



'Nosy' PF cadre gets beating after talking ill about Kaizer

By Mukosha Funga
Renowned PF cadre Fidelis Solomon Ngoma (below) was left for dead after being beaten by unknown people on Saturday night, following a drinking spree in Lusaka. Ngoma is said to be a witness in a fight and shooting incident in which President Edgar Lungu's political advisor Kaizer Zulu is implicated.

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...LEFT FOR DEAD



Police IG Kakoma Kanganja (c) watches as Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo cuts a cake with Senior Assistant Commissioner of police Nsofwa Butala (l) at the Annual Ball held at ZNS Chamba Valley base in Lusaka on January 4, 2019. Below is Commissioner of Police in charge of Administration Lombe Kamukoshi at the event - Pictures by Tenson Mkhala

ZRA paid mines K7.3bn in VAT refunds

By Stuart Lisulo

ZRA says it has paid out a total of K9.4 billion in VAT refunds in the 2018 financial year, with the mining sector having received at least 78 per cent of that amount.

And ZRA have disclosed that the mining sector's contribution in terms of tax revenues and mineral royalties equated to 13 per cent of the total revenue collection.

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Lusaka residents move to sue LWSC over contaminated water

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Lsk cop dies from gunshot wound

By Mukosha Funga

Constable Lennox Kapila, who was shot by his colleague who is still on the run, has died. Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo has confirmed this in a statement, saying Kapila died between 09:00 hours and 10:00 hours yesterday at Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital.

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Sesheke by-election is an opportunity to test alliance - Kampyongo

By Mukosha Funga

PF national youth chairperson Stephen Kampyongo says the Sesheke by-election is an

opportunity to test the alliance of "little parties". And PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has announced

that the party has adopted Dean Masule as its candidate in the Sesheke by-election.

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CCZ denies pushing opposition agenda in dialogue process

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya (r) says the Church has been mandated to lead the national dialogue process, hence no one should dictate when it must hold

meetings.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya explained that the Church had no hidden agenda in its quest to spearhead the national dialogue process, and that assertions that it is driving an opposition agenda are not true.

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By Stuart Lisulo

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has paid out a total of K9.4 billion in VAT refunds in the 2018 financial year, with the mining sector having received at least 78 per cent of that amount.

And the ZRA have disclosed that the mining sector's contribution in terms of tax revenues and mineral royalties equated to 13 per cent of the total revenue collection or less than three per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Meanwhile, the Authority has so far issued a total of 805,754 Tax Payer Identification Numbers (TPINs) between January, 2017, and December, 2018.

Speaking during a press briefing in Lusaka, Friday, ZRA Commissioner-General Kingsley Chanda disclosed that the Authority refunded a total of K9.4 billion in VAT refunds last year, with the mining sector having received

ZRA paid mines K7.3bn in VAT refunds in 2018

78 per cent of that total, translating to around K7.3 billion.

"We managed to pay out K9.4 billion in VAT refunds. Out of this amount, 78 per cent was paid to the mining sector while 22 per cent was paid to other sectors in the economy. I am confident that going forward, the outstanding VAT refunds will be a thing of the past once the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is implemented later this year," Chanda told journalists at Pamodzi Hotel.

On what the ZRA still owed

mining companies, Chanda still could not, however, disclose the outstanding arrears owed in VAT refunds.

"...Unlike some mining companies who are issuing public statements on how much ZRA allegedly owes, we will continue to respect taxpayer confidentiality. Suffice to say that the assessments have been communicated to individual mining companies and the tax will be collected without fail. ZRA will use all legal options available to ensure that mining companies account for these

taxes without fear or favour. It's only fair and right," he insisted. And Chanda revealed that the mining sector's contribution in terms of tax revenues and mineral royalties equated to 13 per cent of the total revenue collection or less than three per cent of GDP.

"In 2018, the direct contribution of the mining sector in tax revenues and royalties stood at 2.3 per cent of GDP or 13 per cent of total revenues collected by ZRA. I wish to inform the public that as at end of December, 2018,

the Authority had concluded the audits and assessments had been raised following the reconciliations done with the mines and their clearing agents," Chanda added.

Meanwhile, Chanda announced that the Authority had so far issued a total of 805,754 Tax Payer Identification Numbers (TPINs) between January, 2017, and December, 2018.

"I am further pleased to note that the Authority has from January, 2017, to December, 2018, issued a total of 805,754

TPINs. The TPINs are a mandatory requirement for transactions with Zesco, Ministry of Lands, RTSA and financial institutions. The banks have given us feedback that we are currently at 61 per cent compliance hence I wish to officially announce the extension of TPIN registration deadline to June 30, 2019 for bank account holders who had bank accounts prior to January, 2017," announced Chanda.

"Let me emphasize that this extension only applies to bank account holders who opened their accounts prior to January 1, 2017, and as such, transactions with Zesco, RTSA and the Ministry of Lands will require the presentation of the TPIN certificates before they can be processed as per the requirements of the law. This includes prospective bank account holders."

The ZRA's total gross revenue collections hit K57.8 billion, while total refunds amounted to K9.4 billion, registering a net total collection of around K48.5 billion or 18 per cent of GDP compared to their targeted 16.2 per cent.

Kaizer linked to beating of PF cadre

By Mukosha Funga

Renowned PF cadre Fidelis Solomon Ngoma was left for dead after being beaten by unknown people on Saturday night, following a drinking spree in Lusaka.

Ngoma is said to be a witness in a fight and shooting incident that happened at a Kabulonga house, in which President Edgar Lungu's political advisor Kaizer Zulu is implicated.

Sources close to Zulu claim that the State House official was not involved in any way, and that it was his family that was under attack from unknown people.

"There is a group of people that is trying to start a smear campaign against Mr Kaizer, these have been paid by known elements to tell lies about him. Mr Kaizer was not even around when those incidences happened, he was out of the country. In fact, it is his family that in under threat, people were trying to shoot his relatives," said a source close to Zulu.

But police sources say the President's aid was visiting a female friend at some location in Kabulonga when a garden boy peeped through the window and was beaten for snooping around.

"The victim was a garden boy at a house in Kabulonga on Kudu Road. The owner of the house is Jimmy, he is a lawyer. Kaizer himself stays in Ibex Hill, but he was visiting his female friend at the house we understand. Now, as this garden boy was passing, he peeped into the house, that's how Kaizer got out and interrogated the victim. He accused him of being a spy and he allegedly set his boys to beat him," the source narrated.

"The victim was brought to the police and a docket of criminal trespass was opened, but he was not detained because he was in a very bad state. He was

surrendered to his employers to take him to the hospital. This is where Fidelis came in. This guy is said to be the witness together with Jimmy, who witnessed the incident. Apparently, we understand that Fidelis blew up the issue on some PF blogs, accusing Mr Kaizer of trying to kill someone."

The source said that back at the scene of the incident, witnesses heard gunshots, and a bullet was retrieved, which appeared to have been discharged by an assault rifle; but the puzzle of the shooter and where the bullet came from remained unsolved.

Lusaka Province police commissioner Nelson Phiri told News Diggers that he was not aware of any such incident, adding that no one had logged any complaint with any police station regarding a shooting.

"I don't have that report. If it happened at his family house, then it is him who is supposed to report to police, but we didn't receive any report," said Phiri.

When contacted a day after the incident, Zulu offered to give News Diggers an exclusive interview over what had transpired, but said he would only do so when he arrived back in Zambia as he was with President Lungu in Congo DR at the time. He however opted out of the interview appointment and did not respond to prompts. Instead, Zulu confirmed the development in a voice note which he posted in a PF WhatsApp group called "PF Youth Countrywide", stating that he was moving to arrest some people who were trying to harm his family in Kabulonga.

Zulu's message was targeted at Fidelis, warning him to stay away from things he did not understand, if he did not want to get harmed.

"Ba Fidelis good afternoon, cawama mwabwela mwacita

na post (It's good you have come and you have posted) one of the posts you did, with a confession that you have an interest in the matter. Probably tell us how you have an interest in a matter where I am apprehending people who are trying to harm my family to the extent of shooting. For those that are thinking this is a joking matter, please stay in your lane because mwalaicena (you will harm yourselves)," Zulu said in a voice note.

The matter then died down following a daring exchange of warnings between the said Fidelis and Zulu, each having a gang of followers supporting their position and arguments in the matter. The matter, however, resurrected yesterday when Zulu visited a drinking spot called Granddaddy's in Salama Park area where he held a private meeting with named PF officials.

According to Fidelis who also happened to be at the same Granddaddy's drinking joint, Zulu threatened him when he walked up to him for a greeting.

"I went to Granddaddy's to meet the Eastern Province Chairman. When I was there, I saw Kaizer arriving and went into a private meeting with someone. When he was leaving, I went up to his car to greet him. He responded saying 'hi ba Fidelis, nimwe mwebale tulemba ifyabupuba pama blogs, I said its not me boss I was just informed,' he narrated.

"So when I left Granddaddy's around 22:00 hours, I went to the Bank in Avondale at a night club where I started drinking. I was in the company of my friends and from there a friend dropped me at Waterfalls Mall near Airport Round about. From there I went to the ATM and decided to cross to the other Mall."

Fidelis narrated that it was at that juncture that his assailants waylaid him and clobbered him with metal bars.

