



By Mukosha Funga

Wynter Kabimba says it will be illegal for President Edgar Lungu to contest the 2021 elections because the Constitution explicitly disqualifies him.

And Kabimba has observed that the 2016 Constitutional amendment's intention was to give President Lungu a third term in office, but the phraseology betrayed that objective.

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PRESS STATEMENT

CANADIAN BANK ACCOUNT FREEZE STORY MISLEADING

We have noted with dismay the continued false, malicious and unbalanced publications targeting Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye the Chairperson of Gemcantion in your publication the **Daily Nation**.

Our silence does not mean we are unable to defend ourselves nor are we guilty of your false accusations.

It is our considered view that as a traditional media believed in by the community, ethics and objectivity and balanced stories are upheld.

It is also our considered view that Mr Abdulaye has not been covered fairly by your publication.

Your Publication has chosen not to be factual and gone ahead to publish false articles regarding Gemcantion.

We note that you have willfully ignored that the court order in question has not been registered to be effected in Zambia, the country hosting the company, therefore publishing it is not only malicious but misleading too.

The position of the company is very clear on the many issues we have faced following our involvement with Levi Leviev's front Mr El Nefussy. Thanks to other media houses who reported the truth about the torture involving the local people which led to Mr Nefussy's deportation.

Government deported him because he violated the country's laws and that can be attested by the local people including the traditional leaders who were badly affected as that torture involved their subjects.

What the **Daily Nation** management should know is that the company they are subjecting to ridicule and damage employs more than 1,000 local people. The company also has an effective and efficient Corporate Social Responsibility which helps uplift the quality of life for the community surrounding the investment.

Gemcantion has served and partnered with government by contributing to the welfare of the people of Lufwanyama through its Corporate Social Responsibility.

Daily Nation, as a media house should have taken advantage of the Zambian courts for details regarding the state of affairs at Gemcantion to better inform the public.

We also wish to urge the Management of the paper to take cognizance of the fact that there is a legal process which has to be adhered to on all industrial disputes and getting insight of any available matter before the court will better allow people have informed understanding of the company under discussion.

We advise the publication to take a professional route by allowing space for all the stakeholders on a matter to avoid misleading the nation, while defaming others.

We therefore urge the **Daily Nation** Newspaper to immediately refrain from publishing malicious information on Gemcantion and its management.

This statement is in response to your publication titled "Canada Freezes Bank Accounts ... as Gemcantion partner gets injunction" published on the 14th of December 2018. We note that the afore-mentioned headline is misleading damaging and malicious to the proprietor and the investment.

As a result of your publication, some section of the Zambian community have concluded that the Company Chairperson Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye committed an offence involving his investment when actually not.

We note that the said words in the publication are scandalous, and disparaging to him, socially and are a serious assault to his integrity and self-confidence.

Knowing there is a matter before the court involving our Partner Mr Lev Levieve, we shall restrict ourselves to urge you to refrain from such publications forthwith.

Issued by:

David Phiri (Mr)

COMPANY SPOKESPERSON- GEMCANTON



By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) Chief Executive Officer Zindaba Soko says he also pays fines for exceeding speed limits on Lusaka Highways which have been installed with traffic cameras. And Soko pledged that RTSA would, in the first quarter of 2019, engage the public to make people appreciate the decision. This came to light after Economist Chibamba Kanyama ignited a social media debate concerning the “frustratingly” low speed limit declared by RTSA, which he said has forced motorists in Lusaka to drive as though they were in a long funeral procession. On his Facebook post, Kanyama stated that with

I also pay fines for speeding, says RTSA chief Zindaba Soko

such regulatory laws in place, even the seven per cent GDP growth rate would remain just a dream. “Vehicles in Lusaka now drive as though they are in a long funeral procession. Some vehicles beginning to be mechanically stressed on 60km/h on roads like GER (Great East Road). I foresee the seven percent GDP growth rate a pipe-dream until we make realistic decisions about such

seemingly inconsequential laws,” Kanyama’s post read. Reacting to Kanyama’s post, one concerned motorist named Niven Kambobe doubted if the country would develop and suggested that the Road Transport and Safety Agency should reconsider its decision. “In this modern day you put a speed limit of 60km? When are we going to develop for crying out loud? Time is a great asset that we must guard

and use properly in order to develop therefore let them reconsider their decision,” Kambole stated. Another motorist named Oliver Simunika urged the RTSA boss Zindaba Soko to revisit the decision because it was a loss on productivity to the nation. “Zindaba Soko sir...The issue raised by Chibamba Kanyama here is a testimony that we can’t be driving at 60kms as a nation...it’s a

loss of productivity as a nation. We spend more time on the road. Secondly, a lot of complaints are raised by citizens with regards to road signs which were only put up after complaints. I actually still have a problem with cameras installed to capture the back of vehicles. How do you drive at 80km and from nowhere reduce to 60km? This is not fair but clearly a witch-hunt for citizens. The fee itself is very high, why?” Siminuka asked. Then a Simenda Knight Silumesi equally agreed with Kanyama and stated that the 60km per hour drive limit on highways was a sure cause of traffic jams. “Zindaba Soko I seem to agree entirely with Chibamba Kanyama. A few examples I note [are] Church road at 40km/h and Great East Road at 60km/h appear to be too low. The result has been constant build-up of traffic on these roads. On the other hand, Leopards Hill (around St Mary’s school) at 80km/h appears too high. We need to make necessary adjustments for the good of the citizens and the economy at large,” Silumesi argued. Another motorist using the name of Gerald Mangani Msoni Chimtenje also added his opinion saying “Zindaba Soko all I can say is that you have a lot of work on your table. You can afford to ignore public outcry in the name of enforcing the law which I guess is dynamic.”

And a Prudence Chikonka Musemuna stated her experience of driving at a snail’s pace was sickening. “It’s no longer exciting to drive on the Great East Road. I had a bad experience last time I was in Lusaka. Driving at a snail’s pace. It’s quite sickening,” she argued. A Jairus Mwamba Mulenga suggested that RTSA should revise the speed limit from 60km/h to 80km/h on busy roads. In reacting to Mulenga’s suggestion, Kanyama stated that motorists were reasonable enough to know how to drive their vehicles. “This is the most reasonable speed. If anything, on those rare tracks with 80km/h, people drive generally at 72km. In short people are reasonable enough to know how to drive their vehicles,” he said. As the debate raged on, the RTSA chief executive got involved and said the agency would hold a Public Discussion Forum in the first quarter of 2019 to get people to understand its decision. “I will be holding yet another public discussion first quarter 2019 for people to understand and please be alive to our media statements and briefings. However upward adjustments of speed has to be done with certain considerations like road furniture for other vulnerable road users, cyclists and pedestrians alike,” Soko responded. And motorist, Igwee Musefwe, reminded Soko that the speed limits would haunt him once he stops driving RTSA vehicles which are exempted from paying fines. When you are in charge, you enjoy the privileges of not being fined especially that you are using a RTSA vehicle, you won’t feel the impact. But that time when you will be like us, that is when you will feel the impact of this snail pace we are complaining about,” But Soko wondered why an ordinary motorists would complain when him, as RTSA boss, also pays speed fines. I drive at the same speed, and I have paid tickets before, so if I can pay, why can’t you?” asked Soko. Meanwhile a Glenn Malwa Mwika told Soko that there was already enough feedback from the debate above to help him draw a better strategy. “Zindaba Soko there is enough feedback on this forum for you to actually draw a strategy which could include and not limited to. (i) Revision of speed limits to reasonable ones and as practical intervals all things considered, (ii) introduce tolerance in the calibration of the cameras, (iii) Extend efficiencies introduced in speed limit fee collection to every other touch point-especially road tax payment,” stated Mwika.



