



Esther leads 25-member delegation to receive 4 fire trucks in America...

STATE HOUSE SPENDS BIG

Sumaili denies releasing funds for fighting ghosts in Gwembe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Reverend Godfridah Sumaili has refuted social media speculation that government has released some funds to transport 22 pastors to Gwembe to fight a female ghost. *To page 5*

Bedroom attendant, cook, cleaner, waiter to join First Lady

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Action Aid country director Nalucha Nganga Ziba during a discussion programme on Money FM in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Joan Chirwa/Action Aid Zambia

‘Pilgrim’ accuses Telesphore of refusing to vacate Lusaka Diocese office, but Church rubbishes claim

Story page 5

Pave way for us to win 2021, HH tells Sesheke

By Mirriam Chabala
Hakainde Hichilema has asked the people of Western Province to give UPND a chance to govern Zambia in 2021 by voting for party candidate Romeo Kangombe in the February 12 Sesheke parliamentary by-election. Hichilema, the UPND party president, has also commended Kangombe for standing his ground and defending his dignity after PF allegedly tried to persuade him to ditch the opposition and contest on the ruling party ticket.

Solwezi cop in court for killing ‘prison break’ suspect

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A Zambia Police officer under the Solwezi Central Police Command has been dragged to court for allegedly shooting dead a man who attempted to bolt from police premises after he was arrested for impersonating someone during a driving test. In this matter, Geoffrey Kapaipi, an administrator of the estate of the late Christopher Mashawu, has sued Constable Raymond Mwamba and the Attorney General, seeking damages for the loss of life, funeral expenses amounting to K30,000 and exemplary damages amounting to K2.5 million, among other claims. *To page 4*

Speaking to journalists after Kangombe’s successful filing of nominations in Sesheke District, Hichilema described the nominated candidate as a reasonable young man and called on the UPND councillors, who are usually being bought by the ruling party, to emulate him. *To page 7*

Church wants to control dialogue funds, says ZCID

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DEC nabs two for money laundering in Western Province

By Milimo Namangala

The Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) has arrested and jointly-charged two accounts assistants in Western Province for money laundering operations involving over K300,000.00. In a statement, DEC public relations officer Theresa Katongo stated that Bwalya Kellys Chetetashi, 31, an accounts assistant of Mbuyuwana Stage 3 in Mongu District, was arrested and jointly-charged with Kalaluka Mubiana, 35, an accounts assistant of Mongu for forgery, uttering of false documents, theft by public servant and money laundering, contrary to the laws of Zambia. Katongo disclosed that Chetetashi and Mubiana, together with other persons unknown, withdrew funds from the Kalabo District Education Board account under false pretences. “Particulars of the offence are that on dates unknown, but between 1st January, 2018, and 13th December, 2018, jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, with intent to defraud or deceive, Bwalya Kellys Chetetashi and Kalaluka Mubiana, both accounts assistants at Kalabo District Education Board Office, forged cheques and letters of authority to withdraw funds from the Kalabo District Education Board account purporting that the payments were authorized by the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) when in fact not,” Katongo stated. “The duo stole a total of K387,412.00, which funds

meant for orphans and vulnerable children, grants for schools in Kalabo and transportation of maize to various schools under the feeding programme.” Katonga added that DEC seized various assets from the duo’s money laundering activities. “The duo further engaged themselves in money laundering activities and acquired various properties, among them a motor vehicle, farm animals and household goods, which have since been seized by the Commission,” stated Katongo. “The two suspects are on police bond and will appear in court soon.”



Traders in Bauleni’s Katambalala Market in Lusaka brave the rains as they continued trading in an open space due to lack of shelter - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We’ll send back impregnated teenagers to school - Gender Minister

By Geoffrey Zulu

People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) president Andyford Banda has challenged the Patriotic Front government to come up with aggressive policies to protect the girl child than focusing on retaining power in 2021. But Gender Minister Elizabeth Phiri says her ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Ministry Community Development were working at identifying which of the teenage pregnancies were in school so that they could be enrolled back. Commenting on the high prevalence rate of

teenage pregnancies in Eastern Province, Banda expressed shock at the growing trend among teenagers in selected parts of the country. He observed that idle youths had now turned to rampant alcoholism and sexual activities because they had nothing else to do. Eastern Province recorded a total number of 24,731 teen pregnancies last year, with Chipata ranking first with over 5,000, followed by Lundazi with 4, 898 cases. “I was in Lundazi over New

Year and driving around you could see that young girls are drinking alcohol like no man’s business! I think it’s a case everywhere in the villages because really, first of all, farming has gone down and people don’t have much to do,” Banda narrated in an interview in Lusaka. He challenged the PF government to institute controls and come up with deliberate policies that would protect the girl child rather than running propaganda about the increasing number of

schools that were built. “There is no goal, really, that is there towards that, everything is being done to focus on retaining power; there is no policy pushed aggressively to protect the girl-child, and that is the reason we have reports that a lot of girls have been impregnated in Lundazi,” he explained. In a separate interview, however, Minister of Gender Elizabeth Phiri said the policy of taking the girl-child back to school after delivery is in existence and is

being implemented by the Ministry. “We [Ministry] take back the child to school because we take that child to be on a woman level, but prematurely, so she is taken back to school,” Phiri explained. She added that her Ministry, in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Ministry Community Development, have a project that looks into the welfare of teenage pregnancies centred on sending those children back to school. “As a Ministry, we have received those reports of teenage pregnancies in Eastern Province, and the only thing we have to establish is to know how many are in school, then depending on the performance and recommendations from the teachers, the girls are taken back,” said Phiri. Research released last year by the Campaign for Female Education (Camfed) has indicated that girls have continued to drop out of school at an alarming rate because of poor implementation of government policies such as the re-entry policy. Camfed research executive Christine Mushibwe noted that the re-entry policy was not effective enough to help girls get back to school because it was implemented differently. As many as 43,000 girls nationally are dropping out of school annually, 11,000 of who are due to early pregnancies, according to Camfed data.

Namwala’s CDF insufficient, laments Lubezhi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Namwala UPND member of parliament Moono Lubezhi says it is shocking that the Executive can be asking MPs to use the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for capital projects when the Chinese are quoting government over K1.4 million per kilometre for a stretch of road. In an interview, Lubezhi bemoaned the deplorable state of the Monze-Niko Road, which she said government had abandoned for too long. “We have the deplorable roads, which the government is not even talking about, and when you ask them, they will tell you to use the CDF, but roads are capital projects [and] K1.4 million is nothing! You can’t say I will do all the feeder roads in Namwala [using that K1.4] million; you can’t say I will do a stretch from Niko to Ndema or from Ndema to Itapa or Masompe, it’s not possible, that is too much! Is K1.4 million not less than the money, which the Chinese are quoting them per kilometre?

So, how can they tell us to use CDF for the roads when the Chinese are quoting them more than K1.4 per kilometre?” Lubezhi wondered. “The Monze-Niko is still a suicide! From 2012, it has stood, and worse still for that road [is that] the time they hoodwinked us and put those heaps of sand every 10 metres, my dear, [those heaps of sand] have now become rocks. They left them on the road [and] nearly every day, there is an accident. If you don’t know that road and you driving through it, you will ram into those rocks! The last time I even proposed to say: ‘can you bring the same contractor to come and remove those ant-hills on the road.’ During rainy season, it’s even worse because you can’t even go off the road or else you will be stuck or you will slip over, but now, it’s a sorry sight.” She said only an unreasoning leader can ask a fellow leader to implement capital projects with inadequate funds. “[But] finally, they have given us the full CDF amount [although we

don’t even know whether it’s for 2014 or 2015 or 2016 or 2017 or 2018, but finally after not having CDF for Namwala from 2014, 2018, December, I was given. And that is why I am saying now we are in problems [because] each time you tell them about feeder roads, they will tell you [that] we gave you CDF and yet roads are a capital project,” Lubezhi explained. “That K1.4 million is not worthy what their fellow Chinese quote them because they are no longer Zambians also, they have also become Chinese because if they were Zambians, they would understand what their fellow Zambians are going through. So, that K1.4 [million] is now a song ‘use CDF, how do I use CDF? [and] even if I am to tell my counterpart from Bweengwa to say: ‘bring your K1.4 and my K1.4, we make K2.8,’ it’s not possible. So, what makes them think that when it comes to Namwala K1.4 million is enough to do more than 80 kilometres? That is just mere failure of reasoning! They have just failed to govern!

Those are just uncoordinated thoughts where a leader can tell a fellow leader that: ‘use this amount’ when you know very well that this amount is not enough.” Lubezhi, however, added that she was proud to have managed to move President Edgar Lungu from State House just to go and commission a mothers’ shelter, which she had built using CDF. “So, really for Namwala I can say there is nothing. The only time the Head of State was there was when he came to open my... and I will call it mine because it was my initiative “Mothers’ Shelter” which the DC lied to the Head of State that it was from the line ministry from the Ministry of Health. The beautiful mothers’ shelter, which you will find at Namwala District Hospital, was a CDF project in 2013; my last CDF [before this one]. And the DC lied to the Head of State and I stand here as a very proud person that I can make the whole entire Head of State to move and come and commission my project,” bragged Lubezhi.