"As I crossed from Waterfalls Mall to Garden City Mall, I just saw five people show up and said 'uwe niwe weulemba ama articles (you are the one who writes articles) attacking our leaders. Before I knew it, they hit me with a metal bar. I tried to stand and

head-butted one of them, but others also came in and started hitting me until I fell. Now there was a vehicle that was coming, that's how those guys ran away," narrated Fidelis.

"I think let's change the politics in Lusaka. Those who are voicing out should not be attacked. I am hurt and I have a scar on my back. This scar is for the people that we are speaking for."



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampanyongo with wife arrive at the 2018 Zambia Police Service national annual ball at ZNS Chamba Valley banquet hall in Lusaka on January 4, 2019 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Left: Home Affairs deputy permanent secretary Wills Manjimela confers with ZNS Commandant Lieutenant General Nathan Mulenga. Right: Chinese officers attend the 2018 Zambia Police Service national annual ball at ZNS Chamba Valley banquet hall in Lusaka on January 4, 2019 – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ) general secretary Fr Emmanuel Chikoya says the Church has been mandated to lead the national dialogue process, hence no one should dictate when it must hold meetings.

In an interview, Fr Chikoya explained that the Church had no hidden agenda in its quest to spearhead the national dialogue process, and that assertions that it is driving an opposition agenda are not true. Fr Chikoya explained that the Church would not accept to be used as a rubber-stamp for any

CCZ refutes remarks that Church is pushing opposition agenda in dialogue process

party. “Those assertions are not strange. They have been there since time immemorial. When it was suitable, for example, we were branded as being aligned to PF when they were in the opposition by the MMD that time and throughout history, those accusations continue to prevail. But the interest of

the Church is to simply not to be used as a rubber-stamp. We don't want to be used as a rubber-stamp, we understand leadership as leadership. We were given a full mandate to lead, and no one should dictate how we sit, when and how there will be meetings in camera and in public,” Fr Chikoya said. “I think the challenge there is

because the Church refused to just fit in. The language is we have been invited, [but] we have never been invited and we will never be invited. We were mandated by God. We are ambassadors of reconciliation and peace. That is our mandate right through from inception. These are institutions that have been around much longer than

some of these entities that are making these assertions.” He said the only agenda of the church's participation in the dialogue process is to ensure that peace prevails amongst all Zambians. “So, we are on very firm ground. We know when we commend, we will be celebrated, but when we take

a position on a certain matter, we will always be accused. We have no political agenda, we have no hidden agenda, [but] we have a public agenda. Our desire is to see a conversion of mind and happiness that will translate into a peaceful, united Zambia where every citizen can participate in the governance of this country, in the economic arena without any unnecessary obstacles. That is the kind of approach that we have and we don't want to have dialogue as an event. We want the whole country to be in a state of dialogue. While the leaders will be interacting, the provinces should also participate. So, we are clear in terms of what we think should be done, [which is the] national dialogue and not political dialogue. And of course, we will always have people that will talk, who themselves have vested interest and are accusing us of having vested interest,” Fr Chikoya said.

Asked why there were contradicting statements between the Church and the Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) about the meeting, which was held at Kapingila House 10 days ago, Fr Chikoya said every relationship had differences. “Every relationship will always have challenges, [but] that does not mean it's the end of the world. But as the Church, we want to ensure that there is dialogue that is genuine and so we will endeavour along that path. Any other thing that needs to be sorted out will be sorted out behind the scene,” responded Fr Chikoya.

“Every Zambian matters and their opinion is important. Of course, you can't bring Zambia to one table, but there are leaders of respective interest groups and other stakeholders: we have civil society leaders; we have the Church; we have traditional leaders, and so, we hope from such a collective effort we should be able to have meaningful dialogue because there are platforms through which people can be represented and participate.”

Only ward chair can respond to Kambwili - Nathan Chanda

By Thomas Mulenga

Newly-elected Copperbelt PF Provincial Chairperson Nathan Chanda says he has no time to respond to attacks on his provincial leadership from National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Chishimba Kambwili as he usually goes back to his own vomit.

In an interview, Chanda, who is also Luanshya Mayor, said only a PF ward chairman was fit to respond to Kambwili because his party, the NDC, was not a factor. Reacting to Kambwili's sentiments that the opposition would now penetrate the Copperbelt as the newly-elected Chanda-led provincial executive was weak, Chanda insisted that the Copperbelt was still the PF's political bedroom.

“I don't have time to waste talking about Honourable Kambwili; I am preoccupied with talking about how the Copperbelt Province, being the bedroom for the PF, will be run. And by the way, I am a senior member of the Central Committee of the PF, the ruling party. I would ask, maybe a ward chairman, to respond to Mr. Chishimba Kambwili since his political party is just in its infant state; it has no structures across the country, so I cannot waste my energy talking about him! PF is a mighty party, it's a big party,” Chanda said.

“By now, you know who means well for this country. The same person today can say: 'President Lungu is okay,' tomorrow in the morning he will insult, he will go and change the statement. Today, he is the same man who would say even if you put Jesus in Southern Province, HH would win, tomorrow he would go and hero-worship HH! So, what he is doing is like going back to his own vomit!”

Chanda vowed not to be responding to Kambwili's verbal attacks regardless of how provocative they would be.

“You have been following how Hon. Kambwili has been fighting me. He started fighting me when I was a councillor, when I was a Mayor and he is now fighting me when I am provincial chairperson. So, my secret about Honourable Kambwili is to keep quiet because sometimes, he doesn't even know what he is talking about. So, I will not talk about him no matter what kind of provocation



from him, I will not respond to him,” Chanda said.

Chanda insisted that Kambwili lacked consistency.

“Yesterday, (Wednesday) he had a press briefing where he claimed to have been speaking on behalf of Zambians. Today, he is fighting the PF government which wants to maximise on collecting more revenues from the mines; today, he is defending the mining companies. So, who does he stand for? Does he stand for Zambians or for the foreigners? Sometimes, abakalamba besu bacita lilya ngabalanda elo baibukisha eco bacilanda (he realises what he has said after he has said it). The same mouth he says why does PF want to collect more money from mining firms? So, if we don't collect more money from the mining firms, he wants us to collect more money from a Zambian worker?” Chanda wondered.

Meanwhile, Chanda said even if all opposition political parties came together, they could not defeat the PF and President Edgar Lungu.

He argued that the 10-member opposition alliance would fail because they had selfish interests of wanting to go to State House.

“Even if all opposition [parties] came together in Zambia,

they cannot beat the PF and President Lungu! President Lungu is very smart, smarter such that even if the all opposition teamed up, they can't match him! Because the same opposition political parties do not believe in one ideology, all of them are just selfish, bitter people, and their organisation is not based on wanting to better the living conditions of Zambians, but it's about selfish interest, it's about bitterness, it's about jealousy! So, how can people who are divided make an alliance that can stand the test of time?” wondered Chanda.

“Normal people can meet and say: 'we want to better the living standards of Zambians,' but those who are meeting are people who are meeting not because they want development for Zambia, if you want development, why criticise the construction of roads, hospitals, schools and many other developmental projects? Then what do you stand for? They can gather and make alliances, but we have seen alliances in Zambia come and go; before we go to elections, each one of them has got a notorious appetite of wanting to be (Republican) President. So, who will lead who? Who will follow who? Because leadership is about being ready to be led.”

By Thomas Mulenga

Lusaka residents residing in the National Housing Authority (NHA) Complex in Nyumba Yanga area have threatened to sue Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (LWSC) for supplying them with contaminated water.

In an interview, on behalf of other affected residents, secretary for the NHA Nyumba Yanga complex Ivy Brown said from the data collected so far from 41 of the 350 houses in the complex, 105 people were affected by the water contamination.

Brown revealed that Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation Permanent Secretary Eddie Chomba, who is a resident in the complex, is also following up the matter with LWSC.

The water utility initially denied widespread social media reports last week that water supply in the area was contaminated, but then later reversed their position to acknowledge the contamination.

"From the data collected so

Lsk residents to sue LWSC over contaminated water

far, from about 41 houses, the total number of affected people is coming to 105, although I am still compiling the list. I have just assured the people that we should be able to get back to everybody by 18:00hrs. Initially, we couldn't confirm that the water was contaminated until we got a report from one of our executive members that, actually, Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company had confirmed that the Water was contaminated with faecal matter, despite them denying yesterday (Thursday). So far, they have been going round distributing Chlorine, not only to the affected households, but

to everyone," Brown told News Diggers!

She revealed that the affected residents had resolved to sue LWSC for supplying them with contaminated water.

"The next move is that after confirmation from them that the water has been contaminated, we are planning to litigate. So, we are writing down names, house numbers and each house is giving us the number of people affected by the contamination. So, we are trying to litigate through that. At least we have lawyers who are residents within the complex, and they are willing to help us on that one," Brown explained.

She said LWSC had told them to clean the water tanks using their means, but argued that if the company is responsible for the contamination, it must meet the cost of cleaning.

"They have told us to clean our water tanks because of the water shortages in this area, most people have water tanks. So, they have told us to clean the water tanks and they have provided the chlorine. But our argument on that is that, if they have agreed themselves that it's their sources that contaminated our water tanks, why should it be me to pay the person who is coming to clean it up? So, clearly speaking, it's them who must meet the cost! I understand Bishop Chomba (PS Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation), who is also a resident of this complex, is making a follow-up on this case," Brown disclosed. But LWSC Marketing and Public Relations Manager Patson Phiri said the water utility suspects construction works going on in the area caused the contamination.

