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HH has united idiots to block Lungu - Sunday

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF media director Sunday Chanda says the nine opposition political party leaders who met with Hakainde Hichilema to discuss means in which they can block President Edgar Lungu's 2021 presidential bid, have all proved that they are useful idiots.

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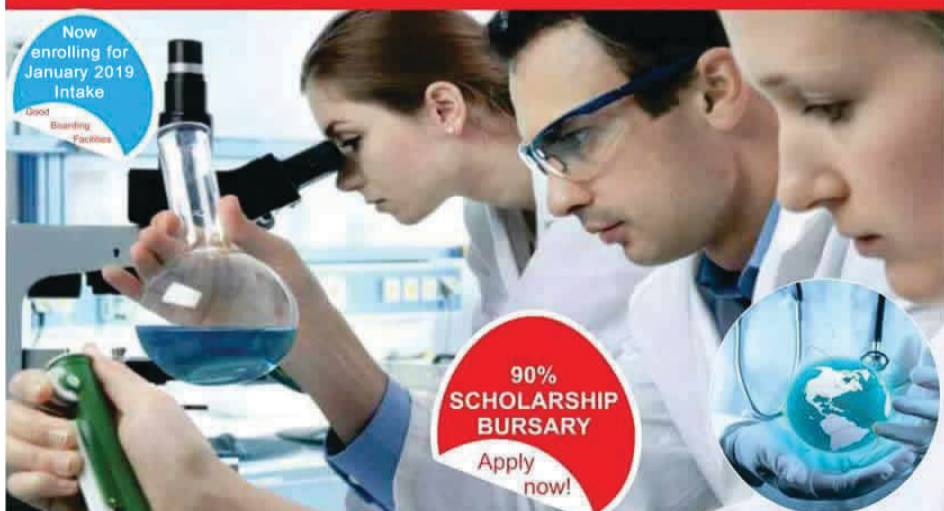


President Edgar Lungu speaks during the tour of Toshiba Energy Systems Keihin Operations in Tokyo, Japan yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

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Mansa residents rally behind Chabi, as MP appears in court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi has pleaded not guilty to the charge of malicious damage to a PF chitenge and a plank worth K250, in the Mansa Magistrates' Court. And Chabi told a multitude of Mansa residents who thronged the court premises to offer solidarity, that he would continue speaking for them, adding that a court process would not intimidate

him.

The accused was arrested last year in December, but the matter was abandoned until this month after the parliamentarian, who beat

the ruling PF Secretary General Davies Mwila in the last tripartite elections, joined hands with Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba in his political activities. To page 2

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Home of investigative journalism in Zambia



Mansa residents rally behind Chabi, as PF unleashes court on MP

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Chipili Independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi has pleaded not guilty to the charge of malicious damage to a PF chitenge and a plank worth K250, in the Mansa Magistrates' Court. And Chabi told a multitude of Mansa residents who thronged the court premises to offer solidarity, that he would continue speaking for them, adding that a court process would not intimidate him.

The accused was arrested last year in December, but the matter was abandoned until this month after the parliamentarian who beat the ruling PF Secretary General Davies Mwila in the last tripartite elections, joined hands with Democratic Party leader Harry Kalaba in his political activities.

Chabi has been critical of the PF government, and has been mobilising an opposition uprising in Luapula, much to the discomfort of the Patriotic Front. It is alleged, in this court matter that, on December 17, 2017 around 16:00 hours, Chabi damaged property namely; a PF chitenge



A horde of Mansa residents throng the magistrates' court to offer solidarity to Chipili independent member of parliament Jewis Chabi yesterday

material and a plank valued at K250 at Mansa Town Center without any legal authority. On the material day, Chabi went to Mansa Civic Bus Station situated at Mansa Town Center to collect a parcel from one of the buses which was coming from Lusaka.

Whilst at the station, the accused observed that there was a pole mounted at the bus station with a PF chitenge material mounted on it. He proceeded to ask the council official who collected levies from the premises as to why he had allowed the party regalia to be put at a public bus station, but was

told that it was put there by some gentleman who drove a taxi with inscriptions 'bola na lesa'. Chabi then decided to uproot the pole and later gave it to his friends to give it to the owner when he returned so that he could put it at his home. After a few minutes, Chabi

drove back to the location and found the said man, but when he asked him why he had mounted the pole, the man remained quiet. While telling him that it was wrong for him to mount a party regalia at a public place, the said man received a call from someone he was referring to as honourable,

and he walked away. when the matter came up before magistrate Mulenga for plea yesterday, Chabi denied the charge. The matter has since been adjourned to January 17, next year, for mention and January 29, 2019 for trial. And addressing his supporters in Bemba after appearing in court, Chabi vowed to continue speaking the truth in the face of injustice. He added that going to court didn't scare him because he was ready.

"What we are now passing through is not new. When our forefathers were fighting for freedom, they passed through the same. We won't be scared of coming to court because we can't keep quiet in the face of injustice. [Kenneth] Kaunda passed through the same. So arresting us, taking us to court, taking us to the police or any other thing won't stop us from talking about our rights. So the matter has been adjourned to January 29, we will be back," Chabi told a jubilant crowd that surrounded him. "We want to come and hear what the court will say. If stopping someone from committing a crime is also a crime under the leadership of President [Edgar] Lungu, the courts will determine. Campaigns ended long ago. They have even started insulting us that (Bembas) are thieves. The year has ended but we still haven't received our monies for the maize old to FRA. And they want us to be praising them, no. We will continue speaking the truth. They have neglected us in Luapula. Today, Luapula is the poorest province."

I see a revolution, if Zambians' anger is not halted - Nevers

By Milimo Namanga
MMD faction leader Nevers Mumba says if the anger of Zambians is not halted, the country may be engulfed in a major revolution ahead of the 2021 general election. And Dr Mumba says the Constitutional Court may need to be dismantled if people continue doubting its judgement outcomes. Speaking during the Hot FM's "Frank on Hot" programme, Tuesday, Mumba warned that Zambians' mounting anger could erupt into a revolution during the 2021 general election if citizens' displeasure was not abated. He explained that the ruling party would not win the August 2021 general elections based on infrastructure development alone, but by meeting the people's basic needs. This followed a question posed by veteran broadcaster and host, Frank Mutubila, who asked Mumba where he felt the 2021 election would be either won and lost. "I think it will be won and lost in what is going to happen between now and then in terms of meeting the aspirations of the Zambian people. Somewhere along the way, you had mentioned that there is so much infrastructure that is being built by the Patriotic Front, which means it's a good sign that they could win the election. But my understanding takes me to believe that elections in Zambia are not won based on infrastructure, they're based on meeting the basic needs," Mumba said. "The cost of mealie meal must be affordable; people should be able to take their children to school and pay their school fees; they should be

able to get a job when they want to get a job. These small things are the things that make somebody win an election. And I think where we are going now, if the anger of the Zambians is not abated, we could see a major revolution in the 2021 election and I think the PF has a challenge; the opposition political parties, the MMD inclusive, we have a challenge to speak the language of the people; to listen to Zambians." And Dr Mumba observed that the ConCourt may need to be dismantled if it fails to fulfil its mandate. Commenting on the court's landmark ruling on President Edgar Lungu's eligibility case outcome earlier this month, Dr Mumba said that doubts on the ruling could lead to social instability. "If we have doubts about the ConCourt, let's fight its existence so that we can deal with it and we don't take our cases there; because if you Frank, take your case to ConCourt, I take my case to ConCourt, and we are fighting against each other, then today you win, and then you celebrate that the ConCourt has given me a good thing. Then I also take there and I win, then you get angry because the same ConCourt that gave you some positive thing, now gives positive to your friend, there's no end to this," Mumba observed. "Do we think ConCourt is serving a good purpose? If the answer is no, let's work on dismantling it! What about the judgement of the ConCourt? It becomes difficult for us to deal with the judgement, it's already out so you can just criticise it, which means we should criticise the next judgement as well, and criticise the next

judgement, and in the process, you even criticise judgements that are really fair. So, my view is that these are two separate matters. Do we have a problem with the ConCourt? I think many people do, why don't you deal with dismantling that institution; what about the outcomes of the courts? Because the moment you start to doubt the outcomes of courts, anarchy comes in the country because you don't know, which one is right and which one is wrong, depending on who is favoured and who is not favoured," he argued. Meanwhile, Dr Mumba stressed that government should take serious action on tackling corruption if the vice was to be stamped out. He noted that the international community's perception of the vice in Zambia still remains despite recent dismissals and suspensions of public officers. "If you remember, there was a problem with ZamPost; a lot of money was missed and all that, and that the government or the President ensured that he fired the Minister of Community Development (Emerine Kabanshi) and he fired or suspended the ZamPost Director. That quick action shows that we are willing to deal with this matter, but in other cases where that was never done, it raises the questions and creates the perception, which America, now, is taking advantage of," observed Dr Mumba. "So, we must take actions that cancel corrupt attitudes so that perception could be created that we are a corruption-fighting nation, and once that is done, then that becomes our currency on the international platform."