Bahati Member of Parliament Harry Kalaba waves at villagers of Pwele, Samfya district in Luapula Province on December 14, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

ZAMRA proposes sharp license fee increments

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
The Zambia Medical Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) has proposed a revised schedule of fees for hospitals, pharmacies and retail medical stores. According to the proposed revised schedule, some fees have been doubled while others have increased by three to six times. Pharmaceutical licenses for wholesale operators or those intending to start operating have too been increased. “Application for grant of pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K4, 610 to K30, 000; Re-inspection of premises for pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K3, 460 to K24, 000; Renewal for pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K3, 460 to K24, 000; and Application for change of premises for wholesale shop from K4, 610 to K30, 000 while those in towns with district councils and other areas: Application for grant of pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K2, 310 to K15, 000; Re-inspection of premises for pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K1, 700 to K12, 000; Renewal for pharmaceutical license-wholesale from K1, 700 to K12, 000;

and Application for change of premises for wholesale from 2, 310 to K15, 000,” the proposed revised schedule indicated. Hospitals, pharmacies and retail shops have also been given different revised fees. “Those operating in towns with city or municipal councils have been increased follows; “Application for grant of certificate of registration from 4, 750 to K20, 000; Re-inspection of premises to operate a retail pharmacy from K3, 600 to K16, 000; Annual Returns or no change returns for retail pharmacy from K2, 400 to K10, 000; Application for change of premises for Retail Pharmacy from 4, 750 to K20, 000; Application for change of premises for Retail pharmacy within the hospital from K870 to K3, 000 and to new premises from K4, 750 to K20, 000,” the schedule revealed. Those operating or wishing to operate in towns with district councils and other areas have fees have been increased by about five times. “Application for grant of certificate of registration from K2, 375 to K10, 000;

Re-inspection of premises to operate a retail pharmacy from K1, 800 to K8, 000; Annual Returns or no change returns for retail pharmacy from K1, 670 to K5, 000; Application for change of premises for retail pharmacy within the hospital from K435 to K1, 500 and to new premises from K2, 375 to K10, 000,” read the table. Meanwhile the fees for dispensing certificates in towns with city or municipal councils have been increased 10 to 15 times. “Application for issue of dispensing certificate from K1, 200 to K15, 000; Re-inspection of facility with dispensing certificate from K750 to K10, 000; Renewal for the dispensing certificate from K750 to K10, 000; and Application for change of premises for dispensing certificate from the current feels of K1, 200 to K15, 000 [while for those in towns with district councils and other areas will be as follows]; Application for issue of dispensing certificate from old K600 to K10, 000; Re-inspection of a facility with a dispensing certificate from K350 to K5, 000; Renewal for the dispensing

certificate from K350 to K5, 000; and Application for change or premises for dispensing certificate from K600 to newly proposed K5, 000,” the revised proposed schedule indicated,” the schedule indicated. And for Agro-veterinary shop for towns with city or municipal councils as follows: Application for issue of an Agro-veterinary shop permit class 1 from current fees of K4, 740 to new K9, 500; Re-inspection fee for grant of an Agro-veterinary shop permit from K3, 600 to K7, 200; Renewal of the Agro-Veterinary shop permit class 1 from K3, 600 to K7, 200; and Change of premises of the Agro-Veterinary shop permit class 1 from K4, 700 to 9, 500 while those in district councils and other areas: Application for issue of an Agro-veterinary shop permit class 1 from K2, 370 to K4, 740; Re-inspection fee for grant of an Agro-veterinary shop permit from K1, 800 to K3, 600; Renewal for the Agro-Veterinary shop permit class 1 from K1, 800 to K3, 600; and change of premises of the Agro-Veterinary shop permit class 1 from K2, 370 to K4, 740.”

Pemba residents celebrate newly constructed hospital

By Mirriam Chabala
Vision Zambia has constructed a first level hospital in Chief Moyo's area in Pemba district valued at about K5.7 million, much to the excitement of the local people. Residing approximately 13 kilometres away from the Lusaka-Livingstone Road, Moyo residents have had to walk miles in order to access improved health care either in Choma or Monze. Following the construction of the new hospital by World Vision, Moyo residents were thrilled last Friday as they celebrated the development. Speaking during the event, World Vision manager in charge of operations Wezzy Kaira reflected upon the journey that his organisation started together with the community to ensure that the hospital was constructed. "When we arrived here, we heard of so many difficult stories. Stories of poor health and difficulties in accessing education facilities. Among the challenges that came out very strongly was that there was lack of a good health facility. We are happy that today that is not an issue because of what the people of Moyo, the government and World Vision have done together to address this challenge. When we came here as World Vision, we heard that there was a high number of children and mothers who were dying because of delivering at home or on the way to the hospital. Your highness you told us that there was a lot of diarrhoea and malnutrition in the area and that was confirmed by the government. That's why we thought that we could work together with you to make

this change because as World Vision, we aspire that no child should die of any preventable disease and that no mother should die whilst giving life," said Kaira. "Today we are not here to celebrate the facility but the things that this facility will entail for the people of Chief Moyo's area. I just want to emphasise that this community celebration that is happening today could not have been possible without the generous support of the people of Christ Presbyterian Church and North Ridge Church in the United States of America. But also, the Chief and the community

for availing the land. We also thank government through the Ministry of Health for giving us the plan and also for supervising the construction." Chief Moyo appealed to government to help connect the health facility to the national electricity grid in order to make it operational 24/7. "As Moyo residents, we say thank you for this gift that we have seen with our eyes. None of us gathered here has ever seen anything like this within Moyo Chiefdom. Governments have come and gone and we've never seen anything like this. That's why we are saying thank you to

World Vision. Now that you have given us this beautiful hospital, we are requesting for electricity from government so that this hospital can be operational day and night, said Chief Moyo. Meanwhile, Pemba Council Chairperson Peter Dyololo called on government to construct a road leading to Moyo hospital to allow people have easy access to the facility. The event was also characterised by dance, music and poetry by pupils from Moyo primary and secondary schools who demonstrated appreciation to World Vision Zambia through their activities.



It will be illegal for Lungu to stand in 2021 - Wynter


By Mukosha Funga
Former Justice Minister Wynter Kabimba says it will be illegal for President Edgar Lungu to contest the 2021 elections because the Constitution disqualifies him. And Kabimba has observed that the 2016 Constitutional amendment's intention was to give President Lungu a third term in office, but the phraseology betrayed that objective. Meanwhile, Kabimba says it is embarrassing that the Constitutional Court amended the eligibility petition on behalf of the petitioners because that is not part of the

court's mandate. Commenting on President Lungu's eligibility judgement, Kabimba, who is Rainbow Party General Secretary, insisted that the Head of State was not eligible to stand, arguing that the ConCourt misdirected itself in its ruling. "The position of Rainbow Party is that President Lungu is not eligible to stand in 2021. The provisions which the ConCourt has based their ruling on apply to the vice-president. The article which deals with the President is just one and it says 'A person who has twice been elected', that article doesn't talk about a

term of office. In the pre 2016 one, it says under article 35, tenure of office of president, it says "Subject to clauses 2 and 4, every President shall hold office for a period of 5 years", then under article 35, sub article 2, it says "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Constitution or any other law, a person who has twice been elected as President shall not be eligible for re-election to that office", so you can be elected as MP after you have been elected as President, the Constitution does not disqualify you. Now you can see that this is not talking about the tenure of office, it just says elected. Now, contrast that with Article 106 in the 2016 amendment, sub article 3 it says "a person who has twice held office as President is not eligible for election as president", so the phraseology is different but it is exactly the same as Article 35, full stop!" Kabimba explained. "This doesn't refer to the term of office. So where did the Constitutional Court get this issue of the 15 months' term? Because the first time when the word term is introduced is under article 106, sub article 6, sub article (a) which says "if the Vice-President assumes the office of President in accordance with clause 5, or a person is elected to the office of president as a result of an election held in accordance with clause 5(b), the Vice-President or president elect shall serve for the unexpired term of office and be deemed, for the purposes of clause 3, to have served a full term as president if on the date the president assumed office, at least three years remained before the date of the next general election or (b) not to have served a term of office as president if at the date the president assumed office, less than three years remained before the date of the next general election", that is the first time the word term is

introduced. And then they go further now to define what a term is. So I don't see the confusion myself between the two. So there is no transition here that the ConCourt is talking about." And Kabimba observed that the 2016 Constitutional amendment's intention was to give President Lungu a third term in office, but the phraseology betrayed that objective. "But what is also important to state is that when you look at those articles, there is no doubt in my mind that they wanted to give Edgar a third term, but they phrased it badly. The drafting ended up excluding him. So I think [former justice minister Dr Ngosa] Simbyakula must have come from a kama drinking spree and he just said 'this is okay', and nobody paid attention to that. If I were in that situation, I would have said to them, 'you are shooting yourselves in the foot, if this is your intention'. So the political intention was to give the man a third term or to exclude that period he served from 2015 up to 2016 but they failed to do that," he said. "The ConCourt misdirected itself in determining that the time President Lungu served from 2015 to 2016 is not a full term. That is where the misdirection is. Because the article which says twice elected is in both the old and the new constitution. So Edgar was elected in 2015, once. Then he was elected again in 2016 so that's twice. And those two articles are not dealing with a term of office, they are just dealing with your having been elected, finish. The article stands out very clearly. " Asked if it would be an illegality, which would go unchallenged, for President Lungu to stand in 2021, Kabimba said, "It will be an illegality. But whether or not you can challenge that, it will be another question because the Constitution says the

decision of the Constitutional Court is final. So, if you want to bring up another petition, then the other side would say 'you have brought to court a matter which has already been decided by the court.'" Asked if the country was expected to live with that illegality since the ConCourt was a court of final jurisdiction, Kabimba said, "Well, that's what the law says...whether or not the ConCourt can review its own decisions, the Supreme Court has said no." Meanwhile, Kabimba said it is embarrassing that the Constitutional Court amended the eligibility petition on behalf of the petitioners because that is not part of the court's mandate. "That's another problem. Does the court have powers to amend a petition? It doesn't have. So the court should have dealt with the issue it was invited to delve into. It has no powers to rephrase the petition of the petitioner, such power is not vested in the court. So I think that was a misdirection on the part of the court. The role of the court is to determine the question put forward by the petitioner within the confines of the constitution. If I go to court and I file a petition for divorce, Mukosha Funga is my wife, and we have to share house number five, even if the judge knows us, he can't say 'No, you have made a mistake, your house is house number 6, not 5', that is not the role of the court," said Kabimba. "And the court can't say, 'I attended your wedding, you got married on 26th of October, not on the 17th', that's not the role of the court, he can't rephrase the petition. So you have a lot of problems about this matter. And even if you do a story indicating the actual question which was asked and then you show that paragraph where the court is saying they have rephrased the question, that is embarrassing for the court."