Lungu lacks integrity, he can't represent me at dialogue - CK

By Thomas Mulenga
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili says the he cannot let President Edgar Lungu represent him at the dialogue meeting because he lacks integrity. And Kambwili said it was possible that out of about US\$15 billion that was borrowed for infrastructure development, 15 per cent has gone into people's pockets. Meanwhile, Kambwili says he will rally behind UPND candidate Romeo Kangombe in the Sesheke by-election

slated for February 12, 2018. Speaking when he featured on 5FM's The Burning issue program, Thursday, Kambwili said he deserved a chance to air his views in the dialogue process. "Are you not surprised that out of all the people who are supposed to attend the dialogue meeting, they single out imbwili? 'Yaliba strong imbwili, yalibabika mukakubila batila nangu nabalala, balelotafye imbwili (Kambwili is strong, he has made them panic. Even in their sleep, they always

dream about Kambwili). You know that I have a problem with President Edgar Lungu, I have a problem with the Public Order Act, I have a problem with not allowing me to hold a meeting in my constituency. Why shouldn't people give me an opportunity to go and air my views in the dialogue? This is national dialogue, not interparty dialogue where someone would say you will be represented by Edgar Lungu. Why should I be represented by Edgar Lungu, first and foremost,

Lungu has no integrity, what he has done, he has no integrity, so how can a person who has no integrity go and represent me?" Kambwili asked. "How can you have integrity when you deny the opposition from having meetings when your party is having meetings freely? And because they heard that Kambwili is insisting on corruption and they know they are corrupt, they had to find proxies to block me from attending the dialogue meeting. Imbwili is a Zambian,

Imbwili is a stakeholder, Imbwili is an integral party of the political process in Zambia and imbwili must attend the national dialogue." And Kambwili has charged that out of about US\$15 billion that was borrowed for infrastructure development, 15 per cent has gone into people's pockets. "People of Zambia, when I talk about corruption, don't take it lightly, you will be so shocked that out of the \$15 billion that we have borrowed for the so-called infrastructure development, 30 per cent has gone in individual's pockets. Can you imagine country men and women, one Chinese came to me because he heard me talking about corruption and he said, Honourable you are right, yes, this government is corrupt, State House in particular. And he told me a story that I felt very bad about. He was approached by one man from State House because there was a tender at ZESCO where this man's company quoted US\$13 million for that tender. This man from State House went to him and said, 'I have been sent by the President, I am representing State House, we are going to give you this contract but you must put it at US\$15 million, give us the US\$2 million on top, and you should give us this US\$2 million dollars in advance because us we are State House, we are going to make sure that this contract is given to you'. And this poor Chinese

gets the US\$2 million and gave it to them. They later went and opened the tender and gave it to someone else, the US\$2 million meanwhile had been eaten already. This man is vulnerable, he cannot go to court, and he cannot fight State House. No wonder you are seeing them writing their names on mealie meal bags, 'Honourbale Chite Chite, helping the needy in society. Namukwata nempiya shakuya mukulembela amashina pamasaka? Imwe bapompwe imwe, bakabwlala! (You even have the money to print your names on mealie-meal bags? You blatant thieves!" Kambwili charged. Meanwhile, Kambwili said he would support the UPND candidate in the Sesheke by election as his party structures are not strong in the constituency. "At the moment, the NDC is focusing on creating structures across the country. When the election came in Sesheke, we looked at the structures and said, our structures are not very strong at the moment. So why should we contest for the sake of contesting? So we said, no, our alliance partners (UPND) is strong on the ground in Sesheke, so we are going to support them in the by election, there is nothing wrong with that. And some point, I will go to Sesheke to go and campaign for the candidate of my alliance partner, the UPND candidate," said Kambwili.



Traders in Bauleni's Katambalala Market in Lusaka brave the rains as they continued trading in an open space due to lack of shelter - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
First Lady Esther Lungu will next week lead a 25-member delegation on a two weeks visit to the United States of America where they are all going to receive four fire trucks donated to the Zambian government. According to records obtained from State House, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is processing American Visas for 25 travellers, among them a bedroom attendant, cook, cleaner, waiter, about seven police officers, four journalists, three secretaries, two fire brigade officers, a communications officer and accountant. This is despite the austerity measures that government, through the Minister of Finance, announced last year under which Cabinet office made a directive that non mandatory trips would never be approved. "From now onwards permanent secretaries and below will not travel business class on any flights that are below three hours. They will all travel economy. Then there is what we call mandatory travel and discretionary travel. Mandatory travel is things like the UN, SADC, AU, the normal fixed calendar events, those will be approved. The non discretional is where people apply to say they want to go and visit this country for a study tour or something like that. So we are not approving those travels anymore. So you will see a drop in travel cost,"

Esther leads 25-member delegation to receive 4 fire trucks in America

deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Christopher Mvunga told News Diggers in August last year. But even though the Head of State is not part of the entourage, the First Lady is travelling to Los Angeles with a President-like security, journalists and secretaries. State House press aide Amos Chanda was unreachable for a comment and Local Government Permanent Secretary Amos Malupenga, who is also part of the huge delation, was unreachable to explain who had donated the said fire engines, but his minister Vincent Mwale said the programme had been sourced by the Office of the First Lady. "I think the best office that was going to give you that information would be the Office of the First Lady, but what I know is that it's a donation. I understand it's a donation but because we are the beneficiaries, we are going to send our officers also to travel with the First Lady. So we are not buying the fire trucks, they are a donation. I think that the Office of the First Lady may have been the one that coordinated or solicited for this donation. I only know about it because

we were written to, to second some staff who should travel and I think in that communiqué we saw that it was a donation," Mwale said in an interview. When asked how many officers from his ministry were travelling, Mwale said only two, as far as he knew. "As far as I am concerned, it is the PS and one technical person just to ensure that they must understand the trucks, the specifics and things like that. So I think two people may be travelling from our side. So everything is being coordinated by her (First Lady's) office. They are the ones that solicited, we did not solicit for them, and whoever is donating should be donating, I think because they were approached by her office. So we are only sending people because these are specific items which require expertise to check and so on and so forth. So it's pretty much her making. This whole thing is not a local government one. She is not going in place of the ministry of local government or anything no, she is the one that is fully involved but we are only seconding people to go with her," said Mwale. Senior Private Secretary in the

Office of the First Lady Florence Chawelwa confirmed that government was paying for the delegation, adding that security could not be compromised because it was a VVIP assignment. "The first lady brokered support from an organisation called Los Angeles Lusaka Sister Committee. This committee was established in 1967 by Dr Kenneth Kaunda with the then mayor of Los Angeles. The partnership has been in existence for more than 50 years now and the organisation has done different projects in health, entrepreneurship education and water. So when the First Lady came into office in 2015, she was visited by one of the directors of the organisation because they have also been working with the former first ladies. So she went back and came back again last year to check on their projects and discovered the issue of our fires in the markets. So when she came for a courtesy call to the first lady, she promised the first lady that she would go back and mobilise for fire tenders so that they can be donated to the first lady," Chawelwa explained. The trip is being sponsored by government because these

things are coming to the Government of the Republic of Zambia. And you know this trip's sponsorship we don't want to compromise ourselves as government for people to start sponsoring our First Ladies [because] next time you will hear that 'no there was something happening,' so some of the questions I think really boarder on integrity, security and so on." She said moving a VVIP like the First Lady needed a reasonably big delegation. "Look we are moving a VVIP, there are issues of security and other issues which I can't even divulge to you. So when we are moving a VVIP like you see even when presidents' spouses like Mrs Obama and whoever has been in travel, they make sure that their VVIPs are well protected. So in terms of the delegation, I can't even divulge into who is going with her but austerity comes from this office. So austerity has been taken care of. That I can rest assure you," said Chawelwa. According to State House records, the committee to receive four fire trucks for the Republic of Zambia is expected to travel on Tuesday next week and will only return

to Lusaka on January 31, 2019. Delegation list:
1. Amos Malupenga - Local Government Permanent Secretary
2. Florence Chawelwa - Senior Private Secretary
3. Agnes Imasiku - Communications officer
4. Wellington Mulambo - Chief fire officer at Ndola City Council
5. Robert Banda - Deputy chief fire officer at Lusaka City
6. Mwansa Mumba - Reporter at Zambia Daily Mail
7. Victor Mwila - Reporter at ZANIS
8. Doreen Nakapizye - Cameraperson at ZANIS
9. Thomas Nsama - Photographer at State House
10. Sandra Ngushi - Staff officer
11. Dominic Kabamba - Staff officer
12. Chimuka Chuulu - Staff officer
13. Musonda Sindazi - Staff officer
14. Lewis Mtonga - Staff officer
15. Christianity Kondolo - Staff officer
16. Christine Nakazwe - Staff officer
17. Cecilia Mwanza - Medical personnel
18. Musonda Chitunga - Cook
19. Chipo Chica - Waiter
20. Charity Chirwa - Bedroom Attendant
21. Clara Chomba - Cleaner
22. Mando Phiri - Accountant
23. Dorothy Musonda Chibwe - Personal Assistant
24. Mary Kafita Kaonde - Secretary

