



ZCID EXPOSING ITS IGNORANCE

By Mukosha Funga
Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) secretary general Fr Cleophas Lungu says the church feels insulted by claims from the ZCID that Bishops are trying to hijack the dialogue process in order to pocket allowances, adding that the Center is only exposing its ignorance. *Story page 2*

Church feels insulted, we don't need their money - Fr Cleophas



Fr Cleophas Lungu during an interview at his office - Picture by Mukosha Funga

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema's wife Mutinta at the Opposition Alliance fundraising dinner event - Picture by Brian Mwiinga

Kalumbila lays off 23 expatriates, leaving other employees in limbo

By Stuart Lisulo
Kalumbila Minerals Limited (KML), a First Quantum Minerals (FQM) subsidiary, has issued 23 letters of separation to its expatriate employees in response to the hiked 2019 mining fiscal regime. KML Public Relations Coordinator Mirriam Harmon stated that the mining firm, which operates the Sentinel Copper Mine in Kalumbila District, has so far issued letters of separation to 23 of its expatriates, making them redundant. *To page 2*

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ZCID exposing its ignorance, Church feels insulted - Fr Lungu

By Mukosha Funga

Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) secretary general Fr Cleophas Lungu says whilst some people are only interested in allowances, the church only wants genuine dialogue that will make the country more functional.

And Fr Lungu says time to talk is now because people will have no time for that in 2020 and 2021.

Last week, Zambia Council for Interparty Dialogue (ZCID) charged that the church wanted to control dialogue funds and accused the church for wanting to include "unnecessary departments" to the process.

But in an interview, Fr Lungu said the church feels insulted by claims from the ZCID that Bishops were trying to hijack the dialogue process in order to pocket allowances, adding that the Center was only exposing its ignorance.

"When we had a meeting with the ZCID board, we floated some ideas about how we are going to manage the collaboration between the three church mother bodies and ZCID, we even floated some ideas on how we would manage the process of mobilising resources that are

needed for national dialogue to meaningfully take place. But we did not reach a place where we were discussing an account, in fact, we did not even agree on the budget, we did not even raise a single ngwee. So we wonder why this debate about an account, or that we disagreed about an account, we never discussed that, we never disagreed," he said.

"I think the fundamental thing to underline here is that it is unfortunate that people are peddling lies. As it is said, lies have short legs. We from the church say the truth shall set you free. Let them continue peddling those falsehoods because they will have a long battle to defend those falsehoods and they won't manage."

He revealed that the church had been using its own resources on all the meetings that had been held so far.

"There has been a narrative out there, there has been an agenda of trying to paint a picture that bishops are only trying to lead the national dialogue because we want resources. Again, it is something which is laughable, you may wish to know that we started way before the general elections, talking about dialogue. On the 21st of March, 2016, way

before the August elections, we held that [meeting], where was ZCID? Can they mention what resources we used to hold that inter party indaba? We have held a number of meetings, too many to mention, we had several meetings, more than 10 meetings, some held here at Kapingila House with ZCID Board, some held at CCZ, some held at the EFZ secretariat, there was never a time that ZCID contributed to the hosting of those meetings. We provided water, we provided tea, we provided sometimes even lunch. After doing all that, using our own resources, this is the reward we are getting from ZCID?" Fr Lungu asked.

"Even in negotiating with ZCID, we have never asked ZCID 'where are you getting money to go to Siavonga?' We have never gone to Siavonga. Even the launch of the national dialogue, we have said, we are not going to go to Mulungushi, we are not going to go to TAJ Pamodzi Hotel, we are not going to go to Intercontinental because it is not about being in a fancy place. We are saying we are going to go to a building of God where we will pay nothing, where there will be no allowances. Our friends are interested in the allowances,

the church is not interested in the allowances, it is interested in the functionality of the nation, can we unite in making Zambia a better country, a country that is more united and peaceful, a country that is more democratic, not just in name but in deed, a country that is well governed. We are not in it for the money."

He said the church had a clear track record of accountability.

"We know their agenda. It is to tarnish the name of the church, it is to paint the Bishops as men who are after brown envelopes.

But I can assure you, and I can assure the nation, and I can stand with my shoulders high to say that the church has come a long way. Even when people talk about JCTR, when they talk about Caritas Zambia, why are cooperating partners out there, local and international, willing to partner with Caritas Zambia, with the three church mother bodies? It is because we have a track record, we have systems of financial accountability, we have systems of delivering on the maximum outcomes and outputs and making that single dollar that is put into our coffers have a meaningful impact in improving the lives of the Zambians. We are not going to pocket that dollar into



our own pockets. The bishops have been sacrificed. My own president, the president of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops, he has to come every so often from Chipata, he puts in his own fuel, only to come and be insulted here. How fair is that? Is this the Zambia we are looking for?" he asked.

He also said institutions like Caritas and JCTR were essential to the dialogue process, given their work.

"The allegations from ZCID that first of all, we are bringing in departments like Caritas and JCTR, I think they fall short of understanding the structure and the configuration of the church because you know that Caritas Zambia for example, has not come into play in 2018 or 2019, it has been there. And it is an integral part of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops. It does more than what they are sometimes known for, that is promoting justice and peace. So it is important for institutions like ZCID to humble themselves and be cautious in exposing their ignorance of the structure of operations of the church rather than rushing to the press and exhibiting their shallowness in their understanding of the church," Fr Lungu said.

"They also talk about JCTR, JCTR is known for the food

basket. They conduct, every month, a survey of the living standards and cost of living for an average family and they will indicate. And institutions like the central statistics office has been appreciating, the Ministries of Finance and National Planning always consult JCTR because they are a research based institute. So we do not understand what ZCID's fears are because we have not indicated what role Caritas and JCTR will play. But it seems they are looking for shadows or ghosts, some of them which do not exist and they are trying to derail and distract us."

And Fr Lungu said time to dialogue was now.

"We strongly believe that there is no better time to dialogue than this time. When it clocks 2020, 2021, people will have no time to talk. So time to talk is now. The time is ripe and given the level of interest, I would have been worried if people were not talking about it but the mere fact that people with different opinions are expressing those opinions, for us, that's a very good sign because dialogue is not dialogue if people don't have different opinions over a matter. What is important is to be open, objective and respectful in discussing matters," said Fr Lungu.

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KML Public Relations Coordinator Mirriam

Harmon stated that the mining firm, which operates the Sentinel Copper Mine in Kalumbila District, has so far issued letters of separation to 23 of its expatriates, making them redundant.

She, however, mentioned that local workers have not been issued with any redundancy letters yet.

The job cuts are part of the FQM's massive staff downsizing of around 2,500 local and foreign employees expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of this year.

This follows implementation of the 2019 mining fiscal regime by government effective January 1, 2019, which 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 from January 1, 2019. "The current and correct number is 23 expatriate members of staff have received redundancy letters. No letters

have been issued to local staff yet," stated Harmon responding to a press query, Friday.

Last month, FQM, the Canadian miner, which also runs Kansanshi Mining Plc in Solwezi, stated that the hiked tax rates triggered a "difficult and sad decision" to make lay-

offs.

On January 2, FQM director of operations Matt Pascal, who ended his management role with FQM in Zambia, also explained in a lengthy statement that the decision to lay-off some of its staff was to ensure the mining company was not taxed to death.

Sinda farmers plead with govt to pay agro-dealers to access inputs

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Farmers in Sinda District have expressed anguish at the continued delay by government to deposit monies in agro-dealers' accounts to enable them order farming inputs.

In an interview, the District Agriculture Committee Chairperson Masauso Zulu said it was sad that as late as January, farmers still didn't have fertilizer to apply in their fields.

"We are not happy with what is happening to us farmers. We deposited our monies in the accounts last year, but today, January, when we want to get fertilizer, we are told by agro-dealers that the government has not yet deposited in their accounts for them to order more inputs. Today,

more than 100 farmers came to collect their inputs, but all they are told is that government has not deposited monies in agro-dealers' accounts making them unable to order inputs. Now, if government can't help us, then who is going to help us," Zulu wondered.

He revealed that the entire district still had no Urea fertilizer and that there was nowhere farmers could access it.

"Can you tell the government to pay the agro-dealers so that by Monday we can have inputs! We are the beacon of every nation and if we are not considered, then who will provide food in the nation? The moment we don't produce good harvest then just know that we are going to have hunger, poverty, illiteracy and other

factors that will affect us due to a poor agricultural system. Let government pay the agro-dealer so that us we benefit, too. We paid our K400 and when you check in the e-voucher, [it] is there, but the government part is not there surely is this how we will live?" Zulu lamented.

When asked about the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) payments, Zulu said Sinda farmers had still not been paid. "On that issue, I just heard it in the media, but to tell you the truth, as for Sinda, there is no sign that farmers are being paid, there are no people queuing up at the FRA offices manje nikuti kwamene atengela ndalama zamene izo? (where are they getting that money from?)" Zulu wondered.

And a farmer from Chataika Agriculture Camp Levy Mwale lamented that farmers spent money on transport every time they travelled to Sinda, but without any positive results being yielded.