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LUSAKA CAMPUS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 ENROLMENT

this serves to advise members of the public that application to the School of Business Lusaka Campus is open for Semester One January/February 2019 intake in the following Evening degree programmes:

- a) Bachelor of Accountancy
- b) Bachelor of Business Administration
- c) Bachelor of Science in Purchasing and Supply Chain
- d) Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management
- e) Bachelor of Science in Marketing
- f) Bachelor of Science in Banking and Finance
- g) Bachelor of Science in Business and Project Management
- h) Bachelor of Science in Economics
- i) **Master of Business Administration-General**
- j) **Master of Business Administration-Finance**
- k) **Master of Science in Accounting and Finance**

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Candidates are requested to apply on-line by logging on to the Copperbelt University website at <https://www.cbu.ac.zm> and clicking on the online application link.

Applicants are further advised to complete and submit the form online and thereafter print the ZANACO Student Bill Muster form. This is what will be used to make payments of K150.00 at any Zambia National Commercial Bank Branch (ZANACO).

For Further Information Contact
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ConCourt decision on Lungu’s eligibility excites Sinda headmen

By Zindikilani Banda
Mtema village headman of Sinda District, Peter Mwale, has told Kapoche PF member of parliament Charles Banda that the ruling by the Constitutional Court to allow president Edgar Lungu stand in 2021 is exciting to traditional leaders because of the good governance policies of President Edgar Lungu. Speaking at Mtema Primary School on Saturday during Kapoche Constituency ward officials meeting, Mwale said PF

was the only party that had formed government and was able to deliver development within a stipulated time frame, a feat that UNIP and MMD failed to achieve. “On behalf of other village headmen under chieftainess Nyanje, we are so grateful over the ruling of the Constitutional Court to declare that president Edgar Lungu is fit to stand in 2021. This is good because Edgar Lungu is the president who has done many developments within a short period compared to other governments. I have not seen such under UNIP and MMD, That is why PF has excited us within a short period. We are therefore together within the government and we expect him to pass through (win) in 2021,” said Mwale.

“We can mention Nyanje to Sinda road which PF had worked on which we now expect that they will improve to tarmac for us, buildings at Nyanje Day Secondary School and Nyanje Mission Hospital all indicate PF developments which excites people. Our people are happy with the leadership of President Edgar Lungu for sure.” And earlier, Banda, who is also Tourism Minister, paid a courtesy call on Chieftainess Nyanje before visiting the RCZ church in the area where he donated a public address audio kit valued at K21,300.

We don’t want resilient cockroaches, we want investors - Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga
Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili says nobody likes cockroaches because they invade the entire house when left uncontrolled. Meanwhile, Vice-President Inonge Wina says it is wrong to refer to human beings as cockroaches. At an Economics Association of Zambia gala dinner, Wednesday, President Edgar Lungu likened Chinese nationals to cockroaches, saying they were resilient and able to survive anywhere. And President Lungu also said among 10 thieves, six were assuredly Bemba because they were many. But in an interview, Kambwili, who is also NDC leader, lamented that President Lungu was more concerned about protecting Chinese than Zambians. “What can you expect from President Lungu on Chinese? President Lungu’s prime objective is to look after the Chinese because it is the Chinese who look after him. So he and the Chinese are Siamese twins, they can never be separated, they share the same liver and everything. So when he finds time, he uses it to promote Chinese survival in Zambia, and giving us examples that do not make sense. Anyway, he was right, when you refer to a cockroach, who likes them anyway?” Kambwili asked. “Yes, they survive but who likes cockroaches? Everybody, when they see a cockroach, they want to kill it. So he was right, Chinese are like cockroaches but do we need cockroaches? So if a person is saying he needs cockroaches and they must survive, then you must know that this person is

not thinking right, that the thinking of this person is not straight.” He said cockroaches had to be controlled or else they would invade the entire house. “So they have sold the country to the Chinese. Everything is about Chinese, when you talk about them, you will be arrested, bundled into a van from Lusaka, taken to Luanshya, detained overnight for doing your constitutional job, just because you speak about Chinese. Yes indeed they are cockroaches who survive, but who makes the cockroaches stupid? It is the owner of the house if he is not buying Target or if he is not buying cockroach killer, the cockroach will invade and eat up everything. So his expression was correct, I fully agree with him that Chinese are cockroaches but do we need cockroaches? Have you ever met a person who says ‘I am very happy I have cockroaches in my house?’ I think he is the only one I have heard, since I was born, who appreciates cockroaches. What a man we have in State House,” Kambwili said. And Kambwili said it was an insult for President Lungu to say that amongst 10 thieves, six were assuredly Bemba. “Now that’s an insult to the Bemba speaking and he owes us an apology, you cannot say that. The people that are stealing in his government are not Bembas. The people that stole in the previous government were not Bembas. So let him not insult the Bemba people, they are innocent people who know no segregation based on tribe and its unfair to call

them thieves. The Bible says why do you see a spec in your brother’s eye and leave a plank in your own eye? Is it Bembas who declared that they had one million when they became president and one year later they had 23 million? Is it Bembas who have built all over Lusaka? Who have built in Uganda, who have bought properties in South Africa using stolen money? Is it bombs who have become so rich during the last two years? The Bembas need respect and an apology. After all, it is the Bembas who massively voted for PF and they do not deserve to be insulted like that,” said

Kambwili. Meanwhile, Vice-President Wina said it was wrong to refer to human beings as cockroaches. Vice-President Wina was responding to a question from Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi during Vice-President’s question time, Friday. “In today’s News Diggers Newspaper, under the headline ‘Chinese are like cockroaches, they survive everywhere’, President Lungu is quoted to have said, during the Economics Association of Zambia gala dinner, that out of 10 thieves

in this country, 6 are Bembas. My question is, Your Honor the Vice-President, is your government, particularly the office of the President able to provide evidence to substantiate that demeaning statement on the Bemba coming from the Head of State?” asked Chabi. In response, Vice-President Wina said, “Mr Speaker, you cannot call human beings cockroaches. Secondly Mr Speaker, I am not in a position to respond to this question because I do not understand the origins of it and two, I don’t have adequate information to base my response.”



Turkish Ambassador to Zambia Sebnem Incesu (r), among other officials, cut the ribbon signifying Turkish Airlines’ official arrival of its maiden flight from Ankara on Friday (photo courtesy of Zambia Airports Corporation Limited)

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says there was no need for celebrating the Constitutional Court’s decision that declared President Edgar Lungu eligible for the 2021 general election, because it was a known outcome to the party since it followed the law. And Kampyongo says government will summon Lubambe Copper Mine CEO Nick Bowen to show cause why he should not be disciplined for being disrespectful to Zambians. Speaking during the PF Interactive Forum yesterday, Kampyongo who is also PF National Youth Chairperson said the ruling by the Constitutional Court on President Lungu’s eligibility for 2021 was not a question of celebration because it was how things were supposed to be. He endorsed President Lungu for 2021, adding that those who wanted to contest against him should wait for the convention. “On the recent ruling by Constitutional Court, for me, it’s not a question of celebration, it’s a question of saying ‘yes this is how things are supposed to be’. Whether it comes to the incumbent being eligible, that’s another thing. Because for us as PF even when we were saying [that] we are set with our leader, it’s because we knew, we were following the law as it’s prescribed. Those who want to contest against President Lungu, (should do so) during the convention because a resolution has been done. As National Youth Chairman, I have endorsed the candidature of President Lungu for 2021,” he said. Commenting on the threats of job losses in the mining industry, Kampyongo assured the mine workers union that government was with them in ensuring that the threats were dealt with.

