic Party's fundraising dinner in Lusaka

Lungu easiest to beat in 2021 - CK

By Mirriam Chabala

Chishimba Kambwili says the Constitutional Court's decision to declare President Edgar Lungu eligible to contest the 2021 general elections is a blessing in disguise because he is the weakest opponent one can face.

And the embattled Roan PF member of parliament says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila should stop pressurizing the Speaker of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini to declare the Roan parliamentary seat vacant and

allow the Court of Appeal to determine the matter.

In an interview, Kambwili said the ConCourt's decision to declare President Lungu

eligible to contest the 2021 general elections is a blessing in disguise because he is the weakest opponent one can face.

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Murder accused tells court he shot wife, lover in self defence

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Cops quiz Kay Figo over viral porn photo

By Mukosha Funga

Police have warned and cautioned singer Cynthia Bwalya alias Kay Figo over her viral naked photo.

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Govt spent K943m on debt servicing in Nov, reveals Mwanakatwe

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By Mukosha Funga

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says government remains committed to servicing debt so as to reduce Zambia's indebtedness and ensure fiscal sustainability.

And Mwanakatwe says for the first time in a long time, government has released Constituency Development Funds on time.

Announcing November 2018 budget releases in a statement issued by ministry spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta, Monday, Mwanakatwe revealed that K943 million was released to service both internal and external debt. "In November, 2018, the Ministry of Finance released a total of K4.8 Billion to finance public service operations and sustain service delivery. Of this amount, K943 million was funded to service both the domestic and external debt; K940 million went towards grants to various institutions; K1 billion was released to finance various government projects, programmes and general operations; and, K1.9 billion went towards the public service wage bill. The Treasury also released a total of K169.3 million as Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in November 2018, to support various community-based projects in all constituencies," read the statement.

"Of the K4.8 billion total funding for November 2018, releases for capital expenditure totalled K422.9 million, of which K193.2 million was for payment towards continued works and completion of road projects across the country, K10.6 million went towards the Rural Electrification Programme, and K49.8 million for other capital expenditure programmes across the nation...In order to continue reducing the country's indebtedness and ensure fiscal sustainability as projected in the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme [ESGP] and the Medium Term Debt Strategy

Govt spent K943m on debt servicing in November, reveals Mwanakatwe

[MTDS], the Government released a sum of K942 million in November 2018 for payments towards both domestic and external debt obligations. This is a practice to which the Ministry remains committed."

And Mwanakatwe said for the first time in a long time, government has released Constituency Development Funds on time.

"Mrs. Mwanakatwe has also indicated that this is first time in a long-time that the Treasury has not lagged behind in releasing resources for the Constituency Development Fund [CDF]. She added that as soon as the 2019 National Budget is approved, Members of Parliament, in collaboration with other stakeholders in their jurisdictions, will have an opportunity to focus on community initiatives using the released CDF resources," read the statement.

The Treasury also released K458.7 million towards the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), of which some of the funds were channeled towards clearing outstanding bills under the programme.

"With regard to support for agriculture development, the Treasury released a sum of K458.7 million towards the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). This is to cater for the speedy implementation of the FISP programme during the current 2018/2019 farming season, through both the e-Voucher and the direct redeeming programme windows," read the statement.

"For the purpose of clarity, the Ministry of Finance wishes to state that some of the funds from the K458.7 million were allocated

to the process of dismantling outstanding bills under the FISP programme. The total amount released towards the FISP programme now stands at K1.74 billion from January 2018 to end November, 2018. The Food Reserve Agency also received K50 million in November 2018 to liquidate some outstanding bills and to procure maize and other grains in accordance with state stipulations for strategic reserve requirements."

According to the statement, K379.3 million in total was released for dismantling debt relating to goods and services procured by various ministries and spending agencies.

"Further, a sum of K46.1 million was released to liquidate outstanding liabilities related

to the consumption of goods and services by various line Ministries, Provinces and Spending Agencies. This brings the total amount released in 2018 for dismantling arrears to K379.3 million. The Treasury further released K142 million to support the activities and operations of various central government institutions. Of this amount K50 million went towards the procurement of drugs and medical supplies in public health institutions. In addition, public grants for supporting the operations of various public institutions such as hospitals and other medical institutions amounted to K60.6 million, while universities and schools country-wide got K116.3 million," read the statement.

"In order to achieve the timely payment of November salaries for various public service workers, including teaching, medical and security personnel, the Government spent a total of K1.9 billion on the Public Service Wage Bill (Personal Emoluments). The Zambia Revenue Authority received K66.2 million during the month under review to ensure that the strengthened domestic resource mobilisation drive remains on course. K89.9 million went towards supporting the operations of local authorities across the country through the Local Government Equalisation Fund (LGEF) and a further K180.5 million was released in November 2018 to support the operations of other public

entities and quasi-governmental organisations."

Mwanakatwe noted that reforms related to the removal of consumption subsidies and austerity measures which government had implemented were now bearing fruit as seen by the timely releases of funds to productive sectors such as agriculture and to social sectors such as education, health, and public welfare.

She called on Ministries, Provinces and other Controlling Bodies to remain instrumental in actualizing President Edgar Lungu's vision of developing the country without leaving anyone behind by ensuring that there is prudence in the management and utilization of public resources at all times.

You will become President, Chililabombwe priest tells Kalaba

By Thomas Mulenga

A Catholic priest in Chililabombwe District on Sunday showered praises and messages of good will on Democratic Party 2021 presidential candidate Harry Kalaba when he attended mass at St. Pius the tenth parish.

St. Pius the tenth parish priest Reverend Father Chalwe Chonde told Kalaba that he was praying for him so that he could continue drawing closer to State House.

He said Zambians needed a loving and practical president who would translate his words into actions.

"The God who has begun the good work in you will bring it to fulfilment so you need to continue trusting in him. Our lives are projects, God is working in you, you are a project of God and he will continue shaping you so that you may become a finished product. No evil will prevent, no corruption will prevent, no rigging will prevent. I remember when I was a deacon, one lady made a mistake and we said we shall punish you, she was sad and said to me 'you will never be a priest, my hand should be cut off if you become a priest' but I

am a priest but the lady's hand has not been cut. So bwana president, the intention you have of becoming president of Zambia will come to pass, hardworking pays, patience pays. Having a good heart and a listening ear will see you through," Fr Chonde said.

"The people of Zambia are not difficult, they need a president who can understand them, they need a person who can work hard to create opportunities, a vibrant leader, a leader full of love, a leader who is pragmatic, practical, walking the talk as well as talking the walk, a leader who will connect their

words with works. We are yearning for leaders who can speak and act. And we are praying for you so that you may continue drawing nearer, nearer to State House. As you are moving about, you need to convince yourself that I am drawing nearer to State House."

And Fr Chonde encouraged Kalaba to continue worshipping with Christians in churches.

"You need to become a good Christian before you can become president of Zambia. So the journey that you have started, worshipping in churches, creating relations with Christians, is very important because your political career will have a very good backing, the backing that come from the gospel of Jesus Christ. To read the scripture when you are alone is very important, to pray always is very important, you will never go backwards," said Fr Chonde.

"Some people say 'I have stopped voting, I will never vote again because whenever I vote I get disappointed, twavotela ba Sata bafwa, ba Mwanawasa bafwa (we voted for Sata he died, Mwanawasa also died)'. Don't give up, God will raise a perfect leader for mother Zambia, continue voting. Indeed, we need a President in future who will bring peace, who will bring justice, a president who will be a lover of the people of Zambia."

And Kalaba thanked Fr Chonde for the words of encouragement.

"I am very thankful father for the reception given to us at this parish and I am grateful for the kind words from you. I am asking that you continue praying for us leaders as Christians. And yes it is true, that in 2021 I will also be running for the position of republican president of this country and I pray that you will be remembering me in your prayers as Christians of this parish," said Kalaba.

Court misinterpreted Constitution to favour Lungu - Elias Chipimo

By Mirriam Chabala

NAREP president Elias Chipimo says the Constitutional Court assumed the role of the National Assembly by implanting fitting clauses in the 2016 amended Constitution to favour President Edgar Lungu in last Friday's judgment.

Chipimo, who is also a renowned Lusaka lawyer, explained when he featured on a Diamond Television programme dubbed Costa, Sunday, that the public outcry surrounding the ConCourt's ruling on President Lungu's eligibility was created by the court itself because it imposed wording that was never part of the amended Constitution.

"I will tell you where the problem is with this ruling, and it was a problem that's really been created entirely by the Constitutional Court itself [by] imposing wording which they believe Parliament should have thought about. It has nothing even to do with the issue of whether the term is five years or not. There basis for deciding that... they' have added something and in my professional view, they have actually taken the powers of Parliament and drafted into the 2016 Constitution and implanted back to

the pre 2016 Constitution those same provisions that allow a Vice-President who assumes office or a person who is elected because a Vice-President can't assume office and they have now said that President Lungu effectively is deemed to benefit from that provision as though it existed in 2015, pre 2016," Chipimo said.

"And they have done that because they've simply said President Lungu was...and they don't mention his name in the judgment because they are trying to make it seem like this is not about an individual but at the end of the day, they have made a decision which has given rights to only one person. And those rights are [for] President Lungu. What we have said is that there were two different Constitutional regimes happening: there was the 2015, the pre 2016 amendment regime, so the 1996 Constitution and then there was the 2016 amendment. So we had that post period, so they are saying that this person was sitting in the middle of one regime coming to an end which says 'twice elected' and now you have this new regime which says 'twice held office' but it gives an exception where you ascended to the Presidency because you were a Vice-President

who was ascending office on a vacancy or you are elected when the Vice-President could not take up."