"Mwandi tasauka kwambiri sure masiku one tikabwela tipeza fataleza kulibe ati boma ikalibe uikamo ndalama, tsono kodi boma imwe iyi ilikutikonda? (We have suffered! Every time we come, we don't find fertilizer! They say government has not paid agro-dealers. Now, does the government have a heart for us? Every time we lose monies for transport, other duties await us, but our visits here are not helping us at all," lamented Mwale.

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Seychelles demands more teachers from Zambia

By Milimo Namangala

The Ministry of General Education has recruited 2,009 teachers out of 27,000 applicants countrywide who

will immediately report to their respective provincial education offices after public newspapers have listed them.

And acting Minister Of General Education Elizabeth Phiri announced that the Government of the Republic of Seychelles has requested their Zambian counterpart for more Zambian teachers following their impressive performance in that country's education sector last year.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka, Thursday, Phiri said though the 2018 budgetary allocation for teachers recruitment included 2,000 teachers, a surplus of 9 were included.

"The 2018 budgetary allocation for teachers recruitment was for 2,000 teachers, however, 2,009 teachers were recruited. The recruitment that was conducted in 2018 and the 2,000 names that were selected out of the process stand as they were," Phiri explained.

"I now direct that all selected teachers should immediately report to their respective provincial education offices for collection of their appointment letters and further guidance. Provincial education officers are directed to ensure that their newly-selected teachers are placed on payroll during the February, 2019 inputs."

She also urged people who fell victim to fake appointments on social media to report to the appropriate authorities.

"I'm aware...that some people took advantage of the period between the consultative period and now by peddling lies, insinuating that names were being changed and at the same time unscrupulous people took advantage by issuing fake appointment letters," she observed.

"I wish to state that government is saddened with the continued

misinformation by its enemies through social media. I would like to make an earnest appeal to all those who were issued with fake appointment letters to immediately report the matter to the nearest police station, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Ministry of General Education, through the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) body office and the provincial education office."

And Phiri announced that the Government of the Republic of Seychelles requested for more Zambian teachers.

"In 2018, the Government of the Republic of Zambia seconded 48 teachers to the Government of the Republic of Seychelles. I am happy to inform you that we have received reports that our teachers are doing very well. As a result, the Government of Seychelles have again requested for more teachers to be seconded," Phiri revealed.

"This time around, consideration will be for both primary and secondary school teachers. This is an indication that, globally, Zambian trained teachers are recognised! I, therefore, would like to appeal, even to those who were not selected in 2018 recruitment that, the market for teachers is broadening beyond our borders and should give all of us hope."

Meanwhile, Phiri said government is aware that about 245 teachers from the 2017 recruitment were still not on a payroll.

"I'm also aware that there are teachers who were recruited in the 2017-2018 teachers recruitment, but were not put on the payroll due to technical reasons. I also direct that such be considered for payroll inputs as long as they have authentic recruitment letters," said Phiri.

NDC will introduce Agricultural Development Bank for loans - Musenge

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC secretary general Mwenya Musenge says an NDC government will introduce an 'Agricultural Industrial Bank' that will give loans to business ventures that will convert agricultural produce into finished products.

In its weekly newsletter to News Diggers! on agricultural sector plans and reforms, Musenge stated that an NDC government would introduce an 'Agricultural Industrial Bank' in collaboration with the private sector, which would give loans to business ventures in a bid to convert agricultural produce into finished products.

"Since the involvement of commercial banks in the small and medium-scale agricultural sector remains negligible, NDC government will introduce a bank called Agricultural Development Bank in collaboration with the private sector that will give loans to business ventures that have cooperated to convert agricultural produce to finished products. Hence creating linkages between agricultural sector and industrial sector," Musenge stated.

"We will ensure that youth and women cooperatives are formed and will access loans from the 'Agricultural and Development Bank' in the conversion of agricultural produce to finished products."

Musenge also noted that there had been no significant developments in Zambia's agricultural policy since the 1970s.

He also observed that late budget disbursements to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, had an effect on service delivery because it affected operations and execution of other agricultural programmes.

"Additionally, heavy spending on FISP (Farmer Input Support Programme) and Food Reserve Agency (FRA) only, has left few resources to invest in other recognized drivers of agricultural growth and stifled diversification as the country policies are maize-centric, which is a low value crop. Another hindrance is the continuous late budget releases to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock. Late budget releases to support extension officers and field operational funds affect operations and execution of other agricultural programmes, hence affecting service delivery," Musenge stated.

"We will increase spending in public infrastructure, which will incorporate the following issues: irrigation development as a way to lessen drought and improve productivity; we will also focus on extension and educational programmes for effective and



efficient utilization of inputs; we will also ensure continuous infrastructure development and improve timing for budget releases. As NDC, we will develop an effective monitoring tool intended to increase budgeting transparency and accountability in the sector," he stated.

He stated that NDC would further revamp agriculture cooperatives and diversify them for bulk input supply and marketing services for the production of specific commodities other than maize, rice and soya; adding that each district would only focus on a crop that best suited the region.

"We will make a deliberate effort to support smallholder horticultural production by allocating public funding towards infrastructure and entrepreneur activities that will support:

slicing; packaging; canning and dicing, and production of juice, sauces, preservatives. We will foster private-public partnerships with tax incentives in the area of processing horticulture products to finished produce. We will also invest in horticulture trading markets, locally and abroad, and use Zambian missions abroad," Musenge pledged.

Musenge stated that when NDC forms government, it would direct more resources to disease control through the construction of extra dip tanks and establishment of breeding centres and effective breeding programmes in every rural ward.

Meanwhile, Musenge noted that to enable a thriving fishing industry, an NDC government would, among other measures, reorganise the fisheries

department into Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture and ensure that each was funded separately.

"We will reorganise the fisheries department into Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture, and ensure that each is funded separately and adequately; we will introduce an Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund for fish production for small and medium-scale sector, especially for youth and women. This will multiply fish production from aquaculture, especially by small and medium business, hence creating employment and reducing poverty amongst the youth and women. We will also enforce fishing regulations that avoid depletion of fish stocks in water bodies, but at the same time, promote other fish-producing activities that boost reproduction of fish stocks," stated Musenge.

Name, shame beneficiaries of Higer bus loan, Kamba tells govt

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Former PF Lusaka provincial youth chairman Kennedy Kamba, whom other party youths accuse of having squandered proceeds from the Higer bus loan, says it is in the best interest of the nation for government to names the people who benefited from the 25 buses that were given under the youth empowerment programme.

Last week, Youth and Sports Minister Moses Mawere announced the withdrawal of the buses from the Public and Private Drivers' Association of Zambia (PPDAZ) on grounds that the vehicles were not benefiting the intended beneficiaries.

"They are faced with a number of challenges, and one of them includes the non-repayment of these empowerment programmes because most of these are loans given to the youths. So on a sad note, we have just retrieved the buses from the Public Private Drivers' Association of Zambia (PPDAZ) whom we had given 25 buses to give to the

youths. What we have observed is that the youths, who were supposed to benefit from these buses did not benefit. And also the repayment rate was not being met on time and we are seeing that this Association has defaulted heavily," Mawere told ZNBC last Tuesday.

In the face of the PF intra-party elections in Lusaka, the ruling party youths have been pointing fingers at Kamba who is seeking re-election, as the culprit.

But in an interview with News Diggers! Kamba said this is the best opportunity for the line Ministry to come out in the open and publicise the names of those who benefited from the project so that it could clear his name.

Kamba argued that the tendency of hiding names of people found on the wrong side of the law was not taking the country anywhere.

"It is a good move, which the government has made to withdraw all the buses which were meant for youth empowerment, [but] I equally have got a complaint against the beneficiaries. I

would like to know, as the former youth chairman of Lusaka Province, let the Ministry of Youths tell us who were those beneficiaries of the buses? Let them be mentioned. If it's their companies or their names so that the people of Lusaka Province and the people of Zambia know that these youths were given buses and they failed to run [them]. Secondly, we want to know what has led to the withdrawal of the buses [because] even I don't know, but [what] they are saying is [that the project] has not been serving the intended purpose. Has the money been remitted to the rightful owners of the buses and were the loans serviced? Those are some of the questions that as youths of Lusaka would want to know," Kamba said, distancing himself from the abuse.

He also questioned how the said buses found themselves under the custody of PPDAZ in the first place.

"We know that that project was for the government and not for the party, but as the party in government, we also

have got interest to know the people who benefited, who have failed to run the buses because we have got a lot of youths on the streets, and if you have been given an opportunity by the government, [and] you have been empowered by the government, I see no reason why you should fail to run the transport business. And also the issue of the Bus Drivers' Association; how did they involve themselves in the issue to do with the buses? Those are some of the things [which] the youths of Lusaka want to know?" said Kamba.

"There was a lot of speculations that 'Kamba has benefited from the same buses, Kamba has done that', but this is the opportunity now [for] the Ministry of Youth and the Higer Bus company to come out in the open and publish the names of the people who have benefited, especially here in Lusaka Province so that some of us can be cleared."

But PPDAZ president Josiah Majuru declined to comment for a reaction when contacted.

By Daniel Chansa and
Maryline Rose

Roan PF Member of Parliament Chishimba Kambwili has warned Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya that if he is stealing from government through the procurement of drugs, he will soon face the consequences.