There’s no need to celebrate Lungu’s eligibility, we knew – Kampyongo

“On the recent threats of job losses in the mining industry, I want to assure the mine workers union that we are with them in ensuring that these threats are dealt with. We need to have mutual respect, the investors and the government. We shouldn’t engage in a manner that shows that we are being done a favour as a nation by the investors who have come to invest here for profits. Of course when we ask them to create jobs, its not like they are giving us a favour, they are not giving us a favour,” he said. “To the CEO’s and all those in senior management who are foreign nationals, they must understand and appreciate that we are here to support them so that their investments can flourish. But they should also remember every time they are talking about the

Zambian worker, they must look at the work permit they are holding from the Ministry of Home Affairs. So when they talk about downsizing the Zambian work force, they shouldn’t avoid talking about downsizing the foreign work force, and that’s where we start from.” Kampyongo further said it was disheartening that some mining houses were daring government over the budget measures that the Ministry of Finance had proposed, adding that budget formed part of the law and anyone law abiding person had no option. He added that government would summon Lubambe Copper Mine CEO to show cause why he should not be disciplined for being disrespectful to Zambians. “I must single out one mining house, Lubambe. I want to

warn the Chief Executive there that if he wants to continue being disrespectful to Zambians either in management or ordinary

workers, he will certainly have no one to blame if we ask him to leave. You can’t believe this is the CEO who had the audacity to write to the DC

in the district where they are operating from, in a manner that was disrespectful. This CEO will be summoned to come and show cause why he cannot be disciplined. We are in support of the Ministry of Labour who have said ‘we are not going to tolerate this kind of arm twisting tactics by the mining houses,’” said Kampyongo.



There’ll be no 3rd term for Lungu, says united opposition group

By Mirriam Chabala
A consortium of 10 political parties has vowed to get Zambians to rise and reject the idea of giving President Edgar Lungu an opportunity to contest the Presidency for a third time. At a public discussion held in Lusaka, Sunday, National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili demanded that constitutional and judicial reforms be conducted immediately to consequently abolish the Constitutional Court. Meanwhile, UPND leader

Hakainde Hichilema cried out to the soul of late president Michael Sata to just turn back once and help his beloved country. “The time has come for us to tell all those that wish to kill our hard-earned democracy and to protect our democracy. We collectively owe our country a duty to defend the Constitution. We therefore as you fellow Zambians to defend and protect the constitution, our democracy and mother Zambia. We need to rise up and demand that a new constitution review

is conducted immediately by the Ministry of Justice to amend any ambiguity so that no person can claim to stand for a third term. Let’s all say in one voice that no third term for President Edgar Lungu or anyone. Let’s rise up in unity and demand that the judiciary be allowed to operate freely and independently without the interference from anyone. To demand for judicial reforms the Kenyan way and the consequent abolition of the Constitutional Court,” said Kambwili.

Hichilema agreed with NAREP president Elias Chipimo who said the Constitutional Court deliberately misinterpreted the law just to favour President Lungu ahead of 2021. “It is important that we accept the effects of the judgment that was made on the 7th of December on our country’s democracy. By amending the constitution of 2016, the PF put in place a word which orchestrated plans to hijack Zambia’s much cherished democracy by using an amended constitution which was designed with flaws and hidden agendas to suit the PF’s needs. We thus urge Zambians to note the following key issues contained in the judgment; the decision by the court not to accept the clear wording of article 106, which states that ‘a person who has twice held office as President is not eligible for elections as President anymore. Number two, the decision by the courts to instead rely on the article, which relates to the Vice-President that assumes office as President pursuant to article 106 (3a) or to a person that is elected to the office of President pursuant to article 165 B in order to arrive at the decision that Mr Lungu did not serve a full term when he completed the late president Michael Sata’s term,” said Hichilema. “May the soul of Mr Sata, where he is lying somehow look back on this country

and as such, Mr Lungu can now serve more than two terms and effectively more than ten years in office. For the first time in the history of Zambia, the courts have legalised the holding of office for a third term. The power is in our hands as Zambians to say once again this time to Mr Lungu and the PF that no third term. We shall not allow a third term as a people.” Meanwhile, PEP president Sean Tembo emphasised that the collaboration of the 10 political parties did not mean that they had merged the parties. “We must hasten to mention that our agreement to work together does not entail that there is a merger of all opposition parties. That would be a problem to the democratic tenets in which we believe. Our collaboration is a clear demonstration that we have a proper democracy where we can cooperate while being individual, vibrant political parties in our own ideologies. Unlike the PF whose aim is to stifle any dissenting views, we believe that diversity is the life blood of democracy itself and so, we have chosen to act in unity while at the same time recognising our diversity as individual political parties. It is also our firm belief that in this way we can be able to serve you our fellow citizens and so we invite you all in all your diversity to join us in doing what is right for our country,” said Tembo.



From left: International Social Security Association (ISSA) representative Thembinxosi Popo Mnisi, Labour and Social Security Permanent Secretary Barnaby Mulenga, WCFCB Commissioner Elizabeth Nkumbula and Nigeria’s Hakeem Dickson at the Vision Zero Campaign in Livingstone (Picture courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS).



ACHIEVEMENTS OF PF: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF 7NDP AND VISION 2030

Part 3

By Hon Davies Mwila

In his address to the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly on Friday, 18th September 2015, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu said, among other things, that:

“...Having attained 50 years of independence, Zambia has entered a new phase of socio-economic transformation for the next 50 years. This is in tandem with the African Union Agenda 2063 which highlights our aspirations and I quote: ‘to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.’... It is against this background that we, as a nation, need to be adaptive, innovative and determined to change the way we do things. In this regard, the theme for my address is ‘embracing a transformational culture for a smart Zambia now’. To attain this transformation, we need to change the way we think, behave and do things”.

In concluding the aforementioned speech, President Lungu challenged the nation to work towards attaining the ideal Zambia which he described in the above quote, and as enshrined in the Vision 2030 and AU Agenda 2063. President Lungu concluded by saying:

“At the stroke of midnight on 24th October, 2064, Zambia should awaken to one undeniable truth and reality: that ours was a generation of achievers, a generation of men and women who, propelled by the energy of patriotism, changed this country forever.”

In line with President Lungu’s policy directives and challenge mentioned above, the PF Government has engaged an adaptive, innovative and a transformative approach to doing things in order to attain the Vision 2030 objective of Zambia becoming a **“prosperous middle-income country by 2030”**, as well as actualizing the AU Agenda 2063 objectives at national level.

In view of the above, the Patriotic Front (PF) Government is working towards actualizing the Vision 2030 objective guided by the 7NDP and the PF manifesto.

The two previous articles discussed the strategic interventions being implemented by the PF Government.

This third article in the series will highlight additional programmes currently being implemented by the PF Government under strategic area one of the 7NDP (“Economic Diversification and Job Creation”) vis-à-vis the agriculture sector.

These additional programmes currently being implemented by the PF Government are aimed at attaining a **“Diversified and Export-Oriented Agriculture Sector”**, and include the following: promoting diversification within the agriculture sector; enhancing investment in agricultural infrastructure, and promoting small-scale agriculture.

PROMOTING DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR:

In order to achieve agricultural diversification in terms of crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry products – as espoused in the 7NDP - the PF Government under President Edgar Lungu is implementing the following programmes.

The Crop, Forestry, Fisheries and Livestock Product Diversification Programme: There are numerous strategic interventions currently being implemented by the PF Government under this Programme, some of which are espoused in the following paragraphs.

For example, in April 2018, the PF Government acquired the ZamPalm Oil Palm Tree Plantation in Kanchibiya district in Muchinga Province, from Zambeef Products Plc at a cash consideration of US Dollars 16 Million. ZamPalm Oil Tree Plantation is owned by the Zambian Government through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The IDC acquired 90 percent shares in the operation from Zambeef Products Plc.

The ZamPalm Oil Tree Plantation has had the following impact: about 700 jobs have been created in Kopa Chiefdom literally lifting hundreds of families out of extreme poverty. In addition, this venture will also help stem the importation of edible oils into Zambia while earning the country significant foreign exchange through exports.

Currently, only Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) produce their own palm oil crude-the rest of the countries, including Zambia, import from Malaysia and Indonesia.

There is therefore a huge market gap which Zambia can leverage through ZamPalm especially given the fact that the estate can produce up to 100 tonnes of crude palm oil in a month from its primary processing plant. And once at full capacity, the Plant could feed refineries such as the Global Industries in Ndola with a steady flow of raw materials for processing into ready-for-use edible oil all year round.

In addition to the above, production at ZamPalm is expected to be boosted by the out-grower scheme in which the initial 500 local farmers will be targeted, with more farmers to be targeted in future. In order to leverage the existing market, ZamPalm will also plant an extra 300 hectares of new palm trees each year between 2019 and 2021 which will bring the total land cover to 4, 200 hectares.

Indeed, the ZamPalm investment by the PF Government is in line with the 7NDP prescriptions to achieve economic diversification and job creation through agriculture, among others. The ZamPalm Investment is also in line with the 7NDP Development Outcome 9, Strategy Focus 7.12.4, and Strategy 4 which aims at increasing job opportunities in rural areas by promoting rural infrastructure development, agro-value chain development and labour-intensive industries in rural areas such as ZamPalm Oil Tree Plantation.

Similar to the ZamPalm venture, the PF Government is further delivering economic diversification and employment creation by opening of a “Pineapple Processing Plant” in North Western province and a “Fruit Processing Plant” in Eastern province.

