



HH WON'T LEAVE STATE HOUSE - EL

**...he is already among longest
serving opposition presidents**

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is amongst the longest serving opposition presidents in Africa and he would never leave State House if elected into office.

And President Lungu says he will not permit lawlessness in the name of dialogue. *To page 7*

**Opposition alliance without unity
of purpose may crumble - Bizeck**

Story page 3

G7 exams need to be revised - ZNUT

Story page 3



A traffic officer interrogates a wildlife transporter at a check point along Great East Road near the Barn Motel in Lusaka - Picture by Joseph Mwenda



UPND president Hakainde Hichilema interacts with the elderly at the funeral of chief Sinazongwe in Southern Province - Picture by Brian Mwiinga

**Vote buying is unsustainable,
observes PF's Charity Banda**

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Patriotic Front aspiring chairlady for Lusaka Province Charity Banda says the only way to make youths and rural women stop complaining about the party's failure to support them is through economic empowerment.

Speaking when she featured on the Burning Issue radio programme on 5fm, Banda

also noted that giving handouts during elections was unsustainable. *To page 5*

Inflation up to 7.9%

Story page 4



Printing of 2021 ballot papers locally will add value to Zambia - Kafwaya

By Mirriam Chabala
Minister of Works and Supply Mutotwe Kafwaya says printing of the 2021 ballot papers locally will add value to the nation and eventually attract back all the works it used to carry out before.

According to a statement by Ministry of Works and Supply Public Relations Officer Ndubi Mvula, this came to light when the Minister visited Government Printers in his continued familiarization exercise of all departments and units operating under his Ministry.

Kafwaya, who was accompanied by Ministry of Works Permanent Secretary Agnes Musunga, assured staff at Government Printers of his Ministry's support as it embarks on the revitalization programme that will see it resume the printing of election ballot papers, among others, for both public and private clients.

According to Mvula, Kafwaya was confident that just as President Edgar Lungu had directed that Government Printers undertakes the task of printing 2021 election ballot papers, the mission would be accomplished, judging by the progress made so far.

"Printing the ballot papers locally will add value to the nation and will eventually attract back all the works it used to carry out such as the printing of documents for the Ministry of Health, examination papers for schools, passports and many other documents for both government and private firms. There is need for all to embrace change and develop the skills so as to adapt to new challenges in the sector and remain relevant to national development," Kafwaya said.

He further urged Government Printers staff to move with time, adding that they were a vital component of the firm.

About two months ago when Kafwaya was sworn-in as Minister of Works and Supply to replace his predecessor, Felix Mutati, he pledged to focus on ensuring that the 2021 election ballot papers were printed in Zambia.

Kafwaya had said that a lot had been discussed on the need to capacitate Government Printers and time had come to produce the results for all to appreciate.

ZCID's involvement in national dialogue perpetuating confusion - Sinkamba

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Green Party president Peter Sinkamba says the anticipated national dialogue failed because the Church involved the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) in the coordination process.

In an interview, Sinkamba, the Green Party president, said there was no way ZCID could be communicating to political party leaders via text messages.

"The ZCID is not an honest broker, and has not been an honest broker since inception in 2007, which was the year when the PF under the late Michael Sata pulled out of the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue kind of initiative. And we have made it very clear ourselves that, provided Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue is going to be involved in any inter-party dialogue issues, those talks will be a flop, and we have now been vindicated. Last week, we received an SMS from Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue for the meeting today (Friday) and that was extremely strange to us because talks of that kind of nature cannot be communicated to political parties by way of SMS. And in any case, even the agenda, which was appearing on the SMS, was so broad that no meaningful conversation can come out of talks at a level of presidents or a summit



Socialist Party leader Fred M'membe greets NDC deputy secretary general Bridget Attanga as her vice president Joseph Akafumba looks on during the dialogue meeting at Kapingila House on December 28, 2018
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

of presidents as it were," Sinkamba said.

He explained that the current confusion surrounding the dialogue process is purely because of the involvement of ZCID.

"So, for us, the moment we received that SMS, we considered the whole issue as a non-starter, and we would not even have participated in the meeting even if it was held today (Friday). And we

want to reiterate our point [that] if the Church wants to have the dialogue process, which will be respected by parties, if the Church wants the dialogue process, which is going to materialise at the end of the day, it is imperative that the Church keeps ZCID off their arrangements. This whole confusion is purely because of the involvement of the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue who,

for some reasons, the Church delegated to coordinate the meeting. And it's not surprising that President Edgar Lungu has indicated that they have not received a formal invitation from the Church, which is exactly our position. We have not received a formal invitation from the Church and, therefore, we would not have participated in this where communication is via SMS

from ZCID. I think that is unacceptable anywhere in the world! We have participated in several official meetings," he said.

And Sinkamba said even if political parties had participated in the postponed meeting, nothing tangible would have come out of it based on the 'SMS-way' of communicating with participating parties.

"Personally, I was the deputy secretary for the inter-party dialogue committee from 1992 to 1993 when the secretary to that committee was Brig General Miyanda then, who was minister to that portfolio under the Chiluba government, and who was also the secretary general of MMD. We never communicated to members of the committee by way of such petty arrangements. And the whole process of engagement was formal with documents for discussion sent to presidents in advance so that they are able to read through all those documents and also able to prepare adequately on points of contention in those documents, which would be tabled for the presidents' meeting," narrated Sinkamba.

"This whole thing, the way it has been structured would have been a failure even if we had attended that meeting, based on that SMS, nothing tangible would have come out of it. Otherwise, we are wasting time going round [in] circles and wasting resources at the same time. My position is that the meeting has failed because the Church has involved Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue to coordinate the meeting."

Zambian men still dominate labour force, reveals survey

By Stuart Lisulo
The total number of employed women in Zambia is still lagging behind men by over 623,000, according to the latest Labour Force Survey.

Data contained in the 2017 Labour Force Survey shows that the total number of females in the labour force in Zambia constitute 1,356,988 or 39.9 per cent of the country's total labour force compared to males at 2,041,306 or 60.1 per cent.

Out of 1,356,988 females in the labour force, only 1,173,213 are employed, representing around 39.5 per cent of the total number of employed workers, compared to 1,797,957 out of 2,041,306 of employed men, representing 60.5 per cent.

This means that the difference of employed men compared to women in the country's workforce is 623,957, or 21 per cent, between the two genders.

The numbers of employed persons in the formal sector also favours male workers, as data shows that

893,843 are men compared to just 463,343 women in the sector out of a total of 1,173,213 employed.

In the informal sector, male workers comprise of 565,579 out of the total 1,797,957 employed compared to only 356,897 female employees in the same sector.

On the rural-urban divide, the number of employed persons in rural areas stands at 1,192,712 or 40.1 per cent compared to the urban employed who number 1,778,458 or 59.9 per cent of the total number of employed persons.

Data from the Survey further reveals that employed persons in the formal sector actually outnumber the informal sector by nearly 15 per cent.

"The employed population was estimated at 2,971,170. Out of these, formal sector accounted for 45.7 per cent (1,357,186 persons), while the informal sector accounted for 31.0 per cent (922,476 persons). The household sector accounted for 23.3 per cent (691,508 persons)," the Survey stated.

And according to employment by industry category, retail accounted for the highest percentage of employed, while the lowest percentage are toiling in the arts and entertainment industry.

"The wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles industries accounted for the highest percentage share of the employed population at 26.9 per cent, while agriculture, forestry and fishing industry accounted for the second highest share of employed population at 25.9 per cent. The lowest percentage share of employed population was observed in both arts, entertainment, recreation, and activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies industries at 0.1 per cent each," revealed the Survey.

"It is worth noting that more males dominated the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries (470,303), while more females were in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles industries (427,175)."

By Geoffrey Zulu
UNZA lecturer Professor Bizeck Phiri has warned that unless the general membership of all the political parties in the opposition alliance, together with the top leadership, are committed to key objectives, it may crumble. And political scientist Dr Alex Ng'oma has urged the newly-formed opposition alliance to start offering credible checks and balances to the PF government and show Zambian voters what they would do differently from the current administration. Commenting on the alliance of 10 major opposition political parties, Professor Phiri urged the general membership, together with their leadership, to work towards achieving clear objectives or face the prospect of crumbling. He wondered how the general organisation of the alliance was; what the objectives were and how individual political parties would be organised and function concurrently.