Meanwhile, Chipimo condemned government for trying to curtail the spread of fake news in the country by introducing cyber bills that would in turn infringe on people's freedom of expression.

"The PF has failed to manage the economy. We are heavily indebted, we have mortgaged our country in a way that we didn't have to. Building tollgates and all those other things should have been done without having to borrow money. But because we have done that, we are short now of capital just to run the government. So they have to start to introduce these different taxes and they have found a soft target. Secondly, on the issue of cyber crime, this really is just an attempt to monitor what's going on within the social media community... but look, you cannot run away from fake news, it is here to stay. The key thing is how do you counter it? We have always said that do not curtail fake news by trying to stifle people's freedom of expression. Curtail it by not doing the silly things, the nonsensical things that are showing people how

much is being stolen, why you are misapplying your powers. These are the things that will stop it because if there is fake news that somebody has stolen something, open the books and show them the real position," he said. And commenting on the introduction of the Public Finance Management Bill, Chipimo said the bill was a good document but that it would only work well if there was political will on the part of leaders.

"The introduction of the public finance management bill is the start but it's not the solution, I do believe that it's a start but the key issue here is, is there political will to actually fight corruption? If you look at what is happening in South Africa for example where President Cyril Ramaposa's son has been accused of impropriety, what did President Ramaposa say? He said 'open the gates, investigate this thing fully, pay back any money that looks like it was suspiciously acquired and id any prosecution needs to happen, I will be the one to take my son to the police station to face the charge'. This is the kind of political will we have been lacking in this country, certainly since the PF came into power," said Chipimo.

Murder accused claims he shot his wife, her lover in self-defense

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A murder-accused has told the Lusaka High Court that his wife told him she loved her boyfriend and enjoyed having sex with him because he was useless and not man enough.

Peter Siwale of Lusaka's Meanwood area, also admitted that he shot his wife and her lover because he was provoked and thought his life was in danger when they ganged up and started beating him.

In this matter, Siwale, 34, who is charged with two counts of murder, is alleged to have shot dead his wife, Charity Namukoko, a teacher, and her alleged lover, Andrew Chibeka,

in the presence of his children. In the first count, it is alleged that Siwale, on July 27, 2017, murdered his wife. In the second count, Siwale is also alleged to have killed Chibeka, whom he found with his wife. But opening his defence before Lusaka High Court judge Catherine Phiri, Monday, Siwale told the court that he was married with Namukoko for 10 years. He said he started suspecting his wife of having an affair when she would knock off late from work and change her clothes in their daughter's bedroom. Siwale informed the court that at

one time, he once saw a message on his wife's phone from her alleged lover saying "he was crazy about her and that he loved her". He said on the material day, he went to visit his wife at her work place without informing her because he wanted to prove his suspicions. Siwale said after waiting for his wife outside her school, he saw her coming out with another man and he decided to follow them. "I just went there because I wanted to know what time she knocks off, her movements and the truth about my suspicions. I waited up to 17:00 hours but

could only see other teachers coming out. I patiently waited for her to come out and around 17:30 hours, she came out with a man. I did not confront them, but followed them behind, slowly. They were walking and I was in a vehicle," he said. Siwale said when they approached Meanwood, they reached a point where there were three roads and the two decided to use an abandoned road. "We were using the middle road. [But] they decided to use the one which everyone had abandoned because it was flooded with sewer water," he said. Siwale said he decided to park his vehicle because the road

was bad and followed them at a distance. He said as he was following them, the two branched off a few feet way from the road to where there was some vegetation and started kissing and embracing each other. "I hid somewhere where I was watching from a distance. They started embracing themselves and kissing," Siwale narrated. He said at that point, he was shocked because he never expected his wife to do that. Siwale said, after kissing, his wife's lover started undressing her and he couldn't take it anymore so he decided to confront them.

"When we reached home, my wife told our children to go to their bedrooms," he said. Siwale said, after their children had gone to their bedroom, he grabbed his wife's handbag and found two face clothes, one wrapped in a plastic. He said after unwrapping the one in the plastic, he discovered that it was wet. "When I tried to smell it, it produced a bad smell which I couldn't smell again. I think it was used for wiping sperms," Siwale said. He said after interrogating his wife's lover, the man confessed that he had no idea that the woman was married because she had lied to him that she was single.

He said when he asked his wife what she was doing with another man, she said "whatever I saw was exactly what was happening there". "Because they were busy kissing, they never saw me when I went towards them. So I just touched their shoulders and they got scared because they didn't expect anyone. When my wife realised it was me, she looked down and didn't say anything. I asked her what she was doing with another man at that time. I was shocked with her response," he said. Siwale said his wife suddenly started insulting him, saying he was a useless man and that the 10 years they lived together were nothing. He said at that time, her lover took advantage of the situation and started beating him. Siwale said after a while, he suggested that the three go to his place to discuss the matter.

Siwale said after the man apologised to him, his wife stood up and reiterated that he was a useless man and that she enjoyed having sex with her lover. "He then started apologizing to me but my wife stood up and said 'why are you even apologising to him, he's just a useless man'. That I was not man enough, she loved her lover and even enjoyed having sex with him," he said. Siwale said at this point, his wife informed him that she was going to leave the house with the man and take the children with her. He said when he tried pleading with her not to leave the house, she said she had already made up her mind and there was nothing he could do. Siwale disclosed that he shot the two because he was provoked and thought his life was in danger when they ganged up on him and started beating him. "As they were trying to leave the house, I touched the man. She got an umbrella and whipped me on my hand. I was in so much pain that I sat down and couldn't do anything. I called my son, and when he came, I told him to go to our bedroom and bring whatever he would find under the bed. He brought the firearm. When my son left, she insisted that she was going to leave with my children. But when they wanted to make an exit, I blocked them but she hit me with an umbrella again," said Siwale. "When I pushed her, the man attacked me and started beating me. I became desperate and couldn't do anything. When I realised that my life was in danger because they were both beating me, that's how I got the firearm and defended myself. I shot both of them. I was provoked." Siwale said he then called his neighbour and asked her to escort him to the police as he had committed an offence. In cross examination, Siwale said when the couple was facing those problems, they never engaged their family members.



Kasempa District UPND Member of Parliament Brenda Tambatamba speaks Muselepete Compound residents who face some water challenges on December 8, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Lungu weakest opponent we can face in 2021 - CK

By Mirriam Chabala

Chishimba Kambwili says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila should stop pressurizing the Speaker of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini to declare the Roan parliamentary seat vacant and allow the Court of Appeal to determine the matter. And the embattled Roan PF member of parliament says the Constitutional Court's decision to declare President Edgar Lungu eligible to contest the 2021 general elections is a blessing in disguise because he is the weakest opponent one can face. On October 25, Lusaka High Court judge Maria Kawimbe threw out Kambwili's application in a case in which he was challenging his expulsion from the Patriotic Front party on technicalities, owing to his "lack of seriousness" on the matter. Although Kambwili appealed the court's decision, the PF has dragged Speaker Matibini to court saying his decision not to declare the Roan seat vacant is illegal. But in an interview, Kambwili asked the PF to wait for the courts to wait for the courts to decide on the matter.

"Mwila is just dull, I have already told you that he's dull. The Speaker is on firm ground, he's following what the law says. Mwila should know that what's good for the goose should be good for the gander. The Speaker did not declare Mwanakatwe and Nkandu Luo's seats vacant when they appealed to the Supreme court. Why does he want the Speaker to declare my seat vacant when I have appealed? There should be no special rules for PF. Mwila should do an introspection of himself and his behaviour, he's only exposing his ignorance by doing what he's doing. Why even go and sue the Attorney General?" Kambwili wondered. "Why go and sue the Speaker of the National Assembly, why? The Speaker is on firm ground, let's just have that matter heard one merit. Why are they scared? It's because they know that they did not follow the constitution, they abrogated the constitution so they are looking for short cut. Natural justice entails that the matter be heard on merit. I have appealed against the squashing off of that case by the High court. So why is

Mwila in a hurry? Tabala pali (don't they sleep over) Roan [constituency]? Tell them that whatever the circumstances, they will lose. Whether in court or by election, they will lose. I know they always dream of Roan and they don't sleep. But let them just celebrate the ConCourt ruling for now." And Kambwili said ConCourt's decision to declare President Lungu eligible to contest the 2021 general elections is a blessing in disguise because he is the weakest opponent one can face. "I can only say it's a laughing matter. What did you expect? The President warned the ConCourt judges that if they ruled against him, there would be chaos. And he has always been saying that he is running for President in 2021. Then Amos Chanda issued a statement two days ago that the president doesn't mind the outcome of the ConCourt. That 'whether the ruling is in his favour or not, he doesn't mind'. Then we saw a PF cadre from Southern Province say a day before the ConCourt ruling that 'President Lungu is eligible and he will rule up to 2026, you will see...' early in the morning on judgment

day, cadres are over on the streets celebrating even before the ConCourt judgment is given. That's why I am saying it's a laughing matter. You can fool people once but you cannot fool them always," said Kambwili. "But I can tell you that this is a blessing in disguise. God is very gracious, his ways are not our ways. He knows that Lungu is the weakest opponent we can face. So for me, it's a blessing in disguise because Lungu is the weakest opponent I can meet in an election. No matter what has happened, I don't want to cry over spilled milk but in my view I shall always hold

the opinion that he doesn't qualify. But if the ConCourt in their opinion think he qualifies, so be it. But it's a blessing in disguise, we will meet in the election and he'll be bruised very badly. Not even the wealth he has gotten in the last three years will help him. The ruling is really laughable but we are used with such things in Zambia... why are you surprised by the ruling? Vehicles have already been branded 'ECL 2021', Vitenges have been produced. That's why I didn't even go to listen to that ruling because I knew the outcome already, it's laughable really, I wish I could laugh the all day."