By Thomas Mulenga
Action Aid Zambia Country Director Nalucha Ziba says there is no need to constitute an inquiry into the privatisation process as it would not yield any positive results. Speaking when she featured on Money Fm, Thursday, Ziba said instead of constituting an inquiry into the privatisation process, government should focus on managing state assets properly “There are many reasons why privatisation is allowed such as when public companies become unprofitable or not viable. Looking at the history of privatisation in Zambia, some companies that were privatized include: Zambian Breweries, National milling company, premium oil industries (formerly ROP), to mention but a few. Some companies after being bought off, have gone on to become quite profitable. It was said that some parastals were not economically viable, as such, these were considered for privatisation. The Zambia Privatisation Agency (ZPA) was the agency in charge of privatisation. There were concerns by some sections of society that privatisation was rushed and that Zambia did not get a better deal out of the process,” Ziba said. “However, it is now over 20 years and perhaps what’s more important currently is

Privatisation inquiry unnecessary - ActionAid

to learn from the process and ensure that we are cautious in managing state assets. There have been some calls to institute more investigation/ commission of inquiry into the process. There have been many commissions of inquiry in Zambia that have yielded nothing. Additionally, there are other government agencies already in existence that can institute investigations such as the anti-money laundering team and other security agencies, including

the Auditor General’s office, all of which have statutory power to investigate and prosecute economic and financial sabotage crimes,” And Ziba observed that the privatisation process was marred by corruption because it lacked the involvement of key stakeholders. “We agree with Mr Peter Sinkamba in article titled “Why we think the proposed inquiry on privatisation is irrelevant.” The previous privatisation process had many flaws: money from

the sale of state enterprise was not being paid into the Privatisation Revenue Account (PRA), contrary to the privatisation act; revenue generated from the sale of assets was not used to further economic and social rights of citizens, especially as relates to paying redundancy package schemes, implementing alternative income generating and social projects in the public interest. In addition, the Zambia privatisation Agency board was not balanced

as some members from critical sections of society were missing e.g the Law Association of Zambia, the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Bankers Association of Zambia, and the Churches of Zambia. This implied that the process was heavily driven by government without the involvement of key stakeholders. As such, there were transparency issues. Lastly, there were allegations of corruption in the process,” said Ziba.

“To make parastatals profitable and avoid the temptation for privatisation, it’s important that many issues are addressed such as: Parastatals being owed huge sums of money by government for provision of various services, should be paid urgently, employees of these parastatals should be competent and not mere political appointees, these public companies should be run on business model, contracts for senior management in these parastatals should be on performance basis, change of mindset is needed. For example, why should a director in a parastatal that survives on government handouts be driving posh cars bought by the company that is struggling?”

Tourism PS encourages citizens to venture into game ranching

By Milimo Namangala
Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Reverend Howard Sikwela says local communities countrywide should venture into game ranching to stimulate economic growth through tourism. In a statement availed by Tourism Ministry Public Relations Officer Sakabilo Kalembwe, Rev Sikwela advised communities and chiefdoms to reduce

on supplying animals to the government during traditional ceremonies. He instead urged local communities to venture into game ranching as a means of growing the tourism sector. “Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Rev. Howard Sikwela has encouraged local communities countrywide to consider setting up game ranches in order to enhance economic growth. Speaking

during his recent visit to Chief Mumena’s area in Kalumbila District, the PS said game ranches have the potential to increase tourist visits around the country and improve community incomes and livelihoods,” the statement issued, Wednesday, read. He said income generated from game ranching could be invested in various community projects beneficial to community residents.

“Reverend Sikwela said the incomes could be used for various community developments that the communities deem fit. And Chief Mumena said the royal establishment had delineated the Lukendo Area of the chiefdom over last 10 years for a community ranch,” Kalembwe stated. “The chief said, however, there was a challenge of technical know-how until some partners

from the private sector came up with a corporate social responsibility to survey land’s suitability for such a project. He said his people are serious and want the initiative to take off.” According to Kalembwe, the Ministry is encouraging rural communities to get engaged in ranching as businesses. “Legislative changes during recent decades resulted in a massive shift away from livestock towards game ranching in southern Africa, resulting in significant increases in the abundance and distribution of many wildlife species. Freedom of movement for wildlife populations increases resilience to environmental shocks. Zambia’s Ministry of Tourism and Arts is encouraging communities, including chiefdoms, to get engaged in ranching as businesses, but also reduce on the demand for animals from government during traditional ceremonies,” read the statement.

Solwezi cop in court for killing ‘prison break’ suspect

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A Zambia Police officer under the Solwezi Central Police Command has been dragged to court for allegedly shooting dead a man who attempted to bolt from police premises after he was arrested for impersonating someone during a driving test. In this matter, Geoffrey Kapaipi, an administrator of the estate of the late Christopher Mashawu, has sued Constable Raymond Mwamba and the Attorney General, seeking damages for the loss of life, funeral expenses amounting to K30,000 and exemplary damages amounting to K2.5 million, among other claims. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Wednesday, Kapaipi explained that Mwamba was a police officer holding the rank of Constable under the Solwezi Central Police Command in Solwezi. He stated that on November 22, last year, the deceased, Mashawu, was purportedly apprehended at the Road Traffic and Safety Agency (RTSA) offices in Solwezi for allegedly taking a driving test on behalf of another person. Kapaipi stated that after brief interrogation, the deceased was taken to Solwezi Central Police Station by Mwamba and two RTSA officers where Mwamba allegedly

shot dead the deceased when he attempted to bolt. “Upon arrival at Solwezi Central Police station, the deceased allegedly attempted to bolt from police premises, then Mwamba irrationally and maliciously discharged two gunshots at the said deceased, as a result at which one bullet hit the said deceased in the chest. The said deceased immediately fell to the ground and died instantly from the gunshot injuries,” read the statement of claim. “A post-mortem was conducted where the injuries were particularised as follows; 3cm open wound at the right side of the chest; multiple injuries on the liver; multiple injuries on the right lung; collection of blood in the chest; collection of blood in the abdominal cavity; bleeding from the mouth and broken spine.” Kapaipi noted that Mwamba breached duty of care owed to the deceased because he owed a duty of care to individuals that he detained, arrested or imprisoned. “Mwamba acted with reckless, disregard for the life of the deceased and was incompetent to carry out the duties of a police officer,” the statement of claim read further. He observed that the purported offence of

impersonation did not warrant the use of violent and excessive force towards the deceased given that the identity of the deceased’s purported accomplice was known to the RTSA officers and Mwamba. Kapaipi disclosed that the deceased had left behind a wife and three infant children who have continued to suffer psychologically and emotionally as a result

of Mwamba’s conduct. He further stated that he had been put out-of-pocket as a direct result of the wrong acts of Mwamba in the sum of K30,000 in funeral expenses. Kapaipi is now claiming for an order and declaration that Mwamba’s use of force was exceptionally violent and excessive in relation to the alleged and purported road traffic offence that the deceased is purported

to have committed resulting in his death. He is further seeking damages for unlawful deprivation of life of the deceased, damages for loss of expectation of life and future earnings, funeral expenses in the sum of K30,000, exemplary damages arising out of Mwamba’s unlawful actions in the sum of K2,500,000, any other reliefs, interest and costs.



Traders in Bauleni’s Katambalala Market in Lusaka brave the rains as they continued trading in an open space due to lack of shelter - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Thomas Mulenga and Mukosha Funga

Former UPND vice-president for politics Dr Canicias Banda has charged that former Archbishop of Lusaka Telesphore Mpundu is preventing his successor from being in charge of the Archdiocese because he still has a hold on power. But the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) says Dr Banda's allegations are a joke of the century. Speaking when he featured on Pan African Radio's The Peoples' debate, Wednesday, Dr Banda charged that there were some administrative challenges in the Catholic Church as Archbishop Mpundu was still holding on to power, instead of paving way for Archbishop Alick Banda. "The Ambassador of the Vatican to Zambia has been spoken to that he must put the Catholic Church in order in Zambia. There is a degree of dysfunctionality in it at the moment administratively. There is a new Archbishop in Lusaka Archdiocese, Archbishop Alick Banda, he is from Ndola. I have met the man; he is a fine man. But functionally he is not