Opposition alliance without unity of purpose may crumble, warn UNZA lecturers

He further questioned how many of the 10 political parties in the alliance had representation in Parliament, being a critical platform where the voice of a political party was heard. "To start with; is that alliance just between leaders themselves or does the

alliance trickle-down to the membership of those 10 political parties? Are their party members in agreement with what their leaders are doing? Because that's where the strength of an alliance comes in," Professor Phiri, a political historian, said in an interview in Lusaka.

He warned that if individual leaders among themselves were agreeing, but people on the ground retained their own views in a "business-as-usual" approach, then the alliance would. "In the past, alliances failed because leaders themselves did not agree who to field as

a presidential [candidate]; for the alliance, among the 10, are they in agreement? Because to say we have formed an alliance is another thing, but each one of you quietly think: 'I hope it is me they will choose to be a presidential candidate'; that has been a weakness of past alliances," Prof Phiri observed. He recalled that ahead of 1964, the nationalist movement, which merged to win the country's hard-fought Independence, were successful because they had a real unity of purpose. Approximately two years before Independence, Dr Kenneth Kaunda's UNIP and Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula's African National Congress (ANC) merged to form a coalition government on December 16, 1962, formally marking the end of European political dominance in colonial Zambia. However, the thirteen month period between December, 1962, and January, 1964, was tumultuous as it was fraught with endless political infighting amid significant differences in party policy and political ideology; UNIP was more communist-leaning, while the ANC was more predisposed toward capitalism and free market ideals.

"In 1963, political parties, for example, UNIP and ANC emerged that saw the removal of United Federal Party (UFP) during Independence in 1964. It was clear that people and leaders agreed, there was unity of purpose, to be independent," Prof Phiri recalled. He has since urged the opposition alliance to avoid possible infighting, saying politics was about governance for the benefit of citizens. And Dr. Ng'oma urged the newly-formed opposition alliance to start offering credible checks and balances to the PF government and show Zambian voters what they would do differently from the current administration. "What we need to hear, for example, from the current alliance, is what is it that you are going to do differently from what PF is doing. What is it that the alliance is going to do better than what PF is doing? These are the things we need to know and that should be the purpose of the alliance," Dr. Ng'oma advised. He noted that opposition alliances in Zambia have failed to fulfil their purpose of offering credible checks and balances on the Executive because they had historically been formed for the sole purpose of removing an incumbent party from office. "...Except that in Zambia, what happens is that alliances are formed only to fight the government of the day, only to see how best to remove the party in government without offering any credible alternative whatsoever," Dr. Ng'oma observed. He added that alliances usually crumble when it comes to deciding who is going to be the alliance presidential candidate, cautioning against such a possible move. "There will be in-fighting among all the people involved; each one of them wanting to be president and that's how the whole thing will crumble," cautioned Dr. Ng'oma.



Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Permanent Secretary Charles Mushota and his counterpart Livestock and Fisheries David Shamulenga at the Orientation workshop for Permanent Secretary at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka on December 27, 2018. - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

G7 multiple-choice exams need to be revised - ZNUT

By Milimo Namangala
The 100 per cent pass rate for grade 7 pupils this year can mainly be attributed to spaces made available by the upgrading of some primary schools to basic level, not necessarily that the pupils improved in performance says the Zambia National Union of Teachers (ZNUT). In an interview, ZNUT general secretary Newman Bubala observed that grade seven exams need to be revisited in order to improve the quality of education being imparted on students. In 2018, all 388,331 candidates that sat for the grade seven exams passed, according to

Minister of General Education David Mabumba, who announced last week. This phenomenon has seen an increase in the passing rate by 0.86 per cent from last year's passing rate, which was 99.14 per cent. "The grade seven exams I think even they need to be revisited; it's a situation where you have the multiple-choice; the intellectual tests; the IQ tests and so on. But the truth of the matter is that, going to grade eight has to do with the space in grade eight. So, if you have got a lot of space, meaning that if you have a lot of grade eight classrooms as many as those who are able to make it, they

make it. So, we cannot really determine by saying we have improved, because of maybe the children are able to read and are able to have material," Bubala explained. "Yes, it could [be] that there is an improvement in materials, improvement in the teachers, but the biggest improvement is if you build more schools, it will mean that more children will go into grade eight easier. Because the low cut-off point will be lowered. But if you build more schools in grade eight, that means many will pass because it's about cut-off points; it's about the issue of space. So, we are seeing more of a bigger space in grade

eight, that means a lot of basic schools; a lot of primary schools have been turned into basic. So, we are seeing this kind of a flow." And he expressed concerns about maintaining a high quality level of education, together with ensuring a sufficient amount of available classroom space for grades nine upwards. "All what we are worried about is, will the same quality be found in grade nine to 10? So, going [from grade] seven to eight, the challenge there is not really in how many are able to read; it's really a matter of making sure that there is enough material; enough teachers at that level.

But as the children are going to grade eight, they need to be ready to face serious exams in grade nine because between seven and eight, it's all about space," observed Bubala. "So, there is bigger space in grade eight now so a lot of grade sevens are making it, but they may be smaller space in grade 10, which we are asking government maybe to begin expand high schools so that we don't [have] a situation where because if a lot of grade sevens are making [it] to grade eight, there might be a challenge when they reach grade nine if in grade 10, there is no expansion policy of increasing the infrastructure."

By Stuart Lisulo
The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Group announced the appointment of six members of the board of directors of Zambia Airways, who include former Attorney General Bonaventure Mutale, among others, with immediate effect.
In a statement issued by IDC public relations manager Namakau Mukelabai, Friday, IDC Chief Executive Officer Mateyo Kaluba announced the appointment of the six directors, who comprise three Zambians and three Ethiopians respectively.
On the Zambian side, Mutale will be joined by

IDC appoints Zambia Airways board members

former Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) managing director Robinson Misitala and Ministry of Transport and Communications Permanent Secretary Misheck Lungu, while the Ethiopian directors are: Ethiopian Airlines Group Chief Executive Officer, Tewolde GebreMariam; Ethiopian

Airlines Vice President for Marketing, Rahel Assefa, and Ethiopian Airlines Vice President Internal Audit and Compliance, Kassim Geresu. An additional member of the board representing IDC will be appointed later, bringing the number of IDC appointees to four, while the chair of the board will be selected from the members

representing the IDC, according to Mukelabai. Commenting on the appointees, Kaluba hailed the new directors' broad-ranging skill-set for the task of spearheading the process to operationalise Zambia Airways.
"The skills mix and vast experience of the board members gives us the

confidence that we have the right team to actualise the joint investment between IDC and Ethiopian Airlines", Kaluba said.
He further said the board would have regular interactions with the media and the general public to ensure effective communication and information sharing.

On August 19, 2018, the IDC and Ethiopian Airlines held a signing ceremony in Lusaka to mark the agreement as shareholders of Zambia Airways.
As strategic partners on the national airline project, IDC will hold a 55 per cent equity in the national carrier, with Ethiopian Airlines holding 45 per cent stake.
In October, 2018, Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba told Parliament that the date for the launch of the much-hyped national airline had been extended to early 2019 to allow for the certification and registration processes to be completed.