Police warn, caution Kay Figo over 'pornographic' image

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says police have warned and cautioned singer Cynthia Bwalya alias Kay Figo for the offense of prohibition of pornography.

This is in relation to an image which Figo circulated last week to promote her new music. "Police have warned and cautioned Cynthia Bwalya a musician popularly known as Kay Figo of Woodlands in Lusaka for the Offence of

Prohibition of pornography which is contrary to section 102 (a) of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act no. 21 2009. Investigations in the matter have continued," stated Katongo, Monday.

High cases of early marriages in Kasempa worry ZNWL

By *Tenson Mkhala in Kasempa*

The Zambia National Women's Lobby says it is saddened by high number of early marriages in Njenga Ward in Kasempa district.

Area member of parliament Brenda Tambatamba has noted that high poverty levels and lack of recreational facilities contribute to early marriages. Speaking in Kasempa when she visited the area under a capacity building program between the Parliamentarian and ZNWL, ZNWL executive director Juliet Chibuta asked parents to stop marrying off their daughters at a tender age.

"As Women's Lobby, we are so saddened that here in Kasempa mostly Njenga Ward has high rate of early marriages. This is not good because these children you are marrying off at a tender age if given an opportunity, would have been completing their secondary school. Let us stop this tendency," Chibuta said.

She said traditional leaders in the area should work with the community in fighting early marriages.

"I can see some traditional leaders, the headmen are here and this is good because we want you people to work together with the community and fight all early marriages. Let's educate a girl child. I want to also encourage

women to take part in decision making. Imagine, the whole 22 Wards here there is no woman councillor. This is sad but this time we want you women to take part and start thinking of being in leadership. Let us support each other. So our plea is men should support women and encourage them to be leaders also," said Chibuta.

And Tambatamba noted that high poverty levels and lack of recreational facilities in the area contributed to the rise in early marriages.

"We are promoting women in leadership in the constituency. We had one major meeting which was facilitated by the constituency office and one of the topic we talked was

we want to collaborate with traditional leaders so that we can work together and discourage early pregnancy because we believe that together we can fight this vice. This is the reason why you have seen me coming here with the Women's lobby so that we may see how we can stop this," said Tambatamba.

"You have also heard that school drop out rate is also high here. A lot of girls have drop out from school because parents still have the notion of saying girl child can be married off any time. I should also say that high poverty levels and lack of reaction has contributed highly to this early pregnancies here."

PEPFAR awards MoH US\$3.5m to enhance cervical cancer screening

By *Miriam Chabala*

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has awarded US\$3.5 million additional funding to the Ministry of Health for rapid expansion of cervical cancer screening services for women living with HIV/AIDS.

And Minister of Health Dr Chitalu Chilufya says the additional funding would catalyse rapid expansion and integration of cervical cancer screening among Zambian living women with HIV/AIDS, who are already receiving Antiretroviral therapy services in high

volume sites.

In a statement released by Ministry Head of Media Relations Stanslous Ngosa, Dr Chilufya also said that the Ministry of Health values immensely its partnership with PEPFAR to end AIDS and cervical cancer, saying the partnership would

help in saving the lives of Zambian women from HIV and cervical cancer.

"The Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Health has been awarded additional funding amounting to US\$ 3.5 million by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS

Relief (PEPFAR) for rapid expansion of cervical cancer screening services, especially for women with HIV. The Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya said the Ministry is delighted with the additional funding because it will catalyse rapid expansion and integration of cervical cancer screening among women with HIV who are receiving Antiretroviral therapy services in high volume sites," stated Ngosa.

"Dr. Chilufya has also welcomed the announcement by President George W. Bush on the new collaboration efforts that includes the George W. Bush Institute, PEPFAR and UNAIDS to move into the next phase of the public private partnership of developing a model, demonstrating a greater impact and reduction of deaths due to cervical cancer specifically in HIV positive women called the Partnership to End AIDS and Cervical Cancer. He says the Ministry immensely values the Partnership to End AIDS and Cervical Cancer because it will help in saving the lives of Zambian women from HIV and cervical cancer."

I'll pull a shocker in 2021 - Kalaba

By *Thomas Mulenga*

Democratic Party (DP) 2021 presidential candidate Harry Kalaba says he is going to pull a shocker in the 2021 general elections as he will be the first to win the presidential elections after campaigning for only three years.

Meanwhile, Kalaba's presence in Chililabombwe on Sunday caused panic in the ranks of police and intelligence officers in the district who trailed his motorcade.

Kalaba, who is also Bahati PF member of parliament, said this at a Democratic Party fundraising dinner in Chingola District, Saturday.

"This country is going to witness something that has never been seen before. Yes, there are those of you who are doubting that Kalaba Harry can't do this, many have tried but have failed. But we want to tell you a different story that we don't start things that we don't accomplish, this is a journey that will end in celebration. Because you are the new majority, you are standing on the correct side of history, when those who write books of history, will be writing those books, you will be found on the right side of the argument. You have chosen to believe when others cannot believe. Others think that it can't be done, in three years, how can Harry Kalaba become President only in three years' time? That's why I told you that you are witnessing history in the making because it is going to be done. For those who are telling us that we can't, I have got a word for them this evening, that the carpet beneath your feet has been swept off," Kalaba said.

"The Zambian people know what is right, the Zambian people know who to vote for,

and the Zambian people have felt the burden of poverty for far too long now they are making history. They are going to choose and craft their own destiny and nobody is going to force them in a destiny that's not theirs. We are the ones who are going to change the destiny of this country, we are going to change the destiny of this country without violence, without hatred, without betrayal, without greed."

Kalaba noted that government officials were putting self-interests above the interests of citizens.

"Is this the same country where Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe lived? Is this the same country where Peter Matoka lived? Is this the same country where Simon Kalaba my own father lived? Is this the same country where Mungoni Linso and all leaders of independence struggle lived? If Dr [Kenneth] Kaunda had agreed what the European powers were proposing, to build a house for him and open an account where millions of pounds would have been put for him, our independence would have been delayed. The disparity between today's leadership and the leadership of the beginning is huge. The leadership of today has the propensity for material wealth, the leadership of yester years put people before self. We have to go back to the drawing board as a country, we have pontificated wrong things at the expense of the substantive," Kalaba said.

Kalaba said those in government are dividing people in order to hold on to power at the expense of uniting the country.

"We have played enough jokes, we have seen enough drama, we have seen enough hooliganism and caderism. We

have forgotten the substantive, we have forgotten that we need to work together as a country. But this is not happening because our leaders who should help us to come together, are only helping us to get divided, our leaders are insisting on our weaknesses, not our strengths. We have seen politicians who have strived on habits that have divided this country for far too long," he said.

"While we are seated here, the spin masters, those who bring people down are also planning on how to bring us down, but we are telling them that 'not this group' because nobody is going to bring us down, we have proclaimed Isaiah 54:17 upon ourselves 'no weapon formed against us shall prosper."

And Copperbelt DP chairperson John Mulenga assured Kalaba that the party would continue growing at a fast rate in the province.

Earlier, Kalaba donated K10,000 to Chingola's Buyantanshi SDA Church when he attended the 'Church building promotion' where he was invited as guest of honour by the Church.

District Pastor for Buyantanshi SDA Church Kerrys Liyambai thanked Kalaba and the DP for the gesture.

Pastor Liyambai also expressed his admiration for Kalaba saying he is a clean politician who does not practice politics of insults.

"Honourable Kalaba is a very intelligent and loving man. His love for God and the church is outstanding. I like this

man because he does not do politics of insults. If I had some united states dollars I would have given this man, but I can only wish him God's blessings as he continue with is journey of wanting to be president of Zambia," said Pastor Liyambai. Meanwhile, Kalaba's presence in Chililabombwe on Sunday caused panic in the ranks of police and intelligence officers in the district who trailed his motorcade.

However, the DP security team tricked the intelligence officers by making them believe that Kalaba was in a motorcade which comprised of his official vehicle, when in fact, he was driven off in another car and was already attending a prayer meeting with local pastors elsewhere.

Police stop joint opposition protest

By *Miriam Chabala*

Police in Lusaka have denied the nine opposition political parties permission to conduct a peaceful protest against government expenditure of public resources, citing limited manpower in the service to protect them this festive season. Speaking shortly after a meeting with Lusaka Police Commissioner Nelson Phiri, ADD president Charles Milupi, who spoke on behalf of the other parties expressed disappointment that Police could deny them a permit when they had followed the necessary procedure.