And Kambwili, who is Roan PF member of parliament, says miners and civil servants must stand up and reject the suffering inflicted on them by the PF administration.

Meanwhile, Kambwili says First Lady Esther Lungu's upcoming trip to the United States with a huge delegation is uncalled for.

Speaking at a press briefing from his Luanshya residence on Saturday morning, Kambwili accused Dr Chilufya of taking over the responsibility of procuring drugs.

"Allegations have been brought by those who work in the Ministry of Health. The minister has taken over the procurement of drugs. He will cancel any tender that is not awarded to a company that which he wants. There is a company called IDC from Nyimba district which is a preferred company by the minister. There is an allegations that he can cancel any tender which is not given to this

Yama nga muleiba fikabipa, Kambwili warns Dr Chitalu

company. When he is asked, he says 'it's State House'. He will make sure the deal is re-tendered. On this allegations I want Chilufya to come clean. The PS has become a rubber stamp because the minister says its coming from State House," Kambwili charged. "Yama nga muleiba fikabipa (if you are stealing, things will get bad for you). My brother you can hate me and despise me for saying this. So the staff are telling us, because if they report the minister, he will go to Chimbwali PSMD to fire them because they are all Luapula united."

Kambwili encouraged miners on the Copperbelt to join civil servants in standing up against the PF injustice.

"Civil servants and miners, please request for 100 per cent salary increment. School fees for secondary schools have been increased. You will suffer with your current salaries, things have become expensive. This government is a total failure. I beg you Zambians to listen when I speak. I don't speak for myself, its for the poor people, I speak for you. This government has continued to increase the cost of things in the country. I

even feel so sorry for security guards, ba malonda are worse, no one cares for them," Kambwili said.

"Ba mayo ba Joyce Nonde (Labour Minister) show leadership while in government. Ba civil servants, schools have increased, ba shimaini stand up and get to unions. If you don't fight, you won't see the right thing. Miners voice out. There is no governance if people are suffering."

He accused Luanshya Mayor Nathan Chanda of abusing the authority of his office.

"The guy is always, always

traveling and goes for PF meetings, that is abuse of authority. You will be jailed. The mayoral vehicle is not for PF meetings, or central committee, that is abuse of authority," Kambwili charged. And Kambwili said the people of Roan will never forgive President Lungu and PF for depriving them development. "They believe there is a by-election in Roan and believe Kambwili will lose. The people of Roan are above that mediocre leadership. Taking development when there are elections? Not with the people of Roan constituency.

The people of Roan will never forgive you (President Lungu and PF) for sending the people of Roan to wallow in poverty and suffer," he said.

Meanwhile, First Lady Esther's trip was uncalled for.

"First Lady is going to USA to get a donation of four fire trucks. 25 people, ahhh this world! Why carry police, are you a criminal? Why send the First Lady with seven officers? Bamayo ba Esther kwatani uluse (Mrs Esther Lungu please have a heart). Zambians should condemn this trip of the First Lady. Even the ambassador can get the donation," Kambwili said.

Kambwili also lamented that government had not been sending CDF to his constituency.

Kambwili said in his effort to help the education sector, he bought study books and computers for all five secondary schools in Luanshya but that handing them over to the schools had been a challenge because head teachers were being intimidated.

He said government, through the District Education Board, had instead the items to schools behind closed doors and without any handover ceremony, fearing victimisation.



Tourism minister Charles Banda (l) inspects the washed away Chipata-Lundazi road

Chingola Police arrest 9 mealie meal smugglers

By Daniel Chansa

Police in Chingola have arrested and detained nine people for assembling with intent to smuggle mealie meal to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Police have since impounded four trucks loaded with 2,900 bags of mealie meal destined for DRC.

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga confirmed the development to News Diggers! "Be informed that the check point mounted to prevent smuggling of mealie meal into the DRC impounded four trucks at around 22:00hrs on January 11,2019 with the following details: 1. Scania, yellow, registration number ALT 1297 carrying 700 bags

of mealie meal driven by Simata Kayama, aged 30, of H/No NE4 Mupundu Street, Nchanga North - Chingola. 2. Volvo, white, registration number AGB 6568 ZM carrying 800 bags of mealie meal driven by Mufunte Kenny, aged 50, of H/No. 37 Isunge Road, Chiwempala - Chingola. 3. Scania, white, registration number BAE 8120, carrying 700 bags of mealie meal driven by Maidon Samakayi, aged 26, of H/No. 6118 off Dag Hammarskjöld, Riverside - Chingola. 4. Volvo, white, registration number AJE 1738 carrying 700 bags of mealie meal driven by Moses Simukoko, aged 34, of H/No. PB08 Mine Police Nchanga North - Chingola," Katanga said.

"Also apprehended were; Mukuka Mutale, 29 of Masala Ndola, Chomba Nkonkola, 28 of Lubengele Chililabombwe, Emmanuel Kabala, 48 of Lubengele Chililabombwe, Kelvin Chishala, 30 of Simulungushi Chingola, Andrew Mpashi, 25 of Kasumbalesa, David Phiri, 36 of Chiwala Chingola, Mulenga Alinani, 17 of Kamba Drive Chingola, Proud Musonda, 25 of Nyati Chingola and Kent Muonga, 43 of Chikola Chingola."

She said Kent was found with K60,000 and a pistol.

"Kent was driving a Toyota Allion, silver, reg BCB 4138ZM and was found with K60,000.00 and a black Tauros pistol 9mm serial number TLP06511 with five rounds of ammunition. All vehicles have since been impounded and taken to Kitwe Central while all suspects detained for Assembling with Intent to smuggle," said Katanga.

Lsk man sues 3 Chinkankata headmen over land dispute

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Lusaka businessman has sued four residents of Chikankata District in Southern Province, among them, three headmen, demanding damages for claiming that his farm was part of the land under their leadership.

In this matter, Alexander Kamalondo, a resident of Kabulonga area, is also seeking for a declaration that he is the legal owner of the said farm, claiming that the four: Steve Ng'andu, headmen; Nchimunya; Chingaanguka and Kaluma have been removing beacons on his property and bringing their animals to graze on his land.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, January 8, Kamalondo stated that he was the legal owner of the property known as Farm number Chika/1692038 in Chikankata, which was previously held under customary tenure under headman Nkombo and Chief Naluama.

He stated that after commencing developments on his property, the defendants had been making some obscure claims to the subject property, claiming that it was part of the land under their traditional leadership.

Kamalondo disclosed that the claims by the defendants were previously referred

to the Supreme Traditional Leadership Council under Chief Naluama, and it was determined on April 3, 2018, that the land never belonged to them at any time.

"The defendants have been interfering with his quiet enjoyment of the subject property by removing beacons, inciting villagers to cut down trees, bringing their animals to graze on the said land and blocking the access road to the plaintiff's property," read the statement of claim.

Kamalondo stated that although he lodged a criminal trespass complaint last year, the defendants had not refrained

from interfering in his quiet enjoyment of his property.

He added that the defendants had absolutely no right to interfere with the quiet enjoyment of his property, and that he had suffered loss and damage as a result of the defendant's activities. Kamalondo is now claiming for a declaration that he is the legal owner of the farm.

He is further seeking for an injunction restraining the defendants from entering and interfering with his quiet enjoyment of the property, damages occasioned on his property during the defendants' trespass, costs and any other relief.

Job Opportunity

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS PROGRAMME (PRP)

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR KAPIRI MPOSHI CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

The National Assembly of Zambia wishes to recruit the following staff for the KAPIRI MPOSHI CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:

1. PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT (1)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE POSITION

To facilitate the Parliamentary work of the Member of Parliament in the constituency and to co-ordinate all activities arising thereof.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have a minimum of grade 12 certificate, with a demonstrated capacity at mathematics (a certificate in a business related field would be added advantage).
- Must be a resident of the constituency with good interpersonal skills Proof of residence to be provided.
- Must be familiar with the constituency
- Will be required to perform all duties in a completely non-partisan manner. In this regard, must have no active affiliation with any political parties.
- Driving of Motor bike will be an added advantage.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Employment is on contract basis for an initial period of five (5) years, renewable at the discretion of the Honourable Mr Speaker.

All applications should be submitted to Kapiri Mposhi District Council by 21 January, 2019. The date for interviews will be communicated and therefore applicants should include contact addresses and phone numbers for easy communication.

ConCourt removes Lungu in HH, GBM's petition case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Constitutional Court has misjoined President Edgar Lungu to the case in which UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his vice Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba petitioned the Court seeking an order for the Speaker of the National Assembly to act as President, while the 2016 Presidential election petition was in Court. In this matter, Hichilema and GBM, who cited President Lungu and the Attorney General as the respondents, wanted the Constitutional Court to issue an order prohibiting President Lungu from performing the Executive functions of Republican President. They also wanted an order commanding the Speaker of the National Assembly to perform the Executive functions until President Lungu was declared in the presidential petition as validly-elected or until another person was elected Republican President. The petition was filed on October 5, 2016. However, Attorney General

Likando Kalaluka applied to have President Lungu misjoined from the proceedings, arguing that he was the right person to be sued.

And delivering a ruling, Wednesday, Constitutional Court Judge Palan Mulonda, misjoined President Lungu from the proceedings and ordered that the Head of State would be represented by the Attorney General.