Speaking when he featured on a live discussion programme on Millennium Radio 90.5FM, Phiri, however, assured residents in other parts of

Lusaka that they would not be affected by the contamination.

"We carried out the tests, we were testing water from all the sources, including the taps. We were opening taps, even in the houses in terms of collecting samples. The water we collected from the taps was clean; the water we collected from the reserve tanks was clean; the water we were collecting from the boreholes was clean as well. So, the source of contamination can only be through the transmission line. There are a lot of construction works in those areas, and we have been battling with the issue of mending pipes using our technical team. So, it's just human activities that we suspect, and these human activities include those commercial activities, and also the possibility of people wanting to expand their houses without consulting the (Lusaka City) Council. So, we suspect that several activities that have taken place over the past one month could be responsible for this particular incident," Phiri explained.

"So, we are going to investigate comprehensively until we locate the source of contamination and we are

going to give information in a clear and transparent manner, we don't hide information. Whatever the results, we will be as transparent as we have always been."

He said that the water being supplied to the affected areas was safe as they have increased the chlorine dosage.

"The Water as of today is very safe. What we did after detecting the contamination was that we increased the dosage of chlorine, the second thing is that we have advised that [those] who stored water in their tanks to let it go and allow fresh water to come in. The water that is coming out right now as I speak has got an enhanced level of chlorine and can even help to purify the tanks," Phiri added.

He assured residents in other parts of Lusaka that they would not be affected by the contamination.

"The rest of the city, we don't have any problem; we only have a problem in three areas, which are serviced by two boreholes. The two boreholes remain safe, but it is the pipelines that service those areas that we are suspecting. We want to assure the residents of Lusaka that they are safe," said Phiri.



Assistant Commissioner of Police Charity Munganga dances at the 2018 Zambia Police Service national annual ball at ZNS Chamba Valley banquet hall in Lusaka on January 4, 2019 –

Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Cop dies from gunshot wound

By Mukosha Funga

Constable Lennox Kapila, who was shot by his colleague who is still on the run, has died. Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo has confirmed this in a statement.

"The officer Lennox Kapila died between 09:00 hours and 10:00 hours today in Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital," stated Katongo.

Kapila, 26, was shot by Constable Edwin Kabasiya of Meanwood Kamwena Police Post on Saturday.

"There was a report of shooting at Munali Police Post in Lusaka in which a Police Officer identified as Constable Lennox Kapila aged 26 was shot at by another Police Officer identified as Constable Edwin Kabasiya of Meanwood Kamwena Police Post in Lusaka. This occurred on 4th January, 2019 between 20 45 hours and 2100 hours at Munali Police Post. Constable Kabasiya is reported to have

gone to Munali Police Post where he picked up a quarrel with Constable Kapila and later shot him in the stomach using an AK 47 rifle. The cause of the argument has not yet been established," Katongo had narrated, Saturday.

"Constable Kapila sustained a gunshot wound in the right side of the stomach and was rushed to Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital. As at last night, the projectile was still stuck in the stomach. The suspect is on the run armed with an AK 47 rifle and a manhunt has been launched."

Meanwhile, police have recovered the firearm which was used in the crime but Kabasiya is still on the run.

"The fire arm used in the act was found dumped near Kamwena Police Post together with a pair of Combat uniform. It was found by Police officers. The suspect is still on the run," Katongo told journalists.

Sesheke poll an opportunity to test alliance of "little parties" - Kampyongo

By Mukosha Funga

PF national youth chairperson Stephen Kampyongo says the Sesheke by-election is an opportunity to test the alliance of "little parties".

And PF Secretary General Davies Mwila has announced that the party has adopted Dean Masule as its candidate in the Sesheke by-election. "This is the time we are going to test the so called coalition or I don't know what they call it, this coming together of little parties," mocked Kampyongo.

And Mwila unveiled the PF candidate. "We received eight applications from individuals who expressed interest to contest the Sesheke seat, but I wish to announce to the nation that the central committee has adopted Mr Jean Masule as our candidate for the forthcoming Sesheke parliamentary by-elections," Mwila announced.

"The chairperson further appointed the chairperson for sports, MCC, Kebby Mbewe as campaign manager. He will be assisted by Captain

Walusiku Yambela. It is the hope of the central committee that the other seven candidates who have not been adopted will remain loyal to the party and the president and understand that there can only be one candidate at a time."

Mwila also promised that PF would practice issue based campaigns and denounced violence.

"As PF, we are very ready. When we went to Mangango, we were not ready but we managed to scoop that seat

and I want to say that we have made inroads in Western Province. Once we will Sesheke, that'll be the second seat in Western Province," he said.

Meanwhile, Mwila said the PF central committee had resolved that the party would attend the dialogue meeting slated for January 18.

"The three church mother bodies and ZCID are spearheading dialogue for all political parties and you will recall that [as] Patriotic Front, when they met last time, we were not informed,

that's why we were not in attendance. However, we've heard that the next meeting will be on 18th of January but I want to take this opportunity to inform the nation that the central committee resolved that as PF, we will attend the dialogue meeting slated for 18 January 2019. However, I wish to make it clear that this dialogue meeting should only be attended by rightful people mandated by their respective political parties to avoid unnecessary confusion," said Mwila.

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia is now officially the highest cost mining country worldwide following the implementation of the new fiscal regime on January 1, 2019.

According to data availed by the Zambia Chamber of Mines, the cost of operations for mining companies in the country has skyrocketed to the highest globally, mainly due to the government's hiked mining fiscal regime, which took effect, Tuesday, January 1.

The 2019 mining fiscal regime now sees an increase in mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale.

Government has, among other key measures, rolled out import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while equally introduced an export duty on precious metals including gold, precious stones and gemstones at the rate of 15 per cent kicking in from New Year's Day.

Data availed by the Chamber of Mines shows that Zambia now ranks as the world's highest cost in terms of operations, simultaneously making the country as the least attractive investment destination.

The Chamber's International Comparison Index shows Zambia's 2019 fiscal regime has increased royalties and extraction taxes from between four and six per cent to 5.5 and 7.5 per

Zambia becomes highest cost mining country

cent; royalties are now no longer deductible against Corporate Income Tax (CIT); dividends taxes shoot up to 20 per cent from 15 per cent, while export duties on Manganese and precious gemstones rises to 15 per cent from 10 per cent.

These hiked taxes give Zambia the highest overall score on the Index to 23 surpassing Russia, Chile, Germany, Tanzania and the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), among six other top mining destinations.

Chamber of Mines president Goodwell Mateyo warned that the new fiscal regime effectively prices Zambia out of the world market as the least attractive investment destination.

"Mineral royalties being deducted for purposes of CIT, we have said, no, you can't deduct mineral

royalties; this has made us an outlier; we've priced ourselves completely out of the market if you look at all of the rest of our peers," Mateyo said during a media presentation to journalists in Lusaka.

"Dividends on taxation; this has been pushed up to 20 per cent. If you are able to pay a dividend, it's gone up to 20 per cent! Again, off the market; we've moved from

amber to red. Import duty; it's gone on higher end from amber to red; export duty, again, 15 per cent of Manganese, which was already an outlier, is now the highest amongst anywhere in the world! Even more worryingly, there's a 15 per cent export duty on precious stones, which takes us away from everyone else amongst our peers." He argued that the higher taxes will dissuade mining investment

flows into the country. "The average score, the result, if you compute all of this post-budgetary changes, on an empirical Index, it takes us to a score of 23, which is way off the rest of our peers. So, what we have essentially done is we have priced ourselves out of the market for investment into mining," said Mateyo. "And if there's an investor out there with investment capital into mining, are they going to invest in this destination or will they will they be looking to invest in the other destinations on the amber or on the green...?"

Release Social Cash Transfer abuse audit report, demands Chipenzi

By Thomas Mulenga

Government must immediately release the Social Cash Transfer abuse report because it has been over three months since the scandal first surfaced, says

governance activist McDonald Chipenzi.

In a statement, Chipenzi, the Governance, Elections, Advocacy, Research Services (GEARS) executive director, wondered why

government had not yet released the Social Cash Transfer abuse report had still not been released. "It is now over three months since President Lungu fired Emerine Kabanshi and suspended

ZamPost Master General, Macpherson Chanda over Social Cash Transfer fund irregularities. At first, Secretary to the Cabinet (Dr Roland Msiska) was given a week to report the findings but

to-date, the nation has not been updated on really what transpired even on how some funds were found stashed intact in a Zanaco Account in Lusaka," Chipenzi stated.

L/stone man gets K1,500 fine for accusing 75-year-old of wizardry

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Livingstone Local Court has ordered a 47-year-old man of Maloni Compound in Livingstone to compensate a 75-year-old man with K1,500 for accusing him of practising witchcraft at his home during the night.

This is the matter in which Jason Masumba, 75, of Livingstone's Maloni Compound had sued Benny Kangwa, 47, of the same area, demanding K5,000 compensation for defamation of character.

When the matter came up before Senior Local Court Magistrate Essau Daka and Local Court Magistrate Ruth Liato recently, Masumba told the court that on June 29, last year, around 17:00 hours, he went to Pumalanga bar with his friend.

He narrated that upon arriving, he told his friend to sit outside the bar as he

went to the counter to buy beer.

Masumba said before he could buy the said beer, he heard the defendant, Benny, shouting on top of his voice, saying 'you should stop playing around my home at night practising witchcraft' whilst pointing at him.