Pilgrim accuses Telesphore of refusing to vacate Diocese office

operational. The one before him, Archbishop Teresphore Mpundu still wields power," Dr Banda said. "This is what people don't know. So the Vatican must act to ensure that Archbishop Mpundu vacates where the new Archbishop must occupy. Go to Kalingalinga, you will find Archbishop Alick Banda renting a house there. Observe the functioning of the office of the Archbishop of Lusaka and you find that the current Archbishop is not as functional as he ought to be. So it is important to address these concerns because the impact on dialogue, because the Church is involved." And Dr Banda said it was not the church's mandate to lead the dialogue process. "And by the way, the Church must know that the dialogue can go ahead without them and we should learn to conduct dialogue without them. President Edgar Lungu has

been given authority by the people of Zambia to ensure that this country remains unitary and peaceful, and that there is dialogue and there are institutions for that. And President Lungu is the chief superintendent and it is his mandate to ensure that there is dialogue. It is not the mandate of the Church. The Church's mandate is to pray for people and tell them, hey, 'don't do this, don't do that, because we are going to heaven someday. Politics is a different field all together," he said. He accused the Church of creating an impression that there was a crisis in the country when in fact not "The Church is guilty of being divisive. The Church brokered the dialogue process in 1990 when we needed to transition from one party state to multi party state and it happened. There was a crisis then, but there is no crisis in Zambia now. The country is peaceful and united despite

a few challenges that the PF is frank about and they are addressing them. So the church must not give the impression that this country is in a crisis, it is collapsing. Even in Congo, the church was admonished for conduct unbecoming of the church, these are the sins of the church. The trust and confidence that people have in the church as an important part of their lives leads to abuse. The Church should stay out of politics. The church is a partisan entity that belong to one idea of winning souls for the Lord," said Dr Banda who also said he could only return to the UPND if he was invited to be president. But ZCCB Secretary General Fr Cleophas Lungu described Dr Banda's allegations as a joke of the century. "When you mentioned that to me yesterday, I laughed. And when I read through what was said, I also laughed because indeed, it is laughable. It is the joke of a century," Fr Lungu said in an interview, Thursday. "It also exhibits, unfortunately, for a learned man of that calibre, total ignorance of how the church, in particular the Catholic Church operates. And of course, there is a fundamental difference between the church and politicians. How we treat each other in the church, especially leaders, the former and the current will relate, is different from in the political arena. In the political arena there is always this thing of revenge, acrimony and I can rest assure you that that is not the case for us. In terms of the two Archbishops being mentioned, I believe that they would be the best persons to comment and render their opinion but from where I stand, and I

am speaking as the secretary general of the bishops conference, in other words, the chief executive officer, I know what is going around and I can rest assure you that the church is on top of the game, the church is not as disorganised as some people purport it." Fr Lungu said it was not surprising that Archbishop Banda chose to stay away from the Diocese because even Archbishop Mpundu's predecessors had done the same. "You may wish to know that it is not surprising at all that an Archbishop will choose not to live near the Cathedral. If you go down history of the arch diocese of Lusaka, there was Archbishop Elias Mutale, Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, Archbishop Medado Mazombwe, Archbishop Adrian Mungandu, all those archbishops, none of them were staying at the Catherdal. They have a choice to live in a house, sometimes there is a residence for the archbishops, Archbishop Mpundu, happened to be unique in the sense that he said 'I want to be near the office', and he chose to occupy a very small part of a house of priests, and was comfortable there. When the new Archbishop came, he had a choice and he has chosen to live somewhere else. So it is not absolutely connected to the fact that Archbishop Mpundu is refusing to vacate and give room, that's absolutely not true, it is total falsehood and it also exhibits the high levels of ignorance of how the church operates and I have talked to both Archbishop Alick Banda and I know, even yesterday I was with people in one parish where they are busy

preparing because he is going to make his first visit to that parish, he is operating freely. If you go to the offices, you will not find Archbishop Mpundu, so it is quite alarming, and laughable to hear that Archbishop Mpundu is interfering," he said. "And you may wish to know, even in the national dialogue process, he has not been involved at all. The president of ZCCB Bishop George Lungu is the one who is leading the process, from the Catholic point of view, he was mandated by other bishops because of his office as president of the catholic bishops. And so, it is absolutely laughable that someone can insinuate, out of the blues, out of ignorance, that such is the case. I hesitate to say that but I have to name what it is because it is sheer ignorance." He said the Catholic Church respected former archbishops because they were a well of wisdom. "Also to mention that in the catholic church, we have great respect, if someone has held a certain position, for example we have Benedict the 16th who was pope emeritus, when we say pope emeritus, we are not going to throw that person to say that he must be thrown to the furthest end of the world, no. This person has knowledge, this person has experience. This person can contribute, this person can be an advisor even to the person who is holding the position. So we have great respect for former bishops, former in inverted commas because that is not the term in the church, the emeritus, and they play a critical role as silent, but calm, staying in the background but providing that spiritual support, praying for the bishops, where there is need, they go to them and say 'there is a situation here, how did you handle in the past such a situation?' And this person will provide guidance but people will not know. And sometimes, these meetings, retired bishops, retired archbishops are invited to come and attend because they can contribute, they can add some wisdom that comes with age because they have seen it all. So we are not going to treat archbishop Telesphore George Mpundu as though he is an alter boy, we are not going to kick him out, no! In fact, the Archdiocese of Lusaka has a responsibility to take care of him, he cannot be thrown as insinuated by the learned, or rather the less learned in the Catholic terms, Dr Canisuis Banda," said Fr Lungu.



UPND President Hakainde Hichilema embraced by mothers upon his arrival in Sesheke constituency to witness the filling of parliamentary by-election nominations by his party candidate Romeo Kang'ombe yesterday.

Sumaili refutes disbursing funds to fight Gwembe ghosts

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
National Guidance and Religious Affairs Minister Reverend Godfridah Sumaili has refuted social media speculation that government has released some funds to transport 22 pastors to Gwembe to fight a female ghost. Yesterday, a story went viral on social media indicating that government, through Rev Sumaili's ministry,

had released funds amounting to K558, 000 to transport 22 pastors to go to Gwembe district of Southern Province where residents and civil servants are said to be living in fear of a female ghost which has been terrorizing them. But in an interview, Rev Sumaili said whilst government was concerned about the welfare of people in that area, the said article was false.

She said the public would be communicated to if there will be any such arrangements. "My daughter you can even tell yourself that that is not true. That is false and don't peddle false. That is totally [false], everything is false. How can we release K558, 000 on pastors going to pray? Instead we are putting something in place to go and help the community, the people

are in fear in that area and there is witchcraft. So we need to go and see how we can help the people but fyonse ifyo (all that) are just lies. I didn't say anything and we haven't said anything. When we are ready to go and [after] we have made arrangements...and we can't go with 22 pastors, how? It's not possible. It is totally false and thank you so much for clarifying," said Sumaili.



PAC IS THREE! 2021 TIIKOSESA!

By Andyford Mayele Banda

The People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) was launched on 10th January 2016 at Hotel Intercontinental – Lusaka. Three years ago a new generation of likeminded politicians, with no political expediency and zero name recognition came together to form a political party based on a conviction that the time was right to overhaul our political leadership. This was seven months before the 2016 general election and under a new constitution that required Presidential candidates to validate at least 1,000 supporters from Zambia’s 10 provinces to qualify to stand. Many did not see us managing to gather the supporters under the new constitution since many other Presidential candidates had failed to organise only 200 supporters as per the old constitution in previous elections.

Many wondered where we got the courage to believe we could meet all the requirements including the exorbitant fee in less than 7 months to contest the 2016 Presidential elections. Three years down the road, we couldn’t be more right that our conviction and faith have kept us going. We are grateful to God for the opportunity he has given us to keep growing and be where we are in national politics. Many people, if asked whether they thought we would be here today would undoubtedly say no. Just like many people think we are outsiders again in 2021. Do we know what God has in store for us tomorrow? Ours is just to move with our faith since we know as in Matthew 19:26 that, “With God all things are possible”. This scriptural promise holds true as can be seen even through Felix Tshisekedi, an opposition candidate in the Democratic Republic of Congo who emerged victorious in the just ended elections. All things are possible.

Three years down the road, we keep mobilising with the size of our resources with faith that we will have the resources in time for 2021. We have also participated in a number of elections, which a handful of fewer than 5 political parties do. In the 2016 Presidential elections we surprised many by coming out 4th out of 9 political parties in our maiden attempt. We beat the so-called political heavy weights including the once ruling party UNIP. There was excitement but we knew it was for the moment. There was and there is still work ahead of us. Another election highlight was the 2018 Lusaka Mayoral elections where we put the same heavy weights on their toes and we came out third with our candidate Petersen Mukubesa Mundia. So we keep working and keep moving. We do our best and we live the rest to God.

Before we go any further, we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us on this journey. We say thank you to our executive and staff for your sacrifices to grow PAC and share the vision with the masses. Our growing base is the only reason why we can pride ourselves that we are a fast growing political party. The media has been awesome thus far on this journey and we are grateful for your support despite the difficult



political climate we are dealing with. Many families and friends would hesitate to encourage a group of people with no political background to take the political route. Hence, we would like to say thank you to our families and friends for not being hesitant and for accepting who we are and supporting us through and through. Our colleagues in the political arena- ruling or in opposition, we also say thank you and thanks for all the lessons. To the general public for the encouraging words, our well-wishers for their material support, our international friends and everyone who has stood by our side, we say thank you.

We believe this is the best opportunity looking at how much work we have put in to answer the question of whether PAC will be on the ballot in 2021 or not. There is some level of misinterpretation and wrong assumptions with our involvement with the alliance. Like we discussed in our article on coalitions, the alliance was not formed to prepare for 2021 or pick one candidate yet, but it was formed for the reason of putting pressure on all responsible persons to ensure that the much talked about reforms happen through the dialogue process. That was the basic principle. As a party we can’t stop other alliance members from discussing whether or not we should field one candidate but all we can do is speak for ourselves.

PAC will participate in an alliance with the people in the general elections come 12th August 2021. We will field in candidates from President, Parliamentarians, Mayors, Council Chairpersons and Councillors. However, we shall continue to cooperate with the alliance on matters of common interest. Like indicated in our earlier article, an alliance is not a guarantee of winning elections. This we can pick just from the just ended elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo where Felix Tshisekedi won the

elections ahead of alliance candidate Martin Fayulu.