Furthermore, the PF Government under President

Edgar Lungu, launched the US Dollar 55.4 Million Cashew Nut Project in 2015 in Western Province with the aim of diversifying the economy and creating employment. For instance, by 30th November, 2017, this US Dollar 55.4 Million Project in Western Province had directly benefitted 15, 000 farmers in Western Province. At full capacity, the Project will benefit a total of 60, 000 targeted beneficiaries in the 10 participating districts in Western Province.

The PF Government has also successfully revived the Kawambwa Tea Estate, which is currently fully operational. At present, the PF Government has invested over K30 Million into the Estate, and this has led to the creation of five hundred (500) direct local jobs.

In order to further accelerate economic diversification as well as create employment in rural areas, the PF Government is also seeking prospective investors with the capacity to commercialize the production of Salt in Mpika District and other viable projects within the district and other areas countrywide.

ENHANCING INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Significant investments in agricultural infrastructure development are one of the “pillars” for achieving sustainable agricultural development. It is against this background that the Patriotic Front Government has significantly enhanced investments in agricultural infrastructure development aimed at strengthening the sector’s capacity to produce process and market its various products competitively across domestic, regional and international markets.

Consequently, the PF Government has since constructed livestock breeding centres such as the Goat-breeding centre in Mpika district at a cost of K340, 000 to promote livestock in the area and Chishinga breeding centre for bull breeding in Luapula province to empower local farmers with good breeding stocks for improving their current herds. Others include milk collection centers, satellite artificial insemination service centres and permanent artificial insemination centres in different parts of the country.

Conclusion

The Patriotic Front Government’s visionary approach to wealth planning for Zambia through the implementation of the PF Manifesto as well as the 7NDP is designed to support the attainment of the goals of Vision 2030 which will in turn lay the foundation for turning Zambia into a Developed Country by 2064.

The PF led by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu is laying the foundation not just for the next generation, but also for subsequent generations to come by taking significant steps towards the cross generational accumulation, conservation, utilisation and transfer of the wealth of Zambians yet to be born.

At the stroke of midnight on 24th October, 2064, Zambia will indeed awaken to one undeniable truth and reality: that ours was a generation of achievers, a generation of men and women who, propelled by the energy of patriotism, changed this country forever.

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Zambia has written an official d  marche to the United States government to request a retraction of a portion of the statement made by a senior US official John Bolton, who alleged that the Chinese government intends to possess some state owned enterprises because of governments failure to settle it's outstanding loan.

But US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote says the White House was referring to widespread reports as well as examples of what the Chinese had done in other countries.

Zambia's first secretary for press and public relations at High Commission on Ethiopia, Inutu Mwanza, said Foreign Affairs Ministers Joseph Malanji disclosed this in Addis Ababa yesterday, adding that the Zambians government was optimistic that the American Embassy in Lusaka transmit the d  marche to Washington DC as soon as possible.

In his statement to unveil new USA Policy on Africa in

Malanji asks US govt to retract statement that China is taking Zambia's assets

Relation to China and Russia , USA National Security Advisor John Bolton said Zambia owed China between US\$6 billion and US\$10 billion and was poised to lose its state utility company for China to recoup the debt.

But Malanji said the Zambian government was disappointed that such a statement lacking accurate information, could come from a high ranking official who could have easily verified the information with the American Embassy in Lusaka before giving a presentation of such magnitude. "Such misinformation gives a bad name to America's foreign policy," Malanji said, adding "Zambia enjoys cordial bilateral and multilateral relations with

the US government, and does not wish to see its diplomatic ties strained as a result of misinformation."

The Minister said Zambia had not offered any of its state assets as collateral for the sovereign guaranteed oans the country was obtaining.

"Therefore, no state asset or state enterprise were at risk of being repossessed as they have not been used as collateral security," said Malanji.

He also said Zambia was not in a debt crisis and its debt ratio in relation to the country's GDP, was healthy.

The Foreign Affairs Minister said Zambia was managing its debt repayment very well and had not defaulted in any of its repayment plans.

In reaction to the demand from the Zambian government, Ambassador Foote said non-transparent contraction of loans posed a burden on recipient countries while fuelling corruption.

"While I have seen no evidence pointing toward a ZESCO takeover, the White House referred to widespread reports and approaches the Chinese have already taken in other countries. Such non-transparent contracting and debt acquisition impose unsustainable debt on recipients, fuelling corruption and limiting the options for the citizens of recipient countries to determine their future," said Ambassador Foote in a brief reaction released by the Embassy, Sunday.



PAC hears details of Gen Education theft scandal

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) members have expressed annoyance at the levels of financial irregularities at the Ministry of General Education.

This came to light, Friday, when the two permanent secretaries of the ministry appeared before the committee to respond to audit queries cited in the Auditor General's Report.

The two Permanent Secretaries Felix Phiri and suspended Henry Tukombe appeared before the committee with over 60 supporting staff from the ministry, including District Education Board Secretaries from various districts across the country.

Solwezi East UPND member of parliament Teddy Kasonso expressed disgust at the theft levels in the ministry.

"Misuse of public funds is rampant [in this ministry] it is Sodom and Gomorrah. What is going on is unacceptable. The question is, why is this ministry being managed in

such a reckless manner?" Kasonso asked.

PAC chairperson Howard Kunda noted that the attached payslips of deductions for the erring officers were futuristically dated December 31st 2018.

"I have noticed that they are bearing the date that we have not yet reached. We have not reached 31st December 2018 [and] most of them I have noticed. Why is it so? Why are we providing information that is for the future and not what should be answering the query that was arrived at some time back?" Kunda asked.

Ministry director of finance justified that by saying that the payslips were just samples to show that action had been taken adding that the idea was to show that the deductions had started.

Kunda then refused to accept the payslips as supporting documents of action saying that the committee would never deal with samples.

"We do not deal with samples here. We deal with actual

information. What is there is what you are supposed to present to this committee so that we can conclude these issues. PS, why are you allowing such kind of thing to come and give us piecemeal information instead of bringing the actual information that is required?" Kunda asked again.

And PS Felix Phiri then apologised to the committee for the misinformation.

Then Choma Central UPND member of parliament Cornelius Mweetwa said the ministry in question was the most corrupt ministry in government.

"There is a lot of impunity in this ministry. People who want to talk against impunity and embezzling, corruption, you start sending them to rural areas and you have been boasting that you have height political connections, that is why this level of high degradation in your ministry has reached such severity," Mweetwa said.

"Honourable Mbulakulima here and Honourable

Munkonge have made valid observations. So you as controlling officer Mr Tukombe who was in charge of this impunity at a personal level, that one day you are no longer PS, how do you feel that you are associated with this in this country where the majority of our people are poor [and] you are supervising such kind of a ministry with scandals and scams? When DEBS officer tell you, you send them to rural areas, you want those surrounding you to be worshipping you," Mweetwa charged.

When given chance to respond, Tukombe tried to sneak off the questions by saying that he was not consulted when making the management responses to the queries.

"Chair I am very grateful that you have accorded me chance to come and maybe account for the period 2017 like Honourable Mweetwa has said that we were there as the impunity [was taking place] and all that [but] the unfortunate part chair is

that I was being given this document yesterday. When they were preparing this, I was not involved [and] I was not consulted. So if we are to go by that standard of natural justice, what is it that I have contributed?" Tukombe asked.

Kasonso then rephrased his question to help Tukombe understand what he wanted him to answer

"Chair maybe during the time that I was controlling officer, I may acknowledge that impunity could have come and like, if I looked at the way questions were flowing, there were some variation, the approved amount of money and what was done at the end of the day. Now, we don't approve impunity neither do we approve misapplication, we approve the budget. If you are to look at certain payments that were effected, you will discover [that] there was an adjustment or plus which I didn't approve. So meaning yes being the controlling officer at that time, we could have not done well in terms of monitoring and supervising our directors that were charged with different responsibilities. I don't think anyone would like this type of impunity to go on, I don't think so," he said.

Mweetwa then observed that Tukombe responded to questions in a joking manner further warning him that PAC was a serious committee composed of people with serious things to do.

At this point, Kunda called on the former chief accountant to state if the accounts department was facing any challenges.

"Unfortunately I wasn't privy to responding to these queries, otherwise, I would have also put in an input. So it was done without my input," he responded.

After being told to be serious in providing information, the former chief accountant then opened another Pandora box by stating that there were too many under-qualified accountants at the ministry at the time when he joined.

"When I joined the Ministry

of General Education in May 2017, I found that there were a lot of problems at ministry as far as accounting processes were concerned. So we had started putting in place measures of how to mitigate some of these audit queries which unfortunately again they happen to re-occur. The other challenge which was there was the lack of education on the cadres who were there. Some of them were not qualified enough and I had to request the accountant general's office to see if he could give us new members of staff. So it's true that we had a challenge of accounting cadres at the Ministry of General Education," he said.

Kunda followed with another question and wondered how the ministry was going to recover over K1, 400, 000 from an officer who had irregularly drawn monies from the ministry account.