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has granted a K10,000 cash bail with two working sureties bound in a sum of K5,000, each in own recognizance, to a senior clerk of court who's jointly-charged with Lusaka-based Magistrate Maggie Tantameni and two others for allegedly stealing 34 Kilogrammes of ephedrine valued at K1,870,000. In this matter, the senior clerk of court, Didie Kangwa; Tantameni; Felix Mkandawire, a court interpreter; Francis Mphanza, a senior public prosecutor; are facing three counts of abuse of authority, removal of property under lawful seizure and stealing by persons in public service.

Senior court clerk granted K10,000 bail in ephedrine theft case

Kangwa will, however, still be in custody even after he manages to meet his bail conditions because he is facing a non-bailable offence in another court where he's jointly-charged with court officials and businessmen for trafficking in cocaine. In this matter, it is alleged in the first count that, Tantameni and Mphanza on November 8, last year, Lusaka, being persons employed in the public service as magistrate and

senior public prosecutor, respectively, jointly and whilst acting together, did use the position of their respective offices to obtain property, profit or benefit for themselves or another. In count two, it is alleged that Mkandawire, Mphanza and Kangwa on the same date jointly and whilst acting together, concealed 34.0 Kilogrammes of ephedrine valued at K1,870,000. The ephedrine was taken under the process of

authority of the court of Tantameni. And in the third count, it is alleged that Mkandawire, Mphanza, Tantameni and Kangwa between November 8, 2017, and December 30, 2017, in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together, did steal 34.0 Kilogrammes of ephedrine. The drug was valued at K1,870,000, property of government, which came into their possession by virtue of their employment.

When the matter came up for trial before Magistrate Susan Mangalashi, the defence applied for an adjournment, saying Mphanza's lawyer, A2, was out of town and would only be available next year. The State did not object to the application, but expressed unhappiness that the application had caught them off guard because they had prepared two witnesses. "They were supposed to file in a notice of adjournment...

We have no objection for an adjournment, but then we ask the court to adjourn to the nearest date within January," the State said. At this point, Kangwa's lawyer applied for bail, pending trial on grounds that the offence his client was facing, is bailable. The defence counsel also acknowledged that Kangwa was facing a non-bailable offence in another court. In response, the State said it had no objection to the bail application as long as the accused person complied with the conditions that would be set for him. Magistrate Mangalashi then granted him cash bail in the sum of K10,000 with two working sureties, bound in the sum of K5,000 in own recognizance. She, however, observed that if the accused was facing a non-bailable offence in another court, he would still be kept in custody. "I will grant you bail as it's bailable, but if you are still in another court, we will still keep you in custody. I grant you K10,000 cash bail with two traceable working sureties. Sureties in own recognizance in an amount of K5,000 each," she ruled. The matter has been adjourned to January 21, next year, for trial. The other accused persons are already on bail, pending trial.

We impounded 800 vehicles with political number plates in 2018 - RTSA

By Mirriam Chabala
Over 800 motor vehicles were impounded for carrying political number plates since January this year, Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) Head of public relations Fredrick Mubanga has revealed. And Mubanga has disclosed that the introduction of surveillance cameras on the country's highways triggered a reduction in road traffic accidents by about 10 per cent. Speaking when he featured on Radio Phoenix's "Let the People Talk" programme, Tuesday, Mubanga revealed that over 800 vehicles were impounded this year for carrying political number plates. He stressed that only one vehicle was allowed to carry a political number for each particular political party at a given time. Following the disputed 2016 presidential election, several vehicles have been spotted on various roads with "ECL 2021" license plates. "The law is very clear, and we want to inform the public that we have impounded and prosecuted quite a number of such vehicles to over 800 in total in the past one year, so it's very clear. We have also engaged various political parties on this matter and we told the political party leadership themselves that we are not going to allow this kind of issue. And political parties have distanced themselves that 'most of these people are not even our members' and that some of them are even using these vehicles for criminal activities. So, there are no sacred cows and we are not going to entertain

such kind of things where it's written 'boss seven, boss...' whatever it's called, the law does not provide for such," Mubanga said. "The law only provides for vanity. Yes, if you want to apply for special number plates, we can only give one special number for that matter; if it's called 'ECL 2021', only one person can have 'ECL 2021'. We can't allow more than one person to have that. So, only one person qualifies, and if there are those people that are having those others... be it 'HH one, ECL one', those are illegal, and we will continue impounding them just like we have impounded others before. We have over 800 vehicles impounded for that." Asked if the earmarked motor vehicle re-registration programme would also affect motorists whose vehicles had only been registered in the second or last quarter of this year, Mubanga said discussions were underway to see how individuals could be helped. "A road map in terms of how we are going to approach this is underway and it will be shared to the public when we will be doing our communication so that we spell out what we are going to give for such circumstances and, of course, how we have tailored this thing during our impact assessment, there will be some questions that we will be asking people and getting feedback. For instance, what will happen for those that have a fleet of more than 10 or 20 and the like? Of course, there will be categories and that will be determined after the impact assessment has been

conducted. But we want to assure the public that those issues raised, such as those with a big fleet, those that registered their vehicles in the last two quarters or last one year, how are we going to treat them? Those will be considered and we are going to communicate accordingly," he responded. And Mubanga revealed that the introduction of surveillance cameras on Zambian roads had culminated into reduced road traffic accidents by

about 10 per cent. "The introduction of speed cameras has seen road fatalities reduce by 10 per cent. We have managed to control speed with the introduction of speed cameras," he said. Meanwhile, Mubanga urged motorists to observe all traffic rules this festive season. "From us, as the management and staff of the Road Transport and Safety Agency, we want to wish the Zambian people

a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2019 and an accident-free festive period. If you are going out during this period and beyond, so is RTSA going out and we will meet on the road. But, of course, we will educate you. If you don't comply, if you are driving under the influence of alcohol, you will not only be prosecuted, but you will have your diver's license revoked. So be road smart, life is precious," cautioned Mubanga.



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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Patriotic Front (PF) media director Sunday Chanda says the nine opposition political party leaders who met with Hakainde Hichilema to discuss means in which they can block President Edgar Lungu's 2021 presidential bid, have all proved that they are useful idiots to the UPND leader. In a statement, Chanda said it was "stinky thinking" for the opposition leaders' to try and attempt to cast aspersions on what constitutes a "Presidential Term" when the Constitutional Court which is the final authority has already made a ruling.

HH has assembled useful idiots to push opposition alliance - Sunday Chanda

And Chanda charged that the ten opposition leaders are only a bunch of comedians misleading each other and citizens. "A 'useful idiot' is a colourful term for a person who is a propagandist for a cause of whose goals they are not fully aware and who are used cynically by the (mis) leaders of the cause. The leaders of political parties who recently met at a hotel in Lusaka fit the bill of both terms quite nicely. Chishimba Kambwili, Elias Chipimo, Mike Mulongoti, Charles Milupi, Sean Tembo, and other tag-alongs, all have one thing in common; they are Hichilema's useful "obliGOATary" idiots! They represent the cast of a slapstick comedy that portrays a nearly extinct

Billy Goat misleading other goats (that pretend to be sheep) away from green pastures to parched barren land," Chanda stated. He stated that all the said opposition leaders had poor records of good governance. "These goats are useful for nothing except that which amounts to nothing; pawns in the hands of the Billy Goat grandmaster -winner of the wooden spoon five times in a row. Whichever way they may choose to bury their heads in the sand, the fact remains that the law has guided; the Constitutional Court recently interpreted what constitutes a Presidential term. The decision of the Constitutional Court is final and cannot, therefore, be appealed against. Their attempts to cast aspersions on what constitutes a "Presidential Term" is, to put it mildly, stinking thinking! Their logic is as futile as their attempts to try to get a Billy Goat to Smile. All these people act the giddy goat in their respective political parties-they are intra party despots with poor records of good governance," Chanda stated. "What moral ground do they have to talk about good governance when their respective political parties are personality cults built around their individual personalities rather than principle?