The People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) was formed with a view to bringing about a new generation of leaders. We cannot at the moment bundle ourselves behind one flag. We believe and know we have the massive potential to cause an upset in the 2021 elections. Our progress in 3 years from zero political background and zero name recognition can attest to this. We 100% believe that we will be a contender in the 2021 general elections and we shall keep pressing for that to happen. Like we have indicated we cannot stop our alliance associates from propping one candidate in 2021 but on our side, we are preparing to deliver real change in 2021.

We believe we have the obligation to present a huge constituency of our people with a totally new leadership. There is a huge demographic that believes that we must not just bring about any change but we must bring about the right change. As PAC, we believe we owe it to our supporters to be on the ballot as they yearn for a new generation of leaders. It is also important that we take it up from the 2016 Presidential elections, 2018 mayoral elections and many other elections and work hard in order to be excellent in the 2021 elections. It will also be strategically wrong to shut all programs in the hope of supporting one alliance candidate. I think there is a gap in our politics that needs to be filled- hence we keep growing.

Our fundamental principles to be called the People’s Alliance for Change (PAC) must be upheld. There is still an opportunity though to support one candidate against the PF probably in the rerun in the 2021 elections as we believe there is a huge chance there will not be a clear winner then. As for now on PAC’s side of things, TIIKOSESA 2021! Happy birthday to us!

ZCID accuses Church of wanting to control dialogue funds

By Mirriam Chabala

The Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) has accused the three Church Mother Bodies of wanting to bulldoze the national dialogue process by proposing the inclusion of some insignificant church departments. And ZCID has also accused the Church of dictating that the account for the dialogue process be domiciled at the Church secretariat, instead of opening an independent account. Speaking when he featured on Millennium Radio's The Interview programme, Wednesday, ZCID spokesperson Jackson Silavwe said the Church was running away from meeting his organisation to make headway ahead of next Friday's national dialogue because it had made some demands, which could

not be met. "As Zambia Centre for Inter-party Dialogue, we feel that the Church are bulldozing the dialogue process. Though they communicated to us via a WhatsApp text, we wrote to them officially, expressing the same sentiments that: 'if you decide to go on with the meeting of 28th December...' and that time they had not released their statement to say dialogue had been cancelled. But we are leaders with perception, and we had a feeling that this is where it was leading to. We wrote them a number of questions, which up to this day, they have never answered. We are not happy

with what happened on the meeting of the 28th, and we were left with no option by the Church, hence our release of the statement. Regrettably, the Church also released their own an hour after our press statement, saying they would go ahead with the dialogue on 28th December, 2018. Now, we asked them: 'if you go ahead with the meeting on the 28th, which agenda are you going to present because we haven't finished the agenda?' The agenda was supposed to be presented to the party presidents so that by the time we come to the launch, everyone is comfortable," Silavwe lamented.

"My hope is that before the 18th of January, the Church and ZCID, we must come together and finalise this. As far as ZCID is concerned, we are still sitting on the negotiating table at Kapingila House where we have been meeting from at EFZ. We are still sitting there waiting for the Church to come back and say: 'let us finalise the issues' then we proceed. Our speculation is that perhaps on the things that we proposed, there are two to three items that we proposed to the Church. Maybe, they are the ones that the Church is afraid of and they have run away, and I am ready to share them with the Zambian

people. When we started the dialogue process, ZCID released the five principles on which this dialogue process should be based and without those principles, this dialogue process is not going to go anywhere! One of the principles is transparency, and ZCID has been transparent in this process, we've got no hidden motives in as far as the dialogue process is concerned." Silavwe charged that the Church was uncomfortable because ZCID did not allow it to bring its departments into the dialogue process. "We were very emphatic that the MoU is between the three Church Mother Bodies and

ZCID. There are other bodies in the Church and we recognised them, but the Church only told us that it's only three, and being politicians, we told them that we don't want to participate in the Church's politics. So, this MoU is not CARITAS, but they brought the issues of CCMG. But we told them that those cannot be part of the MoU. They brought an issue of JCTR, but we told them, no! The secretariat is between ZCID and the Mother Bodies. If you feel you need to consult CARITAS, then you can do it internally without involving us. But when you come to the recognised secretariat, it should be the recognised officers that we know from the Church. So, we told them that CARITAS, CCMG and JCTR should not appear anywhere in the MoU. The other thing we told them that the account for the national dialogue should not be domiciled at Caritas, because that's what they were saying. But we told them, no! We proposed to say; let us have an independent account because even when you want to open up a new enterprise with someone, you need to open a new account together. So, up to now, as politicians, we don't understand why the Church is afraid for us to have an independent account," Silavwe said.

He added that ZCID never intended to differ with the Church, but the institution was pushing ZCID into a corner. "It has never been the intention of ZCID to differ with the Church. But we felt that the Church pushed ZCID board to the corner... are you aware that even the Chairperson of the entire national dialogue, Bishop George Lungu of Chipata, did not know about the cancellation of that meeting on 28th December? He was in transit coming to the same meeting where we are supposed to conclude on these issues. So, perhaps it is an indictment on the Church themselves and how they are communicating. The Chairperson of the entire national dialogue process did not know that the meeting had been cancelled up until when he reached Lusaka because the board Chairperson was in constant communication to say: 'let us sort out these issues.' Perhaps maybe it's the comments that we made on the MoU that made the Church to take up that attitude, and I believe that we may be able to talk about those things that we made recommendations to the Church because for us, we are transparent," said Silavwe. But the church has refuted ZCID's allegations, advising the body to humble itself instead of publicly showing its ignorance of the way the church operates. Look out for an in-depth interview with the Church in Monday's edition of Diggers.



UPND Sesheke parliamentary by-election candidate Romeo Kang'ombe campaigns in the presence of party President Hakainde Hichilema shortly after filing in nominations yesterday

Pave way for us in 2021, HH tells Sesheke

By Mirriam Chabala

Hakainde Hichilema has asked the people of Western Province to give UPND a chance to govern Zambia in 2021 by voting for party candidate Romeo Kang'ombe in the February 12 Sesheke parliamentary by-election. Hichilema, the UPND party president, has also commended Kang'ombe for standing his ground and defending his dignity after PF allegedly tried to persuade him to ditch the opposition and contest on the ruling party ticket. Speaking to journalists after Kang'ombe's successful filing of nominations in Sesheke District, Hichilema described the nominated candidate as a reasonable young man and called on the UPND councillors, who are usually being bought by the ruling party, to emulate him. "I want to start by congratulating the candidate for filing in his nomination successfully, against all odds. Where the

brutal regime of PF started by enticing him to join them and to stand on their ticket. And the young man said no! He remained reasonable. They moved away from that and got into arm-twisting tactics, to attempt to arrest him for a crime he did not commit, but he has remained steadfast, and I congratulate him and thank him for that. That's a lesson to many youths, the councillors, who are selling themselves like tomatoes in a market, to learn that you can be strong to retain your dignity. Secondly, I want to say thank you to the people of Western Province, and Sesheke in particular, for standing with us in the UPND against all odds," Hichilema said. "We have been brutalised; everything is against us, but we have remained strong. God has a reason why he has kept us on. We want to ensure that we work towards liberating the people of Zambia, nothing will stand in our way.

Now that he has filed in his nomination, the next thing is for everybody to campaign. I want to encourage you to turn up on the voting day, remember that voting for Kang'ombe is voting for UPND. Everything is down in this country, nothing is okay. So, Sesheke must provide a way for us in 2021, and we will not allow anything to stand in our way because people have suffered enough." Hichilema also disclosed that his party had requested the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) not to allow a named returning officer to take part in handling the Sesheke by-election on accusations of electoral malpractice. "We have made our point clear that the assistant returning officer, a guy called Manzi, I think he works in Agriculture... we are aware that he was used by PF to even rig elections in Mangango, we don't want him here. So,

we have politely told the Commission that they must remove him and formalise it, it's in accordance with the law. So, we will not be acting outside the law, we are law-abiding citizens," said Hichilema. And speaking earlier, Kang'ombe bragged that the PF would not have been inciting the UPND if he was a weak candidate. "I want to thank the UPND for adopting me, and for supporting me through this whole process. Let's fight this cancer of corruption that the PF has brought... If I was a weak candidate, the PF wouldn't have wanted to buy me. I stood the oppression, I stood with the party. I am someone who cannot bow down to such pressures. The only party that can liberate this country is UPND," said Kang'ombe. Later, Hichilema and his executive drove to Elis Park where he addressed thousands of Sesheke residents.

Maxwell Chongo is known to many as a PF thug; and indeed he is a thug. But behind this thug lies a human being that is wise enough to distinguish right from wrong. Desperation to feed his family from being a full time party cadre may force him to break a few laws or a few people's teeth, but we do notice some of the important questions that he raises from time to time.

Since he established himself as a 'youth without portfolio' in the Patriotic Front under the Orange.com movement, Max has survived a lot of tribulations, some of which have been as a result of his failure to shut up when he sees something going wrong within his party. At one point, his life was almost terminated because he went against one faction of the ruling party and ended up spending the entire 2016 election period behind prison bars.

Anyway, we are not here to hero-worship this PF cadre, and he doesn't really deserve our praise, but we would like to point at one issue, among many, that he raised last year, before he was condemned for speaking like a member of the opposition party.

