



# LUNGU STILL ON MEDICALS

**Zambia  
U-turns  
on call  
for GNU  
in DRC**

*By Mukosha Funga*

President Edgar Lungu, through Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Malanji, has u-turned on his call for a government of national unity in Congo DR.

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### FALSE AND MISLEADING ARTICLE ON ABDUCTION OF RUSSIAN

Gemcanton wishes to categorically refute allegations made in an article published in the **Daily Nation's** publication titled Russian abduction, dated Monday, January 14, 2019, that Gemcanton abducted and deported one of its employees, Mr Sergey Kuznetsov.

We wish to put the record straight that Gemcanton reserves the right to employ and terminate the contract of any employee who goes into conflict with the laid down Company regulations and Mr Kuznetsov is no exception in this regard.

Gemcanton followed the normal procedure of termination of contract for Mr Kuznetsov and as an expatriate his work permit was withdrawn as per laid down company procedure. All Company properties under his custody were all withdrawn and this includes the much highlighted laptop.

Contrary to assertions that he was abducted and then subsequently deported we would like to state that, following his conditions of service he was provided with a plane ticket, back to his home country Russia after termination of contract. It is false and misleading to report that Mr Kuznetsov was abducted and deported because his services were terminated on 7th January 2019 and only left the country on the 11th January 2019.

The following was the main reason that led to the termination of Mr Kuznetsov's employment contract:

Mr Kuznetsov failed to account for the loss of 4,869 grammes of gemstones valued at \$ 317,095.36 during the gemstone auction sale held at intercontinental on 15th December 2018 which was under his charge. When questioned by the Chief Executive Officer to exculpate himself over the loss of the gemstones during a management meeting held on Monday 7th January 2019, Mr Kuznetsov completely failed to account and explain what could have transpired.

Earlier in August 2018, Mr Kuznetsov under-priced a certain parcel that was sent to a customer known to him and the company lost \$13,485. This indicates that Mr Kuznetsov has twice led to the Company losing out amounts of income.

In Conclusion Gemcanton would like to state that the action taken is in the best interest of the company whose very existence is threatened if such subvertive elements are allowed to continue operating within the company.

We further wish to stress that Gemcanton employs over 1000 employees and supports over 1000, Zambian suppliers on average over 15,000 Zambians depend on the existence of the Company for survival.

This does not leave out the community of Lufwanyama which benefits from the investment through the Company Social Corporate Responsibility programme.

We request the media in particular the **Daily Nation** which carried out false headlines continuous on Saturday, January 12th 2019 titled Russian deported and Monday, January 14th 2019 titled Russian abducted to verify, balance to avoid misleading and misinforming the nation.

**Issued by: Davy S.Phiri  
Gemcanton Spokesperson**



*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
Magistrate Silvia Munyinya has asked EEP leader Chilufya Tayali to do the right thing by desisting from posting running commentaries on social media regarding the matter in which he's facing seven counts of contempt of court. But Tayali says he has all the right to speak because that is his job as a politician. In this matter, Tayali is accused of publishing defamatory statements against UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and a Lusaka citizen, Edward Sichali. Tayali is further accused

# Court tells Tayali to stop posting commentaries on Facebook

of alleging that Sichali and Hichilema were involved in organising riots at UNZA. And when the matter came up for commencement of trial before Magistrate Silvia Munyinya, Monday, the complainant's lawyer

Mulambo Haimbe, who was appearing with Dr Henry Mbushi, informed the court that they were ready to proceed with the matter. However, Tayali's lawyers Towela Nkhoma and Dinah Kapitolo applied for an

adjournment, saying they couldn't proceed with trial as they were just standing in for another lawyer, Jonas Zimba who was at High Court. The two added that Zimba was the one with instructions from the accused and the two were just

pre-instructed in the morning. However, Haimbe said the defence's application for an adjournment was shocking because the accused was given a benefit of doubt at last week's hearing. He objected to the application, observing that Tayali quite evidently did not follow the directives of the court and only engaged a lawyer in the morning. In reply, the defence lawyers said they were on industrial break and only received full instructions that day, adding that they needed more time to be familiar with the case. Although Magistrate Munyinya noted in her ruling that Tayali was given enough time to engage a counsel, she again granted the application for an adjournment. At this point, Haimbe informed the court that he had been advised by the complainant, Sichali, that Tayali had taken to social media once again and was running commentaries on the matter in court as well as other matters. He warned Tayali to desist from running commentaries or they would be forced to ask the court to order Tayali to show cause why he should not be held to account for such commentaries. "The commentaries include