Take Mr Hakainde Hichilema for instance. He has institutionalised dictatorship in his party having given himself an Indefinite term. What does Hichilema have to say about the farce of his party's constitution which has left UPND in a stunted crisis since he usurped its leadership? What does he has to say of article 70 of the UPND constitution that says: 'A party President shall be eligible for election for an indefinite period subject to this Constitution provided that a Party President who is elected Republican President shall only serve two terms that shall run concurrently with the term of office as Republican President.'" He questioned the morality in the stated opposition leaders to stand against the CoCourt decision. "What about Elias Chipimo? What morality does he even have to talk about Democracy? It is ridiculous! It is nearly a decade since NAREP was established in March 2010 by Mr Chipimo and it has been a poorly performing de-facto one man show or "sole-solo- trader" ever since. Since inception, Mr Chipimo has been the "party's" Presidential Candidate in the 2011 and 2015 General Elections in which he spectacularly failed to garner even half a percent of the Presidential vote...The sole trader nature of Mulongoti and Milupi's one man parties as well as the comical bellyaching for attention of, Tembo and Kambwili are well documented. They are individually and collectively not worth the paper or the ink so we will leave it at that. Suffice to say they do not have any moral ground to stand on; they are goats with ulterior motives pretending to be sheep."

Workers' protests force closure of Ndola, Kitwe ZAMPOST

By Daniel Chansa
Zambia Postal Services Corporation Limited (ZAMPOST) offices in Kitwe and Ndola have closed down. This follows the continued protests of delayed salaries by workers. A check at the Ndola and Kitwe Post offices found the premises locked down with clients stranded. Some workers talked to complained that the Ndola post office was owning them over seven months in salary arrears. "What is happening here is very inhuman. This management has continued to buy vehicles for themselves, yet we are not paid. This is so sad. What is more unfortunately is that the Minister of Transport and Communication, ba [Brian] Mushimba can say a lie that we are paid. Who is paying us and who is paid? Maybe they are paying ba McPherson Chanda and his friends," a worker said. And Forum for Democracy and Development Chairperson for Labour Yotam Mtayachalo said it was a shame that Minister Mushimba could mislead Parliament over the salaries of ZAMPOST workers. In a statement, Mtayachalo said it

was annoying that while people were suffering, those in Government were busy lying. "As FDD, we are disappointed with the failure by the Zambia Postal Services Corporation Limited and government to find a quick solution to the sit-in protest by workers at ZAMPOST following delayed payment of salary arrears. We feel workers are on firm ground to demand what is due to them, and in fact they have been patient enough to go for more than five(5) months without being paid their salaries especially that they have never been awarded any salary increment since the year 2012. It is very unfortunate that the minister of Transport and Communications Honourable Brian Mushimba could mislead Parliament and the nation at large on the floor of the House by giving false information on the status of salary arrears that the company owed workers," Mtayachalo stated. "Further workers have also gone for six terms without being paid their education allowance and even the medical allowance of K500 across the board. What was earlier paid to them was deducted from their salaries without justified

reasons, which is a violation of the collective agreement. The workers are going through very serious financial challenges, and as such management and the government cannot have the luxury of keeping quite as most of the workers have failed to pay for school fees for their children and many have been evicted by landlords from rented houses." He noted that in spite of the failure to pay workers, the company had continued to pay top management staff. "I nspite of these developments, we are also aware that the company has been paying top management staff for education of their children who usually go to very expensive schools at the expense of the workers. It is in light of the foregoing that we want to call upon the Minister of Labour Honourable Joyce Simukoko to break her silence on this matter and pressurise the Minister of Finance Honourable Margaret Mwanakatwe to expeditiously release the money that the government owes ZAMPOST workers so that workers can be paid all their salary arrears without any further delay to easy their sufferings," stated Mtayachalo.

A united opposition front can rescue Zambia - Chipimo

By Zondiwe Mbewe
NAREP president Elias Chipimo has urged opposition parties who have come together to form an alliance to be prepared to learn from each another, saying no political party in Zambia is complete in itself. In NAREP's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Chipimo stated that recently, 10 opposition parties came together, not to select a candidate for a future election, but to fight for the ordinary lives that were being destroyed by the mediocrity, corruption and greed that had engulfed the nation. "We came together to discuss ways in which our individual strengths and capabilities can be best coordinated and utilised

to bring about a sense of hope in our citizens and a prosperous future for current and unborn generations. It is, of course, inevitable that the debate about a single candidate will emerge, but if we occupy our minds worrying about that at this stage, we will miss the opportunity to find each other's strengths and cover up for each other's weaknesses as we forge a path that will re-define how we pursue our politics," Chipimo stated. He stated that their success as the opposition would be based on the effort they put into applying their talents for the common good of the nation. "Particularly, the most vulnerable among us: those battling to put a meal on the family table

each day; those struggling with serious health challenges with limited or no financial means to address their plight; those seeking employment or vending on the open streets as a means of survival; those battling with addiction and substance abuse brought on by the hopelessness of their poverty," he stated. Chipimo further stated that as an alliance, opposition political parties should be prepared to learn from one another, as well as, grow through an understanding of the things they lacked that could be complimented by the strengths of others. "No political party in Zambia is complete in and of itself. Indeed, no individual can exist by themselves. We each require

the effort and support of others to live and to thrive. In order to build the Zambia we all yearn for, we have to build the foundation of unity in the mould of our forebears who worked hard to see beyond tribe and helped us to see it, too; who sought to live within their means and not make the pursuit of illicit wealth their sole ambition; who understood the enduring power of investing in our people. That is the Zambia we stand united to reclaim," he explained. "There will be naysayers and doubters and those that will make it their aim to bring an end to what we are trying to build together. Nothing worth fighting for ever came easy. But this is a fight that must be fought and

won; a fight that will ultimately benefit even those who - out of fear that they will lose their grip on power - will use all the means at their disposal to attempt to discredit and destroy not only our aims, but our very lives." He urged other opposition parties to join the alliance. "Regardless of who comes to power, it will be important to have established a solid working relationship among the various political stakeholders around agreed approaches to these and the other matters on our common agenda. Our doors remain open to all that seek a better Zambia, including genuine opposition parties that are yet to step into this partnership. Join us," appealed Chipimo.

USAID donates medical storage units across Zambia

By Milimo Namanga

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has partnered with the Zambian government to hand over 10 pre-fabricated medical-supply storage units for 11 districts at a cost of nearly US \$900,000.

In a statement issued via US Embassy public affairs officer Sean McIntosh from Chongwe, the prefabricated storage units are meant to give access to health commodities in all of Zambia's 10 provinces.

According to McIntosh, the storage units have been available by the USAID's Global Health Supply Chain Programme-Procurement and Supply Management project (GHSC-PSM), funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), at a cost of US \$881,792.

Speaking during the hand-over, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote explained that health supply chains were critically important for promoting public health.

"Effective health supply chains are critically important for promoting public health ensuring essential medicine are available to patients when they need them, where they need them," Ambassador Foote said.

"Indeed, there exists a direct link between health supply chains and improved HIV testing, prevention, and treatment."

Assembled on site, the storage units were backed up with solar power systems, lighting, air conditioning, shelving, office furniture, security lighting and secured doors and windows.

Apart from Chongwe, the 10 pre-fabricated medical-supply storage units will be distributed in the districts of Kapiri Mposhi, Mazabuka, Mumbwa, Kitwe, Ndola, Limulunga, Mongu, Livingstone and Mbala.

The Ministry of Health, together with USAID's GHSC-PSM, is tackling the significant challenge of improving access to quality health services throughout the country.

The prefabricated storage units were strategically placed in select districts not only to reach underserved populations, but also to facilitate the distribution of health commodities to all of Zambia's 10 provinces.

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Zambia Breweries Director of Corporate Affairs Ezekiel Sekele (right) receives awards from Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) president Michael Nyirenda on behalf of the company.

NDC backs govt over new mining tax regime, insists "no job cuts"

Miriam Chabala

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) says revelations by some mining companies to effect job cuts in the extractive industry are a ploy to blackmail government not to effect the proposed tax changes.

On Monday, Chambishi Metals on the Copperbelt asked 30 per cent of its workforce to go on voluntary separation, barely a few days after Mopani Copper Mines and Kalumbila Minerals Limited in North-Western Province announced plans to downsize their workforce due to operational costs.

But in a statement, NDC acting spokesperson Misheck Moyo

stated that mining firms were being irrational and grossly unfair in their approach, explaining that tax adjustments in the mining sector would enable government to raise more money for developmental projects.

Moyo added that the reasons advanced by the complaining mining firms to cut down their workforce in the wake of the proposed changes in the tax regime were extremely trivial.