He narrated that later on after his friend had joined him, Benny continued accusing him of practising witchcraft at his home and threatened to burn him and his friend if he continued to do so.

"I later went to call my friend to bear me witness because I didn't know most of the people at the bar. As he came in, Benny continued shouting at me, including my friend Bernard Chipoya, saying 'you should stop playing around at my home practising witchcraft, if you continue I will burn both of you using petrol,'" Masumba narrated.

He said when he reported the matter to

the area Chairman, the Chairman told him that he could not handle matter because threats on their lives was a police matter.

Masumba further told the court that he reported the matter to Linda Police Station yet nothing was done concerning his complaint, but was advised to sue. He said because of that he wants Benny to compensate him with K5,000 for defaming his character.

And Masumba's friend, Chipoya, 75, told the court that on the material day, they went to Pumalanga bar in Maloni Compound where the defendant falsely accused him and Masumba of practising witchcraft at his home.

"As Masumba went to buy beer at the counter, he came back to call me and we went together. As soon as we approached the counter, Benny started shouting at Masumba and me, falsely accusing us

of practising witchcraft at his house and warned us to stop, if not, he will burn us using petrol," Chipoya said.

The defendant, however, denied the claim, saying he did not accuse Masumba of practising witchcraft because he was not a witchdoctor to know whether he was a wizard.

Benny said he was just complaining of witchcraft practices at his house during the night as there were a lot of strange things happening there.

He added that he was only complaining to himself when Masumba was passing. In cross-examination, Benny failed to challenge Masumba and his witness, Chipoya.

The court then ordered that he compensated Masumba with K1,500, to be paid in monthly instalments of K200, effective January 31, 2019, until the whole amount was fully paid.

"Why has the inquiry or investigation into the Social Cash Transfer fund abuse taken this long? Is this a sign of incompetence in our institutions investigating this matter, such as police, DEC and ACC or it's pure political interference? Does government think with the passage of time people will forget about this scandal of the year? We need the report to be released because peoples' names were damaged over this saga, and it is just better President Lungu briefs the nation on the progress of these investigations."

He added that the fight against corruption is significantly weakened with the protracted delay in finalizing investigations into abuse of public funds.

"Why has this investigation remained unconcluded to-date? What are the challenges the investigation is encountering? Is it lack of cooperation from the culprits or what? If we continue with this kind of approach to fighting abuses in government, then let us forget about realising our dream of 'not leaving anyone behind,'" stated Chipenzi.



Left: Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga and her husband. Right: Inspector General of police Kakoma Kankanja tosses with wife at the 2018 Zambia Police Service national annual ball at ZNS Chamba Valley banquet hall in Lusaka on January 4, 2019 - Photos by Tenson Mkhala



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote

Leaving no one behind

INTRA PARTY DEMOCRACY: PATRIOTIC FRONT STANDS HEADS AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST

By Hon Davies Mwila

Introduction

In the previous article where we discussed the growth of tourism under the Patriotic Front (PF), I made a side comment about how intra-party democracy goes with over-all development as well as how PF is a bastion and model of intra-party democracy; while other parties with Life Presidents are mere "Tourists, sight-seers and voyeurs of Democracy" because they don't practice democratic principles within their respective parties.

I also made a commitment to discuss the matter in a future article. It's pertinent and topical nature has compelled me to discuss it sooner rather than later!

Patriotic Front as a Model of Democracy

Political parties provide the basic building block and DNA in a Multi-party Democracy. The characteristics of Zambia's democracy are therefore a function of the characteristics of intra-party democratic or their lack thereof.

Whereas other political parties exist to promote the ambitions and aggrandisement of certain individuals who have even go to the extent of institutionalizing dictatorship by manipulating indefinite term clauses into their constitutions; the Patriotic Front has demonstrated practical commitment to promoting, democracy and good governance internally and externally. The Patriotic Front therefore stands out undisputed, not just as the most Democratic Party in Zambia; but more poignantly as the only Democratic Party in our nation.

As His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu highlighted in his opening speech at the recent Elective PF Copperbelt Province Party Conference: "Let me remind you and through you, all our members across this great nation that as Patriotic Front no one can dare challenge us when we say we remain Zambia's most Democratic Party, incomparable to none. Show me a Democratic Party in Zambia and I'll show you Patriotic Front!"

"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."

The President of the Patriotic Front – who is also the Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Zambia further reflected on the entrenched nature of democracy in the party; "Even when the darkest cloud hovered over Patriotic Front after the death of our colossus, President Michael Chilufya Sata, it was intraparty democracy which birthed his successor in the name of Edgar Chagwa Lungu. In other Political Parties, just my name which comes from a different part of Zambia as that of our founding leader could have prevented me from standing here today as your President. It was not tribal or material consideration that got us to be here today, it was the values we have held on to as a

Party since inception: Oneness beyond tribe, religion, gender or colour. If Edgar Chagwa Lungu, with an Eastern heritage could contest in intraparty elections and succeed Michael Chilufya Sata, a northerner, then every Zambian from every tribe can be assured that Patriotic Front has a place for them to aspire and contest too."

President Lungu's observations are sober reminder of what holds the Patriotic Front together—democracy. While others are blindly driven by dogmatic regional inclinations as well as cult personality and the questionable fleeting wealth of an elitist few; PF is driven by entrenched democratic principles across its structures represented in the length and breadth of Zambia. This national intra-party democratic attribute has engendered a sense of ownership and belonging by the majority poor and people across the social strata.

PF - A PRO POOR PARTY

Patriotic Front is the people; and the people are Patriotic Front. We exist for the Poor among us. The Party demands hard work, honest, sacrifice and self-reliance in all activities to improve the living conditions and ensure greater benefits to the people of Zambia.

In the words of President Lungu:

"I want to reassure that Patriotic Front shall never depart from its purpose for existence as a Pro-Poor Party."

"Yes at times as the Patriotic Front we will take tough and painful decisions but this will only be done because the bigger picture tells us that poor Zambians will benefit in the long run. I want to reassure that we are unstoppable in our quest to create a better life for all Zambians, both young and old."

Our Commitment to Constitutionalism

Patriotic Front has demonstrated its commitment to good governance and constitutional democracy, which includes upholding the rule of law, separation of powers, respect for human rights, free and fair elections as well as political stability.

As President Lungu said:

"We promised and delivered a people-driven Constitution when some doubted that our word was our bond. Under the Constitution of Zambia of 2016 which your Government delivered to the Zambian people, our laws seek to promote more democratic political parties."

Under Article 60 (1) (c) of the Zambian Constitution, the law demands that Political Parties have the right to "conduct primary elections for the selection of candidates".

Under Article 60 (2) (b, c, d, e, f and g) of the Zambian Constitution, the law demands that political parties shall:

- have a national character;
- promote and uphold national unity;
- promote and practice democracy through regular, free and fair elections within the party;
- respect the right of its members to participate

in the affairs of the political party;

f. respect the right of its members to seek redress from a court or tribunal when aggrieved by a decision of the political party;

The Pf Eschews Personality Politics and Embraces Politics of Substance

Because of our democratic nature, we yearn for more robust engagement on things that matter to the Zambian people. In that regard, that our President reiterated our clarion call for issue-based politics from those whose awesome duty it is to hold us in Government accountable.

PF has further demonstrated that accountability and transparency are key elements in fulfilling our people-given mandate. We have continued to show our commitment to promotion of dialogue and peaceful coexistence of political parties. This is because from our founding, we have held the strong belief that democracy is about engaging in robust and healthy political discourse and not acrimonious altercation devoid of substance.

That is why as a party, we have refused to be bogged down by any mudslinging, name-calling and card stacking politics aimed at stalling development. Zambia at 54 must do away with personality politics by embracing politics of substance.

Undemocratic Cults Of Personality Are unlikely to form Government

It has widely been observed that a Political Party that adheres to intra-party democracy like PF is more likely to form and remain in Government than one that does not.

This is because a political party that does not practice intra-party democracy cannot be trusted by the people to respect and promote democracy if they formed Government. Charity begins at home and this is true for democracy!

How can political parties that do not practice intra-party democracy effectively participate in the growth of our national democracy when they have not held intraparty elections for more than a decade ; some of them since 2005?

How can they give what they do not have?

Conclusion

The Patriotic Front shall continue to be the leading political force and it shall continue to be the revolutionary organization it is, because internal participatory democracy shall continue to be rigidly and strictly maintained; welded together by patriotism and the voluntary acceptance of belonging to it.

To echo His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu:

Once again I say Give me a Party that adheres to the(democratic) demands placed on political parties by the Country's supreme law – And I will give you the Patriotic Front!

Therefore no one dare challenge us when we affirm that the Patriotic Front remains Zambia's number one (1) Party of Choice - Head and shoulder above any other!

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

With
Sishuwa Sishuwa

...Only in
News Diggers!
Ear to the ground

Class of 2018: Zambians who inspired last year

Across 2018, Zambia experienced no shortage of disappointments and setbacks. Yet there are some individuals whose courage and principles made them inspiring figures in the political landscape. In this and the next article, I list two sets of citizens of 2018: those who through their actions offered hope to Zambians and those who were huge disappointments. Today, I focus on those institutions and Zambians who inspired public trust. Next week, I will discuss individuals and institutions that were terrible disappointments.