Privatization Inquiry meant to divert attention from PF theft, says Chifire

By Zondiwe Mbewe
SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire says calls by State House to open a Commission of Inquiry into the privatisation of public assets that took place over 20 years ago, is reckless and an ill-conceived illusion to divert people's attention from the current theft in PF.
In a statement to News Diggers! Chifire stated that calling for a Commission of Inquiry was not only a waste of resources and human capital, but also precious time.
"Calling for a Commission of Inquiry on Privatization of public assets that took place

over 20 years ago is foolhardy. It is a waste of resources, human capital and precious time. It is an ill-conceived illusion designed to divert the attention of the people of Zambia from the current theft of public money taking place in the PF government, and the general mis-governance. It is meant to malign certain individuals for the political gain of the PF regime," Chifire argued.
"We shudder to imagine the amount of money that the nation will lose in paying commissioners and other costs. This money could have gone to pay students' meal

allowances or could have gone towards the support of farmers."
Chifire observed that since the PF came into power in 2011, a number of Commissions of Inquiry had been set up, but no findings had been availed to the public.
"Since the PF regime came into power, a number of Commissions of Inquiry have been set up, but Zambians have not been availed the findings of such inquiries. Needless to mention that some of them were abandoned midway and others have endless time frames - a pure manifestation of a lack of seriousness," he

stated.
He insisted that it would be prudent for government to carry out a self-check instead of a Commission of Inquiry on things that would not benefit the nation.
"As opposed to setting up a Commission of Inquiry on things that will in no way benefit the nation, but milk the meagre resources, wouldn't it have been prudent for this government to simply carry out a serious self-introspection and self-check? The PF party is pre-occupied with winning the 2021 elections. The party is so obsessed with ensuring that it creates the easiest passage for its candidate the beyond-2021 period by ensuring they eliminate possible challenges," Chifire added.
"A more realistic Commission of Inquiry is one that would be set up to look at how parastatal institutions, such as Zesco, ZNBC, ZAFFICO and many others, are being sold to the Chinese as architects of this plunder are still alive and can be made to account as opposed to calling for an inquiry on something that we

know cannot be concluded with completeness."
And Chifire stated that if PF meant well for the country, they could have first dealt with the corruption in their regime.
"Realistically speaking, if the PF regime meant well for this country, they could have first started dealing with the corruption that has bedevilled this regime. This is the problem that will send them packing come 2021. There is no money in the economy; the Chinese are getting every contract to the exclusion of local contractors; procurement of goods and services by government is over-priced; ordinary Zambians are getting poorer, while the politically-connected are getting richer overnight. Ordinary Zambians cannot do profitable business anywhere in their country as this is a preserve of the Chinese and PF carders. These are the things that must concern this regime," he stated.
Chifire charged that it was high time government stopped playing senseless politics, adding that whoever advised State House on calling for the

Commission of Inquiry had misled them.
"Really, it is difficult to understand the purpose and objective for this Inquiry. Surely, will this Inquiry bring back ZCCM, UBZ, INDECO, ZIMCO, MEMACO and other parastatals? Will it bring food that has become a luxury on the table of Zambians? It's high time this government stopped playing senseless politics. Whosoever their advisor on this has really misled them. This is a senseless witch-hunt that will haunt the perpetrators themselves," warned Chifire.
"For the sake of statistics, the PF are playing wrong mathematics. If they cared to be smart in their politics, they could have concentrated their efforts on job creation for the youths who form majority of voters. These don't even understand the events surrounding privatisation that took place over two decades ago. PF is pre-occupied with fixing individuals at the expense of national development. It is this obsession that has beclouded their reasoning."

MAZHANDU COURIER SERVICES



Celebrate the Festive Season

By sending and receiving your goods with us at very low prices. We guarantee you good care and security of your goods.

QUICK. RELIABLE. AFFORDABLE

For Details:

0978 730 192

+260 962 212 157



Inflation up to 7.9%

By Stuart Lisulo

The annual rate of inflation has marginally increased to 7.9 per cent, up from 7.8 per cent recorded in November, the third highest this year, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data.

Announcing Zambia's annual rate of inflation for the month of December, CSO acting director of census and statistics Goodson Sinyenga said the marginal rise in inflation this month was mainly attributed to non-food items, such as household furniture, among others.

"The year-on-year inflation rate as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for December, 2018, increased to 7.9 per cent from 7.8 per cent recorded in November, 2018. This means that on average, prices of goods and services increased by 7.9 per cent between December, 2017, and December, 2018," Sinyenga told journalists in Lusaka, Thursday.

"The increase in the annual rate of inflation is mainly attributed to non-food items, such as household furniture & furnishings and transport (domestic and regional airfare).

According to Sinyenga, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 4.3 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for a total of 3.6 percentage points.

CSO data reveals that Zambia's annual rate of inflation of 7.9 per cent recorded this month was the third highest in 2018, but closed the year within the Bank of Zambia's targeted corridor of 6-8 per cent forecast for the short-to-medium-term.

Opposition alliance is going nowhere, charges UPPZ

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPPZ president Charles Chanda has charged that the newly-formed opposition alliance is going nowhere, warning that if one party falls, then all will fall together. And Chanda claims that there is a hidden printing press in the country which government is using to print ballot papers for 'ghost voters'.
Speaking when he featured on Chat Back programme on Radio Christian Voice, Thursday, Chanda also argued that political parties that do not participate in local government or parliamentary elections should forget about forming government.
"If you narrow down all the opposition, and you say: 'you are going to have one presidential candidate,' and of course, everybody knows who is going to be...if you did that, you don't need a prophet, you don't even need a witch doctor to tell you who is going to be the presidential candidate. Even

if you are physically not able to see, you can know that in this alliance, this is the one to be the president, but that's not the issue," Chanda said.
"The issue here is, when we do that, we are shooting ourselves in the foot because suppose you now have all the opposition to become one, is that not the same spirit of one-party rule? That's the rule. You need to allow people with their various views because that's how we can be able to form a better society. So, if out of 10 there is one party, which God wants to remove, it means that all the 10 of you will fall, and you will never rise again! I want to avoid that. All I am saying is that, after the first round [of election], let us gather together and then see who we can work with. I am not a prophet of doom, but you will remember that I was saying this thing you are calling alliance is going nowhere!"
He then alleged that there was a printing press kept at a secret location used to

print ballot papers for ghost voters.
"I want to also say that in this country, are you aware that we have a machine that prints ballot papers and it's not at ECZ? Is ECZ aware that there is a machine in this country that prints ballot papers? The question comes in [to say] who is using that machine? And I even know where the machine is. You can come and pick me [and] I will take you where the machine is. So, I am saying here that there are things that are wrong and we need to correct them," Chanda charged.
"You can't be denying other

political parties permits to campaign and then [at the same time] you claim to be free and fair. So, the language you have been hearing from ECZ saying the elections were free and fair, that is an 'auto-pilot' kind of recorded systems at ECZ. They just press it [at] every election, but we need a change!"
He challenged political parties in a habit of only waiting for general elections to start participating now.
"And I want to challenge these other political parties [that] I might be, maybe the third youngest political party in this country, [but]

some political parties are not participating in elections. You need to start participating; don't wait for the general elections and you expect a miracle, it doesn't work like that! Don't expect to become (Republican) President when you can't even attempt to have a parliamentary seat and you want to become president, in which country are you going to become president? Not in Zambia! You need to get involved so that you can be exposed, and then, once you are exposed to some of these methods, you now want to fight it," he said.

He further encouraged politicians to avoid practising politics of insults.
"People have been so silent, the politicians we have in this country are so timid, all they know are insults, [but] it's not the insults we need. Let's gather facts and use those facts to correct this country. Insults cannot make you a president no matter how perfect you are in insults. We need to change our way of doing politics, we need to offer checks and balances. Where things are wrong, and you have evidence, bring out that evidence," Chanda stressed.