"NDC is urging government not to allow mining firms to effect job cuts in the extractive industry. Revelations that mining firms on the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces intend to

cut jobs are uncalled for. As a party, we appeal to government to convene an urgent tripartite meeting with stakeholders to discuss perceived challenges mines might be facing. That the said tripartite meeting should bring on board mining firms, unions and government. We propose that experts from both the Ministries of Finance and Mines should attend the said meeting. As NDC, we feel the reasons advanced by mining firms to trim labour in the wake of proposed changes in the tax regime are extremely trivial," Moyo argued.

"We are of the view that mining firms merely want to blackmail government not to effect the

proposed tax changes. Mining firms are being irrational and grossly unfair in their approach. As NDC, we support the proposed tax changes in the mining sector. Tax adjustments in the mining sector will enable government raise more money for development projects. The current tax regime in the mining sector have gravely disadvantaged Zambians."

He added that his party was of the view that mining firms, which were experiencing operational problems should consider leaving the country instead of cutting jobs.

"Such firms should immediately hand over the mines to serious investors. Government should consider effecting radical measures that may include taking over mines that are claiming to be experiencing challenges. As NDC, we stand together with our colleagues working in the mining sector. And as a party, we shall not allow any job losses at any mine. We shall speak for the voiceless miners and ensure that their jobs are protected and secured. We further implore the Ministry of Labour to closely monitor the happenings in mining firms in the wake of looming job cuts. We urge the Zambian government to consider increasing its shareholding stake in mining firms through ZCCM-IH. ZCCM-IH has the capacity to take over and run ailing mining firms. It is a pity that some mining firms operating in the country are extremely selfish! Such firms will do anything possible not to share their profits with the people of Zambia," stated Moyo.

ECZ sets February 12, 2019 for Sesheke by-election

By Miriam Chabala

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has set Tuesday, February 12, 2019 as date for the Sesheke parliamentary constituency by-elections and seven other local government ward elections.

The Sesheke Parliamentary seat fell vacant after its occupant Frank Kufakwandi of the United Party for National Development (UPND) died on November 12, 2018 in South Africa following an illness.

ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse announced in a statement, Monday, that all aspiring candidates in the aforementioned by-elections should lodge completed and attested statutory declaration and nomination papers before the relevant institutions on Thursday January 10, 2019.

"Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Electoral Commission of Zambia has prescribed Tuesday, 12th February, 2019 as the date on which to hold the Parliamentary by-election in Sesheke Constituency of Sesheke District. On the same date, the Commission will also

conduct seven local government by-elections in Anoya Zulu Ward of Chililabombwe District, Munyama Ward of Kabwe District, Mkomba Ward of Lundazi District, Chindwale Ward of Katete District, Chinkutula Ward of Chifunabuli District, Nkombwa Ward of Isoka District and Sewe Mungole Ward of Chavuma District. The by-election in Sesheke has been necessitated by the death of the late Member of Parliament, Mr Frank Kufakwandi on Monday 12th November, 2018. The vacancies in Anoya Zulu, Munyama, Mkomba, Chindwale, Chinkutula, Nkombwa and Sewe Mungole wards are as a result of resignations and deaths of councillors," Chimanse stated.

"The polls will take place from 06:00 hours to 18:00 hours. Aspiring candidates in the by-elections should lodge completed and attested statutory declaration and nomination papers subscribed before a magistrate, local court magistrate, head of a government primary or secondary school, principal of a college, commissioner for oaths, election officer or returning officer on Thursday 10th January, 2019 between

09:00 hours and 15:00 hours. Aspiring candidates for the Parliamentary by-election in Sesheke Constituency should take along with them 15 supporters who must be registered voters in the respective District or Constituency. The supporters must have in their possession their Green National Registration Cards and Voters' Cards. Aspiring candidates for the Parliamentary By-elections will be required to pay K7,500.00 non-refundable nomination fee. Aspiring candidates in the Local Government by-elections should take along with them nine supporters who must be registered voters in the affected wards. Aspiring candidates will be required to pay K750.00 for City and Municipal Councils and K400.00 for District Councils, non-refundable nomination fee."

The Commission advised all aspiring candidates to abide by the regulations set out for the upcoming by-elections. "In view of this, the Commission wishes to advise aspiring candidates who may wish to contest in these by-elections that failure to comply with these requirements shall render the

nomination papers null and void. Media personnel and Registered Non-Governmental Organisations wishing to monitor/observe the elections are advised to apply for accreditation in the respective districts which will take place from 31st December, 2018 to 8th February, 2019. Accreditation for political party officials wishing to monitor elections in the districts/wards shall only be up to a maximum of 10 members per political party," stated Chimansa.

"Please note that only a maximum of five accredited members per political party and two accredited representatives of NGOs shall be authorised to represent their respective political parties or NGOs at the Collation Centre (Totalling Centre)... Note that the campaign period for these elections commences on Thursday 10th January, 2019 after 15:00 hours and will end at 18:00 hours on Monday, 11th February, 2019. In addition, not more than two (2) political party members per participating political party shall be allowed to witness counting of votes at the Polling Station."



NAREP

NATIONAL RESTORATION PARTY

Politics with a heart for the people

Why we deserve your vote


NAREP
NATIONAL RESTORATION PARTY
A heart for the people

The Opposition Alliance and NAREP's role in it

By Elias Chipimo

Today marks the eighth day since 10 Opposition Parties came together to discuss ways in which our individual strengths and capabilities can be best coordinated and utilised to bring about a sense of hope in our citizens and a prosperous future for current and unborn generations. We came together not to select a candidate for a future election but to fight for the ordinary lives that are being destroyed by the mediocrity, corruption, greed and neglect that has beset our once vibrant nation. It is, of course, inevitable that the debate about a single candidate will emerge but if we occupy our minds worrying about that at this stage, we will miss the opportunity to find each others strengths and cover up for each others weaknesses as we forge a path that will re-define how we pursue our politics.

Alliances have come and gone. What will make this current desire for unity succeed will be more than the operational framework we adopt (i.e. the way we organise ourselves internally). While that is important, our success will be based primarily on the effort each of us puts into applying our talents for the common good of our nation, particularly the most vulnerable among us: those battling to put a meal on the family table each day; those struggling with serious health challenges with limited or no financial means to address their plight; those seeking employment or vending on the open streets as a means of survival; those whose twelve and thirteen year-old children are entering the commercial sex trade because it provides a way out of their financial misery; those battling with addiction and substance abuse brought on by the hopelessness of their poverty; those scratching out a pitiful existence in a neglected rural community, not because their land lacks the potential for abundance but because their potential has been endlessly stifled by politicians that long ceased to care for anything other than their vote. These concerns must lie at the heart of our unity.

As an alliance seeking unity on matters of common concern, it is not our place to consider that we have all the answers.

We ought to be prepared to learn from one another and to grow through an understanding of the things we lack that can be complimented by the strengths of others. No political party in Zambia is complete in and of itself. Indeed, no individual can exist by themselves. We each require the effort and support of others to live and to thrive. In order to build the Zambia we all yearn for, we have to build the foundation of unity in the mould of our forebears who worked hard to see beyond tribe and helped us to see it too; who sought to live within their means and not make the pursuit of illicit wealth their sole ambition; who understood the enduring power of investing in our people. That is the Zambia we stand united to reclaim.

There will be naysayers and doubters and those that will make it their aim to bring an end to what we are trying to build together. Nothing worth fighting for ever came easy. But this is a fight that must be fought and won; a fight that will ultimately benefit even those who - out of fear that they will lose their grip on power - will use all the means at their disposal to attempt to discredit and destroy not only our aims but our very lives. Our goal must never be to harden our hearts against our detractors but to recognise that they too are part of the fabric that makes up the Zambia we live in today. We must engage with them, no matter how nasty they become, but not on their terms. We must define and hold fast to a new way of interacting with one another, one that builds trust and respect, never giving in to fear and intimidation but to a burning desire to make the life of every citizen better.


So how will we do this? By creating the level political playing field that will allow the best of our individual and collective leadership and political talent to come to the fore. We cannot do this without an independent, investigative, well trained and supported media accessible to all (media reform). We cannot do this without well run institutions that adhere to high governance standards and are independently accountable under the rule of law (governance and rule of law). We cannot do this without a competent judiciary that operates under the glare of full transparency

(judicial reform). We cannot do this without a system of electing public officials that is open to full scrutiny and transparent dealings (electoral reform). We cannot do this without a constitution that serves to meet the aspirations of the entire body of citizens rather than the protection of a privileged few (constitutional reform). We cannot do this while there is a constant looming threat of political violence (addressing political violence). We cannot do this without the talent of ordinary citizens whose potential is locked away by joblessness and political exclusion (citizen participation and creation of employment and economic opportunities).