Judge Mulonda ruled that Article 98 of the Constitution clothed President Lungu with immunity from any legal and criminal proceedings in respect of any acts performed in his capacity as President.

He said there would be no prejudice suffered by the petitioners if President Lungu was misjoined as the reliefs sought in the petition did not affect his direct interest and, therefore, could be handled by the Attorney General.

"A consideration of the petition and the reliefs sought reveal that the petitioners are seeking a declaratory relief against the first respondent for breaching the Constitution when he performed the functions of President in his personal capacity. It is with this consideration in mind and the provisions of the law as set out in Article 104, that I find that the first respondent did perform those acts in his personal capacity and, therefore, immune from the continuation of legal proceedings against him as provided under Article 98 (1) of the Constitution," ruled Judge Mulonda.

"I am of the view that there will be no prejudice occasioned to the petitioners by the misjoinder of the first respondent as the declarations sought in the main petition do not affect the direct interests of the first respondent and can only be ably handled by the Attorney General in any event. I, therefore, order that the first respondent be misjoined from the proceedings and be represented by the second respondent."

A wise vote can end poverty; Maiko takes civic education to Shang'ombo

By Thomas Mulenga

Reggae star and human rights activist Maiko Zulu says a group of activists will this week travel to Shang'ombo District of Western Province to understand people's challenges in the area and present findings to world leaders scheduled to meet at the global week of action in Switzerland. In an interview with News Diggers! Zulu bemoaned Shang'ombo District's high poverty levels owing to successive governments' neglect of the area. He explained that the activists want to go to Shang'ombo and get first-hand information from people in the area as to clearly understand their plight, noting that high poverty levels would only cease if Zambians voted for the right leaders.

"Shang'ombo is one of Zambia's poorest and most neglected districts. So, what is happening is that, there is the global week of action, which sees leaders meet in Switzerland and discuss issues to do with underdeveloped countries like Zambia and decisions are made at that level. So, what we are trying to do is that we are trying to highlight the actual suffering of the people, not what our leaders go and tell them there. Because most of the times our leaders go there, canvas for funding, they go and give reports about their countries and yet when they

get this funding, very little goes to the actual people in need of help! It is disheartening to see that a part of Zambia (Shang'ombo) can be in that state, and you wonder where the equality is in this country. How can you give the same funding to a constituency like Kabwata and Shang'ombo? So, we want to bring the peoples' suffering from the peoples' perspective themselves, not from government or from an organisation," Zulu explained. He said the tour was also aimed at fighting the inequality that government had been practicing against the people

of Shang'ombo District, adding that during the same tour, the activists would conduct civic education to the people on many social issues, such as voting for the right leaders. "I don't know how many of our MPs have been to Shang'ombo, when they talk about Shang'ombo, they liken it to all sorts of poverty that you can think of, but they have never been there themselves! This is the rainy season and access to Shang'ombo is very difficult and no one is caring! And this is what different stakeholders who have come together under the umbrella of what we

are calling: 'Fight Inequality Alliance,' which involves organisations like Action Aid, Oxfam, artists, such as myself, Pilato and others, as other organisations and individuals that want to see the end of poverty," Zulu added. He advised that people must not vote for politicians in 2021 on account of chitenge, among other materials, given to them. "We would like those in government to do the right thing because people are going through a lot, already people are overtaxed; they are paying taxes through the nose! I don't know how people will

survive in the next few years because even the cost of doing business is very high, the cost of borrowing from the bank is also very high! That's why you are seeing the Chinese becoming richer because for them, they have soft loans from their banks, you can't compete with them when it comes to doing business! We are in 2019, and we are heading towards another election, people need to start asking themselves questions: 'are we going to vote for T-shirts, are we going to vote for chitenge, is that what our vote is worth?' So, 2019 is a very crucial year," said Zulu.

NAC hails Lungu's support to the local arts industry

By Zondiwe Mbewe

National Arts Council (NAC) chairperson Patrick Samwimbila has called on politicians and the corporate world to support artists in the country by buying their works to help them make a living off their talents. And Samwimbila says the Council sees 2019 as a year of conquest for the arts fraternity.

In a statement issued by Ministry of

Tourism and Arts Public Relations Officer Sakabilo Kalembwe, Friday, Samwimbila was commenting on President Edgar Lungu's support to Mercy Gondwe, a 20-year-old artist of Chimwemwe compound in Kitwe, who shot into the limelight following her recent painting of the Head of State's portrait.

He said President Lungu had set a platform for all stakeholders to support the local arts industry in Zambia, and that

it was incumbent on various stakeholders to buy and support local artwork to help artists make a living off their talents.

He added that since President Lungu had shown support to one of the artists, the whole sector needed to be supported.

"Politicians and the corporate world need to come to the support of artists, especially that the President has led the way," Samwimbila said.

He further said Mercy, who was

empowered through her talent, would pursue further studies in art.

Samwimbila urged her to make good use of the proceeds of the support and achieve her dream of going professional through tertiary training.

"The empowerment of the girl is a good way to start the year as the Council will do more this year as it commemorates its Silver Jubilee themed 'Year of arts'," said Samwimbila.



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote

Leaving no one behind

PF GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE FULFILLING DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 4: "IMPROVED ENERGY PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

By Hon Davies Mwila

The PF continues to measure its "promises and intentions" (the Manifesto), against the "building block or stairway" (the 7NDP) to attaining the Vision 2030 goals.

The Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) has prioritized the implementation of specific strategies in order to attain core outcomes that will, among other things lead to "improved energy production and distribution for sustainable development" – to ensure the attainment of the Vision 2030 objective of Zambia becoming a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030".

The 7NDP (page 67) states that:

"Energy plays a key role in facilitating activity in all sectors of the economy. Zambia is endowed with a range of energy resources, particularly woodlands and forests, water, coal and renewable sources, such as geothermal, wind and solar energy and has the potential to generate about 6,000 megawatts (MW). However, as at 2016, the country's installed capacity stood at 2,742 Mw of which 97 percent was from hydro and 3 percent from other sources.

The ramifications of the country's failure to diversify its electricity generation mix became marked in 2015 when the energy deficit resulted in unprecedented levels of electricity supply rationing to all consumers. (In 2015) demand for electricity stood at 1,949 MW; however, the sector was only able to generate 1,281 MW. This situation was largely as a result of inadequate and delayed investments in generation and transmission infrastructure and the failure to diversify energy generation sources over the last 30 years. This was further compounded by inadequate incentives to attract investment in the sector. The deficit was exacerbated by the effects of climate change, in particular low rainfall, given that Zambia has been highly dependent on hydro-power despite the envisaged growth of other sources of energy to about 15 percent by 2030."

The 7NDP has thus diagnosed the weaknesses which have plagued Zambia's energy sector and hindered economic diversification, namely: inadequate and delayed investments in electricity generation and transmission infrastructure; the failure to diversify energy generation sources for over 30 years; historic inadequate incentives to attract private investment in the energy sector, and climate change challenges. Therefore, as this article shall discuss how the goal of the PF Government (both under our late founding President Mr. Michael C. Sata (MHSRIP) as well as under the incumbent President Edgar Chagwa Lungu) has been to find a panacea to the above-stated ills which have plagued the energy sector.

In addressing the sector-specific challenges and the need to "improve energy production and distribution for sustainable development", His Excellency, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, stated that:

"The difficult realities of climate change have taught us over reliance on hydropower won't just do. I am here to promise that we shall continue to 'walk the talk' in

every way possible. When we say we have embarked on credible Diversification Programmes across various sectors we mean just that. (Other energy sector projects) would be implemented through the Scaling Solar Programme – the country's first PV independent power project. This is a practical demonstration of Government's resolve to create a diversified energy sector."

The PF Government's hands-on resolve to create a diversified energy sector, as highlighted by President Lungu above is further demonstrated with more practical examples in the paragraphs below.

ENHANCING ELECTRICITY GENERATION & PROMOTING RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

In order to enhance the generation, transmission and supply of electricity in Zambia; the PF Government has significantly invested in the development of energy infrastructure. This led to the addition of 2,000 MW of hydro and thermal power to the national grid in 2018. The PF Government through the Ministry of Energy and Water Development has also partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in developing the Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff (REFIT), with a standardized Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The establishment of the REFIT has led to the inclusion of a greater number of newer and diverse private sector partners who specialise in Renewable Energy Generation in order to further diversify the energy sector, for Zambia's sustainable development towards the attainment of Vision 2030. In order to promote other alternative energy sources besides hydro-power generation, the PF Government is also promoting the generation of electricity from Heavy Fuel Oils, a by-product from the Indeni Petroleum Refinery. This electricity generation is being done through a thermal power plant.

Furthermore, Government has signed four (04) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for a period of 15 years with Russia's ROSATOM, with a view to transforming Zambia into a hub of nuclear science for peaceful purposes.

All the 4 MoUs are aimed at: training young Zambian nuclear energy engineers; planning for Nuclear Power Plant personnel; developing a Nuclear Energy Regulator as well as building a Nuclear Plant which shall provide medical and agricultural services and energy. However, if this undertaking is to succeed, then the country's media has to help demystify nuclear science because there is a wrong yet deeply entrenched perception that all things nuclear are bad and dangerous.