The heroes

Zambia suffers a deficit of genuine, consistent heroes. Perhaps there are many unsung heroes whose quiet and diligent work in our own communities goes unnoticed. I apologise for overlooking them in this article. The people I discuss below are drawn from those in public life whose actions are reported in the mainstream media and who are willing to risk the anger and repression of the government in defence of the public good, or what is just, ethical and principled. The shortness of the list below speaks for itself and points to the great absence of commendable figures in our public life who inspire.

Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile: A rare example of judicial independence and integrity can be found in Mwaka Mikalile, a magistrate in Lusaka who, in late December, handed down an unexpected and welcome judgement in the case of Laura Miti and others who were arrested and prosecuted for daring to ask questions about corruption in public procurement. Miti and her co-accused were arrested in September 2017 for demonstrating against abuse of public funds, particularly the \$42 million that the government allegedly spent on buying 42 fire trucks. Asking questions about corruption is no crime, affirmed Magistrate Mikalile, who also sharply criticised the police for their failure to enforce constitutional liberties such as the right to assemble and protest. Some people, especially in the ruling party, had expected a harsh fine or even custodial sentence for these brave activists. Clearly, however, there are still some judges with genuine respect for the law and I hope that Mikalile and others like her in future occupy leading positions in the higher echelons of our judiciary. Magistrate Mikalile's understanding of the law and interpretation of the Constitution is worth of a Supreme Court or Constitutional Court judge.

University of Zambia students: In the face of considerable and murderous repression from the government, the response of the University of Zambia (UNZA) students has been nothing short of heroic. Students have simply demanded the payment of monies owed to them. In reply, the government in 2018 suppressed student bodies, attacked students on campus, destroyed residences and even killed a female student, Vespers Shimunzhila, in her own room. Thousands of courageous young students rallied in the aftermath to put their slain colleague to a dignified rest, protest against police brutality and demand justice for Vespers. Their capacity to organise even in the absence of formal leadership exposed the irrationality of the unlawful decision by the Minister of Higher Education Nkandu Luo to suspend student union activities in public universities on the ground that they encouraged protests. Luo was subsequently forced to eat humble pie when she reinstated student union activities at UNZA (the ban remains in force at Copperbelt University, however) while the public outcry that followed police's violent suppression of the student protests compelled the Director of Public Prosecutions to open an inquest into the death of Vespers. The students' refusal to be cowed and intimidated, their keeping alive the right to assemble and protest, which has been heavily curtailed in recent years, should serve as an inspiring example to all Zambians on how best to respond to government oppression: peaceful defiance and civil disobedience.

Landilani Banda, Grace Kumwenda and McQueen Zaza: By representing anti-corruption activist Gregory Chifire, charged with contempt by the Supreme Court for questioning the court's judgement in a high-profile commercial matter involving enormous financial stakes, these three young lawyers risked their professional reputation and livelihoods to defend a man who no one else would. As well as effectively arguing that the Supreme Court was interpreting contempt in a bizarre way, Banda, Kumwenda and Zaza raised questions about the legality and constitutionality of the procedure adopted by the court to institute the proceedings, especially since the complainants in the

case were also the judges. For their inspiring show of courage, the Supreme Court justices disgracefully slandered them in court as being 'misguided, perhaps arising from youthful exuberance which clouded their perception of the occasion', and naïve. Yet the future hope of Zambia lies with brave lawyers such as these three and not the judges, whose own conduct, one may argue, should earn them an instant return to the Magistrates' Court (with Mikalile going in the opposite direction) where they should be placed on apprenticeships or start all over again. Zambia's judiciary needs such figures who will stand up to judges and defend the rights of the accused without fear or favour.

Princess Kasune and Stanley Kakubo: Many MPs in Zambia's Parliament seem content to follow instructions of party leaders, never raise their voice on many issues of national significance and busy themselves with the misuse of Constituency Development Funds. Two rare exceptions are Princess Kasune, a United Party for National Development (UPND) MP for Keembe constituency and Stanley Kakubo, Kapiri Mposhi UPND MP, whose thoughtful and careful contributions have earned both lawmakers plaudits far beyond Parliament and their constituencies. In addition, Kasune's willingness to breach taboo subjects is refreshing. She has disclosed that she is HIV positive, a disease that affects millions of Zambians but about which few will speak openly. She has risked public ridicule and exclusion for her courageous stand. Kakubo exposed the government's lies that a bailout with the International Monetary Fund was on the horizon when in fact not, demonstrated the contradictions between the government's supposed commitment to education and the contemptible '1.1 per cent' that the Minister of Finance allocated to the educator sector in last year's budget, slated the government for its lopsided priorities (buying fire trucks at a cost of \$42 million when rural Zambians lack basic health facilities and agricultural inputs) and denounced the increasing levels of corruption and theft of public resources under Lungu's watch. For this, he received death threats from supporters of the ruling authorities and faced a backlash in his own party, whose senior members accused him of harbouring presidential ambitions and preparing a leadership bid. Zambia needs more MPs and leaders like Kasune and Kakubo.

Mundia Mukubesa and Saboi Imboela: Slightly over 80 of Zambia's population is below the age of 35 and a majority are female. A look at our national leadership, both in government and the opposition, would make one think that the opposite was true. By leaving politics to older people and predominantly male, we are losing out on the energy, pragmatism and drive that women and young persons bring to the formal political and economic sphere as well as their experience in negotiating for a life on the margins. It was therefore very welcome to see so many youths participating in Lusaka's mayoral by-election of July 2018. Inspiring examples included Mundia Mukubesa, a prominent local musician better known for his stage name Petersen, of the People's Alliance for Change, and Saboi Imboela, a female youth, from the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC). Although the governing Patriotic Front (PF) won the mayoral race through the power of incumbency, these people are not going away and will hopefully reinvigorate politics in future. Even if Mukubesa and Imboela did not win, they dared to dream and, summoning their instincts to lead, stepped forward in an era where many young people are preoccupied with social media and comfortable with complaining. One reason why Zambia has so many bad leaders is because good people shun politics, leaving the field free for the likes of Bowman Lusambo, Freedom Sikazwe, Jean Kapata, Stephen Kampyongo and several others from both the opposition and ruling parties.

Vincent Mwale: Another unexpected addition to the list of 2018's inspiring figures is Minister for Local Government Vincent Mwale. Mwale, unlike so many of his colleagues in President Edgar Lungu's Cabinet, takes his ministerial position seriously. He performs his job competently, fulfils the basic functions of his office and does not spend his time debasing himself with sycophantic nonsense or ludicrous pronouncements like 'Lungu was chosen by God' or 'Jesus Christ has entered into the boat and is now a fully-fledged PF cadre'. During the cholera crisis that ravaged Lusaka and other parts of the country at the beginning of last year, for instance, Mwale kept the public updated with regular and sober briefings. Even when he was forced, by virtue of his position, to give a ministerial statement on the controversial purchase of the 42 fire trucks, Mwale seemed

so troubled that his usual self-confidence appeared to be at its lowest ebb, perhaps unhappy that he was being asked to defend the brazen theft of public funds by those who were involved in the scandalous procurement at the time of purchase. Mwale's commendable willingness to engage with Zambians on his social media platforms was also on display throughout 2018. During such public exchanges, his nature and temperament, even in the face of provocation, were truly magnificent, as was his wisdom in judgement and charity in spirit. I can only hope that as a result of this inclusion, Mwale is not fired immediately as Lungu appears to detest competent individuals.

Harry Kalaba: It is unusual for a minister to resign on a genuine point of principle, but former Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba did just that at the beginning of 2018 when he left his Cabinet position in protest against the 'swelling levels of greed and corruption' under Lungu's watch. He also cited the government's preference for outsiders, notably the Chinese, over Zambians in relation to business opportunities and the growing marginalisation of the country's youth and the poor as the other key reasons for his exit. He was also the only minister who offered to pay back the money and other emoluments that he and over 60 other ministers illegally received after the dissolution of Parliament in May 2016. Kalaba has since indicated that he will contest Zambia's 2021 presidential election on the ticket of the Democratic Party. Kalaba's style offers a refreshing addition to Zambia's political market place as he, throughout 2018, refrained from engaging in the kind of name calling and mudslinging that passes for political debate elsewhere. It would be beneficial for all of Zambia if other opposition parties could emulate Kalaba's civility of expression and other government ministers – such as Given Lubinda, a man who was previously accused by many people of possessing an active conscience but who now appears untroubled by injustice, corruption, abuse of power and the grand theft of public resources – rediscovered their principles.

Chishimba Kambwili: The National Democratic Congress Consultant (whatever this title actually means!) and Roan constituency rebel PF MP might seem like an unlikely addition to this list. When serving as a minister in government, Kambwili was Lungu's most vociferous and fervent defender. There was no action the government and Lungu could take that he would not try to justify. Out of office, he has experienced a conversion like St Paul on the Road to Damascus. To diffuse any potential charge that he was previously close to the levers of power, Kambwili has quite successfully recast himself as the spokesperson for the 'common man', street vendors, university students, the workers and many others who are disillusioned with Lungu's rule. In a context of what appears to be a systematic crackdown on free speech, he has also become one of the PF's most trenchant public critics – exposing corruption in government, highlighting Lungu's manifold inadequacies, denouncing economic exploitation by Chinese investors and refusing to be silenced. For all his troubles, he has been the subject of police harassment and prosecution, but even these State-driven manoeuvres have seemingly not slowed him down. Hate or like him, Kambwili cannot be ignored. He is well-liked, especially on the Copperbelt, as a 'no-nonsense' doer and a charismatic leader with the common touch. Throughout 2018, Kambwili galvanised opposition forces and raised an array of concerns that are salient to many Zambians, when Lungu and many of his colleagues in government appeared too preoccupied with self-enrichment.