These are the issues that bring us together. These are the issues that as we unite to address, will bring hope to each and every Zambian that is tired of the corruption, plunder and impunity that characterises the present political leadership. It is time to unite around mutual concerns and to remove the real enemy of the people: complacency and the acceptance of the abnormal as normal.


As NAREP, we see our contribution to this undertaking as critical in the ideas we generate. We believe there are solutions to the joblessness affecting the youth and will seek to work with our Opposition and Independent-minded brothers and sisters in Parliament to present legislation that can give life to our visionary TiPanGeni plan within the next sitting of Parliament. We believe that our thoughts on judicial reform, corruption and governance will offer a vibrant approach to accountability and slaying the now accepted prevalence of corruption. Regardless of who comes to power, it will be important to have established a solid working relationship among the various political stakeholders around agreed approaches to these and the other matters on our common agenda. Our doors remain open to all that seek a better Zambia, including genuine Opposition parties that are yet to step into this partnership. Join us.

Elias C. Chipimo
President
National Restoration Party



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



...Only in **Diggers!**

News **Diggers!** Ear to the ground

CEO Should seek Personal Growth in 2019

I loved 2018 because I started fulfilling one of my life dreams that I nurtured while I was at the International Monetary Fund. My final exit report from the Fund endorsed my true life passion: people development. I have known about this for a very long time because it became my inclination at all organisations I worked for. Just like a scrap metal dealer looks at every piece of metal (including brand new Range Rover in a showroom) as junk metal that can be converted into value, I see human beings as potential high achievers capable of achieving the extra-ordinary.

In the past year, Bridges Limited trained hundreds of managers largely from State-owned enterprises. Most of these institutions kept sending their people for more and more training and they plan to train more in 2019. We also had an opportunity to mentor CEOs one-on-one. The feedback has been overwhelming, such as: ‘How come I never knew about this?’ ‘Every CEO needs to go through this process!’ ‘Zambian leaders should be exposed to this training to change our country.’

The experience of coaching captains of industry has revealed a lot of things and I now believe, more than ever before, that every CEO in Zambia needs to go through personalised executive coaching. There is no way any company can have an ambitious leader who does not go through mental make-up and professional recharge. Robin Sharma, author of the ‘Monk Who Sold his Ferrari’ says CEOs who think they are too busy for a moment of retouch are like a driver who has no time for the gas station; at one moment, the car will park. Why should Zambian CEOs seek personal growth as a primary objective in 2019?

REALITY CHECK: The beautiful thing about executive coaching is that it has very little to do with the professional stamina of the coach, professional attainments or experience. Coaching helps the CEO

unlock own potential to maximise own performance. In the past year, I have helped CEOs learn from themselves about how they can do better on their own goals. Through a moment of professional questioning, I turned myself into a sounding board as I listened to these highly accomplished people carry out an own inventory, the reality check. Many felt as though they had just undergone spiritual baptism; they were much more aware of their competences, their limitations and even the wrong direction they might have been driving the company into. I am also aware that CEOs are generally very lonely people, especially those that work in quasi-government institutions. On one hand, their own board of directors is not concerned about the anxieties, fears and emotions they go through every day. The board members only have time for evaluating performance and scrutinizing the

"I am also aware that CEOs are generally very lonely people, especially those that work in quasi-government institutions"

quarterly and annual reports. Anything about your professional challenges as CEO remains your problem and you cannot go to the board chairman to share your competence challenges. That is like admitting your failures. You cannot go to your subordinates either about your professional grey areas and how to manage the organization much more competently and efficiently. They are subordinates who think you have all it takes to be their boss. Where do you turn to under these circumstances? It's to someone who has nothing to do with your business but has an interest in how you grow yourself as a CEO.

TEAM GROWTH: The main materials we have been using in coaching CEOs are from John Maxwell and the Society for Organisational Learning, the latter being an organization that the IMF sent me to in 2015. In the Law of the LEAD, Maxwell states that ‘everything rises and falls on leadership’. He also says that your organization will only grow to your level. Your personal growth can either limit or expand the growth of your organization and the team. I recently met a very dynamic pastor on the Copperbelt who consulted me about the growth of his church. ‘We have been about 500 members for three years now; we are not growing and wonder what the matter is,’ he narrated. We had a long chat but can all be summed up in this: ‘The current status of the church (slow growth) reflects the lead (or ceiling) the pastor has placed on himself in the area of personal growth’. To cross over to a new membership figure would require a new level of growth on the part of the pastor. He needs to experience new things by first unlocking new untapped potential in himself. Zambia is a very busy country with everyone focused on making money. Unfortunately, your potential to make money will be affected by the quality of investment you make in your personal growth journey as CEO. Merry Christmas to everyone.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo says more still needs to be done to enhance the management of internal security for all in the country.

And Kampyongo has noted that criminal syndicates are becoming more sophisticated due to advances in information and communication technologies. Speaking at Government Complex, Tuesday, when he launched the 2018-2021 Ministry of Home Affairs and Drug Enforcement Commission Strategic Plans, Kampyongo revealed that the previous plan was faced by a number of challenges, which needed collaborated efforts to be curbed.

“The implementation of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan had its own challenges and these were in the following areas: (i) Issuance of National Registration Cards (NRCs); passports and travel documents, births deaths, adoption, marriage and citizenship certificates. What

Zambia needs enhanced internal security to fight criminal syndicates - Kampyongo

we need is, indeed, intensified collaboration to some of these challenges like adoptions where we have had issues,” Kampyongo said.

“I thank all you, the departments, that have got a role to play in the issue of adoption, we want to see a difference and drastic shift in the way we curb this vice as we start the year 2019; (ii) enforcement of laws and maintenance of public order, execution of the mandate through quality service delivery and prudent utilization of resources; (iii) investigations of crimes collaboration in rehabilitation of drug and psychotropic substances addicts, collaboration on ...matters, collaboration in the settlement of displaced

persons and former refugees, collaboration in child protection and juvenile justice, collaboration on international protocols related to security; (iv) issuance of immigration permits, passports, collaboration in the electoral process for free and fair elections, availability of accurate and reliable information and professionalism in the execution of the Ministry’s mandate.”

And he explained that more still needed to be done to enhance management of internal security.

“These challenges will continue to receive maximum attention as we embark on the 2018-2021 strategic plan. It is clear that a lot more still needs to be done to

enhance the management of internal security. This is particularly so in light of the advances in information and communication technologies, which have opened a new sphere of criminal activities. As a result, criminal syndicates are becoming more sophisticated as they exploit weaknesses in the cyber space. My Ministry is, therefore, committed to addressing these concerns as we continue building on the progress made so far towards the attainment of the Vision 2030,” Kampyongo said.

He added that the strategic plans set out a bold and ambitious agenda for internal security management in Zambia.

“The 2018-2021 Ministry of Home Affairs Strategic Plan

mission is to promote internal peace and security for all; [it] sets out a bold and ambitious agenda for internal security management in Zambia. The plan also seeks to position the Ministry as a strategic, efficient and effective public service institution that provides and promote internal security for a safe, secure, and peaceful Zambia,” he said.

And Kampyongo said the implementation of the plan will be done in line with the public sector vision dubbed: ‘a smart and value-centred Ministry of Home Affairs.’

“During this period, my Ministry will be guided by the following vision, which is in line with the public sector vision: ‘a smart and value-centred Ministry of Home Affairs.’ The Ministry

has realised three areas of focus and related strategic results as follows: (a) provision and promotion of internal security resulting in a safer, secure and peaceful Zambia; (b) Internal security excellency resulting in a positive image and satisfied clients; (c) operational efficiency resulting in quality service provision. The strategic focus of the Ministry is to contribute to the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) in order to accelerate development effort by creating a conducive governance environment,” said Kampyongo.

Meanwhile, Kampyongo directed all members of staff at his Ministry to align their day-to-day activities to achieving the plan.

The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) says it was not its intended plan to use speed cameras mounted on major roads in the country as a source of government revenue. The Agency claims that the principle behind the move was to inspire behavioural change among motorists who drive carelessly.

To this effect, RTSA head of public relations, Mr Fred Mubanga, says the organization is not disappointed that motorists have overwhelmingly complied with the imposed speed limits; instead he says, the Agency is happy that the laws are being followed.

“On the speed cameras, it is true that the compliance levels have improved, meaning that the number of people who are being charged for these offences has reduced. That’s the correct picture and that was the idea behind implementing this project. So, that was anticipated, and it was not about revenue collection, but changing the drivers’ attitude. Therefore, it cannot be true that we now intend to install secret speed cameras to catch unsuspecting motorists,” said Mr Mubanga in an interview with News Diggers!