While exploring alternative sources of energy, the PF Government has continued to leverage Zambia's hydro-power generation potential by using both public and public-private partnership channels. For example, the PF Government is currently implementing the Kafue Gorge Lower hydro power project which will add 750 MW to the national power grid once completed in 2020. Following its completion, the Kafue Gorge Lower will be the third largest power station in the country after Kariba North Bank and Kafue Gorge

Upper Hydro Power Stations, respectively.

In addition, the PF Government is implementing the Batoka Gorge hydro-power Project. Once fully implemented, the Project has a future capacity of adding 2,400 MW shared between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also, four (04) potential hydro-power generation sites have been identified in Northern Zambia and which have the potential capacity of generating 1,100 MW of electricity once the projects are fully implemented.

As stated above, the 7NDP exposed inadequate incentives to attract investment in the energy sector over the past 30 years as one of the major factors that have been responsible for hindering the growth and diversification of the sector in Zambia. In addressing this challenge, the PF Government is succeeding in creating adequate incentives to attract investment in the sector. This evidenced by several new investors in the sector such as Global Lake of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). In this partnership, CDC is an equity partner to develop 247 MW across Kalungwishi River. This hydro-power project is valued at approximately US Dollar 690 Million.

Another example of a successful public-private partnership in the energy sector – which came as a result of an enabling environment created by the PF Government – is the recently commissioned new 120 MW Itezhi-tezhi Hydro Power Plant.

In addition to the above, ZESCO is the off-taker for a recently commissioned 300 MW thermal coal power plant which was driven by an independent power producer. This has been possible because of the adequate incentives continuously being developed by the PF Government aimed at attracting investment in the energy sector.

Furthermore, the PF Government has facilitated several electricity generation projects through ZESCO and under the auspices of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). Some of these projects include: the Musonda Falls Hydro Power Station in Luapula Province which started to be upgraded from 5 to 10 MW in December 2017. Others include the Lusiwasi Upper Power Plant in Serenje which the PF Government is upgrading from 12 to 15 MW in addition to another 84 MW site downstream. The Chishimba Falls Power Station is also being upgraded from 6 to 10 MW. The PF Government has completed the upgrading of transmissions systems supplying the Northern and Eastern parts of the country, which has led the supply capacity to improve from 66 kV to 330 kV, representing about 500% improvement.

The PF Government is thus firmly on the grid in energizing the nation towards the attainment of Vision 2030 objective of Zambia becoming a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030".

In the next article we look forward to discussing the Petroleum Sub-sector; how among other things, the PF Government is facilitating explorations in various parts of Zambia and also how President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's administration is enhancing strategic reserves and supply of petroleum products in our nation.

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

With Sishuwa Sishuwa

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Diggers!
 Ear to the ground

Class of 2018: Zambians who gravely disappointed us last year

In contrast to the shortage of authentic, consistent heroes in public life, Zambia had a huge surplus of disappointing individuals and institutions in 2018, as the competition for uninspiring conduct grew even fiercer. Indeed, such is the surplus that if we are really serious about diversifying Zambia's economy, we will do well to consider exporting many of them alongside copper. None of the people and institutions on the list that follows would be missed.

Lubinda Habazooka: Habazooka was such an embarrassing disappointment in 2018 that if he is re-elected President of the previously credible Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) at the next election, many Zambians, I fear, may lose their last shred of hope in electoral democracy. (There are serious questions over the way Habazooka was elected to the EAZ presidency. He overly relied on 'proxy voters' - those members who, though eligible to vote, were unable to make it to the polling station for any reason and consequently transferred their right to vote, not necessarily their choice, to any other voting member of the association - to win. The EAZ constitution allows this practice and Habazooka reportedly exploited the relevant provision to secure victory.) Following his controversial election, many had still hoped that his leadership would uphold the association's historical character of serving as an important platform for the promotion of evidence-based economic policy debate and an advisory scientific resource at the disposal of its members and the general public. Habazooka, now Director of the University of Zambia Graduate School of Business, delivered the opposite. The EAZ, under his leadership, has become such a partisan platform in support of the government that many credible potential speakers who can objectively inform public understanding of economic issues now shun its organised events. It was telling that the EAZ end of year dinner (at which President Edgar Lungu complained loudly that 6 out of 10 thieves are Bemba speakers and implicitly vowed to work hard to increase the proportion for Eastern Province!) was mainly attended by representatives of parastatal organisations instead of the association's established partners, such as banks.

Habazooka himself has metamorphosed. His previous well-informed economic commentary has been replaced by sycophancy. Throughout 2018, he utilised his new position to professionally embarrass himself, abandoning all pretence of academic credibility and integrity and saying anything required of him by the government. Such was his commitment to debasing himself in an obvious and public manner that one would be forgiven for thinking that he was either lobbying for an appointment to public office from the government or that EAZ was now financed by State House and his grovelling defence for the ruling elites was a prerequisite for further support. Rather than seeking to promote an understanding of economics among the educated general public, Habazooka sought to restrict it by repeatedly pointing to his own educational qualifications as a way of deflecting criticism and by demanding the enactment of a ridiculous law that would prevent non-economists from speaking about economic matters. Fortunately, however, Habazooka received stern rebuke from more reasonable and respected members of EAZ such as Professor Felix Masiye and Herryman Moono who both wrote excellent public commentaries that repudiated his leadership of the association and sharply exposed his naivety and the unrepresentativeness of his views on subjects like debt restructuring. One hopes that EAZ members, embarrassed by his repeated claims to speak for them in a professional capacity and seeing through his plans to have the association declared a statutory body (which would make it much easier to capture and control by the government), will vote him out of office, should he make the terrible mistake of re-contesting his position at the next election.

The Supreme Court: What exactly is the point of having the Supreme Court? Despite what the name might suggest, the creation of the Constitutional Court and the Court of Appeal means that many cases are judged on their constitutional foundations, leaving the Supreme Court judges with very little to do. In this context of a relatively free schedule, it was perhaps unsurprising that in 2018 the Supreme Court judges decided to make work for themselves by bringing contempt of court charges against a man of God, a civic activist and a newspaper editor, all of who had queried their judgement in one of the few appeal cases that ended up before the court. Evidently, the judges were at loose ends, occasionally disparaging the accused and their lawyers in a language that was laced with emotion and threats. The three accused were found guilty. In an infamous

judgement that is likely to scar Zambia's jurisprudence for a very long time to come and to dissuade many from criticising the actions of the judiciary, the activist was sentenced to six years imprisonment; the editor was handed 18 months in jail after rendering an apology, while the fate of the man of God, who also apologised, is yet to be known. The most ironic part of the contempt judgement is that it is one that many people would ordinarily expect a lower court to make before the Supreme Court itself easily overturns it. Since the case was initiated before the Supreme Court by the Supreme Court, the convicted have no recourse to appeal. If the Supreme Court judges, by both instituting contempt proceedings against their critics and meting out harsher sentences, sought to encourage respect for the judiciary, they may have succeeded in achieving the opposite. Until the Gregory Chifire contempt case, many Zambians, most of whom generally view the judiciary in unflattering terms, retained some degree of respect for the Supreme Court. In the wake of that case, many people appear to have lost that residue of respect.

The conduct of Deputy Chief Justice Marvin Mwanambwa in 2018 did not also help the reputation of the Supreme Court. In August 2018, an ordinary citizen wrote a letter to the Chief Justice, seeking the investigation and possible initiation of contempt charges against Hakainde Hichilema for the unfavourable comments that he made against the three named judges of the Constitutional Court (ConCourt). Although the letter was written outside the context of any judicial process, Mwanambwa, in his capacity as Acting Chief Justice, decided to offer an extraordinary response. This Hichilema matter, he stated, 'does not need an inquiry because the evidence...in the form of a report of utterances by the named culprit, is already there'. What was needed, by implication, was simply a conviction and deciding the length of the jail sentence. Mwanambwa expressed astonishment that the ConCourt, 'for unexplained reasons, did not charge the culprit with contempt of court', before adding that the 'Supreme Court does not tolerate attacks and insults on it. As of now, there are a number of persons facing charges of contempt before it, for attacking and insulting it'. Professor Muna Ndulo correctly rebuked Mwanambwa for not only making a finding of fact but also giving a verdict without due process of the law. The disgraceful conduct of judge Mwanambwa in the cited case does little to engender public confidence in the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, which many Zambians now feel is an unnecessary drain on the public purse. Many of the justices of the Supreme Court are elderly and should be thinking about their legacy rather than embarrassing themselves with conduct that violates well-established judicial ethics.

Constitutional Court: In 2018, the ConCourt shed any pretence at independence from the executive arm of government. It declined to address itself to President Lungu's threats on it and, as if mindful of his warning that an unfavourable verdict would be met with chaos, ruled unanimously in favour of Lungu's eligibility to stand for a further term in office. The judges appeared to have struggled to rule in favour of Lungu that they decided to apply current constitutional provisions retrospectively back to 2015. It is no wonder that many Zambians now regard the court as a body that is entirely at the service of the executive and will not check its power in any meaningful way. The Constitutional Court already enjoyed a poor public reputation but it managed to surpass itself in 2018 with its judgement on Lungu's third term case. Many Zambians now regard the court as surely having sunk so low that it can only rise.