allegations that various persons, magistrates and others have been paid in relation to this matter. The accused person should desist from running the commentaries or else we shall be constrained to ask the Court to order the accused person to come before court to show cause why he should not be held to account for such commentaries. We are ready to provide the necessary evidence of his behaviour to this court," Haimbe said. Magistrate Munyinya urged Tayali to do the right thing for the sake of progress. "Accused, I'm not saying you did that because I don't have evidence. For the sake of progress, let's just do the right thing. We have limited time, so I don't have time to be listening to these complaints! So, let's just do the right thing," Magistrate Munyinya said. She then adjourned the matter to February 15 for commencement of trial. But once outside Court, Tayali told off the complainant's lawyers that he had the right to speak because that was his job as a politician. "I have the right to talk. I'm doing my job as a politician!" insisted Tayali.

## Insurers' claim pay-outs dropped to K116m in 2018 says PIA

*By Geoffrey Zulu*  
The Pensions and Insurance Authority (PIA) says there was a decline in the total amount paid by general insurers in claims and benefits to K116 million by end of the third quarter of 2018, down from K131 million in the prior corresponding period. In a statement, PIA communications manager Doreen Silungwe stated that general insurers paid a total of K116 million in claims and benefits by September 30, 2018, compared to K131 million paid out in 2017 during the same period. "General insurers paid a total of K116 million in claims by September 30, 2018, compared to K131 million

that was paid out in 2017 during the same period," Silungwe stated. She, however, added that the industry continued to register steady growth with a total of 342 players licensed by the Authority by September 30 last year. "On the insurance side, the industry also continued to register a steady growth. The industry had a total of 342 players licensed by the Authority as at September 30, 2018. The Gross Written Premium (GWP) for the industry as at September 30, 2018 was K739.36 million compared to K696.09 million recorded in 2017 during the same period," Silungwe added. "For 2019 outlook, the Authority is optimistic that the industry will

continue to register steady growth. However, the Authority is concerned with the continued complaints arising in the insurance industry relating to claims management." And in terms of long-term insurance market share, Sanlam had the largest share in terms of GWP with 24 per cent, followed by ZSIC Life with 16 per cent, SES with 15 per cent, Madison Life and Prudential Life with 14 per cent each, with Liberty Life and Barclays Life sharing 6 per cent each, according to PIA data. As at September 30, 2018, pensions net assets stood at K7.02 billion compared to K6.43 billion of the same period in 2017, according to the statement.

*By Claver Mutinta*  
First Quantum Mineral's Kansanshi Mining Plc will continue sponsoring the business development training workshops implemented by Fortune World Investments this year, says Kansanshi Mine Senior Contracts Manager Winwell Siame. According to Siame, the mining company has reaffirmed its commitment to the development of a cadre of entrepreneurs that will be able to sustain businesses through the provision of skills and knowledge. He said the mining firm would not discontinue the sponsorship of business development training workshops anytime soon. Siame made the pronouncement on behalf of the mining company during the graduation ceremony of 250 business entrepreneurs in Solwezi recently. Since the commencement of business development workshops some eight years ago, more than 2,000 entrepreneurs have undergone training with some participants' enterprises turning into success stories. "We're very grateful, as Kansanshi Mine, for the good work Fortune World Investments (FWI) is doing. As Kansanshi Mine, Fortune World, has trained over 2,000 in the last eight years. It is a commendable work. As Kansanshi Mine, we are committed to imparting knowledge and prepared to support this programme even in 2019," Siame said.