When this idea of mounting speed cameras on our roads was pitched to the Zambian people, many opposed it, but we supported the Road Transport and Safety Agency on this move

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Shame on the RTSA boss for messing up speed camera initiative

because we shared the view that traffic surveillance cameras can go a long way in curbing road accidents.

“Only a fool would argue that there is no need for speed cameras on the roads when death statistics from traffic accidents are in plain sight for all to see. In fact, we don’t know of any major city out there in the developed world where there are no highway speed cameras or where motorists are allowed to drive like racing mice in a maize field. Road safety is key to any developing nation,” we wrote in our Editorial Opinion of September 4, 2018.

But a new problem has been created by these speed cameras, which deserve the urgent attention of the implementing Agency and all relevant regulatory authorities.

People have complained that the prescribed speed limits on some roads in Lusaka are inimical to the interest of increased human productivity.

Motorists are disagreeing with RTSA that the 80km/h driving speed, which the Agency has allowed on a narrow single lane Leopards Hill Road around St Mary’s Secondary School in Lusaka is very dangerous. It is dangerous for motorists, cyclists, pupils, pedestrians and any other road user, and they want the road safety Agency to quickly reduce that speed. Is that a bad suggestion? No! That shows that motorists are not irresponsibly excited to speed anyhow on these roads.

Motorists have also complained that the ridiculous 40km/h speed limit on the wide-stretched Church Road

and 60km/h on the Great East dual carriageway is unthinkable. Surely, forcing motorists to drive at 40km/h on a clear highway cannot be said to be a measure for preventing road accidents. Driving at 60km on the way to the airport is simply inconsiderate.

If motorists have proved that they are compliant to traffic surveillance rules, why is the Agency adamant to adjust these speed limits to a realistic maximum? It’s money they want. But RTSA needs to know that when human beings realize that the powers that be are not listening to them, they will get tired of being compliant and it will be unsustainable to punish all the 750,000 drivers every time they exceed speed limits.

You cannot create

laws that make human life more difficult. It is simply foolish, especially if the people whom the laws are intended for, have rejected them. Laws were meant to make life easier for everyone. We expected that the RTSA leadership was going to be grateful to the motorists for this insightful feedback, but what we heard from the Agency chief executive officer disappointed us.

Over the weekend, economist Chibamba Kanyama raised this concern on his social media pages, saying a ‘snails-driving pace’ could actually have a negative effect to the growth of the economy, and commenting on the posting, one of the motorists reminded those who work at RTSA that one day, they will no longer be driving special-pass vehicles and the

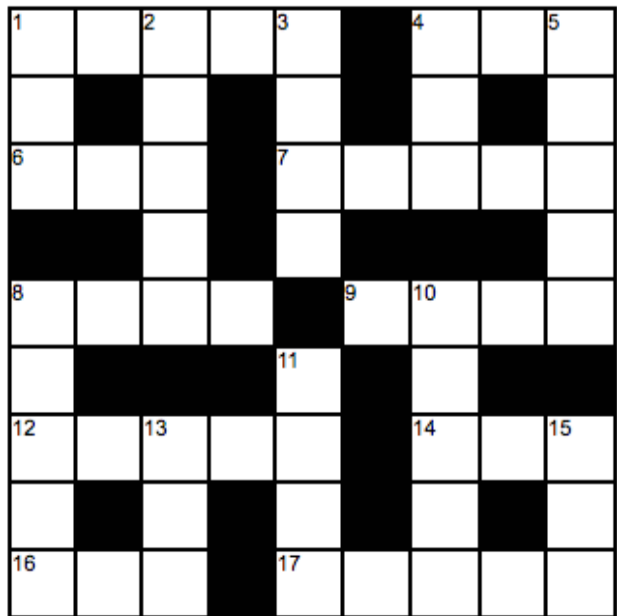
speed cameras would haunt them.

To our surprise, the RTSA boss Mr Zindaba Soko said even now when he is driving the Agency vehicle, he contravenes traffic rules and he also pays fines like everybody else. In fact, he bragged that if him, as RTSA boss, can pay speed fines, why should an ordinary motorist complain? How strange, so the RTSA CEO also doesn’t follow the speed limits? This was unbelievable!

We are glad that Mr Soko was kind enough to confess that he doesn’t obey traffic rules; that he exceeds the driving speed limits and pays fines “like everybody else”. But we would like to remind the RTSA boss that, unlike everybody else, he is the law enforcer, therefore, he cannot be proud of breaking the laws while expecting citizens to obey them.

In fact, Mr Soko was lying that he pays for traffic fines. We challenge him today to produce receipts for the payment of traffic fines so that we examine them and see if, indeed, he actually gets punished when he breaks the law. He doesn’t have any receipts to prove this because it is simply not true. We actually doubt that there is any RTSA employee who doesn’t get a waiver when they contravene traffic rules, so how can it be possible that a junior officer can pursue the CEO for payment of a traffic fine? Shame on Mr Soko for spoiling a progressive speed camera initiative!

Crossword puzzle 255



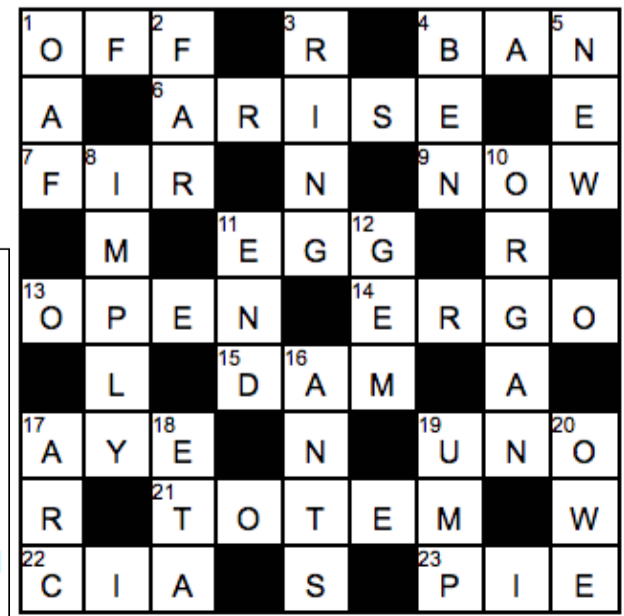
“You can't pick and choose which types of freedom you want to defend. You must defend all of it or be against all of it.”
- Scott Howard Phillips

- Across

1. Wedding gown extension
4. Airport acronym
6. Kid's card game
7. Mistaken
8. High point
9. Having ability
12. Blue mixed with yellow
14. Slang for girl
16. ___ nut (wheel fastener)
17. Money hunger
- Down

1. Haul
2. Have same opinion
3. Small lizard
4. Opinion of oneself
5. Discuss heatedly
8. Halo wearer
10. Reveille instrument
11. Tight fitting
13. Scrambled or poached food
15. A boy

Solutions to puzzle 254



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.

BoZ's explanation on K370,000 for Mukuyu Tree 'facelift'

Editor,

"What kind of fence is there because steel lines in Zambia have various fence types that cost between K1,700 to perhaps K3,500 per 100 metre

roll depending on gauge steel type. How much do concrete pavers cost with some cement sand and labour? If you got an independent professional valuation surveyor, you'd be shocked what you find. Why is there so much white collar rot in Zambia? From fire tenders and ambulances, to toll gate plazas, when and where will it stop?" - David M Mwanangombe

"Pure theft, ba Bank of Zambia." - Musenge Manjata

"How can you spend that money on a tree when NHA and ZamPost workers have not been paid salaries for months???" - Chanda Emmanuel

"We don't want ama explanations; give us a break down for the 370K, chapwa!" - Mutale Brian Mulenga

"Even renovating a mansion in a high cost area can't gobble that much! The figure was exaggerated." - Sydney Munyandi

"Here is a breakdown from where I stand: a) Steel fence cost K5,000; b) Cement paving K3,000; c) Block paving K2,000; d) Solar lampposts K5,000; e) Labour K10,000; Total: K25,000. Question: Where is the remaining K345,000?" - PoliCritic Lungu

"I am at the Mukuyu Tree right now; that is a joke of the year! It can't cost that much. This is daylight robbery." - Dennis Kambole

"This in itself means that money is not a problem because there is too much of it. Yet people are suffering. Workers go unpaid for months in a country where money is not an issue. Sad." - Sikaanka Kabbudula



CBU students' riot over meal allowances

Editor,

"It's really pathetic for what transpired. Education is very important in society and it should be given the attention it deserves, and students should be given what is required. For one to study hard and excel in life, food is a must; one cannot study or work on an empty stomach." - Charles Chiluba Chuutu

"The students have a constitutional right to air their grievances, but let it not affect innocent members of the public." - Emmanuel Abel Mwambazi

"Despite failing to manage the country, someone has the propensity to seek a third term. Lungu has no moral compass. The money he has spent going to Japan can be used to pay students.