Nkandu Luo: Who does Professor Nkandu Luo listen to? Where exactly does her pride as Minister of Higher Education lie? In 2018, the Prof Luo appeared so committed to wrongdoing in the execution of her ministerial responsibilities that one would be forgiven for thinking that she was doing it as a matter of principle. She attacked and consistently undermined the interests of the very constituencies that she is supposed to serve: university students, lecturers and other key stakeholders in higher education. Hardly did Luo speak in defence of her members. When a female student at the University of Zambia (UNZA) died at the hands of police brutality, Luo remained mute and was understandably booed by students when she visited the funeral house. When Copperbelt students demanded to know when the government would pay their meal allowances, Luo threatened to abolish their stipends. In a meeting with UNZA management and lecturers called to discuss the manifold challenges that beset the university, Luo blamed everyone in

attendance except herself. Whenever she spoke, it was either to issue threats of one kind or another to the noted communities, or to draw attention to her educational accomplishments. 'Do you know that I am a Professor of so and so... and was the first female Zambian to attain this rare feat in this field?', she would often say. What is it with self-importance and people educated in Russia? (Remember one Lubinda Habazooka?) Is it insecurity of some kind or something else? It would appear that Luo has to constantly remind people that she is a Professor because she realises that her words and demeanour constantly suggest something far more lowly. At a time when the provision of higher education in Zambia requires effective leadership and a community of efforts if it is to be restored to its glorious past, Luo has used her position as minister to almost singularly destroy the university and ministry. Such is her faith in her own ideas, however perverted and wrong, and her genuine lack of understanding of what exactly explains UNZA's painful decline that she thinks the best solution is to turn the institution into various colleges. The tragedy is that she seems completely unaware of the scale of destruction that her actions are causing on the education system. If President Lungu really cared about the position of higher education or listened to the views of others, he would have removed Luo from the Ministry of Higher Education long ago. In 2018, she seemed determined, in particular, to weaken and destroy the University of Zambia perhaps in punishment for their terrible mistakes of having failed her when she was an undergraduate and having made her a professor. One hopes that UNZA has learnt from its mistake and will henceforth examine prospective candidates more carefully before conferring professorship on them. In 2019, I sincerely hope that Professor Luo develops a predilection for consultation, consensus-building, communication, co-operation and active listening.

Godfridah Sumaili: On trivial matters or subjects, the Minister of Religious Affairs and National Guidance never lost her voice and made all the headlines. On learning that South African dancer Zodwa wa Bantu, famed for her choice to perform without underwear, had arrived in Zambia to showcase her talent, Sumaili ordered her deportation on grounds that the country is a Christian nation and the artist's actions would corrupt public morals. In so doing, she conflated an artist's right to perform in Zambia with the right to perform in ways that the government (thinking on our behalf, we little children!) approves. I see here that we are all Christians because Zambia has this declaration and that the government is the custodian of our personal moralities. There are fundamental questions here about how backward and child-like the kind of retarded Christian theology colonialism bequeathed onto us (designed to wean us away from everything we were, including a people that were not terrorised, by nudity by the way!) and its continuing hold on our "collective national psyche". If we are so terrorised by the nudity of a woman, what are the chances of imaging a society free from such terror? Zero. In this day and age, when technology in fact makes it impossible for any government to control what people see, hear or say, would it not have been better for individuals to decide for themselves whether they wanted to see the show or not? And if indeed we are a devout Christian country, should the show not have collapsed by itself because no one or very few people would have volunteered to go see this woman? This may be unpopular, but time must come soon when we must ask difficult questions about the impact of Christianity on the native mind in us, and how to grow beyond this. Sumaili disappointment arose from the fact that while she was quick to make herself heard on such trivial subjects, the minister, throughout 2018, fell so silent on the subject of the grand theft of public resources that there is now great concern that her conscience has also been stolen. Sumaili also claimed that Jesus Christ had entered the boat and was now a committed cadre of the ruling Patriotic Front. What she overlooked was that Jesus will soon escape from the boat because he is famous for walking on water. The problem is that the rest of the passengers are likely to sink since they possess no such skills.

Law Association of Zambia: LAZ changed overnight from being a defender of the rule of law to being a shameless apologist for the government.

Antonio Mwanza: The former spokesperson of the opposition Forum for Democracy and Development has changed round so quickly that the sweet and inspiring words that used to come out of his mouth now come out of his rear end and have created such a terrible stench that everyone but himself can get it!

We could not believe it when we picked a story last week that the First Lady of Zambia madam Esther Lungu will tomorrow lead a 25-member delegation to the United States of America where they are all going to receive four fire trucks from donors. As if that was not outrageous enough, we were told that this 25-member delegation would be in that country for 15 days, from tomorrow until January 31.

Two weeks in a foreign country just to receive fire trucks on behalf of government. And who is on this entourage? According to the State House approved list, a bedroom attendant, cook, cleaner, waiter, about seven police officers, four journalists, three secretaries, two fire brigade officers, a communications officer and an accountant will be flying with the first lady to provide her with the much desired prestigious comfort on the journey.

This First Lady's squad has even donned a name, calling itself "the Committee to receive four fire trucks for the Republic of Zambia". Really?.

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

Esther Lungu's abuse of public funds must be condemned, halted

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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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. Chipso 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
- We looked at this delegation list carefully, and a few things were not making sense. We asked those who have been First Ladys before and those who have worked in the office of the First Lady before, and they attest to the fact that the composition of this list

did not make sense. This is the kind of delegation that a president moves with when travelling out of the country, and that is when there are no austerity measures in place.

We are told that this donation was solicited by the First Lady, and as such, she needed to personally go and accept the donation from the well wishers of her foundation. Why does the First Lady need seven police officers, three secretaries, a cook, cleaner, bedroom attendant and waiter for her private undertakings?

This country has already had enough debates about this office. There is no office of the First Lady in the Zambian Constitution, and any funding allocated to the wife of the President is nothing more than abuse of public resources. If Mr Lungu was a single man, there was not going to be an election for people to vote for the First Lady, this office

simply doesn't exist.

It is already unfortunate enough that it gets money from the Treasury, when the occupant of that office must be sourcing for private financing to run the so-called foundation. It is worse that this abuse of public resources can be happening in broad daylight. If those who are in power today want an inclusion of this office, let them propose that amendment to the Constitution and allow Tax payers to have a say.

Why should the Zambian taxpayers sponsor 25 people to America for more than two weeks to simply go and give a vote of thanks to the donors over four fire trucks? This is very unfair to the people of Zambia. It is an unacceptable expenditure and it must be condemned in the strongest terms. It must be halted. This is the same government that has been preaching austerity measures. They announced

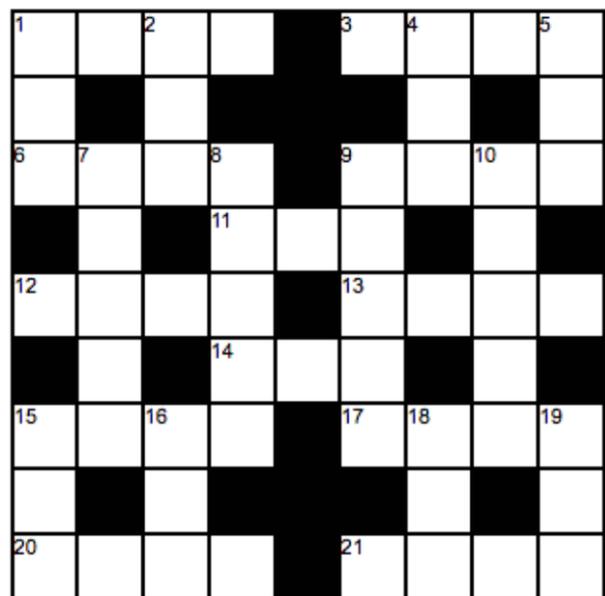
to the country that Cabinet Office was no longer going to approve any non-mandatory foreign trips that fall outside the UN General Assembly, the AU summit, SADC, COMESA etc. What has changed?

Our readers are on point to ask whether the First Lady and her 25-member Committee were going to lift the four fire trucks on their heads to bring them home, because quite frankly, we can't understand the importance of every member in this huge delegation.

Just to put things into perspective, a return ticket to Los Angeles is within the range of K10, 000. That means Zambians will be paying over K250, 000 to sponsor this fire tender delegation; and that's assuming that they would all be flying economy, but the truth is that the First Lady herself, her ADC, the Permanent Secretary and probably two three more people will be flying first class. A first class return ticket to Loss Angeles, at today's rate, fetches as much as K35,000 per adult depending on the Airline. Does our country have this kind of money to waste?

The logic that is being ignored here is very simple. The money that will be spent on air tickets for this delegation is enough to buy one fire engine, the money that will be spent on accommodation and food is enough to buy another new fire engine and the money that they will share as allowances among themselves is also enough to purchase a third fire engine. This expenditure may sound normal to some people, but to us, it sounds as stupid as an entire family jumping on a Mazhandu Bus from Lusaka to go and collect K1,000 rentals from a tenant in Livingstone.