## FSM's Kansanshi Mine to maintain business development support in 2019

He further said entrepreneurs should work extra hard to create wealth for the future generation, citing Fortune World Investments founder Andrew Kafuta as a perfect example, adding that his company was relevant in the Solwezi community and outlying areas. "I quote a Bible verse, which

says wealth and riches come from parents, but a good wife from the Lord. As parents and would-be parents, it is your duty to build wealth for your children," Siame added. And elaborating on how business workshops were conducted, FWI Chairman Andrew Kafuta said the programme had generated

enthusiasm among the residents of Solwezi. Kafuta said FWI valued support from Kansanshi Mine and was cautious to ensure that the workshops were implemented properly without abusing the sponsorship of the programme. "There has been expressed enthusiasm about this

programme as seen by the huge numbers. The money you put in is not going to waste," Kafuta assured. He explained that the programme was not being delivered as an academic exercise, but as a practice-orientated programme, adding that certificates were awarded only to



*Fortune World Investments Managing Director Mukumbi Kafuta shakes hands with Kansanshi Mine Senior Contracts Manager Winwell Siame during the graduation ceremony of 250 business entrepreneurs in Solwezi recently after his remarks – Picture by Claver Mutinta/SUMA SYSTEMS.*

entrepreneurs who had completed a minimum required number of topics. The programme was designed to be flexible so that people would be free to start attending the monthly business workshops anytime convenient to them. "We've such flexibility of the programme that [it] can be started at any time of the year. They don't have to come always at the beginning of January. No entrepreneur is left behind on account of their educational background because the training is done both in English and local languages," he explained. In moving a vote of thanks on behalf of graduating participants, Vickson Mukwetunga said entrepreneurs were delighted with the opportunity provided by Kansanshi Mining Plc for them to acquire vital business skills. And Kansanshi Mining Plc Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) manager Bruce Lewis said the mining company has noted the compliance being consistently exhibited by FWI through monthly reports. One of the terms and conditions enshrined in the contract is that FWI is expected to report back to Kansanshi Mining Plc at least three entrepreneurial success stories on a monthly basis resulting from their training for monitoring and evaluations purposes, which Lewis said had successfully been fulfilled. – Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS



# Talks on who will represent parties at dialogue unnecessary - Church

*By Mukosha Funga*

Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops secretary general Fr Cleophas Lungu says talks on who can or cannot represent a political party during dialogue are unnecessary. And Fr Lungu says President Edgar Lungu has confirmed attendance to the January 18 launch of the dialogue process. In an interview, Fr Lungu highlighted the major issues which were expected to be discussed during the process, saying that was more important than questions on whether or not NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili can attend the meeting. “Since June last year, we have met different stakeholders, not just ZCID, we have been meeting event people from government and we have been receiving

submissions on what will be important to discuss. We met with the leaders of the national trade unions, we met with the CSOs, we received submissions even from some individuals and the women, the youths, so we have concerns from different sectors and that is what is going to form the agenda. Generally speaking, we are talking of four categories of issues, the first and the most important, it is an overwhelming voice coming through that we need to address issues of governance and how we do our politics in terms of constitutional and electoral reforms, being civil and increasing levels of tolerance, in terms of making the institutions of governance more independent and professional in their operations. We are talking

of how to address things like media freedoms and things like that,” Fr Lungu explained. “The second category is economic and social issues, there we are talking how can we bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, how can we reduce the levels of unemployment, how can we reduce poverty, how can we empower Zambians to be more innovative? How do we address the issue of the debt? Corruption? And if one denies that there are issues there, just go to TIZ who submitted to us a number of issues. How do we address the issue of misapplication of public resources as we read in the Auditor General’s report year in year out?” He said tribalism was also on the agenda. “Then the third sector will be cultural issues and like

we saw in 2016, issues of tribalism, issues of where I come from is important, there are insinuations that tribe and region now is becoming a big factor in terms of you accessing power, in terms of you accessing jobs, but we are saying our motto is One Zambia, One Nation, why is this becoming important now? Are we going forward or backwards? And also the role of traditional leaders, for example, they shouldn’t be partisan, they should be the custodians of unity and how they administer resources like land, which is very controversial right now,” he said. “Then the fourth category are religious issues. We are saying, yes, as church, we are not saying that we are angels, because there are certain members of the church, individual leaders, pastors, priests, bishops, name them who behave and conduct themselves at variance with our Christian or religious values. Sometimes the church, if it is not careful, it can lose its campus, it can lose its authority. Sometimes politicians are going to abuse the church if it is not careful and so we are saying we have issues amongst ourselves as religious leaders, is it right for a church for example to be promoting people to stop taking ARVs, to say ‘just pray’, you know, we are saying no, we are not making Zambia a