News Diggers! During 2018, News Diggers really established itself as an important and credible player on the Zambian media landscape. The organisation reported on many breaking news stories and provided an alternative platform that had been missing in mainstream media. Without being sensational and sticking only to the news that was in the public interest, News Diggers exposed a number of scandals and reported on the decisions and pronouncements of public figures in ways that compelled action. The newspaper kept open the civic space (which was under pressure), presented non-partisan news (a rarity in Zambia) and published stimulating editorial comments whose depth and wisdom were truly inspiring. It contributed to public discourse on issues that really matter to Zambians. The fact that a band of young, courageous patriots owns, leads and runs the publication is most encouraging.

For feedback, email sishuwasisihuwa@yahoo.com or follow me on Twitter @ssishuwa

The courts are getting overwhelmed with land dispute cases. Almost everyday, there is a land dispute matter somewhere in the country. These cases do not only involve private citizens or entities; we have seen that government wings are also taking each other to court over land ownership dispute.

Traditional leaders have also not been spared; some are suing their subjects while others are being sued by their subjects; all in pursuit of this commodity. Customary land is being sold to investors without approval from the Ministry of Lands, while on the other hand, government is encroaching on strategic forests reserves in chiefdoms without the consent of the traditional leaders - a mark of failing leadership in the land administration sector.

What are we talking about? We carried a story on 3rd January on a land dispute that has ensued between the Zambia Army and the Zambia Airports Corporation over part of land within the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport. Zambia Army officers have been erecting concrete pillars paving the way for a fence, a move that prompted the Zambia Airports Corporation to invoke litigation.

The Zambia Airports Corporation contended in court

Chaos in land ownership, title deeds mean nothing



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that a certificate of title relating to stand number 4169 was issued in its name for the construction and rehabilitation of the new Kenneth Kaunda International Airport terminal building. But the truth of the matter is that the Zambia Army encroached on airport land because they also had documents giving them jurisdiction over it.

If big government wings such as the Ministry of Defence and the Zambia Airports Corporation can be victims of double allocation of commercial land, where is the hope for an ordinary Zambian with a certificate of land title? Where is the hope for those who occupy ancestral land in villages?

In 2018, Nyambazi residents in Zambezi District petitioned against the sale of

their 36,000 hectares ancestral land to Meanwood Agricultural Company Limited of Lusaka by Chief Mpidi. The concerned residents petitioned Senior Chief Ishindi to reject, on their behalf, the planned demarcation, alleged sale and alienation of 36,000 hectares by the same named company.

Just last week, over 120 police officers were dragged to court for illegally possessing land in Lusaka West which apparently belonged to subjects of Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya. The 58 subjects have sued the police officers for allocating land to themselves in a location which they had occupied for more than 12 years.

This is the misery that you have to go through if you own land in Zambia. There is no peace of mind. Years back, when you possessed title for

your land, you were the legitimate owner. Today, title deeds mean nothing, two, three people can easily own title over the same piece of land, and after a dispute, the ultimate owner ends up being the one with more money or influence in the system.

Lusaka West is actually one of the riskiest areas to own land in the Capital City. It doesn't matter whether one has got title deeds or has occupied land for generations, once cadres target it, there is nowhere you can run to. But that's not the worst part, they don't sell land to someone else, they sell it to several others who join the ownership dispute.

There is a notorious PF cadre in Lusaka West going by the name "Oga Plots" This cadre is, in himself, a Minister of Lands, Minister of Justice, Commissioner of Lands and Police

Inspector General. He has the audacity of going on someone's farm and putting up adverts that the land is up for sale. Landowners have dragged this cadre to the police before, but he never gets arrested. In fact, he seems to have a number of police officers on his payroll because he is quite famous at Lusaka Central Police. How can this be allowed?

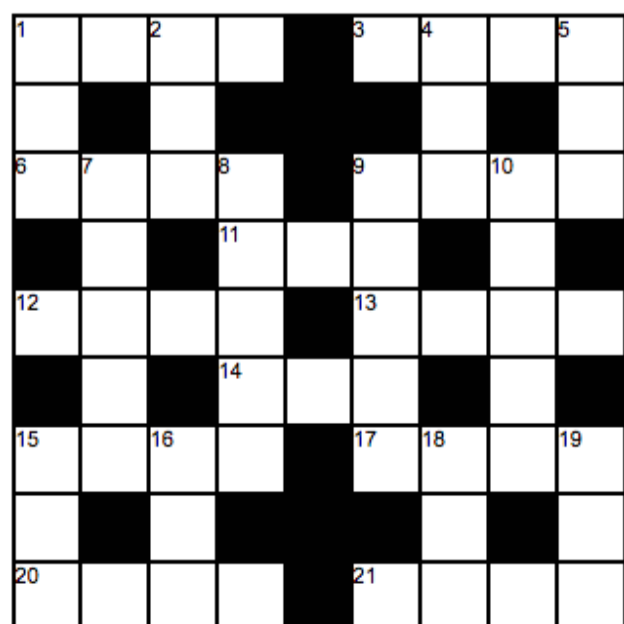
We don't believe that a simple cadre can have power to break the law with such impunity. Obviously, senior government officials involved in the administration of land use him as a hit man for some dirty work. When there is a piece of land with a spectacular road-front which they admire, they unleash Oga to go in and displace the locals. Anyone who stands in the way of Oga's operation gets a very good beating.

We are not exaggerating anything on this matter. We have interviewed witnesses before who have been physically beaten and hounded out of their land. This cadre called Oga is someone whose arrogance we have encountered before, and his contact details are in public domain, yet he walks a free man with no law chasing after him.

This is a clear sign that there is something seriously wrong with the way government is managing this precious resource. One would have expected that with the establishment of the Lands Tribunal sitting at the level of the High Court, a lot of conflicts relating to land would be handled expeditiously, but just like the case is with the rest of the other courts, public confidence in this institution of arbitration is fast vanishing.

Government needs to revisit the composition of the Lands Tribunal with the deserving urgency. The police must immediately look at ways of arresting this chaos before it is too late. Such poor administration of land opens doors for criminals, it grants an opportunity to unscrupulous people to engage in illegal sale of land. The lack of strict land administration policy gives those with money and influence chance to bully and displace poor owners of plots and farms.

Crossword puzzle 266



"And though you think the world is at your feet, it can rise up and tread on you."
- Ian McEwan, Atonement

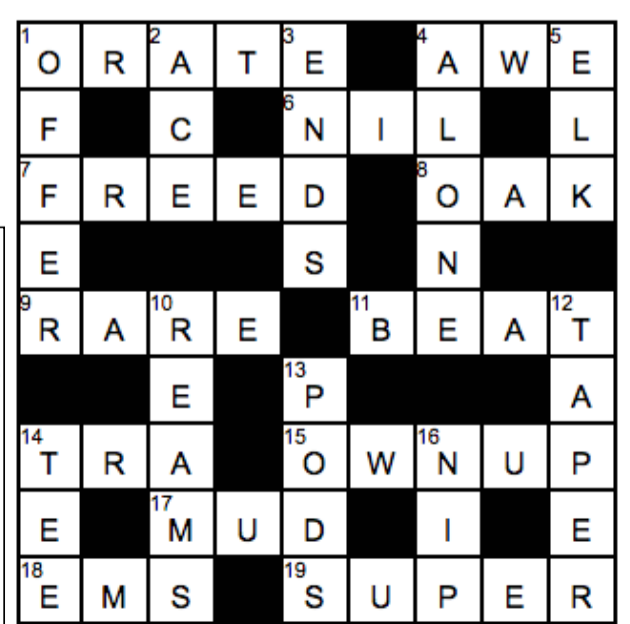
Across

- 1. Child's play
- 3. Dance movement
- 6. Cap and gown wearer
- 9. Alike
- 11. He's behind the catcher
- 12. Get rid of
- 13. Merit
- 14. Iota preceder
- 15. ___ of March
- 17. Patella's place
- 20. Light brown
- 21. Potato

Down

- 1. Silly Putty container
- 2. Large body of water
- 4. A hot drink
- 5. Round baked dessert
- 7. Circle shape
- 8. Tricks
- 9. Put into words
- 10. Combine
- 15. Make angry
- 16. Corn unit
- 18. Tot's rest
- 19. Final; finish

Solutions to puzzle 265



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

ND's OPINION:

How Wina betrayed her legacy in 2018

Editor,

Saniko Moonga

"Very sound reminder. The selfishness of humanity in these last days is biblical and shouldn't surprise us. We are a lost generation barely 20 years on!" - Joel

"Vice-President Inonge Wina's indifference to several matters of national interest is telling. No one in the current administration is more capable of challenging bad decisions than Inonge Wina. As an elected official, she cannot be fired, therefore she need not worry about losing her job if she hold different opinions to those of the rest. Mrs Wina is also above all the ministers in rank, giving her unmatched influence. Why the Vice-President has not used her influence to stop the rot in government is a question only she can answer. But no clean person can watch as dirty juniors mismanage the country's resources, hence the only sensible explanation to her lack of action is that Vice-President Wina is a major beneficiary of the mismanagement that this country is suffering." - Miti Muhulo