"I have seen that from this Lazarous Chanda, you are supposed to recover K1, 400 000 plus and the other one Ivy Sibajene, you are supposed to recover K445, 000 plus. Are you sure that these officers have these monies that will surpass what you are supposed to recover from this pension fund?" Kunda asked.

PS Phiri responded by saying the recoveries would be made from the employees' terminal benefits.

"For those who have been dismissed, we will recover from their terminal benefits in terms of accrued leave days. And if those are not enough, we will then forward that information to the Public Service Pension Fund for them to make an assessment in terms of the accrued rights which they may have if there is any payment to be effected from there. Within the ministry we have already started the process. For those who are still serving, we have written to the Public Service Management Division," responded Phiri.

The hearing which began in the morning around 10: 00hrs ended around 22:00 hours.



Ministry of Labour and Social Security Permanent Secretary Barnaby Mulenga prepares to release balloons to signify the official launch of 'Vision Zero' campaign in Livingstone on Friday (Picture courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS)

We have a lot of respect for Honourable Ronald Chitotela, the Minister of National Housing and Infrastructure Development. We like that he is a down-to-earth minister whom every citizen can easily access and have conversation with. Unlike some other ministers, Honourable Chitotela is also very available to the press for any questions, which is a good attribute for leadership.

But sometimes this Honourable minister does and says things that are not honourable at all; things that take away so much from his character. He seems to be a kind of man who never minds humiliating himself. It seems he doesn't have so much regard for his own integrity and is willing to lose it for so little to gain. This is the part that we don't understand about our minister.

What are we talking about? Well, dear readers, Honourable Chitotela lied with a straight face in Parliament last week Thursday. This is regarding the story that we have been investigating in which government awarded the Road Safety Management Solution concession to a private company called Intelligence Mobility Solutions (IMS), the same company which is about to be awarded another concession for road tolling on behalf of the Road Development Agency (RDA).

According to Honourable Chitotela, only one concession with the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) was signed, while negotiations for the RDA road tolling concession were terminated. He told Parliament that because the Patriotic Front is such a disciplined and accountable

News

Diggers!

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Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
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PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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Chitotela lied to Parliament

government, the deal was cut because it was not in the best interest of the people of Zambia.

“Mr Speaker, following the review of consultations and the proposed tolling solutions, a decision was made to terminate the negotiations with Intelligent Mobility Solutions as provided for in the law. The negotiations were terminated because government was not of the view that the proposed concession was going to deliver value for money, and therefore was not in the best interest of the Zambian people,” Chitotela told Parliament.

“Government has got interest to work with the private sector to improve revenue streams for reinvesting in infrastructure assets. Our only condition is that the partnerships created by government and the private sector should result in a win-win situation. This is because we have a

mandate to deliver and we shall continue to undertake the projects that provide maximum benefits to the economy and the people of this country.”

But the opposition members of parliament remembered that on the same day when Honourable Chitotela was making this claim, News Diggers had published a verbatim interview with the IMS chairman Mr Walid El Nahas, who explicitly stated that negotiations were still on-going as of this month. So, the Monze Central UPND member of parliament, Jack Mwiimbu, wanted to know who was saying the truth.

“A conditional approval was given to allow Road Development Agency [which is] a contracting authority to look at the proposal of them expressing intention to do business with government. After that, Road Development Agency who are the negotiating

authority engaged the IMS and if my memory serves me well, I think it must have been between 1st and month-end of October where they could not agree to the conditions and terms, and RDA wrote to the concessionaire advising them that we have now revoked the conditions in the Act, we are terminating the negotiations. That is the official position [of government and] I will not delve into hearsay,” explained the minister.

The MPs knew that Honourable Chitotela was not being truthful, so another lawmaker for Mwembeshi constituency, Machila Jamba, challenged the minister to produce evidence in form of a letter which was written to IMS terminating the negotiations. The lying minister simply said the letter was available, but it could not be adduced on the floor on the House because it was confidential.

This is what we

don't understand about Honourable Chitotela. This minister knows deep down his heart that as he was delivering that ministerial statement in Parliament, there was no such decision by the government to terminate the negotiations with this private company. We know this because during our investigations, we have seen authentic correspondence that suggests the opposite of what the minister said.

If Honourable Chitotela had said government INTENDS to terminate the negotiations, we were not going to be questioning him, but to say negotiations were terminated in October and that the concessionaire was written to, is a blue lie which Honourable Chitotela knows very well deep down his heart. This is very unfortunate.

Listening to Mr Chitotela speak in Parliament, we wondered how the Minister of Finance felt as the chairperson who presided

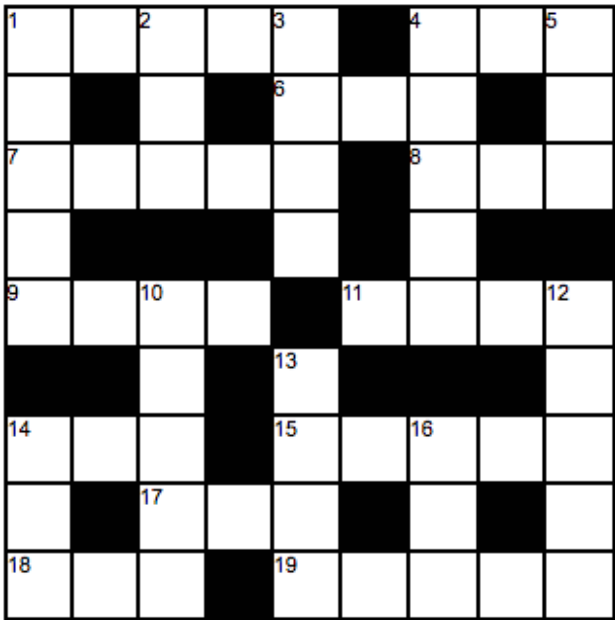
over the matter, because this statement meant that her together with the leadership of RDA, NRFA, Zambia Development Agency and the entire Public Private Partnership Council that approved the negotiations were operating outside Honourable Chitotela's policy decision.

We were further disappointed that the minister had the privilege to even discredit our investigation as propaganda sponsored by the opposition with the help of bad elements in the civil service. We don't know what Honourable Chitotela thinks about us, but we are not in a habit of talking about things that we hardly understand or know nothing about.

It is sad that politicians in Zambia don't think there is any journalist left out here who has the capacity to investigate anything. Whatever scandal we uncover is rubbished as an undertaking by the opposition. In thier eyes, we are nothing but hungry little boys and girls waiting to be fed and used by politicians in their political battles.

We do not operate like that. We don't have any such dealings with any political party out there and we can never sell our editorial independence for anything. It is okay for the minister to lie in parliament and rubbish everything that we have reported on this story, but we would like to assure our readers that we know a little more than Honourable Chitotela thinks we do on this story; and very soon when the truth comes out, he will be very humiliated. Lies have short legs, but the truth doesn't need to be defended because it defends itself. We will stop here for now.

Crossword puzzle 253



“To be the salt, you also need to be the shaker. To shake the world. Shake the truth. Shake the people. Shake the word. Have it sprinkle, melt and preserve humanity.”
- Anthony Liccione

- Across**
1. Climb onto, as a horse
4. Bro's sibling
6. Incorporated (abbr.)
7. Narrow
8. Target towards a goal
9. "You betcha!"
11. Minus
14. Ailing
15. More than enough
17. Fingers to shoulder
18. Thumbs down vote
19. Without exception
- Down**
1. They're drawn to the flame
2. Umpire
3. Lose energy
4. Startle
5. Tally
10. Track event
12. Like a run-down motel
13. Not different
14. Lodge
16. A dessert

Solutions to puzzle 252



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.

ND OPINION on concession being 'the new theft code'

Editor,

"These are the things that the people of Zambia must seriously consider when deciding whether they want to keep this regime in place - a

government that has subcontracted foreigners to run the affairs of the country." - Martin Nyanjagha

"I was thinking about this the other day; the docility we have as a people is appalling! My heart really bleads! I mean, what's so complicated about running a toll gate that you need a company then what's the job of all these agencies?" - Mathew 'fc' Mtonga