'Vote buying' is unsustainable, observes PF's Charity Banda

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Patriotic Front aspiring chairlady for Lusaka Province Charity Banda

says the only way to make youths and rural women stop complaining about the party's failure to support

them is through economic empowerment.
Speaking when she featured on the Burning Issue radio programme on 5fm, Banda also noted that certain expectations by some party members had not been met.
"Rural women, at times, they just think: 'these people just come to see us when it's time for voting.' This trend should just change. The culture of handouts is not sustainable. What we should promote is real economic empowerment because everyone has to be empowered. When we empower, those women in rural areas, those youths in rural areas when they are empowered, you will never hear any cry. What they will be looking up [for] now will be: 'what is the next step?'" Banda noted.
She said cases of political violence could also be reduced if people united and stopped engaging in divisive

actions.
"You know, from the time our party started, there have been some members who feel what they were expecting hasn't happened, but now, what I want is the unity to come up and that unity the only way [to achieve it] as a party, we need everyone on board. They say: 'together we stand and divided we fall.' So, as a result, despite how these things happen, there are people who think that there are people who are choosing themselves. Let's show that unity as a party. There is need for us as a party, and as a people, to unite so as to share ideas and build on the knowledge that we already have. This will in-turn reduce cases such as those of political violence and of political fights both within the party and amongst political parties," said Banda.
"So, even those who are standing, we are one family, we are not doing it with other political parties, but within ourselves as children of one family. So, we need to have civility in the way we do our politics. So, to me, it's very important to be a united party because when we unite, we will make sure that this party takes us a long way and we will help our President more because he won't have time listening to people fighting, people doing bad things. And we want our youths and women to anchor to that, which our President has always preached, which is peace. We should even inspire those in [the] opposition to say: 'this is what PF is doing' and then we should make our leaders who are just appointed to give respect to the people. That is civil, [there should be] no character assassination."



Inmates at Lusaka Central Correctional Facility perform when the Service Chiefs visited them on December 25, 2018
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Mukuka begs Lungu to exercise prerogative of mercy on Sinjela

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Political Researcher Cephas Mukuka has appealed to President Edgar Lungu to use his Constitutional powers and prerogative to pardon Rainbow Newspaper editor-in-chief Derrick Sinjela.
The Supreme Court recently sentenced Sinjela to 18 months simple imprisonment for contempt of court.
But in a statement to News Diggers! Mukuka appealed to President Lungu to pardon Sinjela, saying the festive season was a season of love and forgiveness.
"I am, from the bottom of my heart, appealing to the republican President, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to use his Constitutional powers and rights to pardon veteran journalist, Mr Derrick

Sinjela. This appeal collides with the festive season which is the season of love and forgiveness. It's a season of give and take. A wrong was committed, and whose wrong was equally admitted without wasting the courts time," he stated.
"This is not to rubbish the court ruling and the judges who presided over the matter, but merely making an appeal to my President. Only President Lungu can save and pardon Sinjela. President Lungu personally pardoned a musician who was jailed for an offence of defilement. Society still needs the services of Sinjela. I have no doubt that our President will deal with this matter amicably without fail."
Mukuka stated that his appeal was based on the fact that Sinjela had chosen to

admit that he was wrong and had shown remorse for his actions.
"My grounds of appeal are based on the fact that Sinjela chose to admit that he was wrong and was remorseful for his actions. As a law abiding citizen he chose not to flee the nation, giving enough room to the authority to judge him positively as a responsible adult and citizen of this nation," he stated.
Mukuka further stated that Sinjela had been instrumental in his works, adding that this was the period he could have been with his family.
"This country has witnessed, in the past, three renowned musicians who were given mercy by our courts on serious matters of ganja or dagga smoking. Reasons of

pardon were that they had large followings and if sent to jail, the public was meant to loose out. Most recently a young student from the University of Zambia was caught with cannabis and sent to jail. I compared between a young promising intellectual versus musicians," said Mukuka.
"Personally I expected the courts to have pardoned our young student so as to give him chance to repent and further graduate from University. Upon graduation, he would have contributed to national development in his area of specialty without fail. Sinjela, has been instrumental in his works. Having worked with him in the bank, ever jovial and helpful person. This is the period he could have been with his family."



PATRIOTIC FRONT

Why we deserve your vote

Leaving no one behind



FOR LOWER TAXES, MORE JOBS AND MONEY IN YOUR POCKETS

PF GOVERNMENT’S PERFORMANCE UNDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 3: “DIVERSIFIED TOURISM SECTOR”

By Hon Davies Mwila

Introduction

This article comes to you in the immediate aftermath of the Elective Conference for the Patriotic Front Copperbelt Province, where I was privileged to accompany our Party President His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu who officiated at the conference.

Even as we discuss Tourism and indeed every sector in the overall development of our blessed nation through the 7NDP, I cannot help but reflect on how intra-party democracy goes with development and how PF is a bastion and model of intra-party democracy while other parties with Life Presidents are mere “Tourists of Democracy”; as they don’t live democracy and they are evidently not committed to it; but they are voyeurs that only view it like sightseers from a distance, through their distorted binoculars once in a while! Perhaps we shall discuss this pertinent matter in a future article.

For now, in the interest of column space, all I can do is echo what our Party President and Head of State His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu observed in his speech at the just ended Copperbelt Provincial Conference:

“Patriotic Front, at an intra-party level has always gone back to the people to renew its mandate. All structures from the Section, Branches, Wards, Constituencies, Districts, Provinces and Central Committee are subjected to regular and free intraparty democratic elections, a feature so alien in some Parties which still enjoy life Presidency”.

Diversified Tourism Sector

Back to the matter at hand: Under 7NDP, the tourism sector has 3 main focus areas:

1. Promoting tourism-related infrastructure
2. Game restocking
3. Improving domestic tourism through: (a) a 2-tier payment system where local tourists pay lower fees than foreign tourists, and (b) tourism campaigns aimed at changing local mindsets.

From the onset, the Patriotic Front (PF) Government recognized the strategic importance of the tourism sector to economic diversification and job creation as well as to the attainment of the Vision 2030.

In order to ensure that the sector made an increasingly meaningful contribution to economic diversification and employment creation, there was need for a “new” Ministry with a more strategic focus on contributing to economic diversification, employment creation and wealth creation opportunities. In this regard, the founding father of the PF Party and late Republican President, Mr. Michael C. Sata, said in his address to parliament on 21st September, 2012, that:

“My government created the Ministry of Tourism and Arts as part of the efforts to improve the policy and institutional framework for our economic diversification programme and to enhance employment and wealth creation opportunities. In this regard I wish to direct the Minister of Tourism and Arts to enhance the creative industry’s contribution to economic development by establishing the National Arts and Culture Commission

in line with the PF Manifesto and to accelerate the development of new tourism sites such as the Northern Circuit and many others.”

Six years later, the patriarch’s dream continues to be honoured by the PF Government and its current President, Mr. Edgar C. Lungu; in line with both the PF Manifesto and the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) so as to attain Zambia’s Vision 2030 goal: to become a “prosperous middle-income country by 2030”.

For example, during his official opening of the National Assembly on 14th September, 2018, President Lungu said that:

“In the tourism sector, Zambia has the potential to be a tourism hub in the region and beyond. It is in this regard, that government has put priority on creating an enabling environment for tourism sector growth.”

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu in this speech went on to discuss how in 2017, the sector grew by 6.1 percent compared to 1.2 percent in 2016; attributing the growth to an expanded product base from traditional tourism packages of handicrafts, wildlife and the Victoria Falls to include heritage sites, meetings and sporting events such as the hosting of the Under 20 Africa Cup of Nations, mine tours and cultural events.

Medical tourism, enhanced use of e-marketing platforms, increased trade and implementation of the e-visa were other factors that the President attributed growth to.

The Head of State further highlighted other related developments:

“In a bid to promote safari and photographic tourism, Government has embarked on the restocking of wildlife. So far, Sioma Ngwezi national park and Bangweulu game management area have successfully been restocked. In addition, seven private game ranches have also restocked. Further, the promotion of wildlife conservancies by our traditional leaders is meant to enhance protection of our wildlife stock. To demonstrate the importance of the safari, photographic and filming tourism, I wish to report that government raised k111.8 million in 2017 from k110 million in 2016”.

It is worth noting that government has recorded increased revenues from the tourism levy which was introduced in 2017. To this end, Government raised over k9.5 million in 2017 and k8.8 million was been raised between January and July this year.

These funds are used to enhance tourism, marketing and product promotion as well as rehabilitation of tourism infrastructure.

Evidently, the PF Government has placed the tourism sector on a sustainable growth trajectory so that the sector can make a more significant contribution to economic diversification and employment creation in Zambia.