"Very true, the article makes sense." - Enerst Ngosa

"Madam Wina is a let-down. I lost whatever respect I had for her when she failed to protect that young woman who was stripped naked in her full view by PF cadres!" - Arthur M Sekute

"She swallowed more than she can chew, such a wasted old woman. Gogo, make things right for Zambia before you leave us under the case of a third term." - Noritah Mwanza

"Bo Ima's hands are tied. She is in the thick of things..." - Grace Shankaya

"She can't talk with food in the mouth, it's bad manners in Africa..." - Louis Mutale Chibengele

"When economic benefit is the driving force in public service and not principle, you end up with a situation where people who should be a counterbalance to wrongdoing, actually abet it. How else can one explain or understand this lack of consistency? This is a conundrum of epic proportions!" - Kanyata Mubita



KBF's plea to Zambians to challenge greedy govt this year

Editor,

crazy!" - Chrissy Chuma

"In 2019, all democrats, including KBF, must mobilize the people and struggle for regime change. Under dictator Lungu, the socio-economic situation will continue to deteriorate. Workers, soldiers and peasants must join the struggle for regime change!" - Chivunda Samusungwa

"You created this monster. Use the opposite of your creative skills to decimate it before it gobbles you!" - Gomezgani Bili

"If he was given a ministerial job, I doubt if he would be this critical." - Zach Bwalya

"Why can't you join the 10 political parties who have formed an alliance? Because your stand, the way you have explained, is similar to the objectives of the 10 opposition alliance leaders." - Legion Mwiinga

"You create problems for the country and when you get screwed, you turn around crying wolf!" - Malcom Charles Chirwa

"Join the 10 opposition parties so that you can help more. 2021 is very near..." - Michael Zulu

"I remember him when he woke up a judge at night without fear. These politicians are

"Mr KBF is right, greedy people should be challenged this year. And as we get closer to 2021, let's remember that KBF put this PF in power." - Jo

Matt Pascal's parting shot on high taxation on mines

Editor,

"In as much as you want sympathy, you must first start by giving honest answers like how much you have siphoned from Zambia through inflated costs, transfer pricing, you and other expatriates' salaries and false declarations on production for FQM copper, gold and nickel. And the second question being: if it was you running the mines, ZCCM ran with copper prices of below US \$2,000, would you have managed if I can cry when it's around US \$6,000?" - Callaghan Mwamba I

"These are merely arm-twisting tactics. This guy is making the argument that they should be taxed lowly so they can make profits, which they in-turn, externalize." - Ancietos Mwansa

"I don't think our mine taxes are higher than in any other country; these people are just used to taking us for granted!" - Martha Kamwasu Mulabi

"For how long are you going to be eating on top of our heads? Busy developing your countries through our resources. No! In as much as copper is diminishing, let us earn something. It's too much! I think the Finance Minister is right; take it or leave it. We shall implement the proposed Sales Tax." - Winter Kanyika

"High taxes are making Zambia to be unattractive to the global mining industry." - Le Vy

"So, the truth that the T5 road (Chingola- Solwezi) Road was not done by the PF government has come out? Did we not say this after the PF went on to require praises about the road they didn't do?"

By correspondent

Democratic Republic of Congo's powerful civil society Lucha has lashed out at South African and other SADC leaders for trying to side with outgoing President Joseph Kabila as the people of the vast Central African nation awaits results of the contentious elections held on December 30, 2018.

The Lucha movement, driven by youths rose to popularity taking center stage in Congo politics, when it played a key role in stopping President Kabila's bid to extend his term in for by another mandate which is unconstitutional.

In a statement following the position by South Africa's Ambassador to the United Nations Jerry Matjila who appeared to undermine the results collected by independent observers showing that an opposition candidate had won the poll, Lucha warned regional leaders against allowing a disaster in the DRC.

The Council of Bishops in Congo known as CENCO issued a statement on Thursday urging the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) to announce results

On Thursday CENCO said it had sent observers to polling stations and was in possession of the tallies from across the country which showed a clear winner.

Cenco secretary-general Donatien Nshole urged CENI to publish accurate results of the vote which has

Congo civil society accuses SADC of siding with Kabila



been delayed three times since from 2016 stating the outcome should show the "respect of truth and justice."

But the South African diplomatic at the UN Matjila appeared to downplay CENCO's statement.

"The NGO can say what they say," but South Africa "will wait... for those responsible for the elections to announce" the result, he said.

Zambia's foreign affairs minister Joe Malanji who led the SADC observer mission to the DRC election also appeared to give a lukewarm position of the region ignoring the numerous irregularities of the poll to claim the vote was peaceful. Both Malanji and Matjila have angered the Congolese civil society, politicians and the community at large.

Lucha states that South

Africa was taking a dangerous path on Congo and reached out to the political class to help save the DR Congo from a simmering uprising.

"The South African people and the Congolese people have a common interest in a peaceful, stable and developing DR Congo. You would be very wrong to rely on Kabila's illegitimate regime to promote any SA's long term interests," Lucha

states, adding, "South Africa is taking a very dangerous path on the DR Congo."

"The opposition and civil society in SA should stand up urge President Cyril Ramaphosa to use his leadership to defend the Congolese people's choice instead of the Kabila regime."

The United States Department of State has since deployed personnel

in Africa in anticipation of

upheaval in the DR Congo. A statement by US Department deputy spokesperson Robert Palladino issued on Friday warned Congolese leaders attempting to manipulate the vote of sanctions.

"We support the African Union Election Observation Mission to DRC's expectation, expressed on January 2, that the announced results align with votes cast by the Congolese people.

"As official results are tabulated and reported, we continue to urge DRC government officials, leaders of the DRC security forces, opposition party leaders, civil society representatives, and stakeholders from all sides to respect the law and reject violence."

"There are moments in every nation's history when individuals and political leaders step forward and do the right thing. This is one of those moments for the DRC.

"Those who enable a peaceful, democratic transfer of power out of respect for DRC's constitution and the results of this election will be hailed, while those responsible for undermining democratic institutions and processes, threatening the peace, security, or stability of DRC or benefiting from corruption will be held accountable," he said.

President Donald Trump has since announced that 80 troops are now stationed in nearby Gabon ready to protect US interests in the DRC.

Complaint from a Congolese resident in Zambia: Minister Malanji's Report Is Disgraceful

Dear editor,

As a Congolese resident in Zambia for many years of my life, I find the behaviour of Mr. Joe Malanji while on mission in the DR Congo distasteful and embarrassing. I have kept informed about events back home by various people there including various media outlets in Zambia. And while I leave in Zambia and make several trips back home, the bulk of my family is in that country.

It is relieving that at long last the elections have come and now we anxiously wait for the results. From the feedback I am getting from my relatives in Congo and others, the situation is very tense. The population is waiting and it looks there is only a certain result that will be acceptable.

My brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, uncles, aunties are all, as much as I am, waiting with bated breath to know the outcome of December 30. There is of course attempts by those in the ruling party to sway results in a certain direction, which majority of the population is not ready to accept.

I am forced to write this letter after watching the Zambian foreign affairs minister Mr Joe Malanji on the news last night. Mr. Malanji, who is in Kinshasa as the head of the SADC observer mission, has declared the election peaceful. Whatever Mr. Malanji's motivation, his statement speaks volumes of the calibre of a leader he is.

I am wondering how SADC would arrive at such a conclusion. Nearly all the observers present agree that this was a chaotic election. Many if not all the people in Congo echo this fact. And its outcome will define what the future holds for Congo.

There is evidence people have died, about 50 in the run up to the election, including those on election day. Mr. Malanji seems to believe the deaths of these people amounts to nothing but part of the 'peace' associated with Congo.

If Mr. Malanji had nothing to say, it was best he and his team visited, drunk their whiskey or coffee and left the DRC without putting the region on the spot. Anyway, it looks like Mr. Malanji is a lameduck politician and if the winds of change in his constituency are true, I wish the young man aspiring to unseat him in 2021 the very best.

Truth be told, Mr. Malanji is an embarrassment to both the Zambian people and the Head of State as well as the region. His showboating in the Congo case when the situation is a time bomb is very disappointing coming from a senior government official.

If voters in three cities in the Congo namely Butembo, Beni & Yumbi with a total sum of 1.2 million on the register are excluded from an election in the guise of security and disease, how can someone suggest an election has passed as something peaceful? In fact, the excluded voters are predominately opposition

strongholds. In Mr. Malanji's wisdom or the lack of it, this is as it should be.

The African Union observer mission in the Congo election was a lot moderate. The AU chief stated that holding the election was a huge victory which I, too, agree. In fact, it was long overdue. The AU added a caution that the result should reflect the will of the Congolese people.

By now, we all know that Malanji, as a privileged official in this process, is aware of the dynamics of the outcome of the election. How the voting patterns shows and who is enjoying a comfortable lead is information under Mr. Malanji's nose. Was it not so important to Mr. Malanji?

What will be the significance of his so called final report expected in 30 days if Congo, God forbid, is on fire? Next time Mr Malanji is posing as a representative of a country and region, he should leave his less than diplomatic behavior away from serious business.

It's my hope and prayer that the election and events thereafter pass without incident in the Congo. Fellow Africans, Zambians and all else, let's continue to pray for peace to prevail in the Congo. My people have suffered war, disease and anger. May this election result be the turning point for the people of Congo.