better country if we go that route. Or if we say ‘be fasting and eating grass’ no, that’s abuse of religion.” He said those issues were more important than discussing who should represent what political party. “These are some of the things we are going to talk about so please, don’t ask me whether Chishimba Kambwili will participate or not, that’s not an issue, let’s talk constitution, institutional reforms and how we can better manage our electoral process so that elections become a time to celebrate our democracy,” he said. “We are also quite amazed that way before time, people are already talking about who should attend and who should not attend. In our view, we have not issued any statements on who shall attend and who shall not attend... So unlike our friends, who are focussing on certain individuals, we are not targeting anyone, we are not [dictating] ‘this one must attend, this one must not attend’. That is not our interest. Our interest is building an all inclusive Zambia.” And Fr Lungu said President Lungu had confirmed attendance to the January 18 meeting. “I would like to believe that what led to His Excellency the President of Zambia not attend is not the church, it was the confusion that

was instigated and the propaganda that was advanced by a well known institution, and I will not waste my time to name it. They issued a statement to say that we have cancelled this meeting, so what Plot One had was the conflicting statements and messages. When we followed the matter with them, they have indicated and confirmed that it is not really in their mind, the issue of invitation, it was the issue of the confusion that led to the President not attending. Going forward, we are saying the church will take full charge of the communication and full charge in terms of driving the process so that we minimise the risk of sending conflicting messages,” said Fr Lungu. “On whether or not State House has confirmed, yes, we have not just written to them, or not just heard their response, but we have met His Excellency several times in the recent past and every time, he has confirmed that he is going to attend. So in our view, there is no trace of doubt that he is committed to this process. He has put it in a very categorical way, ‘I want this thing to succeed, please help us, lead the process, take leadership and let us move forward’, so 18th is confirmed. And 18th is not the dialogue itself, it is just the launch of the process, meetings and sessions will begin after.”

## CK’s unlawful assembly case to commence Feb 11

*By Daniel Chansa*

The Luanshya Magistrates’ Court has set February 11 as date for possible commencement of trial in a matter in which NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili and 11 others are charged with unlawful assembly. It is alleged that Kambwili and 11 others on November 25, in Luanshya, jointly and whilst acting together, unlawfully assembled with intent to carryout some common purpose and did conduct themselves in such a manner as to cause persons in the neighborhood reasonably to fear that they will commit a breach of peace. The matter is before Ndola Principal Resident magistrate Obister Musukwa. Kambwili 50, of Luanshya and 11 others denied the charge.

Magistrate Musukwa then adjourned the matter to 11, 12 and 13 February 2019 for possible commencement of trial. On November 25, 2017 over 300 AVIC International workers constructing houses for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Zambia Correctional Facility in Luanshya protested demanding better conditions of service and contracts. While singing, the workers camped at Kambwili’s residence demanding that he addresses them. In addressing the protesters, Kambwili said it was uncalled for that the local people should be abused. “You see these contracts are for the government. We are spending a lot of money, which is just going to China. If you look at the salaries of

the workers, it’s sad. People are not benefiting. But you can’t blame the people. Just a few days ago the PF were celebrating in solidarity with the Chinese to abuse our people. This is a warning to the Zambian people that this is the government that you have,” he said. Kambwili said there was no President in Zambia but a figurehead in State House. “If miners are sent out, who is to sort out this issue? It’s the President. That is why I say we do not have a President in this country. We only have a figurehead in this country. This country is on autopilot, wait until I become President, you will see leadership, tested leadership. All these Chinese, Indians nonsense will end because imbwili ni bwili,” Kambwili has said.

## 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 thefollowing 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.

## Job Opportunity

Tansla Management is looking for  
Experts/Specialist in Education,Health,WASH,M&E,and  
Project Management with Master Degree wanted. Send CV  
only to [tanslamangement@gmail.com](mailto:tanslamangement@gmail.com)

# State discontinues juveniles' indecent dressing case

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The State has discontinued a matter in which a 16-year-old juvenile was in court for walking passed a police station while 'skimpily dressed'. This was the matter in which the juvenile and her 28-year-old aunt, Mirriam Mwanza, were jointly charged with the offence of idle and disorderly persons. It was alleged that on December 22, 2018, the juvenile in the company of her auntie, publicly conducted themselves in a manner likely to cause the breach of peace.