PROMOTING TOURISM-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

In line with the PF Manifesto and 7NDP, the PF Government has concentrated on the development, upgrade and rehabilitation of tourism-related infrastructure such as roads, viewing loops and airstrips to and within the major national parks such

as Kafue, Lower Zambezi and the Mosi-oa-Tunya, to mention but three.

The aim of promoting tourism-related infrastructure by the PF Government is to efficiently interlink the major destinations in the Southern Tourism Circuit and South Luangwa, thereby prolonging the tourism season from 7 to 12 months per annum.

In order to accelerate the development of tourism-related infrastructure in Zambia, the PF Government is currently implementing the Tourism Development Fund as provided for in the Tourism and Hospitality Act. The purpose of the Fund is to support tourism product development, tourism infrastructure and tourism marketing. This is intended to enhance the sector’s contribution to employment, wealth creation, and increase the capacity to safeguard Zambia’s wildlife resources. The goal of the PF Government is to ensure that this Fund supports tourism product development, tourism infrastructure and marketing.

In addition, the PF Government has strengthened collaborations with the private sector in order to ensure an integrated approach to developing the tourism sector. As a result of these public-private partnerships, there have been important positive developments in the sector.

For example, Mosi-oa-tunya Resort Holdings Limited, will in June 2019, construct a five-star hotel, golf course and a 600-seater convention centre in Livingstone at the cost of US Dollar 165 million. The company will sign a 50-year lease agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to construct the hotel in the Mosi-oa-tunya national park. Indeed, the goal of the PF Government since 2017 is to work towards transforming Livingstone into a premier conferencing centre in Southern Africa so that the tourism sector can leverage on infrastructure development to grow sustainably.

Furthermore, the PF Government, through the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, has undertaken a major legislative reform by introducing the new Tourism and Hospitality Act in order to boost the quality and competitiveness of the Zambia Tourism Product as well as improve funding to the sector.

The above mentioned interventions by the PF Government have created an enabling environment for the sector’s growth and ultimately the economy as a whole as the country works towards achieving the Vision 2030.

The evidence of the sector’s growth under the PF Government is demonstrated by the fact that, as of 2016, the tourism sector employed 300,000 people and is set to continue increasing its contributions to the country’s GDP while increasingly becoming a more significant contributor to poverty alleviation and job creation in Zambia.

In the next article, we shall discuss further actions and interventions and how apart from vigorously promoting Domestic Tourism the PF Government is currently restocking national parks in line with the 7NDP.in order to increase the competitiveness, attractiveness and viability of the tourism sector to the local and global markets,

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General

HH longest serving opposition president in Africa, he won't leave State House - Lungu

By Mukosha Funga
President Edgar Lungu says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema is amongst the longest serving opposition presidents in Africa and he would never leave State House if elected into office. And President Lungu says he will not permit lawlessness in the name of dialogue. Meanwhile, President Lungu has boasted that the PF is ahead of the game in terms of intra party democracy, and therefore in position to rule forever. Speaking when he officiated at the PF Copperbelt Conference, Saturday, President Lungu mocked his political rival Hichilema saying he was among the longest serving [opposition] presidents in Africa. "A Zambian political party leader appears amongst the longest serving presidents in Africa. He has been at the helm of his political party for 17 years. So if he goes to State House, can he want to leave?" President Lungu asked, in apparent reference to Hichilema who has in actual fact been UPND president for about

12 years. And President Lungu said he would not permit lawlessness in the name of dialogue. "Let me tell them that I will not abdicate my responsibility as President. As we talk to our friends, we need to make sure there is law and order so don't break the law and say "no, Lungu is undermining democracy", no! We will arrest you and send you to court and if you are guilty we'll lock you up, that's all. I want to make it very clear because I have heard some remarks, I have heard some schemes which mark of lawlessness. And when we say stop it, they say "but he is undermining dialogue". Dialogue does not mean that you break the law or we abdicate our responsibility as leaders, we are here to provide leadership," he said. "We will ensure that we continue engaging other people in a friendly manner and avoid acrimonious altercations because these undermine democracy. So as we progress, we will make sure rule of law is adhered to...we will not



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema interacts with NAREP leader Elias Chipimo and Council of Churches in Zambia Bishop Sydney Sichilima shortly after the dialogue meeting at Kapingila House in Kabulonga on December 28, 2018
- Picture by Tenson Mkhala

permit lawlessness in the name of dialogue." Meanwhile, President Lungu boasted that the PF was the most Democratic Party in Zambia and therefore, the party of choice.

"The PF remains and continues to be Zambia's most Democratic Party, compared to non. As I speak today, I can hold my head high and say the PF is the most attractive party in Zambia...Give

me a party which does the things which are in the Constitution, it is only PF. So only PF qualifies to provide leadership to the Zambian people. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration when I

say that the Patriotic Front remains Zambia's number one political party of choice above any other...such renewals as the ones we are having today reignite the people's confidence in us because we are answerable to them through the electoral process.

It is only our continued adherence to intra party democracy which gives us more latitude to continue forming government forever as long as the opposition is not putting its house in order," he said. "They will continue talking but as long as they don't adhere to the Constitution, we will continue talking always. It is not an insult, don't take Zambians for granted when they say 'after Edgar Lungu in 2026, let's put someone else from PF until 2031, until I don't know when', until we fail the people of Zambia. And it's not even rigging, no." He reiterated that government would ignore those talking nonsense. "We are responsible [for national affairs] so the burden is heavy. But those others can oppose anything because they are not responsible for anything...Those of you who are talking, if you are talking nonsense, I will say 'you can have your say, we will have our way,'" said President Lungu.

After the conference, Luanshya Mayor Nathan Chanda was elected Copperbelt Provincial chairman.

Response to News Diggers! editorial Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock NOT of Least Importance

Dear Diggers editor,
I am writing in response to editorial article titled, "Drop Luo, let Mabumba run Higher Education" which you published on 27th December 2018. In the last paragraph of the article you made a recommendation or rather stated that "but if for whatever debt she is owed, you would like Professor Luo to remain in your cabinet, it is better you take her to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries." This statement implies that Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is of least importance among all ministries, which I am afraid I have to disagree with. This is the second time I am hearing such a demeaning statement from the public over Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The first time was when Honourable Kampamba Mulenga Nkole was appointed as Minister of Fisheries and Livestock. The social media comments that followed her appointment made a sad reading. I read comments like, "chawama aleya mukusole nkonko nokucheme ng'ombe ku Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock". This means that the public views or perceives this strategic ministry to be of less importance to this country. I am ok with the public thinking like that, but what makes it worse is that even the Government seems to

treat it likewise. Why do I say so? The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is a very strategic ministry to national development especially with regards to successful implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan and Vision 2030. Think about the economic worth of the fisheries and livestock industry. Think about the fish and livestock products such as milk and meat that more than 90% of the Zambian population consume every day as the primary source of protein. Isn't food the most important thing for us to remain alive? We are currently talking about diversifying the economy from mining to agriculture of which fisheries and livestock are key priority areas. Does the ministry deserve this public perception? Do you see why we don't want to be a dumping ground for the perceived poor performing ministers as suggested by News Diggers article? Like I said earlier, my biggest problem is not only public perception, but even for the Government to seemingly treat it likewise. Do you know that one of the core functions of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is to control fish and livestock disease, a function which is performed by the veterinarians? However, the Veterinary Council of Zambia,

which is the regulator of the veterinary profession through the VETERINARY AND VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONS ACT OF 2010, has not been put in place for the last three and half years? This is probably due to the trivialisation the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock by both the public and Government. In short, the veterinary profession is not regulated by anyone since June 2015, which means that all veterinarians in this country are practising illegally (without practicing licences). Both the public and Government does not seem to be bothered about it. Would it be the same if this were Teachers Council of Zambia or Health Professions Council of Zambia? I, therefore, wish to appeal with the diggers editor, public and Government to change the perception that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is of least importance among all ministries. The Government must also treat this strategic ministry with the importance it deserves if we were to actualise the diversification agenda and the vision 2030.

Chisoni Mumba
A concerned member of the Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ) and Veterinary Council of Zambia (VCZ).