Two days ago, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development Minister Honourable Moses Mawere announced that government had with immediate effect withdrawn 25 commuter buses from the Public and Private Drivers Association of Zambia (PPDAZ) due to abuse. According to the Minister, the buses which were handed to the association as a loan, facilitated by

Stealing in the name of “youth empowerment”

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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the government, were not serving the intended purpose.

Max Chongo raised this concern many months ago in his usual ranting about youth empowerment and job scarcity. “Selfishness and greed by a selected few individuals should never be allowed to destroy our party's relationship with the grassroots, putting the name of the PF and that of our President in direct firing range of public ridicule,” said Chongo.

There are more interesting questions that Max Chongu is asking about this deal:

“Who has been benefiting from these buses?”

Where is the revenue that was being collected from the buses?”

Who was in charge of collecting this revenue?”

In what account were the proceeds from these buses deposited and how much

has been raised so far?”

Who were the signatories to this bank account?”

How much money was raised in total and how much was paid towards the loan?”

Who registered these buses and in whose names were they operating?”

What criteria did they use when distributing these buses to the youths?”

These are very critical questions that government must answer. But the problem, actually, is bigger than finding answers to these questions. The real problem is separating the operations of government from the ruling party. When you look at the questions that Max Chongu is asking and what concerns him about this deal, you find that he is worried that grassroots members of the Patriotic Front did not benefit much from the empowerment programme.

The manner in which these buses were distributed to beneficiaries and the manner in which they have been withdrawn shows that it was a programme for the ruling party and its cadres. In fact, the reason why Max Chongu and other aggrieved PF youths were questioning the implementation of this empowerment programme is because they were of firm belief that former Lusaka Province PF Chairman Kennedy Kamba was chewing proceeds of this project alone.

This has been a serious campaign issue for the intra-party elections of the ruling PF. Those who are against the re-election of Kamba as their provincial leader are pushing the argument that he didn't allow as many PF youths to benefit from projects such as the buses and they want to elect someone who will share the proceeds equitably.

Dear readers, these buses which have been withdrawn did not

belong to the Patriotic Front. This was not a PF empowerment programme. The buses were meant to benefit all the vulnerable youths regardless of party affiliation. By saying this, we are not trying to exonerate Mr Kennedy Kamba, no! Although Mr Kamba can today duck the bullet by saying the buses did not belong to the party, he knows in his heart that they were abused as such under his reign.

But our point is that this Higer bus scandal shows how the people of Zambia are deprived of what is dully entitled to them when a government is hijacked by the ruling party. Criminal elements have taken advantage of a compromised system to erase the line that separates the government from the party so that what belongs to the State can appear as if it belongs to them and what they do illegally can get the blessings of the State.

If there was transparency in the manner that the bus programme was conducted,

government was not going to have a headache over the abuse. Specific individuals responsible for the implementation were going to be answerable. If money was not being banked, accountants of this so-called association of private drivers were going to be taken to task. In fact, this was going to be an issue between Higer Bus Company Limited and PPDAZ, the association that signed the loan agreement.

The Zambian people need to know that this association was a conduit for theft and abuse of office by individuals who hold positions of power both in government and the ruling party. If this loan agreement was between government and Higer, why didn't the Ministry of Youth and Sport use its existing structures to implement the programme and monitor the proceeds? And if the loan agreement was between Higer and PPDAZ, where does this minister get the authority to withdraw the buses from the loan beneficiaries?

Like Max Chongu rightly pointed out, this has been a scheme of selfish and greedy individuals who are using the poor and vulnerable in society to get rich. They lie to donors and international companies that they are soliciting money for youth empowerment, yet they want to over-empower themselves. This Higer bus loan stings corruption and abuse of office and the responsible criminals know themselves. Shame on you!

Crossword puzzle 270

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Across

1. Perchance
4. Utter words
6. Raiders of the Lost ____
7. Innocents
8. Pose a question
9. Certain
11. Edible seaweed
14. Feathery scarf
15. Beneath
17. Salary limit
18. Except for
19. Old-timer

Down

1. Fathers and sons
2. Root vegetable
3. Simple
4. Glide on ice
5. Chew the fat
10. Respond
12. Less tainted
13. Defraud
14. Short hairdo
16. Finished

“Fear is the main source of superstition, and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.” - Bertrand Russell

Solutions to puzzle 269

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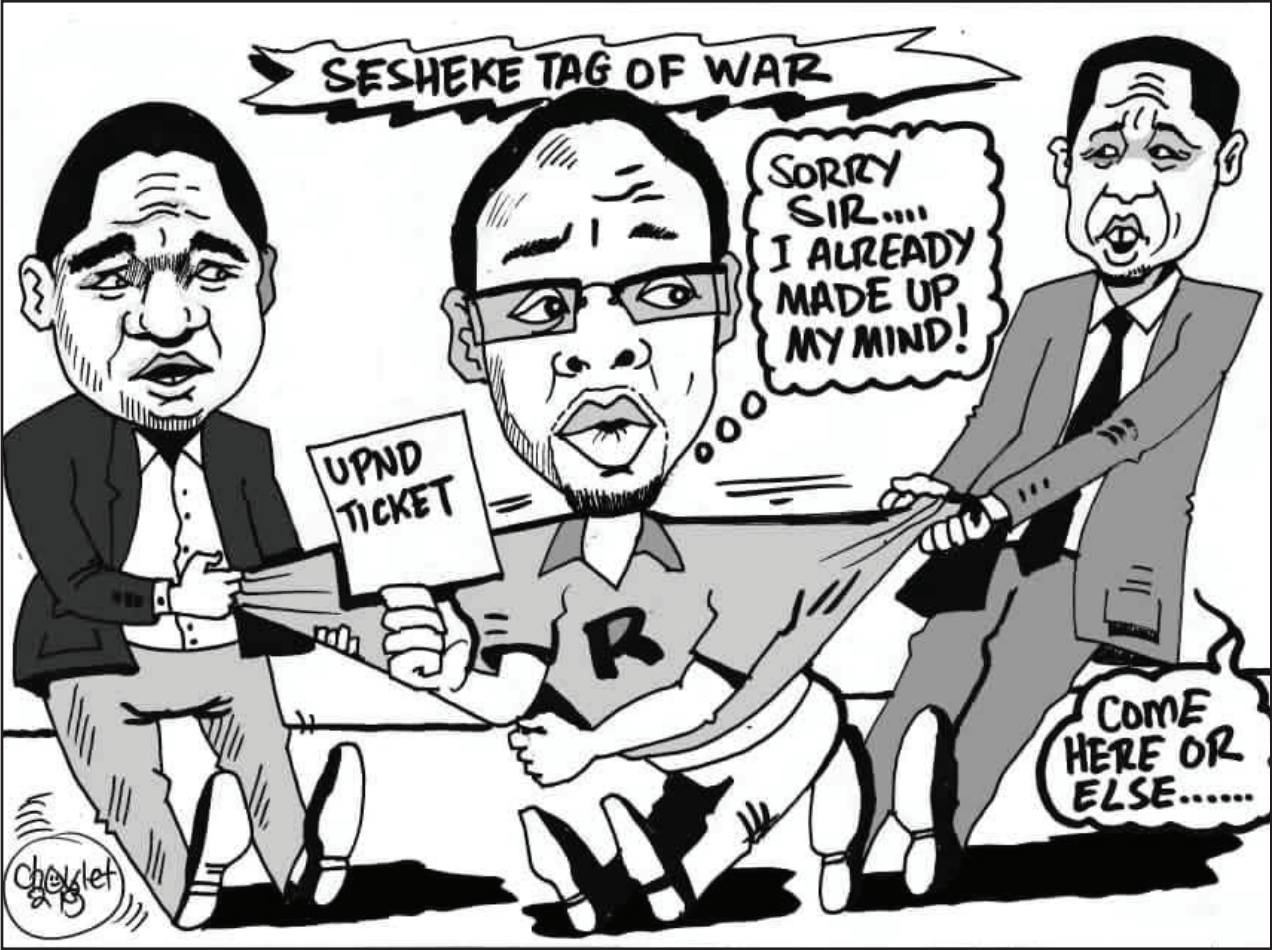
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Reader's feedback



HH's warning to ECZ on ensuring 2021 elections are handled well

Editor,

"The ECZ is not independent; it's controlled by dictator Edgar Lungu. During the coming dialogue, this issue should be addressed properly, otherwise we will have a disaster in Zambia!" - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Boss, we ready!" - Biggie Hanguwa

"Our team must be very alert every time, anywhere until the results are announced!"

No one will say they beat us." - Choonya Councilor

"What is Essau Chulu still doing at ECZ? Shameless people! Announcing fake figures in the 2016 elections! Chulu must leave!" - Chanda Pochoko

"My advice, sir, forget 2016 and focus all your energy on getting your party ready for 2021." - Pastors David Situngu

"He wants elections to be handled in his favour just like it is in his party. Tell him, ECZ is not his party and does not subscribe to his dictatorial demands!" - Philip Brown

Dora on PF's 'economic milestones' and its popularity

Editor,

"The first official statement in the New Year, sure, woman? And you just had to make it worthwhile with nonsense!" - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

"Clearly, she is living in the other Zambia, which is in utopia; not the Zambia that most of us reside in that has no economic milestones worth talking about." - Grace Shankaya

"Those economic milestones only exist in your head, madam, not in this country."