Fiston Kaloji
Concerned Congolese resident in Zambia

Cesc Fabregas believes his technical quality has never abated even if he has begun to lose "sharpness", with the midfielder expected to leave Chelsea for Monaco.

Fabregas captained Chelsea to a 2-0 FA Cup win at home to Nottingham Forest on Saturday, bidding what looked to be an emotional farewell to the Stamford Bridge crowd at the end of the game.

Alvaro Morata appeared to confirm Fabregas would leave Chelsea on social media, writing on Instagram: "You

I'm slower but I'll never lose my technique - Cesc

do not know how much I'm going to miss you!"

Reports have indicated the 31-year-old will hold talks with Ligue 1 strugglers Monaco on Sunday ahead of a reunion with former Arsenal

team-mate Thierry Henry, who took over as head coach in October.

And despite missing a penalty against Forest, Fabregas insists the technique he has shown throughout his career

will not leave him as he reaches the final years of his playing days.

"It is always something that I have had, and it feels like growing up and getting older, it is one of those things that

really does never go away because it is technique," he told Chelsea's website.

"Physicality goes away from all of us unfortunately when you get older, you lose speed, you lose some sharpness, but technique I think is something that always stays with you when you have something, so hopefully it can stay with me for a very long time yet.

"With the penalty, when I stopped in the middle of my run, I saw the goalkeeper going down and I thought that I had it, so yes, it is unfortunate but the day I did 100 caps for Spain I also missed a penalty!

"It feels like it was last week I started playing professionally and now it is over 15 years. It is a long time but for the young players when they start

playing, my little advice is to enjoy it every single second because it goes so fast.

"In football you have to be ready every three days, you have to live with criticism, you have to live with everyone saying how good you are - up and downs - and you just think I am young, I have time but time really does fly, so enjoy every single second of it."

Callum Hudson-Odoi impressed in the Forest win, setting up both of Morata's goals, and Fabregas backed the teenager - linked with a move to Bayern Munich - to have a bright future.

"He has got everything to make it in world football," the Spaniard added. "I have told him that if he does not really make it at the very top, I will be disappointed because he is one of these talents you can see can be fantastic.

"He can be world-class, so he just needs to keep his feet on the ground, keep working hard. He is a humble boy, he really loves playing football and hopefully he can really make it very soon."

Bayern hand Ribery 'heavy fine' for angry Tweetstorm



Bayern Munich on Sunday said it will impose "a heavy fine" on Franck Ribery over an obscenity-laced outburst on social media, after the French striker became embroiled in controversy for eating a gold-coated steak.

The punishment comes after Ribery lashed out at critics in a string of angry posts on Twitter and Instagram on Saturday. It is the latest scandal to engulf the 35-year-old, who is deeply unpopular in his native France but revered by German fans.

"I had a long talk with Franck and I let him know that we would impose a heavy fine on him and he accepted it," the club's sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic told journalists in Qatar, where the club is on a training camp.

"He used words that we, FC Bayern, cannot accept and that Franck does not have the right to use, as a role-model and player of FC Bayern," added Salihamidzic.

On Thursday, Ribery posted a video on social media showing him in a Dubai steak house owned by celebrity Turkish restaurateur Salt Bae and rubbing his hands before tucking into a huge chop

coated in gold.

That ostentatious luxury, and the reported cost of the meal, drew ferocious criticism before Ribery -- who earns an estimated eight million euros a year with the German champions -- hit back.

"Let's start with the envious, the angry, surely born because of a broken condom," read the first of the posts on Ribery's Twitter account.

"F*ck your mothers, your grandmothers and your whole family tree," he wrote, having taken care to sanitise the French word "n*que". Salihamidzic made clear that Ribery did not pay the bill himself because he had been invited to the restaurant.

"Franck has been slandered and insulted," said Salihamidzic. "And not only Franck, but his pregnant wife, his child and his mother, who is currently in hospital for an operation. Franck wanted to defend himself and defend his family. He has the right to do that. I support him in that, but unfortunately he totally lost control."

German media and social media users had called on the reigning Bundesliga champions to punish the striker, who is out of

contract at the end of the season after 11 years at the club.

"Bosses must suspend Ribery," urged Germany's bestselling Bild newspaper.

The news portal T-Online went even further,

slamming Bayern for not taking firmer action.

"Ribery should not play for Bayern anymore," it said in an editorial. "With this fine, the club falls short of drastic repercussions and that is a fatal signal." *AFP*

Eagles manager relishes "Coach of the Year" award

By Alex Chilumbwe

Although he was not a fans' favourite, Green Eagles football coach Aggrey Chiyangi scooped the FAZ/MTN Coach of The Year award and beat his fellow nominees Nkana's Bestone Chambeshi and Red Arrows' Chisi Mbewe during the awards show on Friday.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Chiyangi noted that the award had set a higher challenge in his coaching job, admitting that he would need to prove to the soccer fraternity that he is capable of transforming a seemingly weak team into a formidable force.

"It was an honour for me to win it because both Chambeshi and Mbewe are top coaches and now I have set the bar high for myself because eyes will be on me from soccer fans. They will want to see if I can keep transforming my team into a better one than it was in the previous season," he said.

The Zambia National Service (ZNS)

side coach also hinted about his target this season, and mentioned one of the hindrances that he thinks he would have to face in the transitional league that kicks off on January 26.

"I want to do better than last season. As you may know, we do not sign new players easily because we are a defence team and that may affect the team. We have lost two players from the squad and we have only gotten one, Edward Mwamba from Nkwazi. I would love to boost the team further but we operate on directives," explained Chiyangi.

Meanwhile, Arrows' coach Chisi Mbewe also hoped that he would continue with his unbeaten record of the last 13 games that he recorded in the previous season after replacing former national team coach, Honour Janza.

"It felt good to be nominated alongside the big guns. This season I

am hoping that I continue with the unbeaten record that I recorded in the last 13 games last season. I think that can be good for me and my team. It cannot be easy but again it is not impossible," teased Mbewe.

The Zambia Air Force (ZAF) side is set to reveal its list of the new signings to the team later this week according to their public relations team.

FAZ/MTN AWARDS WINNERS
 Assistant Referee: Kabwe Chansa
 Referee of the Year: Gladys Lengwe
 Young Player of the Year: Jackson Kakunta (Power Dynamos)
 Most Disciplined Player: Larry Bwalya (Power Dynamos)
 Top Scorer: Idriss Mbombo (Nkana)
 Player of the Year: Idriss Mbombo (Nkana)
 Coach of the Year: Aggrey Chiyangi (Green Eagles)
 President's Award: Fred Mwila (Ex-coach, player and now Technical Committee member)

Brilliant Nishikori claims Brisbane title

Japanese star Kei Nishikori claimed his first title since 2016 when he downed Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the final of the Brisbane International on Sunday. The Japanese star had not won a tournament since Memphis in 2016 and was hampered by a wrist injury the following year which forced a break from the 2018 tour. He was runner-up in Brisbane in 2017 but went one better this year in a superb final. Nishikori dominated his Russian rival throughout, despite a slight hiccup when one poor service game cost him the second set. The second seed started slowly and went down 0-3 to the Russian. But he recovered to break back and then seized the advantage at 3-3 when he broke Medvedev again, taking the first set in 42 minutes. Nishikori was all over the Russian in the second set, his powerful and well-directed groundstrokes forcing Medvedev into errors. Medvedev held on against Nishikori's multiple chances to break at 2-2 and 3-3 and took advantage of his opponent's poor service game to break ahead. "I felt like in the second set I was a little bit, like waiting too much and I couldn't convert all the chances I had," the Russian said. "And he did really well the last game, I mean the 4-3 game. He took the risk and he did well and credit to him for second set. AFP



Jordan Lyden of Oldham Athletic argues with Neeskens Kebano of Fulham during the FA Cup Third Round match between Fulham and Oldham Athletic at Craven Cottage yesterday. AFP

MAYUKA ABANDONS LUSAKA DYNAMOS

By Alex Chilumbwe
Lusaka Dynamos coach Danny Kabwe has explained that former national team striker Emmanuel Mayuka has stopped training

with his club, but says the player was not obliged to continue because he had not officially joined the outfit. The former English Premier

league club Southampton player is currently without a club and struggling to maintain his fitness while looking for his next career prospects.

A stint at Lusaka Dynamos sparked speculations that he was poised to stay and resume his local assignment under Kabwe's tutorage.

But in an interview with Goal Diggers! Kabwe said that Mayuka was only training with his side for fitness purposes without a contract or talks about

him joining officially. "It is true that he trained with us for three or so days but that was it. He did not at all join the team and we cannot stop him from training with us if he asks. If he wants to join the club he will tell us and we would make it known to the media," said Kabwe. And Mayuka when called for a comment said that he did not join the club, adding that he would make it known when something concrete came up concerning his next football move. "I am free right now and not with any club. I was only training with Lusaka dynamos as a way of staying fit. When there's something concrete about me joining any club, I will make it known," said Mayuka. Mayuka has played for a number of top clubs both within and outside Africa and these include Southampton, FC Metz, Zamalek and BSC Young Boys among others. The 28-year-old is a 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (AfCON) winner, a tournament from which he scooped the golden boot award.



Phil Foden of Manchester City scores his team's second goal during the FA Cup Third Round match against Rotherham United at the Etihad Stadium yesterday. AFP

AFP Forum
CLIVE BRUNSKILL / Getty Images / AFP