As observed by development activist and entrepreneur Patrick Sikana, Zambia is very good at setting up commissions of inquiry to find out what everybody already knows, but we can't find enough money to find out what we don't know. Indeed, there is no one who doesn't know which individuals privatized Zambia's mines and parastatals; yet we all know whom the proposed commission of inquiry on privatization is meant to target.

There is nothing that the PF government would like to inquire on this agenda; this is a clear attempt by State House to set up a dragnet targeted at catching UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema. We know this from what they say during campaigns. So, the idea is to find Mr Hichilema wanting on the allegation that, as a consultant in the privatization process, he sold government assets to himself.

Mr Hichilema has suffered a lot of ridicule over this privatization issue for many years, especially under this PF regime. This regime has been looking around for some dirt that they can link to the UPND leader but they have failed. They can't find him involved in any money laundering activities, yet he is rich. They can't link him to any corruptly awarded government tenders, yet his businesses are thriving. They tried to make the people of Zambia believe that Mr Hichilema is a Satanist, but that did not hold any water either. So what's left for them is to now claim that the man stole from the privatization process.

We find this to be very unfair for two reasons. Firstly, unlike President Edgar Lungu's wealth, Hichilema's money is

Privatisation inquiry must excite UPND

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+26077122344 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

traceable to anyone who has been around long enough and to those who have cared to ask him. His success story is in public domain for all to see and read. The UPND leader did not become a millionaire overnight; he simply invested wisely at a very tender age and the fruits of his investments have continued to overflow. In fact, Mr Hichilema would probably have been 10 times richer had he not joined politics because he is a gifted businessman.

We also find it unfair to accuse the UPND leader of having stolen from the privatization process because he has never served in government. If at all there was any criminality that he was involved in as a consultant, surely the MMD governments of Frederick Chiluba, Levy Mwanawasa and Rupiah Banda would have had him arrested and prosecuted.

In fact, a crime doesn't expire until it is disposed off through the courts of law, and so the police under President Edgar Lungu have every right

to arrest Mr Hichilema today, and take him to court for fraudulently selling government assets to himself. There is no need to waste money on a privatization inquiry when we already know the supposed culprit who has already been declared guilty before trial.

But if it pleases State House to appoint a few friends to another lucrative, but useless commission of inquiry, let them proceed and the UPND must welcome this move with both hands. This is a process that should excite the opposition party because it will grant their 2021 presidential candidate an opportunity to clear his name from another smear campaign.

It is a known secret that President Lungu is scared of facing Mr Hichilema again in 2021, and we have written all about this in the past. President Lungu even told a public rally in July 2018 that it hurts him when he hears the UPND insisting that they want Mr Hichilema to continue leading them.

We can go back, one more time, to look at how the PF has frantically and desperately attempted to block Mr Hichilema from contesting elections in this country, or to at least remove him from the helm of the opposition party.

In 2015, Mr Davies Chama who was PF secretary general then, said Zambia would be better if it returned to a one party state; and he went further to declare that by 2021 PF would make sure that there would be no opposition. The next thing we saw was a maneuver by ruling party stooges to change the Constitution so that elections would be held every 10 years – arguing that five years was too short a term for any meaningful development. But they ran out of time.

When the PF faced Mr Hichilema in the 2016 elections, they were terrified. They knew that their chances of winning the election were slim, and indeed they had to manipulate, abuse the electoral process to emerge victorious. The PF doesn't want a repeat

of that experience. They cannot afford to take that risk again because they won with such a narrow margin, so they have redeemed the agenda to get rid of competition.

When the treason charges failed to break Mr Hichilema in 2017, the PF moved to the next plan in line – change the Constitution to limit the number of times a person can contest the presidential elections. That too seems to be a failed scheme, as it seems to have been rejected by the International community that funds Zambia's elections.

Next they used a Lufwanyama resident who wrote a letter of complaint against Mr Hichilema to the Chief Justice and attempted to drag Deputy Chief Justice Mervin Mwanamwambwa into the agenda of citing the UPND leader so that he is sentenced to prison for contempt, like they have done to Gregory Chifire.

None of the above tricks have worked, and the PF is now looking for new grounds which they can

use to stop Mr Hichilema from participating in the next general elections. It is the “50 per cent plus one” vote threshold which is giving him headaches. They fear that if they fail to rig successfully and win in the first round, Mr Hichilema may get the second round with the support of the rest of the opposition.

This is why they are proposing the privatization inquiry to fix him. It's not about Chiluba who was President, or Mwanawasa or Rupiah Banda, or indeed any MMD leader. It is about Hichilema and the need to seclude him from the next elections. If they don't succeed to seclude him, they want Zambians to believe that he is responsible for the misery that they are going through. They want the jobless youths to shift their anger from President Lungu to Mr Hichilema, by 2021.

But we wonder why the PF is scared of such a ‘political failure’ like Mr Hichilema. If President Lungu has fairly beaten this candidate twice before in an election, without any rigging involved, why should he be scared to face him again for the third time? Shouldn't that excite the PF that they will be walking over the easiest opponent?

Well, we know that the truth is frightening the PF. They know that passing an exam through leakage is a very risky undertaking. You may be lucky once, or twice but the more you get involved in malpractice, the higher the risk of getting caught. This is what the PF is trying to fix and Zambians must open their eyes and be very vigilant ahead of the next tripartite elections.

Crossword puzzle 262

Solutions to puzzle 261

1		2		3	4		5
6	7		8	9		10	
			11				
12				13			
			14				
15		16		17	18		19
20				21			

“In one equation you can solve all the puzzles of life. It is the equation of giving.” - Amit Ray

- Across**
1. Steak meat
3. Loving
6. Pronto
9. One-pot dinner
11. Unrefined
12. Molten rock
13. Not odd
14. Swab the deck
15. Hop along happily
17. Santa's bagful
20. Bump into
21. Adolescent
- Down**
1. Large passenger vehicle
2. Baseball stat.
4. Frequently
5. Condensed moisture
7. Show gratitude to
8. Vagabond
9. Won all games in a series
10. Adversary
15. Result of addition
16. Summer cooler
18. Run a deficit
19. It rises and sets

1	B	E	E	F		3	F	O	N	5
	U		R					F		E
6	S	T	A	T		9	S	T	E	W
		H		11	R	A	W		N	
12	L	A	V	A		13	E	V	E	N
		N		14	M	O	P		M	
15	S	K	I	P		17	T	O	Y	S
	U		C					W		U
20	M	E	E	T		21	T	E	E	N

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.

Amos' argument on mining companies needing to comply with Zambian tax laws

Editor,
"Ba Amos, in business unlike in politics, managers are strictly accountable to their boards and shareholders. The mines hired those workers in the first

place to produce and make profits for them, and not to please the government or anyone else! To lose workers will hurt the mines first and foremost in terms of production, turnover and profit. It's either this new tax regime justifies the layoffs or it doesn't. This will be a business decision and not a political one. Period." - Sitali Mulope