- Roxy Chisaala Hamayobe

"Where do these PF ministers live? Economic milestones, my foot! Which economic milestones?" - Masinga W Khumalo

"Acknowledging that things are a mess is the first step to making things better. Now if you can't acknowledge, then we are in trouble." - Zak Zim

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block facebook users who use abusive language

'Church must stand its ground in national dialogue'

Editor,

"Thank you, Fr Chikoya. Let them continue threats by pushing their personal-to-holder ConCourt judges to rubber stamping judgments the 'Lungu way.' You are the only voice left for the majority as far as justice is concerned." - Sarah Musongole

"Yes, let the Church stand to their ground. We don't want caderism in the dialogue process. We want our democracy!" - Chanda Pochoko

"If the opposition is always on the right side of things, the Church should agree with that. And PF is always on the wrong side of things, the Church will not support. Is that siding with the opposition? No! The Church should support right things." - Martin Nama

"The problem here is PF thinks they can control everyone with their stolen money; the Church in this circumstance is being firm not allowing opposition or PF control. Keep on keeping on!" - Chikwanda Mwansa

"Point them out because jobs are falling apart; the kwacha getting weaker; businesses are reporting dwindling profits & business prospects, and our agricultural sector is getting disoriented thereby causing rise in food prices. So, what milestones are you referring to!!?" - Robby LM

"Indeed, the economy is doing very well in the pockets of Edgar and that of his Ministers!" - Malekani Ian Tembo

'Decision to sue LWSC over contaminated water welcome'

Editor,

"Nice move. These water utilities should invest in infrastructure and requirements for clean water supply. They buy luxury cars at the expense of people's health! Shame!" - Buddy Banks

"LWSC should be sued for their wrongs; that's only way sanity can come in this country." - Makosa Snr Maseka

"Good move!" - Prosper M Shula

"That's the way forward." - Ezra M Chibemba

"Let them sue and the MD should foot all the legal bills for telling lies!" - Mukosha Mulenga

"No apology, but compensation to the affected victims! We have spent money on drugs and transport to and from clinics. Our health is not the same now. We don't know our future, health wise. People are still getting sick, what is an apology going to do to our damaged health and wasted resources? People were even getting emergency debts! Do they know what it means? And this is January. We need a full-fledged report. COMPENSATION BETTER!" - Kabinga Muzala

"Enough evidence to win. Sad it will be tax payers' money at stake." - Cetsiwayo Jere

"Sue them, please! That was highest level of vandalism. If it were their pipes, which were vandalized, they would have been going around the compounds with the police like the lioness that lost its cub!" - Justin Mwila

China backs second Kim-Trump Summit

After his surprise visit to China, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left with backing for a possible second summit with US President Donald Trump, state media said.

Mr Trump and Mr Kim first met last June, but progress over denuclearisation has since stalled.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said he hoped the two leaders “meet each other halfway”, Xinhua news agency reported

China is the North’s main ally and key trade partner.

Mr Xi said China supported North Korea and the US “holding summits and achieving results, and supports relevant parties resolving their respective legitimate concerns through dialogue”.

He also said China would be ready to play a “positive and constructive role” towards maintaining peace and achieving denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula, reported Xinhua.

Mr Kim made what is believed to be his first official trip outside North Korea to China last year, even before meeting South Korea’s President Moon and Mr Trump. The recent visit is Mr Kim’s fourth to China in less than a year.

During his three-day visit to China, Mr Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju were welcomed by Mr Xi and his wife with a banquet and an art performance. He also visited a pharmaceutical plant specialising in Chinese medicine.

Mr Xi accepted an offer to visit North Korea, state media said. It is still unclear when this would take place.

Mr Kim had said in his annual new year’s speech in January that he remained committed to denuclearisation, but warned that he would change course if US sanctions remained.

According to North Korean’s official KCNA agency China supported the North’s position.

“Xi Jinping said that the legitimate issues raised by the DPRK are

rightful demands and that he fully agrees that the DPRK’s reasonable interests should be justly resolved,” it said, using the official country name the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

It is not clear when or where a possible second Kim-Trump summit would take place, though South Korean president Moon Jae-in has said it will happen “soon”.

Mr Moon, who has over the past year played mediator between North Korea and the US, said at a news conference on Thursday that Seoul would cooperate with the US in resolving the issue of sanctions on North Korea. **BBC**

Opposition candidate Felix Tshisekedi has won the Democratic Republic of Congo’s tightly contested presidential vote, the electoral commission says.

The provisional result puts him ahead of rival opposition candidate Martin Fayulu who has denounced it as a fraud. France has also questioned the outcome.

If confirmed, Mr Tshisekedi will be the first opposition challenger to win since the DR Congo gained independence.

Current President Joseph Kabila is stepping down after 18 years in office.

DR Congo is a country the size of Western Europe and Mr Kabila had promised its first orderly transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

The election outcome was initially expected to be announced on Sunday. The interim result can still be challenged.

In the early hours of Thursday the head of DR Congo’s National Electoral

Opposition Leader named DR Congo President

Commission (Ceni), Corneille Nangaa, said Mr Tshisekedi had received 38.5% of the vote and had been “provisionally declared the elected president.

The capital Kinshasa and other key cities appeared calm on Thursday, but fears remain that the announcement of the result could trigger violence.

In the early hours of Thursday the head of DR Congo’s National Electoral Commission (Ceni), Corneille Nangaa, said Mr Tshisekedi had received 38.5% of the vote and had been “provisionally declared the elected president”.

The full results were, with turnout reportedly 48%:

Felix Tshisekedi - 7 million votes

Martin Fayulu - 6.4 million votes

Emmanuel Shadary - 4.4 million votes



The election outcome was initially expected to be announced on Sunday. The interim result can still be challenged.

Mr Tshisekedi vowed to be “the president of all DR Congolese”, saying: “No-one could have imagined such a scenario whereby an opposition candidate would emerge victorious.”

He struck a conciliatory tone with Mr Kabila when addressing supporters at his Union for Democracy and Social Progress party

headquarters in Kinshasa.

“I pay tribute to President Joseph Kabila and today we should no longer see him as an adversary, but rather, a partner in democratic change in our country,” he said.

A spokesman for Mr Shadary, who had been Mr Kabila’s hand-picked candidate, accepted the defeat, saying “the Congolese people have chosen and democracy has triumphed”. **BBC**

Cheap common drugs may help mental illness

Cheap and widely used drugs for diabetes and heart health have potential for treating severe mental illness, a study hints.

It showed the number of times patients needed hospital treatment fell by up to a fifth when they took the drugs.

The researchers at University College London say their findings have “enormous potential”.

But they, and independent experts, say the results now need to be tested in clinical trials.

The starting point for the researchers was a list of currently prescribed medications that science predicts could also help patients with severe mental health disorders.

But rather than test them in trials, the scientists went looking for evidence in the real world.

They analysed life-long medical records of 142,691 people in Sweden who had schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or other severe mental illnesses.

They then compared the number of times each was admitted to a psychiatric hospital clinic when they were taking those medications and when they were not.

Dr Joseph Hayes, one of the researchers at UCL, said: “The paper suggests a 10-20% reduction in the number of episodes when on the medications rather than off.”

The results, published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry, also showed a reduction in self-harm.

“It’s incredibly exciting,” Dr Hayes said.

“It’s got enormous potential and I’m pleased with the way it has turned out.

“But this is really just a starting point.”

He wants the drugs to now be tested in large clinical trials, which should give a final answer.

In the meantime, Dr Hayes says people should not go out and try to get the drugs themselves.

But, he says, there are many patients who should be on these drugs for their physical health who are not getting them.

“The thing to do would be to see your GP about full physical health review,” Dr Hayes said.

“There’s a huge number of people that may benefit from a statin for their heart health and there’s a potential knock-on for their mental health, similarly with metformin.”

Dr James MacCabe, from the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London, said: “These findings are very compelling.

“The findings strongly suggest a potential role for repurposing these drugs to improve mental health outcomes.”

But there is one nagging doubt, even from the researchers, around the way the study was designed.

A lot of studies compare one group of patients taking a drug with another group not taking it.

This one compared patients at different stages of their life when they were either

on the drug or not.

The approach has many advantages but it could mean that when people are in a good place mentally and less likely to be admitted to hospital, they are also more likely to look after themselves and take

other medications.

In other words, statins and other drugs could just be a red herring.

This is why Prof Naveed Sattar, from University of Glasgow, remains sceptical and says: “I would be strongly cautious with

these findings and would only change my mind if effects are proven to be robust in a randomised trial.”

The research group took steps to counter this effect but agree clinical trials are the next step. **BBC**

Kenyans mourn mass camel ‘poisoning’



At least 94 camels have died in northern Kenya from suspected poisoning after drinking water in an abandoned well.

At least 26 others were in critical condition, Shanda Guyo, a veterinary officer in the Marsabit arid region, told the BBC.

The deaths were a huge loss for the animal owners, he added.

Camels are culturally revered and loved among the Gabra people who use them for transport, meat and milk.