It was alleged that on the material day, the juvenile wore a short skirt and as she passed by Kamanga Police Station in the company of her auntie, an officer asked her why she was wearing mini skirt. Her auntie challenged the officer for allowing another person who was dressed in a similar manner to pass through earlier, her

reaction to the police's question allegedly led to the apprehension of the two. The two had pleaded not guilty. And when the matter came up for commencement of trial before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Monday, a State prosecutor informed the court that the State was not ready to proceed with trial because they had

received instructions from the DPP chambers to have the matter discontinued. But before magistrate Chanda could discharge the accused, she warned them to behave themselves, saying that women were supposed to conduct themselves with respect and integrity. She added that the two should not find themselves in prison or police again.

"Before I make my order, you are 27 years meaning you are old so you are supposed to help the child. Already I have been given the facts, the way you behave is very important because you committed an offence. You have to change. You behave," she said. "You juvenile, how long have you stayed in prison? It's not a good place. So whatever you did on that particular day, you know yourselves, you should not find yourselves in prison or police again. Women are supposed to conduct themselves with respect and integrity." Magistrate Chanda then discharged the matter and set the accused at liberty. Speaking after court, Mwanza, while shedding tears of joy, expressed gratitude to God with the case's outcome. She recounted what occurred on the material day. "On December, 22, I had gone paka Tower. My niece came to call me, saying that we should go and see the children at home. When we passed by the police station, the officers called her (the niece). She asked whether they were calling her and they accepted. That's when she entered the police premises and they told her that 'you are wearing a short dress get in the cells and remove your shoes'. That's when I entered and asked what was happening. They told me that she was wearing a short dress. I told them to check out the dress that another woman was wearing. They said I should just be quiet," she said. Mwanza charged that the officers who arrested them indecently assaulted the

juvenile by touching her breasts. She added that the officers also assaulted them. "I was just behind the cells which were open. Nina bwela nagwela muma cells. Bana bwela bakomako no nimanga mantambo ku manja na kumendo no manga uyu (niece) manja ku mbuyo na mendo. Benangu benzo mu gwila na maziba...(I fell in cells and the officers closed the cell doors and tied my hands and legs with a rope. They equally tied my niece. Some where even touching her breast)," she narrated before the two were taken away as they are still facing another charge of malicious damage to property in another court. Meanwhile, former NGOCC chairperson Sara Longwe, who had also gone to show solidarity to the two, said Zambians were Constitutionally protected to wear anything they please. "There was no case to start with. Because there is no dress code in Zambia. We have freedom of expression, we are Constitutionally protected. Everybody can wear anything. Miniskirt is not indecent. If we look at our tradition, our forefathers and mothers not less than 60 years ago, where dressed less than we were. And they didn't consider themselves being naked. This is shameful for Zambia that we should always be talking about dressing. It's a pity they didn't say what exactly they did wrong, we will get to the bottom of it and it must stop. We are a free Zambia and we must enjoy our freedom," said Longwe.

## Lungu still under medical review, explains Mwamba

By Joseph Mwenda

Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba says President Edgar Lungu is still under medical review in South Africa, adding that speculations of him being flown to the United States of America are false. On Monday last week, State House announced that President Lungu was going for his scheduled annual medical review in South Africa, where he would also hold consultative talks with his counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa on the Congo election situation. Photographs were released of the Head of State's meeting with President Ramaphosa on arrival in that country, but the Zambian Head of State has gone under radar since then, fuelling speculation over his condition and whereabouts. When news broke that First Lady Esther Lungu was heading to the United States of America carrying a 25-member presidential-like security delegation, some government sources said it was likely that she was eventually going to join the President who was believed to have been flown from South Africa to that country. The speculation was further escalated on Sunday after a statement purported to have been issued on behalf of the SADC chairman for Defence Peace and Security, was signed

by the Zambian press aid Amos Chanda, bearing a State House letterhead. News Diggers! contacted Chanda to get an explanation on the President's whereabouts, but he said he did not want to preempt what he was going to discuss with the rest of the press on Sunday afternoon. "If the President authorises, I will be speaking on that sometime this afternoon. The President feels those who want to believe anything else than the statement I issued can do, but I will be speaking about that," said Chanda. Asked why he returned from South Africa leaving the President behind, Chanda said President Lungu asked him to come and coordinate, as well as monitor the Congo DR situation from Zambia. News Diggers! then turned to Mwamba, the High Commissioner for Zambia based in Pretoria, to get the latest on President Lungu's situation.