"We stand here members representing the nine political parties that appended their signatures to a notification to the police for us to hold peaceful demonstration this coming Friday, the 14th of December. I must say that we fully complied with the law, including the Public Order Act, there is nothing that we've done that is outside the Public Order Act. We have given the requisite number of days as notice for us to hold this peaceful demonstration and we have given a subject on which we want to demonstrate because of what

is happening in the country in terms of misuse or use of public resources. The Commissioner of Police for Lusaka Province called us this morning to come and engage in a conversation. The essence of our meeting is that, our belief is that once you have given the notification, it is our Constitutional right to hold that demonstration. Our rights in this particular instance have been denied to us," Milupi complained.

"The reasons given by the Commissioner of Police is that this is during festive season and therefore, the police are engaged elsewhere for other activities. We think that festive is nearer Christmas than three weeks away. However, in the spirit of further corporation in following the law, we asked him to define to us the end of the festive season, they have given us a date that it finishes around 5th January. He has committed himself to giving us a day by the end of today that he will give us a day through on which all of us political parties and all citizens can express their anxiety over what is happening."

Milupi wondered why the police did not

arrest PF cadres who conducted a public meeting to celebrate the Concourt ruling which pronounced President Edgar Lungu eligible to stand in 2021.

"We know that when we go by history, rights of members of the public, especially the opposition have been denied. We must remind you members of the press that not long ago, last Friday, there was a huge demonstration at the Constitutional Court by members of the PF. Our information is, there was no application or notification for that meeting and so far, in spite of the fact that that broke the public order act as it stands now, we are not aware of any arrest that has been made on those that congregated unlawfully. So we stand here, not from a position of weariness, we are saying as collective opposition political parties that we will obey the law in as far as it is reasonable and we ask the police to be reasonable in this matter. By the end of today, we expect to see a day and on that day, the people of this country shall be informed so that collectively, they can exercise their constitutional right to demonstrate, to assemble," said Milupi.

Chanoda misses court due to “sudden illness”

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PF sympathiser Chanoda Ngwira yesterday failed to turn up in the Constitutional Court for a matter where former DPP Mutembo Nchinto wants to commence contempt proceedings against him, due to a sudden illness.

But Mutembo wondered how Chanoda could claim to be sick when the previous day around 23:00 hours, he was active on Facebook and even

posted a picture of himself. In this matter, Mutembo had applied for leave in the Constitutional Court to commence contempt proceedings against Chanoda, for threatening Supreme Court justices Mumba Malila and Albert Wood with criminal action if they did not step down for giving witness statements in the matter where Mutembo is challenging his removal as DPP.

At the last sitting, Mutembo had accused Chanoda of being used by some people with legal minds to interfere with the proceedings in his main matter.

This was after Chanoda failed to explain what he meant by ‘character evidence’ in his letters to Supreme Court Judges Malila and Woods, where he threatened to commence private criminal proceedings against them if they proceeded to give

witness statements against the State, to the character of Mutembo.

But when the matter came up for a final hearing before a full bench of five Constitutional Court judges; Mungeni Mulenga, Enock Mulembe, Palan Mulonda, Prof Margaret Munalula and Martin Musaluke, Monday, Chanoda’s lawyer, a Mr Chanda informed the court that his client fell ill on Sunday.

“The information I have been given is that my client fell ill on Sunday. I have a sick note which I’m yet to present before this court,” said Chanda.

In response, Mutembo confirmed that he had seen the sick note.

At this point, Chanda asked the court to have the matter adjourned to a convenient date.

Mutembo did not object to the adjournment but said,

“we will leave this to the court, except that Mr Ngwira was active on Facebook yesterday and posted a picture of himself around 23:00 hours, but only to be given a sick note today.”

The court then gave Chanoda a benefit of doubt for missing court.

But regarding Mutembo’s comment on the alleged contemnor being active on Facebook the previous day, Justice Mulenga refused to comment saying they did not have sight of that.

“Having heard the application to have the matter adjourned based on the reason advanced, we give the alleged contemnor a benefit of doubt. And on the comment made by Mr Nchito that Mr Ngwira was active on Facebook, we cannot comment because we had no sight of that,” said Justice Mulenga.

When the court said it would adjourn the matter to Monday next week, Mutembo informed the court that he would be unavailable on that date as he would be out and his firm would be closing this Friday.

The court then adjourned the matter to March 18, next year.

Lizzie launches District Action Plan on ending child marriages

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Ministry of Gender has launched the 2019 to 2021 District Action Plan in Senanga district whose goal is to contribute to the targeted 40 percent national reduction in child marriages by 2021.

And Minister of Gender Elizabeth Phiri has expressed sadness that despite positive interventions by government and cooperating partners, Zambia has continued being one of the countries with high rates of child marriages.

This is contained in a statement issued by Ministry of Gender Media Liaison Officer, Mwape Mwenya, Monday.

Phiri said the Action Plan which had been made possible with support from UNICEF, focused on interventions to eliminate teenage pregnancies and child marriages in the district.

She said the district analysis report indicated that there was an escalating level of teenage pregnancies due to various factors like; poverty, traditional and religious beliefs, limited access to schools, weakening of community and family support systems among other pressing factors.

Phiri further said the 2018 district situation analysis indicated that 19 girls in grade six and 16 girls in grade seven got pregnant in 2017.

She said she was at pains to learn that some girls start sexual relations as young as 12 years due to some traditional ceremonies which expose them to

information about sex. “I am saddened that despite the main positive interventions government and cooperating partners are putting in place, Zambia has continued being one of the countries with high rates of child marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa as 31 percent of women aged 20-24 are married before the

age of 18,” she said.

And Phiri said irrespective of the high prevalence rates, Zambia had made a lot of progress in the fight against child marriage as in 2015, Zambia co-hosted with the African Union Commission, the first- ever African Girls’ Summit on Ending Child Marriage.

She said her ministry was

also the secretariat for the Consortium on Ending Child Marriage, comprising 15 Ministries.

Phiri added that the ministry had also been coordinating national efforts against child marriage while addressing vulnerabilities, as well as, consequences associated with marrying off children.

We have not had pay rise at Cabinet in 4 years - Msiska

By Mirriam Chabala

Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Roland Msiska has disclosed that senior members at his office have not received any salary increment in the last four years because government has been working to improve conditions for general civil servants.

And Dr Msiska says the removal of sitting allowances and other valuations paid to civil servants off payroll has helped government in giving civil servants better salaries that would help them save more for their retirement benefits.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC’s Sunday interview

programme, Dr Msiska said civil servants’ unions could testify to the fact that his office has not had any salary increment for the last four years because it was more concerned about improving the welfare of junior civil servants.

“When we did the first increment as government, the lowest got about 200% increment. For four years, assistant directors, directors, Permanent Secretaries, deputy Secretary to Cabinet and myself had no increment, it was frozen. Clearly, when you look at a job and you are trying to reassign how much the remuneration you

are supposed to give to that individual, there are certain key values you look at: what is the market, where can these people be employed? They can be employed in parastatals, you can be employed in the private sector. So you do that comparison then you look at the things I was telling you last time: the complexity of the task, the span of control and the impact of a negative decision. That’s why they encourage that you do also a job evaluation and regrading exercise because there must be equal pay for equal work. If you do more work, you are meant to be paid more, if you do less work, you are meant to

be paid less,” Dr Msiska said.

“When we were using the system where allowances were being paid off payroll, it was very difficult to see even what the highest was getting. If you just looked at the basic [salary], it was this narrow (illustrating with his fingers) but if you added all these allowances, it was that wide. This is why we said [that] for the good of the public service, let’s see if we can freeze this particular [section of people] which is very little I think, if you add up all of us we are about 400... so if we had been selfish, we would have said that it’s easier to keep on increasing on our side while the bottom ones suffer because they are so many and every time you increase its a lot more money. You can ask the unions, for four years, we didn’t increase any of our conditions.”

Meanwhile, Dr Msiska said the curtailing of certain allowances for civil servants had helped government save more money to give civil servants as retirement benefits. “I don’t know if you understand how huge a problem the sitting allowance were. Some civil servants were not even going to banks because you could have three meetings that you go to... they (civil servants) even had a term for it ‘sign and go’, which meant that you sign here then you just come and collect the

money after wards. But that created a very severe distortion and if you check, most of these allowances were being paid to civil servants along the line of rail, not the ones that are in the far flung areas like Kaputa and all those kind of individuals. So in reality, in doing what the government did, it equalised. For example, for the first time, everyone was paid transport allowance irrespective of where you were, housing allowance irrespective of where you were and transport allowance to remove the clutter on the payslip,” said Dr Msiska. “But there is something else that is also very important... when you put allowances off the payroll, when we come to calculate your pension, we will calculate on the basis of what is on the payroll and you know what that means. Studies show that if you are to survive in your retirement, you at least need about 67 per cent of your current income, including what you are hiding. I know of a council where, when we looked at the councils, there were 54 allowances but most of them off the payroll. So you found in one case, this man the basic salary was K1000 but allowances were K19,000. Now when I come to calculate his pension, I will go 67 per cent of K1000, so he’s automatically destitute before he even starts his retirement.”

I also paid for furniture – Kazungu

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former Gender Deputy Minister Dorothy Kazungu has also been angered by Works and Supply permanent Secretary Agness Musunga for listing her among those that still owe government for furniture they bought on offer.

Recently, Musunga presented to the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC), a list of cabinet ministers, former ministers and MPs who owed government for the furniture which they bought on offer in 2016 and 2017.

But former chiefs and traditional affairs minister Susan Kawandami stormed News Diggers! to dispute the report, presenting a receipt to clear her name.