Edgar lacks priorities in terms of running the affairs of this nation. When people point at his inadequacies, he arrests them on flimsy grounds." - Elliot Sakala

"Govt has spent over k370 000 on a tree! Let's not be too quick to blame students." - Ras Biman

"Pay the students instead of spending money on the Mukuyu Tree in Kabwe. Leadership and wisdom go hand in hand." - Chinyanta Chibende

"The best way to solve this perennial problem is to give all universities meal allowances, bring Cavendish and other universities on board; after all, they are also Zambian tax payers. The issue of government not affording should not arise." - Mukavu Chilongo

ND OPINION: Govt must explain forgery allegations in €3m German Aid

Dear Editor,

"The theft in this govt is just overwhelming!" - Josius Banda

"This country under Mr. Lungu, it's always stealing and stealing. Let him fire thieving ministers. Shame!" - Chanda Pochoko

"News Diggers! keep the pressure on this criminal government." - Wanosha Wanosha

"Indeed, Zambia is in a mess!" - Precious Imanga Sinyinda Kapumo

"This crime is at high level, possibly from State House. This could be some of the monies that Edgar used for his campaigns; if it were done at junior level, we could have heard about it. Since it's State House involved, it was concealed." - Chikwanda Mwansa

"They keep quiet as if there's nothing wrong; days will catch up with you." - Bwalya Kambole

Emmanuel Shadary is Kabila's choice for DR Congo president

President Joseph Kabila's preferred successor, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, has a fearsome reputation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The question is whether Mr Shadary can convert that into a victory in Sunday's presidential election. The former deputy premier and interior minister is said by many to have earned the nickname "back-to-back" for his role in putting down a succession of opposition protests in 2017. The crackdown, which turned deadly, led to him being sanctioned by the European Union. But his supporters say the name is a reference to his years as a model student at DR Congo's University of Lubumbashi, from where he graduated with five distinctions in 1987.

Mr Shadary's loyalty to the president has been rewarded with the specially created post of permanent secretary in DR Congo's main political party. But many regard the regime stalwart and hardliner as a surprise candidate for the top job, with reports suggesting that even members of Mr Kabila's inner circle were taken aback when Mr Shadary announced his leadership bid. **'Loyal hardliner'** Some analysts warn that, if elected, Mr Shadary may merely keep the presidential seat warm while Mr Kabila, expected to step down after 17 years, plots a comeback. The president has not ruled out standing again in 2023, adding "there is still a long journey ahead" and he will remain in politics after the poll.



Born in 1960 in Kasongo in eastern DR Congo, Mr Shadary studied at the University of Lubumbashi's political sciences department

before entering public life in the 1990s. He was elected deputy governor of his native Maniema province in 1997



and a year later became governor of the region, from where Mr Kabila's mother also hails. "I don't think he ever

dreamed of becoming president of DR Congo," Prof Alphonse Maindo of the University of Kisangani told the BBC.

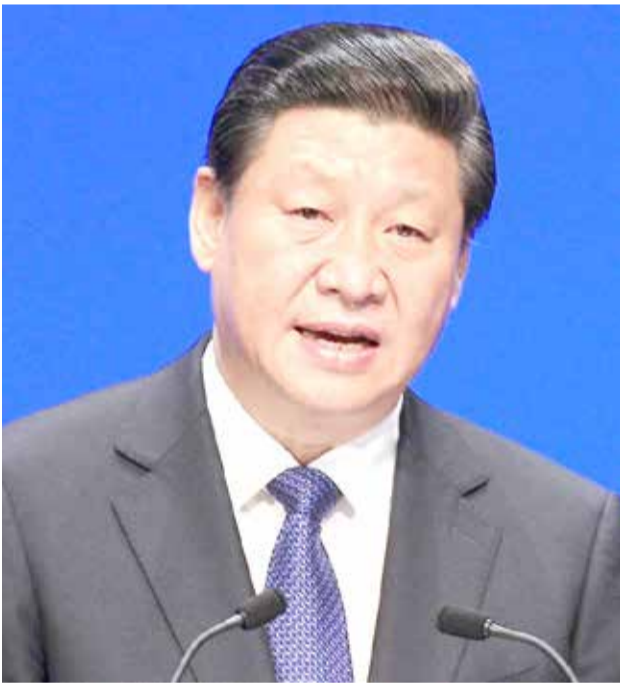
"He is not someone who is seen as having charisma, or able to rally people around him." Mr Shadary's peers gave him another nickname, "make-it-happen", when in 2018 he successfully led negotiations to have electoral reforms passed in parliament despite spirited opposition. **'Mr Make-it-happen'** Mr Shadary rose to national political prominence in December 2016 when he was appointed as one of three deputy prime ministers, as well as minister of internal security. President Kabila's time in office should have ended that same month, but no elections were held despite it being a constitutional requirement, and the polls were delayed repeatedly. **BBC**

Xi warns no one can 'dictate' China's path

President Xi Jinping warned Tuesday that no one can "dictate" China's economic development path as the Communist Party marked 40 years of its historic "reform and opening up" policy amid a stern challenge from the United States. In a speech at the grandiose Great Hall of the People, Xi vowed to press ahead with economic reforms but made clear that Beijing will not deviate from its one-party system or take orders from any other country. Without directly referring to the United States, Xi said China "poses no threat" to any country but warned that it would not be pushed around. "No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done," China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong told the party faithful. "We must resolutely reform what should and can be changed, we must resolutely not reform what shouldn't and can't be changed." While Xi promised more reforms, he did not offer any specifics. The US and Europe have long complained of lingering obstacles to fully entering China's massive market while Chinese companies enjoy the benefits of open Western economies abroad. "We actively promote the construction of an open world economy, build a community of

human destiny, promote the transformation of the global governance system, clearly oppose hegemonism and power politics," Xi said, referencing Chinese geopolitical ambitions. "China is increasingly approaching the centre of the world stage and becoming a recognised builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order." The commemoration of the reforms enacted under late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping on December 18, 1978, came as China is locked in diplomatic spats and a bruising trade war with the United States.

The rivals have agreed to a 90-day truce as they seek to negotiate a solution, with the US seeking a reduction in its massive trade deficit as well as deeper reforms in China to stop the alleged theft of intellectual property. China's reforms pulled hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and turned the country into the world's second biggest economy. But it is currently facing a debt mountain and a slowing economy, which grew by 6.9 percent last year and the rate is expected by the government to ease to around 6.5 percent this year. **AFP**



UK opposition launches parliamentary confidence manoeuvre against PM May

British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn on Monday tabled a non-binding no-confidence vote in Prime Minister Theresa May after she told MPs they will only get a delayed vote on her Brexit deal in the new year. May said a vote on the deal -- which was postponed on December 11 to avoid defeat -- would be held in the week beginning 14 January. "This house has no confidence in the prime minister due to her failure to allow the House of Commons to have a meaningful vote," Labour leader Corbyn told

lawmakers ahead of tabling the motion in parliament. Corbyn said the move was "the only way I can think of ensuring a vote takes place this week". The government must agree to the non-binding vote and even if successful it would not automatically trigger May's downfall. House of Commons authorities said the government will decide whether the motion is debated and voted on, but noted it is "parliamentary convention that any such request be granted".