The pastoralists have been mourning their losses with some openly overcome by emotion.

“Some of them [camels] had just calved, with owners [now] fearing that the calves

could starve,” Mr Guyo said.

“The animals were weak and could not stand, they were writhing in pain on the ground as if they had abdominal pain. They also had difficulty urinating,” Mr Guyo said.

“We have never seen anything like this,” he said, adding that the incident “was unusual”.

He said that he suspected the animals had probably suffered from nitrate poisoning. A team had been sent to the area to assess the situation and collect samples for tests, he added.

The incident happened in El-Hadi in North Horr settlement, 300km (186 miles) north of Marsabit town. **BBC**

Chosen to host the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, Egypt faces a race against time to get ready for the event in five months, but experts say it will meet the challenge.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) on Tuesday said it selected Egypt ahead of South Africa to stand in for original hosts Cameroon, who were dropped due to delays in preparations and security concerns.

Since the announcement, the government and the Egyptian Football Association have given assurances the country is ready, a point they have sought to hammer home since Cameroon lost the right to host it in November.

"We have to be ready two months before the competition, so we have three months," EFA spokesman Ossama Ismail said.

An organising committee would be formed, including the sports ministry, security services and football authorities, he told AFP.

Details about preparations for the competition, scheduled to be staged between June 15 and July 13, would be known "in the coming days", he added.

It is not the first time in the history of the Cup of Nations (CAN) that the staging of Africa's showpiece sporting event has run into trouble.

- Security challenge -

Morocco backed out as hosts of the 2015 cup for fear of an Ebola outbreak, making way for Equatorial Guinea to stage it.

Security will be one of Egypt's main challenges at the tournament, which has been expanded to 24 teams for the first time, up from 16 at the 2017 edition in Gabon.

Since the 2011 revolt and

Egypt in race against time to host Africa Cup



ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, the country has been hit by jihadist attacks and its forces have launched an operation against them in the Sinai Peninsula.

It has also witnessed deadly violence in and around stadiums during club matches, in response to which it has beefed up security and banned fans from attending, a measure eased only recently.

But the authorities say Egypt can cope.

"We are a safe country," said Karam Kurdi, a member of the EFA board.

Egypt specialists say that the continent's football colossus will be able to organise the

event even at such short notice. "Compared to other African countries, Egypt is considered

one of the best in terms of infrastructure," said Tarek Talaat, a journalist specialising

Figo and Kaka seek 'promise' of football in cricket-mad Pakistan

Portuguese great Luis Figo and Brazilian star Kaka Thursday vowed to help develop the "great promise" of football in Pakistan, a country obsessed with cricket and twice banned

from international soccer. The two legends -- who both played for Spanish club Real Madrid -- are in Pakistan for a day-long visit as part of the World Soccer Stars tour, aimed at grooming nascent

talent through exhibition matches and coaching clinics. The 2000 Ballon d'Or winner Figo, wielding a cricket bat in a nod to the game's popularity in Pakistan, told

reporters in the southern port city of Karachi that he was "excited" to be there.

"There is a great promise of football in Pakistan so we are here to help develop the game," said Figo, who also played for Barcelona before retiring in 2009.

Kaka, himself carrying a cricket ball, said the pair were "committed" to promoting football globally.

"We...have a good impression of Pakistan," added the 2007 Ballon d'Or winner, who also played for AC Milan and retired in 2017.

Pakistan boasted a top 10 place in Asian football until the early 1970s, but a lack of government support and poor infrastructure have seen them sink to 199 in the FIFA rankings. **AFP**

FAZ blank on Mwiinde's move to Israel

By Alex Chilumbwe

Young players need to understand that their desperation to sign with big clubs outside the country will expose them to illegal football deals that can jeopardize their careers and the association will not be the one to blame, says FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala. His statement came after Goal Diggers! Querried the association if it was knowledgeable about Under-20 player, Emmanuel Mwiinde's 6 months loan move to an Israeli side.

"I have no details about his move let alone the agent involved. Like most people, I only hear about his move on social media and other people that have talked about it. This is what happens when these youngsters are desperate for big deals outside the country and use shortcuts to get there. The association will not

be held responsible for such deals but we will look into it and lewrn how it all happened," he said.

Kashala further advised parent clubs for young players to offer them advice on the implications and consequences of shady football deals saying they were their custodians.

"I am appealing to parent clubs especially to young

players to give them advice on what illegal deals involve and their consequences because they are their custodians. I have made statements and issued warnings about these deals but they are not taken seriously so parent clubs should also come in," said Kashala.

Emmanuel Mwiinde is a Young Green Buffaloes'

player who is on the club's retention list. His disappearance from the Zambian football fraternity happened right after the Mopani-sponsored Under-20 COSAFA tournament that the country hosted in December 2018. FAZ is yet to establish details on the young player's suspicious Israeli move.

Meanwhile in December 2018, Kashala in an interview with Goal Diggers! advised football players to report any suspicious agents, illegal deals and unfair contract terms that they would encounter prior to the 2019 football season. He further warned them against using shortcuts to attain football stardom.

Chisamba relishing San Pedro test

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkana striker Chisamba Lungu has expressed optimism that his side will sweep through Ivorian side San Pedro in the first and second leg of the CAF Confederations Cup and qualify to the group stage of the competition.

The Kitwe giants were relegated from the CAF Champions League at the hands of Simba SC of Tanzania and are determined to prolong their stay in the Confederations cup.

In an interview with Goal Diggers!

Lungu said that his side had all it needed to withstand the pressure that the Ivorian side would bring in the much anticipated encounter.

"Our fitness and hunger to win is balanced. We know that this is our chance to shine in continental football since we could not go far in our first competition, the champions league. We have all the strikers and defenders and even midfielders that can give Pedro a run for its money. There's no reason we should feel that we won't win,"

said Lungu.

Meanwhile, coach of the side Bestone Chambeshi said that he would figure out how his side would divide attention between CAF Confederations League and the transitioned local elite league if he beats San Pedro on Saturday.

"We are in both competitions because we worked hard for both of them. If we beat San Pedro on Saturday, we will still be able to divide time for elite league preparations and the second leg

against the Pedro. We are also looking forward to the Charity shield and all these competitions are very important to us," said Chambeshi.

Nkana will battle it out with San Pedro of Ivory Coast on Saturday at Nkana stadium in Kitwe and on January 26, the 2018 Barclays Cup winners will engage 2018 super league defending champions ZESCO United in the Charity Shield final at Arthur Davies stadium.



Kremlin blames 'logistics' for missed WADA deadline

The Kremlin on Wednesday said Moscow's failure to meet the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) deadline last week to hand over data from its anti-doping laboratory could be explained by logistical problems. The remarks by President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov came as a WADA team was scheduled to visit Russia to obtain test data from the drug-tainted Moscow lab. WADA will consider next steps at a January 14-15 meeting of its compliance committee. Peskov told journalists that the data had been ready to be passed to the experts when they last came to Moscow in December but they left empty-handed after Russia raised issues with the certification of WADA equipment under Russian law. "There were certain working disagreements tied to the nature of the how and on what (data) carriers this is handed over. In essence these were issues of logistics rather than substance," Peskov said. "As far as we know... there is an understanding now with WADA representatives regarding how the work will be carried out in the future," he added, without elaborating. WADA confirmed that the inspectors would start their work on Thursday. "The team has arrived in Moscow and they are counting on starting their work tomorrow (Thursday)," said a spokesman. WADA said in a statement on January 7 that the issue of equipment during the last visit "has since been resolved by the Russian authorities". In September, WADA conditionally lifted a ban on the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), after it was suspended for a state-sponsored doping operation. This paved the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports. But one of the conditions was data access by the end of 2018. WADA's leadership has been strongly criticised over its decision to lift Russia's suspension before obtaining access to the Moscow lab information. The IAAF, world governing body for athletics, said it would maintain Russia's ban. Russian athletics teams were barred from the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2017 World Championships in London. AFP

Serena handed tough draw in quest for record 24th Slam

Serena Williams has been handed a challenging draw in her quest for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, starting with Germany's Tatjana Maria in the first round. The American, seeded 16, is gunning to match Margaret Court's record of singles majors and claim an eighth Australian Open crown. But Williams is in a tough half of the draw and could meet world number one Simona Halep in round four, and if she gets through that Karolina Pliskova in the last eight. Before those potential ties, either Chinese wildcard Peng Shuai or Canadian Eugenie Bouchard would await Williams in the second round. Halep, who enters the tournament having played just one game in four months after a back injury, was handed a chance to avenge Estonia's Kaia Kanepi, who beat her in the first round of the US Open in August. If she comes through that dangerous opening showdown, she could meet Venus Williams in round three. Defending champion and third seed Caroline Wozniacki starts against Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium and could meet 2008 champion Maria Sharapova in round three. "Coming back as defending champion, it's something I always dreamed of. I feel at home here. These courts are suited for me. I'm enjoying every minute," said the Dane at Thursday's draw, while paying tribute to Williams. "Serena is the greatest player to have played the game. Her experiences have been a learning experience for me. It's be fun though as well. She has a baby now! It's amazing being back on tour so soon." AFP

FAZ BLANK ON

MWIIINDE MOVE

...young players too desperate for foreign deals - Kashala