And in a separate interview, Kazungu, who is also former Kabushi PF member of parliament, said she paid her debt on 5th January 2017 on receipt number 6892314. She said after the ministry wrote to her on November 14, 2018 reminding her to make the payment for the same goods, she wrote back to the ministry informing them that she had already paid and even attached the receipt.

Kazungu said she was therefore shocked to be named among those still owing and asked the ministry to clear her name by reporting factual information.

“I don’t owe government anything [or] any monies at all. I paid for the furniture in January 2017 and I was surprised to

see the letter from the PS demanding that we pay those monies. I will just ask the PS to certainly come up with a proper record because I even gave her everything I gave her the receipts for the furniture that I bought and I was surprised that she had to appear before the parliamentary committee when she knew very well that we had given her the proper information that we did not owe government anything. And I also wish to ask the PS to clear my name personally. I wrote to the ministry but I have not yet received the acknowledgement of the letter that I sent to them and the duplicate of the receipt that I had indeed paid for the furniture,” said Kazungu.



UPND BELIEVES IN INDEPENDENT, STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

By Hon Levy Ngoma

The United Party for National Development (UPND) will rely on co-operatives to help turn around the economy.

Co-operatives are a business model that started in Rochdale (England) in 1844 but has spread all over the world. Today co-operatives operate in over 100 countries. Co-operatives are recognised by the United Nations as major job creating enterprises that also contribute to economic growth in both the developed and developing countries.

According to the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), "At least 12% of people on earth are co-operators of the 3 million co-operatives on earth. Co-operatives provide jobs or work opportunities to 10% of the employed population, and the three hundred top co-operatives. Co-operative groups generate 2.1 trillion USD in turnover while providing services and infrastructure needs to thrive"

These co-operative enterprises employ over 100 million in sectors ranging from agriculture, energy, transport, financial services, aquaculture, tourism, housing and health. Co-operative enterprises contribute hugely to the Growth Domestic Product (GDPs) of large economies in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, China, Spain, Germany, France, Australia, Tanzania, Kenya and Ghana.

In the UK, the UK Co-operative Group has a turnover of £33 billion while in the USA, co-operatives like Land O' Lakes Inc are major contributors to GDP. US co-operatives provide energy to 14% of the population (mainly the rural areas). Co-operative Banks play a major role in agricultural finance in USA.

In 1995 international co-operatives agreed on an international "Cooperative Identity" which was also recognised by the UN and its critical for Zambian policy makers to understand this identity statement. According to the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), a co-operative is :- "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise"

Co-operative enterprises are therefore based on the values of "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity". In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Current status of Zambian Co-operative Movement

The history of the Zambian Co-operative Movement is full of political interference by the state against the ILO Regulation 193 that Zambia is a signatory to. State funds are currently being channelled to the Zambia Co-operative Federation (ZCF) but these funds do not help to create jobs, neither do they contribute to economic

growth. As a result of political interference by the state and the ruling parties – only the Zambia Livestock Co-operative is profitable.

The UNIP Government started well by supporting the growth of grass-root co-operatives but made a strategy error by creating the Zambia Co-operative Federation and the Credit Union and Savings Association (CUSA) which were managed from the top. ZCF became a UNIP affiliate and forgot the international co-operatives values and principles. Because of this politicisation, Zambia has since 1991 never been represented at the International Co-operative Alliance.

The Movement for Multi Party Democracy (MMD) Government of Fredrick T J Chiluba even went further to destroy the co-operative business sector in Zambia when GRZ handed over all the assets of the Zambia Co-operative Federation to individuals. The Co-operative College which was built using Swedish Government grants was without thought turned into a GRZ College. The biggest disaster was to change the Co-operative Act (No 20 of 1998) to give more power to the Minister and Registrar of Co-operatives.

Since 1991, Zambia has registered "political co-operatives" that only exist on paper. Almost 95% of the Zambian co-operatives are only active between September and December to receive inputs from GRZ. No single GRZ controlled Zambian co-operative is profitable or sustainable which has resulted in Zambia Co-operative Federation (ZCF) being used by the state to manage Chinese solar mills which are used as political bribery to rural voters- hence a mockery of the co-operatives values and principles.

Zambia Co-operative Commission of Inquiry.

The UPND Government will immediately consider establishing a Zambia Co-operative Commission of Inquiry composed of Farmers Representatives, Surviving Co-operatives and the private sector to consider the following policy options:-

- Recommending a National Co-operative Policy that promotes on job creation, sustainability, co-operative enterprise values/principles and diversification by co-operatives in Zambia;
- That the Zambia Co-operative Act (No 20 of 1998) be amended to reduce the powers of the Ministers and Civil Servants in controlling co-operatives -hence promoting ILO Regulation 193 of 2002;
- That GRZ hands over the Co-operative College and ensure that the College is owned by the Co-operative Movement with a view of making co-operative enterprise training its mandate;
- Introduce a Co-operative Enterprise Education in the curriculum from Primary Level to the University (ensuring that Enterprise Education is compulsory);

- Make recommendations of how best to restructure Zambia Co-operative Federation (ZCF) to ensure that it is an efficient Apex Body -hence only allowing District and Provincial Unions to operate as co-operative enterprises throughout Zambia;

- Consider ways of the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU), the Co-operative Movement, the private sector and GRZ re-introducing the Co-operative Bank to be owned 100% by farmers and the private sector;

- Make recommendations for UPND Government to turn all major Zambia public markets owned by Councils into Co-operatives and securing funds from donors to turn the markets into Multi-Purpose Co-operatives working together to diversity their businesses and promote Credit Unions;

- Ensure that the UPND Government promotes Credit Unions in the Civil Service, Trade Unions, Colleges, Universities, State Enterprises and in private sector owned enterprises as a way to mobile savings throughout Zambia;

- That Zambia National Service (ZNS) considers turning all ZNS Farms into Co-operative Enterprises and Co-operative Training Centres;

The Future Role of Zambian Co-operatives.

As UPND, the overarching goal of the co-operative policy will be to create youth and women employment through sustainable co-operative enterprises in agriculture, tourism, housing, transport, financial services, mining, retail health, energy and education.

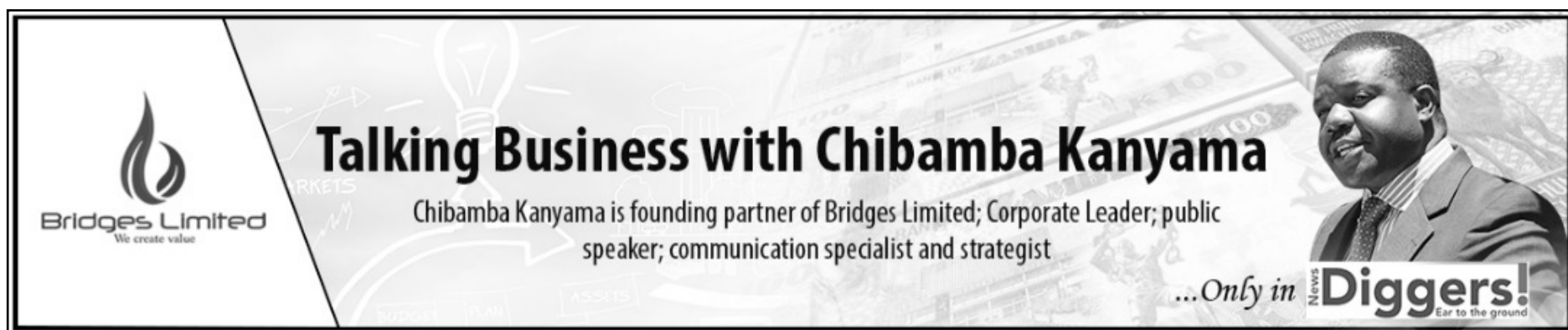
UPND will work with co-operative leaders throughout Zambia to ensure that, Zambia achieves Vision 2030 by, ensuring that co-operative enterprises also incorporate the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that Poverty becomes History in Zambia.

This will require a serious paradigm shift in all Ministries, Local Government and State Enterprises. UPND will also work with the commercial banks, the Zambia National Farmers Union, Colleges and Universities to rebuild a co-operative business model that will create sustainable and decent jobs in all Provinces.

Zambian Co-operative enterprises under the UPND will be supported to not only to produce primary products but add value for domestic, regional and international markets.

That is the future we can all build for our children- a fair and sustainable economy that is based on co-operation and not competition.

Hon Levy Ngoma is Agriculture and water development chairperson



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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

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Culture Shapes our Business Mindset

One of the most prolific writers on culture and an entrepreneur in his own right, Ralph Budelman, writes and I quote, "Everyone is shaped by their own culture whether they know it or not. Our very thoughts and actions are dependent on our culture. These thoughts and actions are so ingrained that we don't even think about them until we are confronted with another culture and another way of doing things."

Culture has a place in a person's life. It has been acknowledged by many researchers on human development that culture defines our fundamental beliefs; our values. It is through these fundamental beliefs we know how the world around us works. Having this understanding, we establish types of behaviour through which we interact with others and the environment. This environment includes how people rule themselves, the way they engage in productive activities such as producing food, making wood crafts for enterprise and keep livestock.

In recent years, it has been established that even business activities will require understanding people's culture and business practices. This requirement is more pronounced for businesses that seek to invest outside their own territory.