Question: We have noticed that Mr Chanda has returned from South Africa leaving the President behind. Popular belief was that the Head of State was going to be in South Africa for maybe three days, since it was just a routine medical check up. So the delay is causing growing speculation on the whereabouts of the President. We thought of getting in touch with you to find out where he is. Answer: Okay. I think we stand by the earlier statement issued by Mr Chanda that the President will have bilateral engagements in South Africa and will undertake medical review. Question: How is his condition and has he managed to do that medical review? Answer: Medical review is a process. He is still doing medical review. It's just... like what Mr Chanda said; he will do his annual medicals, the scheduled annual medicals after his bilateral official

engagements in South Africa. Question: You need to understand the Zambian people's concern because Mr Chanda is not there, Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe is not there, even the First Lady is not there, so who is with the President? Answer: He is with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, they are working. He is with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and he is with the Zambian Ambassador here, we are working. You have seen the engagements from the statement that was issued this morning. The continued engagement is underway. Yesterday, Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Malanji issued another statement on behalf of President Lungu, watering down the Sunday statement which called for a Government of National Unity in Congo DR, but the Zambian Head of State was still not personally involved in the SADC correspondence.

## Govt seeks to reform education system

By Tenson Mkhala

The Ministries of Higher Education and General Education will beginning today host a three-day conference to interrogate the education system in the country.

Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo told journalists at a joint press briefing, Monday, that the conference, which will be held at Mulungushi Conference Center, will identify various financing models that may

be appropriate to deliver an education system that is desirable for Zambia. "The education conference is a brain child of the Ministry of General Education and Ministry of Higher Education in an effort to engage the

academic, professional, educational experts and industry with a view to improving the education system in the Country and extent to which it responds to the national requirement of human capital in the Country. It is also meant to moot the Country's demographic dividend and how to harness the youth bulge through skills training. We want also to identify various financing models that may be appropriate to deliver the education system that is desirable for Zambia," Prof Luo said. The Minister said the conference, which is under the theme 'Improving the quality of Zambia's education, The education we want' will target a maximum of 250 participants coming from various sectors. "The conference targets a

maximum of 250 participants coming from various sectors. The conference will also host an education exhibition with over 50 exhibitors in education science and information, communication and technology," disclosed Prof Luo. And Minister of General Education David Mabumba said three thematic areas would guide the discussions towards the transforming the education system in the Country. "The conference will be structured around three thematic areas namely, quality of Zambia's education system, education financing and social economic development in the education sector," said Mabumba. The conference is expected to be officially opened by President Edgar Lungu.

## Lusaka pastor in court for assault, unnatural offence

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 28-year-old pastor of Lusaka's Meanwood Phase One area has been dragged to court for assault and unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman against the order of nature. In this matter, Francis Mukuwa is charged with unnatural offences contrary to section 155 (a) of the Penal Code Chapter

87 of the laws of Zambia. It is alleged that between December 1, 2018, and January 2, 2019, the accused had unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman against the order of nature. And in count two, Mukuwa is charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm contrary to section 248 of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia.

It is alleged that on January 2, 2019, Mukuwa assaulted the woman and occasioned her actual bodily harm. However, when the matter came up before Lusaka Magistrate Faides Hamaundu, Mukuwa could not take plea as he was not present in court. The matter has been adjourned to Wednesday, this week.

# Lungu u-turns on call for Govt of National Unity in Congo DR

*By Mukosha Funga*  
President Edgar Lungu, through Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Malanji, has u-turned on his call for a government of national unity in Congo DR. President Lungu has instead called for dialogue amongst political players which he says could result in an inclusive government. In a statement on Sunday, Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda announced that President Lungu, in his capacity as chairperson of the SADC organ on politics, Defense and Security, was calling for a government of national unity in Congo DR, saying it would create some stability.