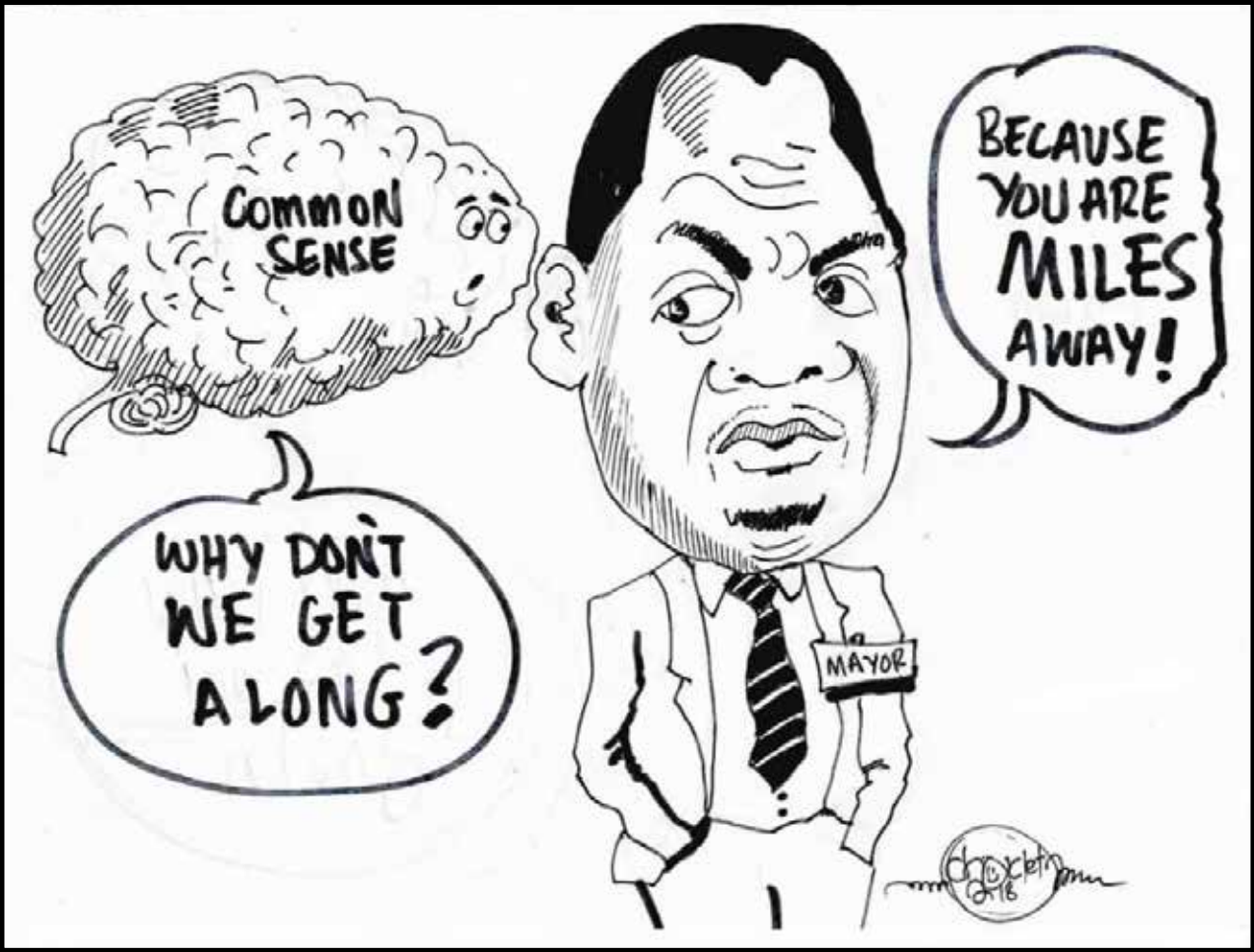
"They should learn from Nigeria where even Switzerland is returning looted funds. Fortune built on a foundation of theft is like a candle in the wind." - Frederick Mulumba

"It's a travesty!" - Shiloh Kudzwai Bunu

"The PF is not the problem, but the voter." - Wanosha Wanosha

"Agony is complaining about govt classified information getting to international community by perceived political saboteurs when in fact, that information is actually concessioned by govt itself." - Happy Robson

"We see all these things happening in the country and we complain about them from day to day yet when it's election time we vote PF and somehow expect different results. There is nothing wrong with our politicians because they are very consistent in their activities. If anything you can always predict what govt is going to do next be it introducing new taxes or increasing ministers' salaries while civil servants live in extreme poverty. The problem is the voter!" - Divine Mlongoti



Chitotela's claims that government terminated concession agreement with IMS

Dear Editor,
"But this man can tell lies without shame!" - Victor Chansa

"Chitotela is a liar!" - PoliCritic Lungu

"Can cheat with a straight face!" - Rogers Kapila

"Mr Chitotela, you and your boss; time to explain is coming, not these obvious lies you are peddling. Just wait..." - Jay Ponda

"UNZA IT' Department can run this concession."

- Shiwezwa Hiitengwa-muntu Mwenda'lubi

"You always have petty answers as if you talking to school boys and girls; give us mature answers, not these single-sourcing old methods; they will land you into problems!" - David Mandona

"The only reason some elements may be compelled to divulge classified information to outsiders is because they believe you are doing things against public interest." - Pascal Bwalya

'NATSAVE needs professional management to stem losses'

Editor,

"A Sovereign Guarantee can never bring about efficient operating in a company; only a cadre of professionals can do that. So, employ professionals, not political cadres and relatives!" - Mike Phiri

"NATSAVE will always be a drain on govt coffers as long as whistle blowers are penalized & fired, but culprits are returned. Before bailing out the institution, was a post-mortem on why it collapsed done? Has govt reorganized it thoroughly? Is it no longer top-heavy? Has it been computerised totally?" - Haggai Gondwe

"Established in 1972 and began operations in 1973, I think it should have been one of the leading banks or best performing govt. institutions. Provided it has the management with big vision for the Zambian people, and free from political interference, they can still do better and begin to make profits." - Chricious Chongo

"Making losses, but if you go check the allowances & salaries of senior managers, you won't believe their balance is dirty!" - Robby LM

"That's how Zambians fail to manage their own affairs; go and check salaries of the managers, you will see exorbitantly high emoluments." - Christopher Phiri



Togolese girl Josephine sewing in Cotonou - AFP

Nigerian military lifts Unicef ban after 'spy' row

Nigeria's military has revoked its earlier decision to suspend activities of the UN children's agency Unicef in the north-east of the country. The military said this came after "extensive deliberations" during emergency talks with Unicef officials. Earlier on Friday, the army had accused the agency of spying for Islamist militants in the restive region. Millions of people

displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in the north-east are dependent on humanitarian aid. What did the Nigerian military say? In a statement, the army said that it had lifted a three-month ban on Unicef's operations. It said that during the meeting it urged "Unicef representatives to ensure they share information with relevant authorities whenever induction or training of new staff is being conducted". The statement came just hours after the military had accused the UN agency of spying for Islamists. "[Unicef staff] train and deploy spies who support the insurgents and their sympathisers," the army said. These were "unwholesome practices that could further jeopardise the fight against terrorism and insurgency," it added. This is not the first time the army has taken dramatic action against the UN agency. In April, the military declared three Unicef workers persona non grata, following leaked allegations of sexual abuse by Nigerian soldiers. That decision was also swiftly reversed. **BBC**

Nations agree milestone rulebook for climate treaty

Nations on Sunday struck a deal to breathe life into the landmark 2015 Paris climate treaty after marathon UN talks that failed to match the ambition the world's most vulnerable countries need to avert dangerous global warming. Delegates from nearly 200 states finalised a common rule book designed to deliver the Paris goals of limiting global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit). "Putting together the Paris agreement work programme is a big responsibility," said COP24 president Michal Kurtyka as he gavelled through the deal after talks in Poland that ran deep into overtime. "It has been a long road. We did our best to leave no one behind." But states already dealing with devastating floods, droughts and extreme weather made worse by climate change said the package agreed in the mining city of Katowice lacked the bold ambition to cut emissions the world needed. Egyptian ambassador Wael Aboulmagd, chair of the developing nations G77 plus China negotiating bloc, said the rule book saw the "urgent adaptation needs of developing countries relegated to a second-class status." Executive director of Greenpeace Jennifer Morgan said: "We continue to witness an irresponsible divide between the vulnerable island states and impoverished countries pitted against those

who would block climate action or who are immorally failing to act fast enough." The final decision text was repeatedly delayed as negotiators sought guidelines that could ward off the worst threats posed by the heating planet while protecting the economies of rich and poor nations alike. "Without a clear rulebook, we won't see how countries are tracking, whether they

are actually doing what they say they are doing," Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna told AFP. At their heart, negotiations were about how each nation funds action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as how those actions are reported. - **Report controversy** - French President Emmanuel Macron, who has recently backed down on anti-

pollution fuel tax hikes in the face of country-wide "yellow vest" protests, said France must "show the way" as he welcomed the progress made at the talks. "The international community remains committed to the fight against climate change," he tweeted on Sunday. "Congratulations to the UN, scientists, NGOs and all negotiators. France and Europe must show the way.