As the world entered the new Millennium, the spread of Chinese businesses around the globe received great attention and criticism in those countries where such investments took place. This criticism had to do with the Chinese culture of doing business. Much of it is associated with the perception that Chinese entrepreneurs attached little value to human life. This view could be as a result of incidences of poor health and safety standards in mining

operations where the Chinese businesses had invested.

The world media for example, followed with keen interest the death of workers at an explosives factory and the closure of a coal mine in Zambia. The reports concluded that the Chinese were bad investors. This assertion could at times be due to failure by non-Chinese entrepreneurs to understand the Chinese principles of doing business. The Chinese, for example, believe that all business must be carried out through a close network of relationships. While there has been growing criticism about Chinese approaches to business conduct, China itself has for many years resented what is globally termed as Western Culture and influence. The Western Culture, commonly taken as North American culture, is seen to be very expressive, dominating and deficient in morals.

Put simply, it is my considered view that culture is a structure of values and norms that are shared among a group of people and that when taken mutually represent a blueprint for living. We may not have a broadly pronounced global culture but we have cultures associated with certain groups of people. Africans, especially in Sub-Saharan African, more or less have a common culture which is normally taken to be an artistic culture. For the most part of Sub-Saharan Africa, the measure of wealth is not so much in material possession but quality of life measured by human relationships and social security offered by the community. Jews and Indians on the other hand have their own culture. Specific chapters are dedicated to them in this book. A number of books have also been written

about the Japanese culture and their values towards productivity, hygiene and efficiency while scholarly works exist for the French culture in areas of art and music. As the world is on the move towards globalization with greater interactions among the world's people, various communities are working hard trying to preserve their culture while at the same time using their own cultures to influence or dominate others. One of the long-standing arguments has been about the influence of Christianity in countries that later got colonized by European countries. Early missionaries in the most part of Africa like Missionary Explorer, Dr. David Livingstone, are today referred to be front-runners of colonialism with the Christian culture as the key weapon. Some cultures embrace attitudes and values that make it difficult to survive in a changing world. They may have generated a good living without much regard for time and efficiency. But the moment they open up to other societies, these values begin to take away from their potential and capacity to generate wealth.

Other cultures may embrace very weak goals and ambition. Their practices may be such that they desire very little progress. This can easily be examined through their social structures, their religion and language. Their economic and political philosophy may be very basic and they will not want to change it. Even when they are exposed to formal educational systems, they do not consider these new systems a sufficient vehicle towards what they consider "success and prosperity."

(This is an extract from my book, Business Values for Our Time currently being edited into an Enhanced Edition).

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PeP leader Sean Tembo says he intends to discontinue the matter in which he is challenging the legality of the land President Edgar Lungu received as a gift from King Mswati, this week.

Recently, the Constitutional Court threw out Tembo's application to subpoena Dora Siliya, Amos Chanda and three journalists to testify in the matter where he's seeking an interpretation on whether it was legal for President Lungu to have received a gift of land for his private use from King Mswati.

And in a statement, Monday, Tembo stated that he had noted the progress that had so far been made towards

Tembo to discontinue eSwatini land case as court refuses to subpoena witnesses

the process of national dialogue and reconciliation. He stated that it was under these premises that he intended to file a Notice to Discontinue the matter.

"We have noted the progress that had so far been made towards the process of national dialogue and reconciliation which has in the recent past, seen different political foes embracing one another and burying their differences. Under the premises and as part of our

contribution to the creation of a conducive environment for this national dialogue and reconciliation process to stand a better chance of succeeding, we as PeP intend to file a Notice to Discontinue the matter in which we had taken President Lungu to the Constitutional Court over the legality of the land gift that he received from King Mswati, without declaring such gift, as per law required," he stated.

Tembo stated that PeP strongly believed that if there was a credible avenue for differences to be resolved at the boardroom table, there was little need to take those differences to the courtroom.

He hoped that the current positive efforts towards the national dialogue and reconciliation by the PF were based on a genuine desire to sanitize politics.

"If however, the ruling party is not sincere towards the

ongoing process of national dialogue and reconciliation, and are merely treating it as a political gimmick to serve their narrow agenda, whatever that agenda might be, then we in PeP will stand ready to resume any and all political activities that we undertook prior to the commencement of the national dialogue and reconciliation process," stated Tembo.

"Specifically, we wish to state that we intend to vigorously

pursue the matter in which we have taken the Zambia Police Service to the High Court for preventing us from undertaking our 13th protest against the \$42 million fire tender scandal, to its logical conclusion. We intend to file our Notice to Discontinue President Lungu's eSwatini land matter as soon as we conclude consultations with our members and supporters, but before Friday, December 14, 2018."

The Chief Government Spokesperson and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya has pledged that, under her reign, and as long as she remains in that office, she will ensure that the long-forgotten Access to Information Bill is passed through Parliament and enacted. Her point is that if government has to defuse fake news, it must pass this law that will allow citizens to legally access factual data from State institutions.

In return, Honourable Siliya also wants journalists in Zambia to commit to establishing a self-regulatory body of affiliation that would enforce professional standards among media practitioners. Her concern being that there is too much confusion in the media fraternity to an extent that citizens can't distinguish between professional news reporters and citizen journalists.

We hope this opinion will help the Minister understand the journalists' arguments as she pushes for this third attempt at media self-regulation in Zambia, so that she can adjust her approach to make sure that what she intends to achieve becomes of real value to the Zambian media in a practical sense.

We urge Honourable Siliya to take our views seriously on this matter because our opinion is quite informed. The editors of News Diggers have been involved in talks around self-regulation of the media since 2008 when the formation of the Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) was conceived to 'replace' the malfunctioning Media Council of Zambia (MECOZ) established under MISA. We further advise the minister to engage State House Press Aide Amos Chanda and hear his views on why he supported media resistance against an imposed 'self-regulation' law when he served in the leadership of the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA). If Mr Chanda is as honest as we know him, he will refer Honourable Siliya to the "2010 Fringila Consensus" contained in the International Press Institute (IPI) Report on media regulation in Zambia, which we have dispatched to the minister's office for her perusal.

Honourable Siliya must not start from scratch on

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Media regulation failed under MECOZ, ZAMEC

this matter. The arguments are already well documented and she will do well to quickly acquaint herself to the contentious issues and address the bottlenecks in order to get everyone involved again. But for the benefit of our readers who may be following this self-regulation debate for the first time, we will quickly run through the concerns.

Journalists in Zambia fear belonging to a regulatory body because they don't believe that such an institution, especially if it is established as an Act of Parliament, would have any autonomy from the State and retain the real essence of "Self" regulation. Unlike lawyers and doctors who study medicine, journalism is too closely related to the human right of Freedom of Speech, and that already makes it difficult for a State to copy and paste regulatory frameworks from other professions.

What drives effective journalism in the world is not exactly the salary, but rather the passion for writing. We are testimony to this fact because News Diggers is full of volunteers who don't have salaries. That is the reason why it is almost impossible to find a billionaire practicing journalist who made his/her fortunes from news reporting. The net worth of rich journalists like Anderson Cooper and Julian Assange put together doesn't even equate to 2 percent of the richest medical doctors on earth. Journalism is more about

passion and sacrifice. However, we also appreciate the fact that in Zambia, this career has been high-jacked by money spinners who can do anything for three pieces of silver.

Our fear is that the leadership of such a body can easily be infiltrated and manipulated. And using that compromised leadership, hardworking investigative journalists who prove to be hard-hitting; exposing corruption among government officials, would be targeted. What guarantee is there that this self-regulatory body will stand its ground to protect individual hard-working professional journalists who will expose the corruption of a Minister of Information and Broadcasting or a State House Press Aide, for example?

These are very powerful positions in government that can order not only the withdrawal of a journalist's practicing licence, but also command an arrest of a reporter at the snap of a finger. We should not fool ourselves here into lying to each other that only those journalists who publish fake, scandalous social media news, or those that misquote sources would be regulated and punished. The truth is that every hard-hitting journalist will survive at the mercy of the ministers and those in government authority who shall wield influence over the so-called media 'self-regulatory' body.

This is a country where the

State can use anything to silence aggressive media. We are not talking about hostile media, but brave and aggressive media that leaves no stone unturned. If they don't use the tax compliance excuse for shutting down a media house, they will strangle it financially until it gets on its begging knees. They will warn corporate institutions against placing adverts in such media houses. If that doesn't work, they will resort to threats and arrests to kill the spirit of a journalist. The motive is to silence anyone while they plunder in peace. Is this the kind of regime that anyone would want to further arm with such a media regulation law? Not any passionate journalist would be interested.

As a media house, we have understood what Honourable Siliya is trying to achieve. She feels that in the absence of this body, journalism will remain without protection from the State as they risk being punished along with those who abuse the little remaining free media space. We are willing, as a media organization, to support the establishment of such a regulatory body, BUT OUR MEMBERSHIP TO IT MUST NOT BE DICTATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Journalists must be free to choose to belong to that institution and get whatever benefits that will come with it; if it is designed in such an attractive manner, we are sure

everyone will want to be a part of it. But those who wish to practice journalism independently without being part of this body must be allowed to operate and face whatever consequences that might be implied under the established media laws. It must not be that a journalist who will not have a membership card from this institution should be prevented from reporting news. No! Some of the best news writers in Zambia are not even trained journalists at all; they were born writers and got lost in other careers. We don't want to block such citizens from being part of the mass media industry. There freedom of speech and their right to communicate must be left unabated.