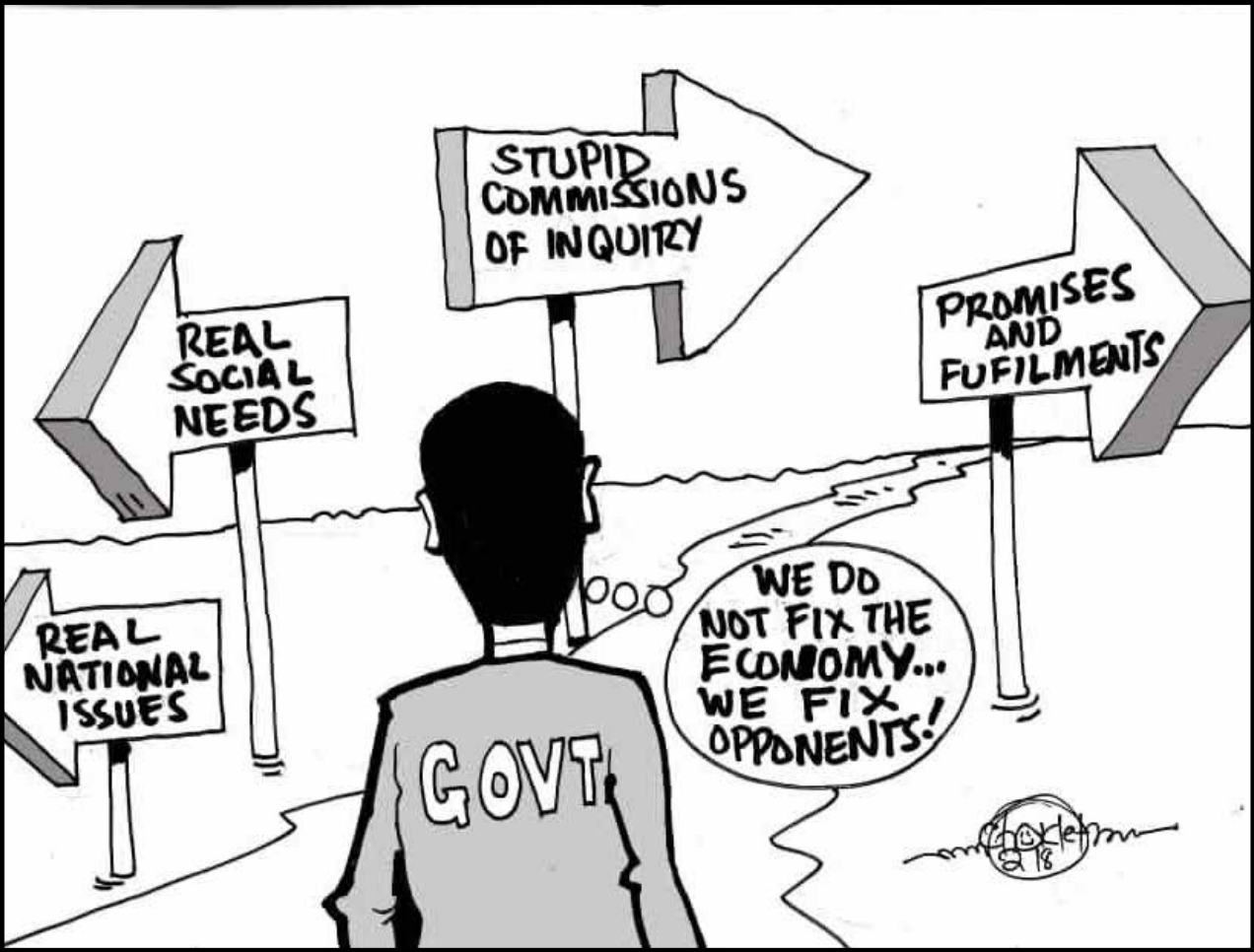
"Does he know that they were given letters in September and their last day is Monday, December 31, 2018? Don't stand still when you're cheating; you can't do anything!" - Stephen Curtis Nella Mwale

"Mines have started laying off, but ba government still warning..." - Charles Chola

"Whilst the govt is still doing politics through empty warnings, on the other side, the mines are making progress. And I think their reason is somehow justifiable..." - Aishimbwa Suuya

"Interesting stand-off. Waiting to see who the winner will be. We have seen this kind of stonewalling in the past and keen followers know who is going to give in." - Rogers Ziba

"These mines' ownership needs to be transferred to Zambians (who have the requisite qualifications, both at home and abroad). Stop misusing our sovereign guarantees and facilities for funding luxury jets and other nonsense, and invest in credible Zambians by borrowing on their behalf for these mines." - Kwa Mwamba



HH's plan to fight corruption when elected, vows to sell Lungu's jet

Editor,
"Sata said the same when Levy bought presidential challenger, alas!!! What happened when he came to power, he was flying in the same plane. We know you now politicians; within twinkling of an eye, you will have reasons to justify why you will not sell the same jet!" - Samuel Mwansa

"Wonderful!! HH has to be the noblest aspiring presidential candidate. His thought process is so clear on many issues. If Zambia was to be divided into 2, with one ruled by Chagwa and the other by HH, the HH part will prosper and develop with clear systems. We all

know that. There could be a lot of indiscipline, violence and mayhem in the Chagwa side with a lot of kaloba!! Please don't argue with me. I am unemployed and I have a headache. Trying to look for food in this Chagwa economy..." - Hector Ndlovu

"My president, they fear you because you will clean them out. Even their supporters have read and trying to comfort themselves with negative comments, but guess what? It's destiny to be fulfilled." - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

"This is the presidential material and he is serious." - Kenneth Ngalamika

'EIZ needs to do more to prevent another Chipata-Lundazi road disaster'

Editor,
"Honestly, if Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) was effective, we wouldn't be having bridges being swept away by rainfall in a drought-prone season. This is embarrassing, EIZ! It's very easy to know the engineer & construction company, which worked on the shambolic bridge! Are foreign engineers & construction companies regulated by EIZ? It's irresponsible for any regulatory institution not to capture an individual or company operating in Zambia. If these institutions were effective, we would be seeing a lot of penalties being slapped on offending parties & a good measure of litigation." - Haggai Gondwe

"These will be the results when you intellectuals, so-called engineers, can't stand up and talk and allow cadres to be in charge." - Tonny Mukutu

"Looking at the red soil, one wonders as to what was holding the culverts in place? Is it only soil? Even our PWD in colonial days could not be allowed by Her Majesty, the Queen's Government, to put up such a structure and endanger the lives of its colonial subjects. But in comes Independence, anything goes! As long as the engineers and their political bosses can keep a large chunk of, for example, the K5 million for Bailey Bridges. We demand the breakdown of those materials." - Christopher Kalima

"We have a problem with poor maintenance. We build and build, but fail on continuous maintenance." - Barnes Reeves

Volatile DR Congo votes after 2-year delay

Presidential elections that will shape the future of one of Africa's biggest and most unstable countries were underway in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday after a two-year delay. Queues formed at polling stations, where observers reported early hitches, including with electronic voting machines whose introduction has stoked tension. The vote gives the DRC the chance of its first peaceful transfer of power since it gained independence from Belgium in 1960. But the threat of violence is great, given organisational problems and suspicion of President Joseph Kabila, who refused to quit in 2016 after his two-term limit expired. The election's credibility has been strained by repeated delays, risk of problems on polling day and accusations that the voting machines will yield a rigged result. On election eve, talks aimed at averting violence after the vote broke down. Opposition frontrunners Martin Fayulu and Felix Tshisekedi refused to sign a proposed code of conduct with Kabila's preferred successor, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary. They accused officials with the Independent National



Voters wait in line to cast their ballot in the rundown Kinshasa district of Victoire - AFP

Election Commission (CENI) of thwarting changes to the text. The UN, US and Europe have appealed for the elections to be free, fair and peaceful -- a call echoed by the presidents of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and the neighbouring Republic of Congo. - **Opposition chance?** - Kabila voted in the capital along with his family, shortly before Shadary and Fayulu.