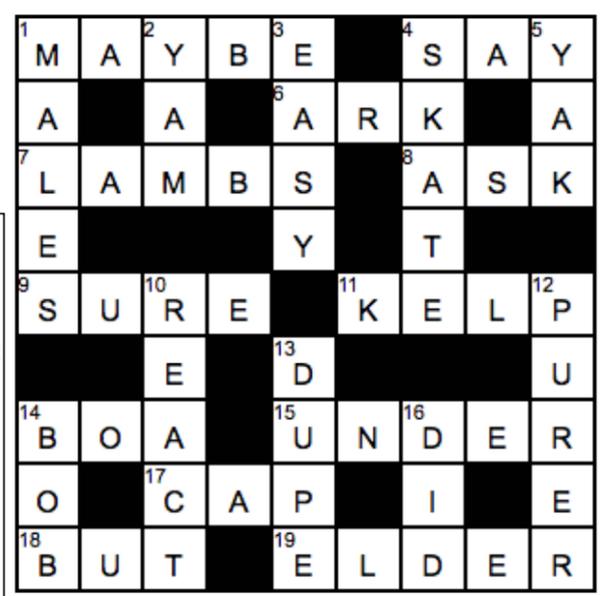
Crossword puzzle 271



"Let the human mind loose. It must be loose. It will be loose. Superstition and dogmatism cannot confine it. - John Adams

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 270



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.

YALI's warning to opposition not to discuss ConCourt outcome or risk jail

Editor,

"The guy is so naïve. The judgement on the case

has been made; politicians and the general public have the right to debate that judgement, but what is not right is attacking the Bench or individual judges as there are ways of seeking remedy if at all there are any grievances by any stakeholders. These briefcase organizations some chaps are forming in Zambia should always be professional. It's not always about pleasing their paymasters; integrity protection is very important." - Sylvester Chongo

"Its people like you, Ntewewe, who is not adding value to our democratic rights. That case is not before the courts; it has been disposed of, so the citizens are not in any way undermining any authority by expressing interest. You have a big problem, sir." - David Mandona

"I would like to distance my fellow young leaders from Mr Ntewewe's utterances for they represent his family. I doubt if he passed ZIALE." - Sikaili Clint Stone

"We've seen such political dunderheads before. During Kaunda they were there singing and dancing for him. Immediately he lost in 1991, KK was deserted that same weekend he couldn't find anyone to partner with at a friendly golf tournament. During FTJ they resurfaced with fake NGOs and fake churches. Immediately he lost, they all scampered into hiding, leaving only Regina and Emmanuel Mwamba to accompany him to his many court sessions. So, you can foretell what will happen the time ECL will be booted out; they will scamper in different directions like rats!" - Friday Kashiwa



ZABS should be disbanded over power drink fiasco

Editor,

"Check the same power drink, it's certified by the same Zambia Bureau of Standards. Now that Uganda has spoken, that's when they want to be seen working. There are so many drinks on the market apart from power, which are either alcoholic by nature or sex boosters, but are sold in shops, and ZABS is doing nothing about it. Not until others say, that's when they become proactive." - Jackson Ndonji Chitenji Sapato

"ZABS, my foot! You certify things that you don't even have an idea. You must be abolished for misleading millions that the product was fit for consumption!" - Charles Chola

"This is a clear indication that ZABS officers are ineffective in carrying out their duties. Can they be fired, please?" - King Solomon

"These chaps are getting free money. They should be disbanded as they serve no purpose! Waiting for Uganda to decide for Zambia?" - Frank Mwaanga

"So, ba ZABS, do you constantly check products and ensure they're fit for human consumption or do you wait to hear other countries are doing tests?" - Mituka Devlin Bwanausi

"Are the ZABS okay? Where were they when the product was going on the market?" - James Sichomba

Lungu's SA trip for medical treatment

Dear Editor,

"This is the Africa way: brag about building hospitals, but show no confidence in using them!" - Michelo Mweetwa

"The handlers at it again; busy pushing someone to go jogging as a way of covering up an illness until he urgently flew. These guys never learn!" - Lydia Ndandalika

"Why not attend at UTH as one of austerity measure, considering that the country is paying billions for debt contracted for construction of roads, road tolls and airports etc? Meanwhile, Inonge will attend the national dialogue as Acting President. Get well soon!" - Martin Nyanjaga

"Huh! Thought our medical facilities are now up to class? Just asking." - Mbinji Mufalo

"Looking at these photos of ECL, I must say, let him get the medical attention, and I hope all goes well for him." - Naomi Tetamashimba Khumalo

"Better to seek medical attention than hiding the illness. Good move, Mr President. Get well soon." - Craytone Sitali

DR Congo presidential runner-up asks court to cancel result



"I got more than 61 percent of the vote compared with the others, who each got 18 percent," Martin Fayulu told AFP

The runner-up in DR Congo's presidential election, Martin Fayulu, has appealed to the Constitutional Court to annul the provisional result which awarded victory to his opposition rival Felix Tshisekedi, his lawyer said Saturday.

The request was filed on Friday ahead of a 48-hour deadline for any appeals against the shock result to replace long-term President Joseph Kabila.

"The request seeks the annulment of the result declaring Felix Tshisekedi president," Toussaint Ekombe told reporters outside the court. The move came as the pro-Kabila FCC coalition announced it had won a majority in legislative elections, which took place at

the same time as last month's presidential poll.

Supporters of the outgoing president won nearly 350 seats in the 500-seat National Assembly, according to Communications Minister Lambert Mende.

About 130 seats went to opposition lawmakers, he said. The developments were the latest twist in a long-running political crisis which erupted two years ago when Kabila refused to step down at the end of his constitutional term in office, sparking massive protests which were brutally repressed.

On December 30, after repeated delays, voters finally went to the polls in an election pitting two opposition candidates, Fayulu and Tshisekedi, against

Kabila's handpicked successor, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary. Opinion polls had indicated Fayulu was the clear favourite, although most observers predicted a result rigged in favour of Shadary. But the shock result declared Tshisekedi the victor with 38.57 percent, while Fayulu came second with 34.8 percent.

The court now has eight days to consider the request.

"I got more than 61 percent of the vote compared with the others, who each got 18 percent," Fayulu told AFP.

"Between them, they didn't get more than 40 percent."

- 'Broke the law' -

At stake is political stewardship of the notoriously unstable central African nation, which has never known a peaceful transition of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

Fayulu has denounced the result as an "electoral coup" engineered by Kabila in which Tshisekedi was "totally complicit".

Explaining the appeal, the 62-year-old said election chief Corneille Nangaa had "broken electoral law" and that only a recount would establish the truth of what happened at the ballot box.

On Friday, the former oil executive said he didn't expect the result to be annulled but that the court would approve a recount. **AFP**

South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa urges action against 'rape crisis'

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has urged men to unite against rape and sexual assault in the country, calling it a "national crisis".

Women were being raped and killed on a continuous basis and it was time to end gender-based violence, he said.

He made his impassioned plea while launching an election manifesto for the governing African National Congress.

Some 40,000 rapes are reported every year, though this is thought to be only a fraction of the real total.

The president asked men in the packed Durban stadium, where tens of thousands of supporters watched his speech, to stand to show their condemnation.

"We have made huge strides in improving the position of women in society... However, gender-based violence is a national crisis that we are determined to end, so that all South African women and girls may live in peace, safety and dignity," he said.

"The emancipation of women requires a change in attitudes and the material conditions that perpetuate the oppression and marginalisation of women." He outlined a number of measures to achieve this, including harsher sentences for perpetrators, and "better skilled" police and prosecution authorities "to improve the capacity to investigate and prosecute all crimes".

"It is important that children

learn from a young age to respect one another as equals and not to resort to violence in situations of stress and conflict."

Overall, his speech sought to mark a clear break with a decade of drift and misrule

under his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, BBC Africa correspondent Andrew Harding reports.

Mr Ramaphosa promised competence and honesty - barely addressing populist issues like land reform - and

focusing instead on ways to tackle rural poverty, and the world's highest rate of youth unemployment, our correspondent adds.

South African police recorded 40,035 rapes in the 12 months leading to

31 March 2018, an average of 110 each day, the fact-checking organisation Africa Check reported last year.

This represented a slight increase on the previous year, which saw 39,828 recorded rapes. **BBC**

Trump blasts FBI counterintel probe into whether he worked for Russia

President Donald Trump blasted the FBI on Saturday, insisting it acted "for no reason & with no proof" when it opened an investigation into whether he was acting on Russia's behalf after he fired the agency's director, James Comey, in May 2017.

The New York Times reported that the FBI launched the previously undisclosed counterintelligence investigation to determine whether Trump posed a national security threat, at the same time that it opened a criminal probe into possible obstruction of justice by the president.

The FBI investigation was subsequently folded into the broader probe by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and possible collaboration by the Trump campaign.

No evidence has publicly emerged that Trump was secretly in contact with or took direction from Russian officials, the Times said.



"Wow, just learned in the Failing New York Times that the corrupt former leaders of the FBI, almost all fired or forced to leave the agency for some very bad reasons, opened up an investigation on me, for no reason & with no proof, after I fired Lyin' James

Comey, a total sleaze!" Trump tweeted.