News consumers will have to make a choice, which news they want to read, after all, there is no guarantee that those accredited to this body will not publish false news. Just two days ago, the Zambia Police refuted a Times of Zambia story as fake news! This is Zambia's oldest newspaper owned by the State, but they got their facts wrong! It happens in every profession, what is important is for media practitioners to own up when they make a mistake and apologise. That is the responsibility that the Minister must be talking about, and that virtue cannot be replaced by a self-regulatory media body.

We understand that Honourable Siliya is desperate to leave an impact in that

Ministry, and we have a lot of confidence in her because she is a doer. But the consequences of establishing this body will do exactly the opposite of what she is trying to do. The horrific scenes that will ensue from this establishment will haunt her wherever she will go; and we believe that she will not be happy to have created a monster against journalists and handed it over to even worse, oppressive regimes that will come after her PF gets out of office.

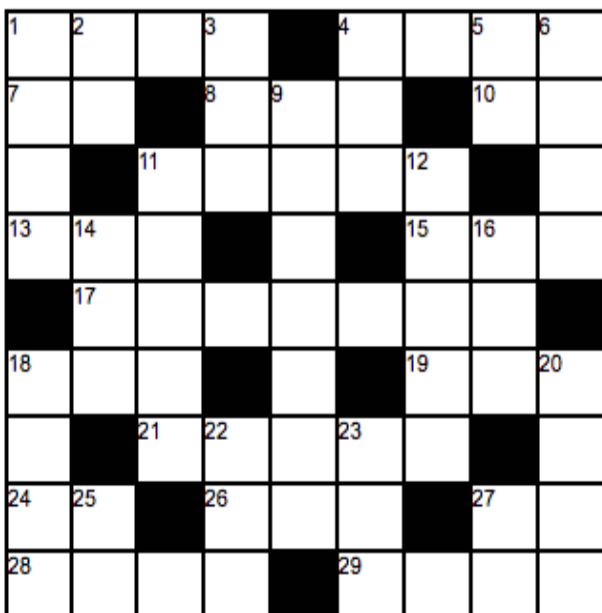
Our advice to Honourable Siliya is that she must invest her energies in delivering on her ATI Bill, which she has promised. That alone will be such a great achievement above all the other ministers who have been in that office since this Bill was called for.

That is the legacy we want to remember Siliya for. We will stick pictures of her face in our newsrooms to remind younger, future journalists about the Minister who made it possible for them to visit any Ministry or government institution and legally demand records, which they need for their investigations; a minister who made it possible for journalists to break barriers in their investigation without the threat and fear of publishing "classified information".

Like President Lungu gave people the Constitution they wanted, let Siliya also deliver the ATI Bill for us. To do this, she will need all the support from other Cabinet Ministers and government stakeholders. If there are any ministers who don't understand what the ATI Bill entails, we would like to encourage them to solicit an explanation from Honourable Siliya; and if she defines it the way she did at the Bloomberg Africa Business Media Innovators Conference in Livingstone last Sunday, we are sure everyone will help her achieve this legacy.

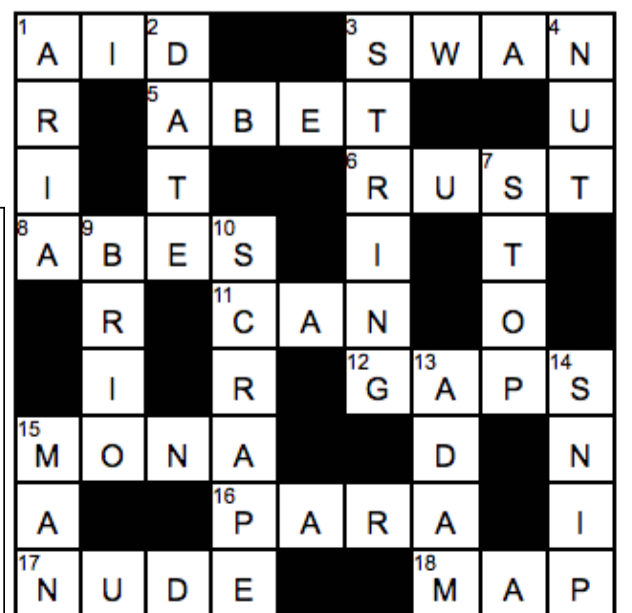
Please, give us the Access to Information Bill. We need it like yesterday! If it will bring more problems for us like the hurriedly-delivered Constitution, we will take the blame and make necessary amendments to perfect it. Like the Minister told Bloomberg delegates, the ATI Bill is not for the benefit of journalists only, it's for the government as well, and the citizens it governs. ATI will suppress fake news.

Crossword puzzle 249 "Without deviation from Solutions to puzzle 248 the norm, progress is not possible." - Frank Zappa



"Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible."
- Frank Zappa

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Software test before release 4. Sandwich rolled in tortilla 7. Sound of surprise 8. Mimic 10. Perform a task 11. Tier 13. Big mess 15. Not the beginning 17. Plan 18. Prefix with angle or cycle 19. Had eaten 21. Make cooler 24. A single one 26. Ruckus 27. __, myself, and I 28. Dormitory 29. Prepare | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Person in charge 2. Canadians say it 3. Driver's org. 4. Very small 5. Not BC 6. Small body of water 9. Egyptian tourist attraction 11. Word in music 12. Kingly 14. Sticky black substance 16. Catch butterflies in it 18. Pond dweller 20. 2, 4, 6, 8, ... 22. Meat from pig 23. Sever 25. Negative answer 27. Mother |
|--|---|



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

ConCourt's warning against those attacking judges

Editor,

"But why didn't you cite the President for contempt when he was warning you not to go the Kenyan way?" - Jack Zulu

"Just wondering can the court site the whole nation in contempt," - Shiwezwa Hiitengwamuntu Mwenda'lubi

"Installing fear in the citizens isn't a good way to lead the nation, stop this nonsense, don't create a monster you will fail to bring down, the same man you are support will feed on you one day. Justice for all," - Joel M Chamutanga

"When a certain citizen #1 was at Solwezi airport he 'warned' ConCourt judges not to rule against him in a matter that was before them how was he not cited? We are also advising you ConCourt judges that if you decide to take up a fight against the Zambian citizens there will be chaos," - Kapampa Musukwa

"We accept their ruling because that's what law abiding citizens do regardless of what they think about the ruling. Besides we the electorate shall fire him through the ballot in 2021. Muza muziba vota," - Flávio Kalunga Chipakula

"So in your conscious you even know you passed a wrong judgement hence warning the public to avoid embarrassment. You're also human bound to make mistakes but we understand the pressure, and it's bad manners to deliberately make mistake," - Chrissy Chuma

"So if he wins in 2021, is he allowed to rule for only 3.4 years to finish off the term he finished for the late M. Sata?" - Mercy Mwanza



Govt single sources IMS to take over toll plazas

Editor,

"I have never heard of a newly married groom surrendering his bride to be enjoyed by another man," - Manda Masiye

"Meaning that we can't even manage to collect toll fees, money? We need an investor to do that too and pay him huge sums of dollars in the end? No wonder I am of the view that Africa is not really free until the day when we will get emancipated from mental slavery. The political freedom we all passionately brag about is absolutely nothing if our minds are still enslaved, enslavement that make us so insecure, the insecurity that makes us want to have

enough personal wealth in reserve, thereby making us do anything just to achieve that goal. No doubt, our forefathers did well to fight for our political freedom, but there is a tougher fight that we need to engage in, and that is a fight for true freedom for Africans, freedom of the mind, the freedom that will make us believe that it's possible for us to do that which we think we can't do. God, help Africa!!" - Michael Mwanza

"What logic is our leaders use when making such kind of decisions really have no heart for the poor other than serving their personal interests and hide in we are doing it for u? Who are u doing it for?" - George Mwale

Lungu's remarks that evil people wanted to supplant him

Editor,

"Bending the constitution and laws just to make himself eligible to stand in 2021 just makes our judiciary incompetent and inept...God is watching and he will do something about it, if it means ukumupenya so be it," - Nkaisu Lumzy

"Uuuuhhh I am afraid , just by challenging ba Mwisho the idea becomes evil intention. Is it personal to holder or is it a monarchy? Is this what they mean when they say PF is a democratic party? Someone to explain to me....aawwhh," - Eddie Mwitumwa

"Let him stand so that we teach him a bitter lesson. He will cry like RB come 2021. What is it that he has done to warrant him a third term...???" - Jonathan Nkhoma

"And they say PF is a democratic party? Kambwili and Kalaba were wise to create other platforms of their own for 2021," - Ndele Simukoko

"Where are those fools who said that this man is humble? Don't hide come out and defend his humbleness," - Gregory Zaza

Senegal unveils Museum of Black Civilisations



President Macky Sall has inaugurated Senegal's new Museum of Black Civilisations in the capital, Dakar.

It follows calls from Senegal and other African nations for France to return art it looted during the colonial era.

Among the first temporary exhibitions to be shown is work from artists from Mali and Burkina Faso as well as from Cuba and Haiti.

After decades of inaction, construction was finally made possible after a \$34m (£27m) Chinese investment.

The idea of establishing the museum dates back more than 50 years, to Senegal's late poet-president, Léopold Sédar Senghor.

Along with Martinican writer Aimé Césaire, Senghor was a creative force behind the philosophy of Négritude, which opposed the imposition of French culture on colonies in Africa and the Caribbean.