"It's a great day for me, it's a great day for Congo," Fayulu said. "It's the end of dictatorship." "I feel liberated, freed," said Victor Balibwa, a 53-year-old civil servant and one of the first voters to cast his ballot in Lubumbashi, the country's mining capital in the southeast. "I'm excited to vote, to be able to choose at last. It's my first election," an 18-year-old student named Rachel told AFP in the eastern city

of Goma, an opposition stronghold. An on-the-ground team of 41,000 election monitors set up by the powerful Catholic church said that 830 polling stations failed to open on schedule, in some cases because of "malfunctions" by voting machines. In Lubumbashi, an observer for one of the candidates said, "there are five or six polling stations where the machines aren't working. You have to wait for a

technician." In Kinshasa, an elderly lady said she had trouble with the touch-screen voting. "It's very complicated. I pressed the button without really knowing who I voted for -- I didn't see my candidate's number or face," she complained. Twenty-one candidates are running in the presidential election, taking place alongside legislative and municipal ballots. The frontrunners include

Kabila's champion Shadary, a hardline former interior minister facing EU sanctions for a crackdown on protesters. His biggest rivals are Fayulu, until recently a little-known legislator and former oil executive, and Tshisekedi, head of a veteran opposition party, the UDPS. If the elections are "free and fair," an opposition candidate will almost certainly win, according to Jason Stearns of the Congo Research Group, based at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University. Opinion polls indicate Fayulu is clear favourite, garnering around 44 percent of voting intentions, followed by 24 percent for Tshisekedi and 18 percent for Shadary, he said. However, "the potential for violence is extremely high," Stearns warned. Between 43 and 63 percent of respondents said they would not accept the results if Shadary is declared winner, he said. And between 43 percent and 53 percent said they did not trust DRC's courts to settle any election dispute fairly. - **Frail giant** - The DRC straddles 2.3 million square kilometres (920,000 square miles), making it about the size of continental western Europe. It is rich in gold, uranium, copper, cobalt and other minerals, but little wealth trickles down to the poor. In the last 22 years, the country has twice been a battleground for wars drawing in armies from around central and southern Africa. That legacy endures in the jungles of eastern DRC, where militias have carried out hundreds of killings. Insecurity and an ongoing Ebola epidemic in part of North Kivu province, and communal violence in Yumbi, in the southwest of the country, prompted the authorities to postpone the elections there until March. Around 1.25 million people in a national electoral roll of around 40 million voters are affected. In the city of Beni, activists set up several symbolic polling stations, using paper ballots, to protest the restriction. Kabila said the vote in the troubled regions would take place "as soon as the situation allows it". There has been no explanation as to how the delayed vote will dovetail with an official outcome announced weeks before. AFP

N/Korea's Kim vows more summits with South Korea next year - Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to meet the South's President Moon Jae-in "frequently" next year to discuss denuclearisation of the peninsula in a rare letter sent to Seoul, Moon's office said Sunday. The leader of the isolated North met with Moon three times this year -- twice at the border truce village of Panmunjom and once in the North's capital Pyongyang -- as a reconciliatory push gathered pace. During Moon's visit to Pyongyang in September, Kim promised to pay a return visit to the South's capital Seoul "at an earliest date," sparking speculation he may visit by the end of this year. But the much-anticipated trip has not yet materialised, which left the young ruler feeling "much regret," according to Kim's letter sent to mark the end of the year, Moon's spokesman said. The North's leader "expressed a strong determination to visit Seoul while watching

future situation," Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters. Kim Jong Un also "expressed an intention to meet with Moon frequently in 2019" to pursue peace and "solve the issue of denuclearising the peninsula together," the spokesman said. The official did not elaborate on how the letter was

delivered. Moon welcomed the latest message, saying Kim had also expressed "active intention to carry out agreements" made in his previous summits with the US and the South, without elaborating further. "I welcome chairman Kim's intention to solve together the issue of denuclearisation...

by meeting frequently even next year," Moon said in a statement. The two neighbours technically remain at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a ceasefire instead of a peace treaty. Moon -- a dovish former human rights lawyer -- has advocated dialogue to

push the impoverished but nuclear-armed North toward denuclearisation. Cross-border ties improved markedly in 2018 as Kim made a series of reconciliatory gestures -- including a historic summit with US President Donald Trump in June in Singapore. AFP

French hero who saved hundreds of Jewish children dies aged 108



French Resistance hero Georges Loinger, who used his ingenuity and athletic prowess to save the lives of hundreds of Jewish children during World War II, has died at the age of 108. A talented athlete and cousin of the famous mime artist and fellow Resistance member Marcel Marceau, Loinger would smuggle the children in small groups across the Franco-Swiss border by throwing a ball and telling them to run after it. Another ruse involved dressing children up as mourners and taking them to a cemetery whose wall abutted the French side of the border. With the help of a gravedigger's ladder the "mourners" would clamber over the wall and head for the border just feet away. AFP



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Cameron Norrie of Great Britain during day two of the 2019 Hopman Cup at RAC Arena on December 30, 2018 in Perth, Australia - AFP

'We cannot compete' - Liverpool worry Pep

FAZ fines TAZARA Express football

By Alex Chilumbwe
FAZ has slapped a K5,000 fine on Tazara Express football club for playing four ineligible players in a week 23 division one game against Prison Leopards FC. The encounter between the two ended 1-1 in Kapiri and the result has since been squashed. Prisons has therefore been awarded three points, three goals and promotion to super league. The matter was presided over by committee vice chairperson David Simusamba who was the single judge during the hearing. In a ruling letter availed to Goal Diggers! It is said that the four ineligible players namely Terry Kasongo, Brian Mphande, Joseph Tungati, and Edmond Kabosha used the same FAZ ID number that belongs to Mulwanda Mwalimu, an indication that the players were not eligible. Prisons will be returning to the elite league after 15 years in the lower division having been demoted in 2003.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola admits Liverpool's form at present makes them untouchable in the Premier League title race. The Reds are now nine points clear at the summit - and 10 ahead of City ahead of their game Sunday at Southampton - after thrashing Arsenal 5-1 at Anfield on Saturday. Jurgen Klopp's men are now unbeaten in their first 20 matches of the campaign, and have scored 48 goals and conceded just eight so far this term. Though Guardiola has spent in the region of £539 million (\$685m) on players since arriving at the Etihad Stadium, the ex-Barcelona boss says his City side are currently unable to compete with the Merseysiders. **Goal.com**

Murray, Nadal look for Brisbane bounce-back after injury-hit 2018

Andy Murray aims to kick-start his stalled career in Brisbane this week after an injury-plagued 2018, with Spanish great Rafael Nadal also playing as he tests his troubled knee ahead of the Australian Open. The season-opening tournament boasts a stellar field with Kei Nishikori and Grigor Dimitrov also in contention as they prepare for the first Grand Slam of the year at Melbourne Park. It also marks the return of temperamental Nick Kyrgios, the defending champion who has been talking to psychologists and "trying to get on top" of his mental health after another roller-coaster year. His preparations took a blow when he was bitten by spider over Christmas, which needed medical attention, but he is expected to be ready. The women's field includes seven of the world's top 10 -- defending champion Elina Svitolina, US Open winner Naomi Osaka, Sloane Stephens, Petra Kvitova, Karolina Pliskova, Kiki Bertens, and Daria Kasatkina. Three-time Grand Slam winner Murray only played six tournaments last season and arrived in Australia early to acclimatise and prepare as he continues his recovery from hip surgery. - 'A better place' - The Scot, who won the Brisbane title in 2012 and 2013, said he had been training hard to work himself back to the sort of fitness levels that saw him capture nine titles in a stellar 2016 campaign and reach the number one ranking. "There are still things that I want to achieve," he said. "Whether I am capable of that I don't really know." The 31-year-old had intended to play Brisbane at the beginning of 2018, but was forced to withdraw on the eve of the tournament and pull out of the Australian Open with the hip problem. He said he still had some pain, but "I'm in a better place than I was a few months ago". The former world number one spent the off-season training in the heat of Miami to prepare for what can be gruelling conditions in Brisbane and then Melbourne. He hasn't played since pulling out of the China Open in September, with his ranking plunging to 256. World number two Nadal also battled injury worries throughout 2018 but enjoyed success as well. He won a record-extending 11th French Open in June and reached the semi-finals both at Wimbledon and the US Open. But in November he announced he needed an operation on his right ankle and only resumed training two weeks ago. **AFP**



CJ Stander of Munster tackled by James Tracy of Leinster during the Guinness PRO14 match between Munster Rugby and Leinster Rugby at Thomond Park in Limerick, Ireland on December 29, 2018 - AFP



Left: Roberto Firmino of Liverpool scores his sides second goal during the Premier League match against Arsenal FC at Anfield on Saturday.
Right: Arsenal manager Unai Emery watches his side succumb to a 5-1 defeat

FAZ CRACK WHIP

Story page 11

...fines TAZARA FC for using ineligible players



Japanese Takuma Inoue celebrates after beating Thai Petch CP Freshmart (Tasana Salapat) in the WBC interim bantamweight match at Ota Ward Gymnasium in Ota Ward, Tokyo on Dec. 30, 2018. AFP