May last week survived a party confidence vote initiated by her own Conservative colleagues opposed to her Brexit strategy, but emerged badly wounded after a third of her parliamentary party voted to oust her. A vote of no-confidence from a majority in the House of Commons could leave her authority further weakened -- and potentially prompt another vote in her entire government and a general election. - 'Run down the clock' - Britain is set to leave the European

Union on March 29 next year, but the prime minister is struggling to persuade parliament to accept the divorce deal she struck last month with the bloc after 18 months of tortuous talks. If parliament fails to approve the text, Britain could crash out of the EU with no deal -- a prospect that experts warn could lead to serious trade disruption and trigger a financial crisis. May insisted Monday that she was continuing to seek "assurances" from the EU over elements of her plan. **AFP**

FAZ reveal 2018 player of the year nominees



Idriss Mbombo, rising highest to head the ball is a hot favourite alongside ZESCO's Lazarous Kambole with Green Eagles' Tapson Kaseba a dark horse for this year's player of the year award

By Alex Chilumbwe
Former Nkana FC striker Idriss Mbombo, ZESCO United's goal poacher Lazarous Kambole and Green Eagles' Tapson Kaseba are the final contenders for the 2018 FAZ/MTN player of the year award. On 30th August, 2018, Kambole produced a quick-fire hat-trick within five minutes in the CAF Champions League against Mbabane Swallows of South Africa recording the quickest treble in continental football. That performance mesmerised fans who have gone to social media to crown ZESCO striker as their 2018 top marksman. Confederation of African Football (CAF) tweeted on its account that the ZESCO genius had recorded the quickest hat-trick in continental football and even smashed the European record set by French striker Bafetimbi Gomis. Before the the record-breaking hat-trick, Kambole

was also making great assists in the national team and scored 6 goals. Among the 6 goals, three were extraordinary strikes taken from awkward positions but managed to find the back of the net to the mockery of the goalkeepers. The 24 year old has 9 champions league goals and in the FAZ/MTN super league that birth the award, Kambole scored 12 goals. Needless to mention that the George Lwandamina tutored side successfully defended the league title. National team assistant coach Chintu Kampamba applauded Kambole's scoring ability and his selflessness on the pitch. "He is able to score from awkward positions and he makes it look easy. It is also good to note that he is not selfish even though he knows that he can easily score. Others would develop a selfish attitude the moment they are praised. He is really a team player,"

said Kampamba. Kambole however faces stiff competition for the award from Idriss Mbombo has already won two awards during the Nkana Annual Sports Awards despite having moved to a Sudanese side Al-Hilal Omdurman. With 21 goals to his name, it should not come as a surprise to anyone if the league's top scorer scoops the award. Dark horse Tapson Kaseba had a solid campaign for the Zambia National Service side and was instrumental in their firm top four grip on the table. Kaseba recorded four goals from set pieces and he will be hoping that that will be enough to crown him player of the year.



'Stronger, faster' Pacquiao turns 40 with lavish birthday bash

Philippine boxing legend Manny Pacquiao said he is "stronger and faster" than ever ahead of his world title defence as he threw a lavish party with thousands of guests and a mass giveaway to mark his 40th birthday. A car, pickup trucks and appliances were raffled off and President Rodrigo Duterte and celebrities were among the well-wishers at the all-night event, held at a sprawling shopping mall in his home city of General Santos. **AFP**

Chiyangwa remains COSAFA president

By Alex Chilumbwe
The Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) has confirmed that Dr Phillip Chiyangwa remains president of

the organization despite relinquishing his position with the Zimbabwe Football Association. COSAFA posted a statement on it's official website as well as its facebook page

clarifying that the former Zimbabwe FA chief will remain president until the next elections in 2021. "After numerous media enquiries, COSAFA can assure member associations that there is nothing in the organization's constitution that states the president must also hold office with their home football association," the statement read.

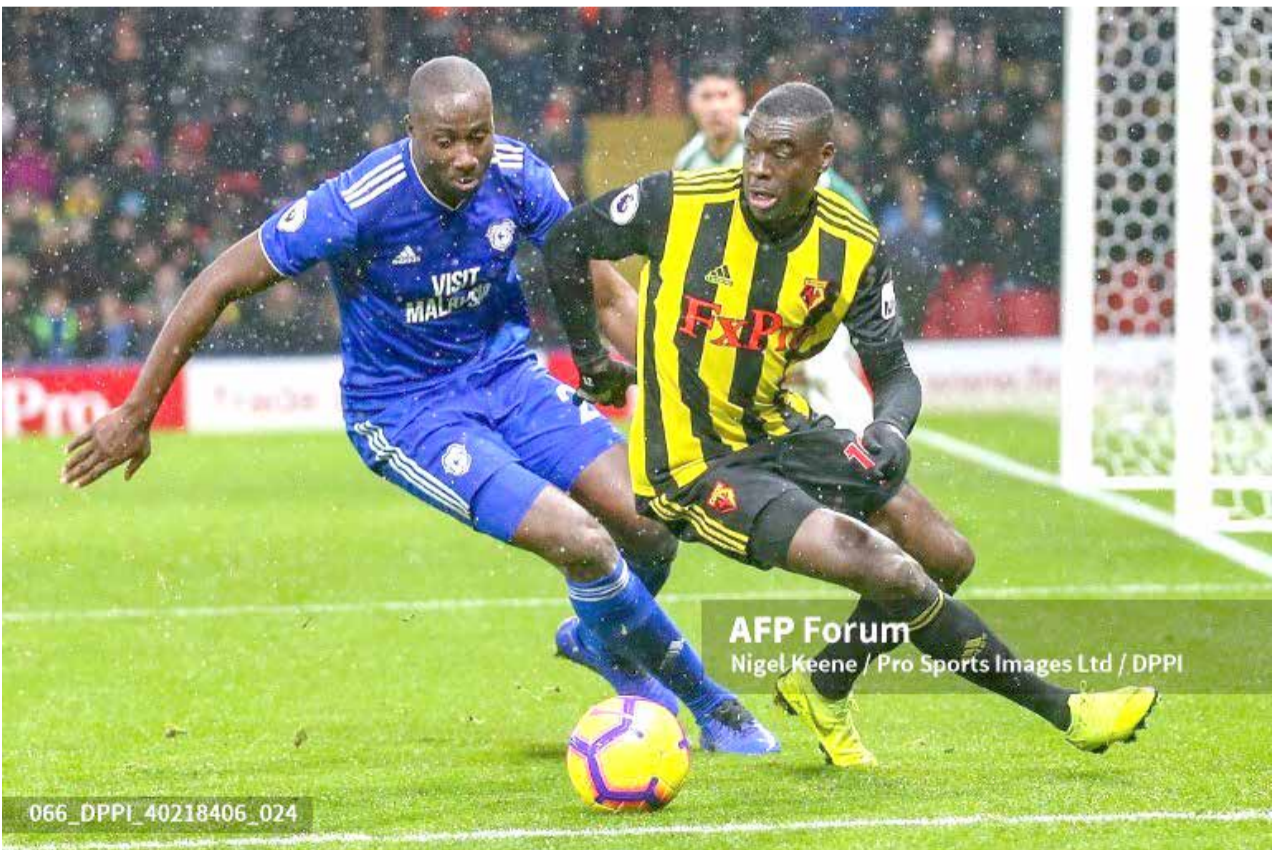
"Dr Chiyangwa will therefore remain COSAFA president until the next elections at least, with these scheduled to take place in 2021." COSAFA further wrote that the precedent was set by the previous incumbent, Suketu Patel, who remained COSAFA president after his tenure at the Seychelles Football Federation had ended.

FAZ warns exploitative player agents

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala has issued a stern warning against unscrupulous football agents that exploit footballers in transfer deals, saying they are deteriorating the integrity of the sport. Kashala noted that some agents were fond of making and facilitating corrupt deals that exposed footballers to unfair or illegal contracts with football managers. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kashala said that the Ethics Committee under the association will bring to book any football agent, player or manager that will indulge in illegal deals in the sport. "We are well aware as an association that footballers suffer unfair contract terms because of the illegal deals made by their agents. They should be warned that the Ethics Committee will bring them to book and

they will be charged with corruption. They dent the image of the sport," he said. Kashala also warned footballers against accepting unfair contract terms or verbal agreements of surrendering a specific percentage of their dues to either their coaches, management or agent in exchange for game time or renewal of contracts. "We have had players who were told to give up a quarter of their salary or more in exchange for game time or promised that their contract will be renewed. Those are the people we will bring face to face with the law," Kashala warned. He further urged footballers to sharpen their skills as a way of riding out desperation that makes them vulnerable to unscrupulous football agents and unfair contract terms. "And players, get rid of desperation because it exposes you to such illegal

deals. Just sharpen your skills and make yourselves marketable to clubs because you cannot be desperate when your talent is at peak," advised Kashala.



Watford midfielder Ken Sema (12) shields the ball from Cardiff City defender Sol Bamba (22) during the English championship Premier League match between Watford and Cardiff City at Vicarage Road in Watford, England - AFP

IT'S IDRISS KASEBA OR KAMBOLE...

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Idriss Kaseba



Lazarous Kambole

For FAZ/MTN player of the year award



United sack Mourinho

Jose Mourinho has been sacked by Manchester United following their disappointing start to the season. The Red Devils currently sit sixth in the Premier League table but have already lost five times in 17 matches, leaving them 19 points behind leaders Liverpool and 11 off fourth-placed Chelsea in the fight for Champions League places. That follows a summer transfer window in which Mourinho routinely complained about a lack of signings, with the Portuguese unable to persuade the club's hierarchy to sign a new centre-back. "Manchester United announces that manager Jose Mourinho has left the club with immediate effect," a statement read. *Goal.com*



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Stephen Curry shoots a three-pointer to become the 5th Warrior to hit 15,000 career points in the regular season against the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday at ORACLE Arena in Oakland, California - AFP