The fight goes on." Developing nations had wanted more clarity from richer ones over how the future climate fight will be funded and pushed for so-called "loss and damage" measures. This would see richer countries giving money now to help deal with the effects of climate change many vulnerable states are already experiencing. **AFP**

Egypt tomb: Saqqara 'one of a kind' discovery revealed



Archaeologists in Egypt have made an exciting tomb discovery - the final resting place of a high priest, untouched for 4,400 years. Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, described the find as "one of a kind in the last decades". The tomb, found in the Saqqara pyramid complex near Cairo, is filled with colourful hieroglyphs and statues of pharaohs. Decorative scenes show the owner, a royal priest named Wahtye, with his mother, wife and other relatives. Archaeologists will start excavating the tomb on 16 December, and expect more discoveries to follow - including the owner's sarcophagus. **BBC**

Okocha tips FAZ to focus on rural talent



By Alex Chilumbwe
Africa soccer icon Jay Jay Okocha says grassroots football in all provinces of Zambia needs urgent attention from FAZ if the country is to continue producing great footballers for the national team. Okocha, who is a Nigerian football legend said that in the four days that he has spent in the country under

the invitation of Barclays Bank in conjunction with FAZ, there was little mention of grassroots football as a source of new talent. He urged the football association and other involved parties to do better in the neglected area. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Okocha noted that Zambia's talent could be buried in grassroots

football that is currently not receiving the attention it deserves. "We all know that Zambia is a footballing nation but in the four days I have spent in the country and have interacted with different people talking about football, no one mentioned grassroots football with seriousness. It is evident that it is being neglected yet it is

the future of the game. What happens when players get old, are you going to start from scratch again? Remember every African nation wants to win against the 2012 African champions," he said. Okocha also advised Zambian footballers to aim beyond the African continent, adding that they needed to prove themselves to the outside world that they can play on any field and in any league. "Do not be afraid of the unknown and aim for the English Premiere League and other bigger leagues in the world. You have the potential and the talent and what's remaining is to challenge yourselves. African footballers are great but there is always the fear of the unknown to play on foreign soil. Let's prove the outside world wrong and show them that we have more Sadio Manes than they think," he advised. The Nigerian was at the Fallsway Football Arena in Lusaka's Longacres where he was conducting a football clinic on Sunday.

One-club Mueller makes it 300 games for Bayern Munich

Thomas Mueller made his 300th Bundesliga appearance for Bayern Munich on Saturday, cementing his status as one of a dying breed to have only ever played for just one professional club. The 29-year-old attacking midfielder reached the milestone in Bayern's 4-0 demolition of Hanover 96. Of all the statistics surrounding Mueller's career, the most eye-catching is that Bayern are unbeaten in the 84 league games in which he has scored. Although he failed to find the net against Hanover, he did set up the opening goal for Joshua Kimmich. He picked up the first straight red card of any otherwise well-behaved career in Wednesday's thrilling 3-3 Champions League draw at Ajax after being sent off for accidentally kicking Nicholas Tagliafico in the head. Although Mueller argued about the decision in

the immediate aftermath, he was later quick to apologise. His golden reputation was tarnished by poor displays in Germany's woeful World Cup performances, but he has fought his way back into Niko Kovac's starting line-up with Bayern after a spell on the bench last month following a dip in form for the club. He has now made 463 appearances for Bayern in

all competitions, scoring 181 goals and creating 157 more, since joining in 2000 at the age of 10. Born in the Bavarian town of Paehl, south of Munich, Mueller rose steadily through Bayern's youth set-up and caught the eye of then head coach Jurgen Klinsmann in 2007-08 after scoring 18 goals in 26 games for the Under-19s. Mueller made his Bundesliga

debut a month before his 19th birthday, coming off the bench on the opening day of the 2008-09 season. Klinsmann was sacked in April 2009, but one of his successors, Louis van Gaal, propelled Mueller into Bayern's first team. "He threw me in at the deep end," Mueller said. "I made my debut before he arrived, but he then relied on me continually.

"I would say that my biggest influence was Louis van Gaal, because I was at the best age to be influenced." Van Gaal's faith was rewarded with 13 goals and 10 assists as Bayern won the Bundesliga and German Cup in 2009-10. "Even if Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben are available, Mueller will always play in my team," Van Gaal famously declared. **AFP**

Buffaloes humiliated, Eagles draw while Nkana impress in CAF Champions League

By Alex Chilumbwe
Zambia's envoys in continental football resumed their respective cup competitions with Green Eagles and Green Buffaloes in CAF Confederation Cup and Nkana FC and ZESCO United in CAF Champions League. The four teams had a flying start in their preliminaries as

they all qualified to the next stage of their competitions with hope to keep soaring in winning records. **Green Eagles Vs Hussein Dey FC** The Southern province-based Zambia National Service side hosted an Algerian side, Hussein Dey FC at Nkoloma

stadium on Saturday 15 December for an intense encounter that ended in a goalless draw as both teams' efforts were either too ambitious or denied by the goalkeepers. It was Eagles that threatened first when striker Anos Tembo cut a lone figure upfront in the 32nd minute. Hussein

Dey also came close through their tough striker Yache Ilyes but his header went wide in the 41st minute. Dull action that yielded neither a threat or actual goal followed until the teams went on a goalless break. In the second half, Eagles went for an early change by withdrawing Warren Kunda for Boniface Sunzu. In the 50th minute, Spencer Sautu shot narrowly wide in an opportunity that would have given the ZNS side the lead. The coach introduced Kennedy Musonda for Christopher Chola while George Chaloba replaced Anos Tembo in the 70th minute. Still, the results of the substitutions could not bear a goal as Hussein Dey FC defended tightly. The game ended in a nil nil draw.

centre of the pitch as they served fans with quick short passes that failed to break defence walls. Kampamba's goal however changed the pace of the game as open spaces came into view. Nkana enjoyed first half victory. As the second half got underway, Bestone Chambeshi's boys pushed further and to fruition as Kelvin Kampamba netted a good one in the 55th minute. Simba SC showed more eagerness to score as the clock kept ticking. In the 72nd minute, Simba's John Bocco netted one after a good round off of defenders. However, Nkana ensured that Bocco's goal remained the only one as they held the Tanzanian side to 2-1 victory in full time.

Nkana Vs Simba SC Played at Nkana stadium in Kitwe, this was a tasty fixture in the CAF Champions League as Zambian football fans wanted to see if national team player Cletus Chota Chama would shine with his current explosive form on home soil while loud Nkana fans wanted to see their goal wizard Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba score from as far as the dressing room as their posters read. Nkana fans were not disappointed as Ronald Kampamba played up to their expectations as he found the back of the net in the 24th minute. Before his goal, both teams were confined to the

Green Buffaloes Vs CS Sfaxien The combatants suffered a humiliating 4-1 defeat at the hands of SFaxien in Tunisia. The army side allowed an early goal in the 11th minute but hurriedly equalized in the 21st minute through Chipili Mungule. In the second half, however, the Tunisian side totally outplayed Buffaloes and scored three more to stretch the score line to 4-1. The Biltone Musonda tutored side will have to polish up their plan as they hope to avenge the loss in the return match in Lusaka at Nkoloma stadium next week.



Morgan Gibbs-White of Wolverhampton Wanderers controls the ball under pressure from Steve Cook of AFC Bournemouth during the Premier League match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and AFC Bournemouth at Molineux on December 15, 2018 in Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Lonzo Ball joined LeBron James in elite territory Saturday as their twin triple-doubles lifted the Los Angeles Lakers to a 128-100 NBA victory over the Hornets in Charlotte.

James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, scored 24 points with 11 assists and 12 rebounds and Ball, the second overall selection in the 2017 draft, added 16 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds.

It was the first time two NBA teammates posted triple-doubles in the same game since Jason Kidd and Vince Carter did it for the Nets in 2007.

James and Ball became the only Lakers teammates to

Triple-doubles from James, Ball fuel Lakers

do it besides Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1982.

"We just tried to do a little bit of everything to help our team win," James said. "Try to put the ball in the hole, rebound so we could start the break and then get our guys the ball."

"That's the most important to both of us," James added, "getting our guys involved. It's a great feeling when you're able to get the ball to a teammate and see them make a shot."

Both James and Ball had

completed their triple-doubles with plenty of margin. After helping the Lakers out-score the Hornets 40-17 in the third quarter James sat out all of the fourth quarter and Ball played just five minutes of the final period.

Ball added five steals as the Lakers came back with a vengeance from a 126-111 loss to the Houston Rockets on Thursday.

"It was a good win," Ball said. "We didn't want to lose two in a row. We came out strong ... got it done." *AFP*



ZESCO suffers a 1-0 first leg loss to TP Mazembe

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United suffered a 1 nil loss in a crunchy CAF Champions League fixture against TP Mazembe of DR Congo yesterday in Lubumbashi.

The game kicked off to an intense action that was marred by minor but persistent fouls and overly ambitious long shots in an effort to take the lead. TP Mazembe however scored in the 24th minute through Jackson Maleka. The Congolese side held on to the lead the entire first half.

The second half was mainly characterized by more dull and defensive plays and less attacking action while substitutions by both teams did little to change the pace of the game.

TP Mazembe despite being a DRC club has a notable number of Zambian footballers that feature in the national team and from the thrills of the game, players had another point to prove apart from wanting to get maximum points from the clash.

Weak goal threats were the main highlights of the second half while coaches yelled for more opportunities but all in vain. TP Mazembe carried the day with a 1-0 win. An even more intense action is anticipated in the return match next week as ZESCO will host the Congolese side.



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TIPS FAZ

...focus on rural talent