According to Trump, "the FBI was in complete turmoil... because of Comey's poor leadership" and the way he handled the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private server to send some

government emails.

"My firing of James Comey was a great day for America," Trump said, describing the former FBI director as "a Crooked Cop who is being totally protected by his best friend, Bob Mueller."

Asked in a late Saturday

interview with Fox News whether he had ever worked for Russia, Trump replied: "I think it's the most insulting thing I've ever been asked... I think it's the most insulting article I've ever had written and if you read the article, you'd see that they found absolutely nothing." **AFP**

CAF goal at 41 elates Joseph Musonda: I still have balls

By Alex Chilumbwe
Nkana's Joseph Musonda says he feels intimate with his CAF Confederations Cup goal against Ivorian side San Pedro, and is elated after being labelled the oldest Zambian player to score in the competition's match which the Kitwe giants won 3-0. Musonda netted the second in the fixture at 51 minutes, barely 10 minutes after Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba opened the scoresheet.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Musonda who is otherwise an accomplished defender and a 2012 Africa Cup of Nations champion, said his feat against San Pedro gave him more reason why he should not mind his age, but focus on the game.

"I am very happy that I ended up on the score sheet. I have seen publications on social media saying I may be the oldest [Zambian] player to score in the CAF Confederations Cup competition and that is

what is making this goal very intimate to me. It shows that hard work can go beyond one's age," he said.

Asked if he was contemplating hanging his boots any time soon, Musonda said he still had balls to flaunt.

"I'm still around and I have chosen not to mind my age. I am still very fit and even look younger than some of my juniors. As soon as I feel like I can no longer keep up with active football pressure and the time is right, I will make

it known. I can't think of it now especially that I have just scored in the Confederations Cup," said Musonda.

Festus Mbwewe, a Walter Bwalya replacement had the final say in Nkana's victory in the 85th minute when he closed the opening chapter of the first leg tie from a tight angle.

Chisamba Lungu was also an instrumental substitute in the second half, and may be Coach Beston Chambeshi's option for the starting 11 at the second leg to be played on January 20.



Controversy as Al Ahly win CAF Champions League group opener

Controversial decisions helped record eight-time CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly defeat V Club 2-0 Saturday in their opening group-stage clash.

The Tunisian referee gave a straight red card to Dharles Kalonji from the Democratic Republic of Congo team on 36 minutes when most in the

Alexandria crowd expected a yellow.

Already on the back foot against the Egyptian outfit, V Club held out with 10 men until the 65th minute

when Nasser Maher sidefooted a cutback into the net from close range.

The killer second goal in the 79th minute came after Karim Walid appeared to dive rather than be fouled by veteran Cameroonian goalkeeper Nelson Lukong when he won a penalty.

Although Lukong correctly guessed the direction of the spot-kick from Tunisian Ali Maaloul, it had too much power and height and flew into the corner of the net.

A furious Lukong pointed a finger and shouted at the match officials after the final whistle at the 87,000-seat Borg el Arab Stadium on a chilly winter night in the Mediterranean city.

The penalty decision triggered memories of the 2018 final first leg in which Ahly star Walid Azaro, who missed the V Club match through injury, appeared to hoodwink the referee twice.

His apparent dive won a penalty against Esperance from Tunisia and he earned a second spot-kick by claiming a foul when TV replays caught him deliberately tearing his shirt.

Ahly converted both penalties to win 3-1, but lost the return match 3-0 in Tunisia to suffer a second successive final defeat in the premier African club competition.

- Trounced -

Losing the title decider cost French coach Patrice Carteron his job and experienced Uruguayan replacement Martin Lasarte made his Champions League debut against V Club.

Ahly, whose last Champions

League title came in 2013, trail Simba SC on goal difference in Group D after the Tanzanians trounced Algerian visitors JS Saoura 3-0 in Dar es Salaam.

Including qualifiers, Simba have scored 15 goals in five matches, and they began their second appearance in the group stage with a bang. Ugandan Emmanuel Okwi put them ahead on the stroke of half-time and a second-half brace from Rwandan Meddie Kagere completed the rout.

Five-time African champions TP Mazembe from DR Congo survived the sending off of goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohhou to defeat Egyptian visitors Ismaily 2-0 and top Group C on goal difference.

Reserve goalkeeper Aime Bakula, who replaced the red-carded Ivorian after 44 minutes, saved a penalty before late Chico Ushindi and Kevin Zatu goals secured victory in Lubumbashi.

Algerians CS Constantine won 1-0 away to Tunisians Club Africain Friday through a late Abdenour Belkheir goal to lie second behind Mazembe in the same section.

In Group B, FC Platinum from Zimbabwe and Orlando Pirates from South Africa fought a 0-0 draw before a capacity 30,000 crowd in Bulawayo.

There was no shortage of effort from the sides in the southern Africa showdown, but both lacked a cutting edge in the final third.

All four clubs in a section completed by Esperance and Guineans Horoya, who drew 1-1 in Conakry Friday, have one point. **AFP**



Higuain determined to leave, says AC Milan coach Gattuso

Gonzalo Higuain has made up his mind to leave AC Milan, coach Gennaro Gattuso said on Saturday amid speculation linking the striker to Premier League side Chelsea.

Higuain joined Milan on a season-long loan from Juventus in July with an option to make the deal permanent, but he has struggled to settle at the San Siro, scoring eight goals in all competitions.

The 31-year-old again drew a blank in AC Milan's 2-0 Italian Cup win over Sampdoria on Saturday as substitute Patrick Cutrone netted a double in extra time.

"When a player makes up his mind

it becomes hard to convince them otherwise," said Gattuso of Higuain.

"I have a relationship with him that features great honesty, we say things to one another's face.

"At the moment, he's our player and we're holding on tightly to him. I don't know what will happen."

The Argentina international reportedly wants to join his former Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri at Chelsea.

Milan paid 18 million euros (\$20.75 million) to sign him on loan, with a clause to make the deal permanent for a further 36 million euros.

Higuain had his most successful

season under Sarri, breaking the Serie A goalscoring record with 36 goals in the 2015/16 campaign.

"I've talked to him a great deal, but it's hard to give advice, because the career of a player only lasts 13-14 years," continued Gattuso.

"It's his mind, not mine. The most important thing is to talk as men, look each other in the eyes and speak the truth.

"I still don't understand what Higuain's unhappy about, because I see a happy lad, involved in the locker room.

"We'll see what happens. If it was up to me, I'd keep him at my house and feed him my dinner." **AFP**

CAF goal at 41 elates Joseph Musonda...

I STILL HAVE BALLS

By Alex Chilumbwe

Nkana's Joseph Musonda says he feels intimate with his CAF Confederations Cup goal against Ivorian side San Pedro, and is elated after being labelled the oldest Zambian player to score in the competition's match which the Kitwe giants won 3-0. Musonda netted the second in the fixture at 51 minutes, barely 10 minutes after Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba opened the scoresheet. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Musonda who is otherwise an accomplished defender and a 2012 Africa Cup of Nations champion, said his feat against San Pedro gave him more reason why he should not mind his age, but focus on the game.

To page 11



'Neymar hasn't called me' - Valverde

Ernesto Valverde insisted he had not received a phone call urging him to re-sign Neymar following reports the club had been contacted by the player's father.

El Mundo claimed this week that Neymar Sr had made repeated pleas to the Barca board to bring his son - who left after Paris Saint-Germain triggered his release clause in 2017 - back to Camp Nou.

Neymar Sr subsequently denied the reports and Valverde stressed that, if any calls had taken place, he certainly was not party to them.

"People tend to say big things about players at other clubs," he told a news conference.

"He is a great player, had a great World Cup, but now he's at a different club, so there's nothing more to say about that.

"It's not a question of Neymar phoning... nobody has phoned me.

"News stories always appear in the press. He's a PSG player and we respect PSG."

Valverde did concede that a forward was high on his January shopping list following the departure of Munir El Haddadi to Sevilla and said he would prioritise a player who could adapt swiftly to life at Barca.

"You probably focus more on a player who can adapt quickly to our team," he explained.

"When a player comes like [Jeison] Murillo, the first thing you want is for them to adapt quickly, someone who can play straight away. That's if a forward comes." **Goal.com**



Dallas Mavericks guard JJ Barea, shown taking the ball to the hoop for Puerto Rico against Serbia, will be sidelined for three NBA games after being diagnosed with a torn right Achilles tendon Saturday. AFP

Torn Achilles sidelines Puerto Rico's Barea for NBA Dallas Mavericks

Dallas Mavericks guard JJ. Barea, who helped the club capture the 2011 NBA crown, will be sidelined indefinitely after an MRI on Saturday revealed a torn right Achilles tendon. Barea suffered the injury after

landing from a layup late in the fourth quarter of a 119-115 Dallas victory at Minnesota.

The 34-year-old Puerto Rican has averaged 10.9 points and 5.6 assists as the first man off the Mavericks bench

this season after a 2017-18 campaign with career bests of 11.6 points, 6.3 assists and 2.9 rebounds a contest.

Barea is in his 13th NBA campaign and his second five-season stint with Dallas after three years in between

with Minnesota.

At 20-22, the Mavericks are 12th in the NBA Western Conference, 2 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the eighth and final West playoff berth. **AFP**