The museum will not be a commemorative monument, its director says, but rather a creative laboratory to help shape a continent's sense of identity.

It is expected to open to the public in the coming weeks.

"This museum is a step forward for us," Amadou Moustapha Dieng, a Senegalese arts journalist, told the BBC.

"I know there are important relics which I'm not able to see unless I go abroad, but now [with] this space, we can get back the relics and Africans can come here now and see this was their history." **BBC**

Kabila doesn't rule out contesting 2023 poll

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila says he will leave office after the 23 December poll, but may seek re-election in the future. Mr Kabila, 47, said he would remain in politics after the poll as "there is still a long journey ahead".

He became president of the resource-rich African state in 2001 following the killing of his father Laurent. His presidential mandate ended in 2016, but he has stayed in office as elections were repeatedly delayed.

Dozens of opposition supporters have been killed in protests demanding that he step down and elections be held.

The election commission finally set 23 December as the election date, saying it had not been possible to hold the poll earlier because of difficulties in registering voters in a country with poor infrastructure and

conflict in the mostly lawless eastern region. DR Congo has not had a peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960. "We intend to make the elections as close to perfection as they can possibly be," Mr Kabila told Reuters news agency.

"Observers who think that the elections will not be free and fair, I am yet to see those observers come and state where they think we are lacking," he added.

Mr Kabila is backing his former Interior Minister, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, in the election.

The European Union imposed a travel ban and asset freeze on Mr Shadary last year after accusing him of human rights violations, including cracking down on the opposition.

The election is expected to be a tight contest between him, opposition leader

Felix Tshisekedi and business tycoon Martin Fayulu Madidi. "No regrets"

Mr Kabila said he was satisfied with his performance during his 17 years in power. "Do we have regrets? No, not at all. We have many accomplishments.

The biggest is that we managed... to reunify this country and put it back on the right track," he was quoted

by Reuters news agency as saying.

He said he would remain in politics to protect his legacy, and added: "There is still a long journey ahead and there are still other chapters that will be written before we can write the history books."

On whether he might make a bid to return to the presidency in the 2023 election, Mr Kabila said: "Why

don't we wait for 2023 ... to envision anything? In life as in politics, I don't rule out anything."

DR Congo's constitution requires a president to leave office after two consecutive terms, but does not bar him from seeking a third term later.

Mr Kabila won elections in 2006 and 2011. **BBC**

Russian ex-policeman convicted over 56 murders

A Russian court on Monday found a former policeman guilty of 56 murders, while he is already serving a life sentence for killing 22 women, making him one of Russia's most prolific serial killers. The court in the Siberian city of Irkutsk found Mikhail Popkov "guilty of killing 56 people between 1992 and 2007," Irkutsk regional prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Prosecutors said Popkov "has a pathological attraction to killing people." He was also found guilty

of raping 10 of the victims.

He received a second life sentence on top of the one he is already serving and was also formally deprived of his pension as an ex-policeman.

Popkov in 2015 was found guilty of killing 22 women. He later confessed to 59 further murders but was convicted only of 56 on Monday because the investigators had not managed to prove three of the crimes took place, Interfax news agency reported citing the court's press service.

He killed his victims after offering them rides late at night, sometimes in a police car, while he was off-duty around his home city of Angarsk near Irkutsk.

The number of killings for which he has been convicted exceeds the total of several notorious murderers in Russia and the ex-Soviet Union.

"Chessboard killer" Alexander Pichushkin was sentenced to life in prison in 2007 for 48 murders and Andrei Chikatilo was convicted of 52 Soviet-era murders. **AFP**



Messi believes Barca 'need' Dembele amid Arsenal transfer talk

Lionel Messi believes that Barcelona "need" Ousmane Dembele amid mounting transfer talk surrounding the World Cup winner. The France international winger is into just his second season at Camp Nou, but questions continue to be asked of his ongoing presence.

Flashes of the brilliance which tempted Barca into a €105 million (£94m/\$120m) deal have been shown, but Dembele's attitude and inconsistency has fuelled the exit speculation.

Arsenal are among those reported to be monitoring the 21-year-old's situation ahead of the January window, with another big-money move being mooted. Dembele was, however, back among the goals for Barca in a 4-0 derby victory over Catalan rivals Espanyol on Saturday and Messi told reporters after that contest: "He's very good."

"He wants to play, he had a good game, scored a goal and was important."

"We need him."

While Dembele did his efforts to endear himself to the Barca faithful no harm with an effort on derby day, it was Messi who once again stole the show.

The mercurial Argentine sent more La Liga records tumbling with a brilliant brace against Espanyol.

Both of his stunning strikes came from free-kicks, with

the five-time Ballon d'Or winner further highlighting his remarkable ability from dead-ball situations.

The humble 31-year-old said of his deadly double: "Well, I try to follow a [free-kick] ritual a bit, trying to do things the same way so that it goes well again."

"But sometimes I get a lot of free-kicks and I don't put them in. *Goal.com*



Kemba Walker #15 of the Charlotte Hornets attempts a layup during the second quarter of the game against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden on Sunday in New York City.

Juventus don't need Bale but Marcelo is welcome - Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo sees no need for Juventus to raid Real Madrid for the likes of Gareth Bale or Marco Asensio, but admits Marcelo may be a useful addition.

The Portuguese superstar made his way from the Spanish capital to Turin over the summer, with

the Bianconeri able to lure a talismanic presence away from the Santiago Bernabeu.

It has been suggested that further deals may be in the pipeline, with a number of Blancos players prepared to follow a former teammate to Italy.

Wales international Bale,

current Bayern Munich loanee James Rodriguez and exciting forward Asensio have all been linked with the Serie A champions.

Ronaldo feels Juve already boast enough quality to ensure that those deals are not needed, but he can see why a Brazilian left-back

may be added to the fold.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner told Gazzetta dello Sport of the transfer rumours: "I see you write about James, Bale, Asensio but if I'm honest, Juventus do not need other players. "You must talk to the president. On the future, I do not know."

"Marcelo is strong, we open the doors to good players and Marcelo is one of them."

It may be that Ronaldo is offered a reunion with Marcelo and Co. in this season's Champions League, before any possible recruitment options are explored.

The 33-year-old has captured that European crown in each of the last three campaigns, and five times in his career to date.

He is determined to deliver another success for Juve and claims he would have no problem disposing of Real along the way were his path to cross with a club he retains strong ties to.

Ronaldo said: "For me it is the same. The past has passed, now I want to win for Juventus."

"I have to defend these colours and the rest does not matter."

"If I played against Real, I would try to give my best." Ronaldo has already faced one set of former employers in continental competition this season, with an away win and home defeat taken in against Premier League heavyweights Manchester United. *Goal.com*

Chipolopolo players need better diet

By Alex Chilumbwe

Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandebroek has noted that the nutrition levels of the national team players are not equivalent to the efforts they are expected to put in games adding that there is need to improve their calories intake. The Belgian born said that although few people would understand his nutrition concerns of the players, he will include the subject in his notes to FAZ before the squad regroup for any important game.

Speaking during an interactive session with the media in Kitwe on Sunday, Vandebroek made a

hilarious comparison of the amount of food a 1.95m Stoppila Sunzu would eat, and Reinford Kalaba who is barely above five feet.

"Good nutrition is something cardinal for the players. I have gone to an extent of asking medical staff to bring recommended menus in hotels we stay in just so there is improvement in players' nutrition. They need to improve their calories intake. Look at Sunzu's height and size and compare it with a smaller and shorter player yet they eat the same type of food," he mocked.

Vandebroek also said that he had engaged medical

personnel that run thorough checkups of their muscles and joints ahead of camp and the results were not encouraging.

"There is so much expected from people whose nutrition is not prioritized. The checkups of their muscles and joints indicated that they lacked a number of vitamins in their diets yet they are at the same time expected to perform exceptionally well," Sven said.

In his concluding remarks, Vandebroek indicated that there would be need in the future to have scouts for national team potentials in all football categories as opposed to sticking to the

Super League. He added that grassroots football should also be paid attention in the country.

"We may be missing good talent in the lower divisions in different parts of the country simply because we are always camped in Lusaka. We need scouts from all parts of the country as a way of increasing our options," said Vandebroek.

Zambia is expected to play against Namibia in March 2019 in an AfCON qualifier, although the Africa Cup dream was killed by the Black Mambas of Mozambique following the Chipolopolo's 1-0 loss in Maputo.

'Maybe he misses me' - CR7 invites Messi to Serie A

Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has suggested that Lionel Messi "maybe needs more" after so long at Barcelona and has invited his eternal rival to join him in Serie A. He told Gazzetta dello Sport when asked if he misses Messi: "No, maybe he misses me!"

"I played in England, Spain, Italy, Portugal, in the national team, while he is still in Spain. Maybe he needs me more."

"For me, life is a challenge, I like it and I like to make people happy."

"I would like him to come to Italy one day. Like me, accept the challenge."

"However, if he is happy there, I respect him."

"He is a fantastic player, a good guy but I do not miss anything here. This is my new life and I'm happy."

Having severed domestic ties during the last transfer window, Ronaldo and Messi have been knocked from their perch at the top of the global game. *Goal.com*



Sven blames player fitness on poor diet...

CHIPOLOPOLO

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MALNOURISHED



Russell Westbrook #0 of the Oklahoma City Thunder gives his sneakers to a fan after the game against the Brooklyn Nets on December 5, 2018 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York