"His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia says given the strong objections to the provisional results of the presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called on all political leaders to consider a negotiated political settlement for an all-inclusive government. And SADC encourages all stakeholders in the DRC to pursue a negotiated political settlement for a government of national unity," Chanda stated. Chanda stated that President Lungu felt a government of national unity was the best way to go for that country. "SADC draws the attention

of the Congolese politicians to similar arrangements that were very successful in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya where governments of national unity created the necessary stability for durable peace," Chanda quoted President Lungu as saying. "SADC therefore encourages all parties to enter into a apolitical process towards a government of national unity in order to enhance public confidence, build bridges and reinforce democratic institutions of government and electoral process for a better Congo." Chanda stated that SADC had urged DRC authorities to swiftly resolve all elements of doubt that could undermine the fairly successive general

elections and pose a danger to the peace and stability of the country and that SADC had taken note of the strong doubts cast on the poll outcomes by the Roman Catholic Church in the DRC which deployed 40,000 monitors, the opposition 'Lamuka coalition, and the observers and therefore, feels a recount would provide the necessary re-assurance to both winners and losers. "It is therefore imperative that at this crucial moment, all DRC politicians commit to actions and process that do not escalate tension any further. SADC expresses solidarity with the government and the people of the DRC for organising a relatively successful election

that inspires hope that the country was on a path towards democratic consolidation," stated Chanda. And Malanji later told SABC news that President Lungu's call for a government of national unity in that country was an option thrown to the victor of the polls. "What President Lungu gave was an option that there is room for other stakeholders to have an inclusive government. This is the position which he consulted to start with, he was not speaking as Zambian Head of State, he was speaking as chair of the Organ on Peace and Security, he had consultation from a good number of Heads of State in the region and the indication for inclusive government is an

idea thrown to the victor and not a directive," said Malanji. But in a statement, Monday, Malanji, who is Head of SADC electoral observer mission in the DRC, stated that President Lungu was calling for dialogue. "On behalf of the Chair of the Organ of Political Defence and Security His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, I wish to further clarify that following the provisional results of the Presidential election in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Southern and African Development Community (SADC) efforts should be focused on reaching a negotiated political settlement through dialogue and inclusiveness. An inclusive government could be the outcome of such negotiations," stated Malanji. "In this regard, the Chair wishes to call on all parties to engage in dialogue while recognizing that there are legal processes as provided for in the constitution. Therefore, any consideration for a recount or proposal on perceived electoral irregularities should be left to the sovereign procedures of DRC as may be provided for in the law of that country. His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu calls for a continued environment of peace to prevail in the DEC during this sensitive period."

## Poor G9 results need investigation - East BETUZ

*By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda*  
Eastern Province BETUZ chairperson Pearson Tembo says an investigation into grade 9 exams must be instituted because the area can't continue having a bad tag of poor results. In an interview, Tembo expressed sadness at the low pass rate of grade 9 results compared to grade 7, saying there must be a critical analysis between primary grades and junior primary grades.

He narrated that as it stands, it shows as if the teachers who handle grades 8-9 are unqualified compared to those handling lower grades. "As a province, we can't continue coming last or doing badly in examination results, especially grade 9. There must be some investigation to be carried as to why grade 9 results came so bad, while grade 7 results recorded 100 per cent. Now, something must be done because as it stands, it shows that the teachers teaching grade 8-9 are not qualified compared to those teaching 5-7 that's what it shows. So, we need to improve to ensure the academic bad tag is removed from our region," Tembo told News Diggers! He explained that it was common that pupils can progress to grade 8 during grade seven-level, but that some who can't read, write or speak English. "I think the government is very slow is implementing

the policy where they wanted to abolish junior primary school. The best way they can do is to abolish junior primary schools or send trained teachers to primary schools so that the progression at grade seven-level is genuine, so that every examination grade is a success. But if the situation remains as it is, we shall continue to record bad results, especially at grade 9; that is where the major problem is. As grade 12, we

don't have much challenges," Tembo narrated. He also challenged parents to ensure they plan for the education of their children rather than leaving everything to the schools. "If we are to have brilliant learners, parents needs to come in with a great force; they need to plan because education is all about planning, and if you fail to plan, there is nothing you can do about it. Let them plan and once children

see commitment from their parents they will take the matter seriously," he advised. When asked about the school dropouts for last year in the province, Tembo called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders without giving up. He equally expressed concern at the rates of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts, which called on everyone starting from the Head of State to

parents to fight the vice. "The percentage is quite disturbing because the figures such as 5,000 for Chipata and 4,000 for Chadiza; its alarming! And this shouldn't worry easterners alone, but the entire nation because it's not only here we record such; even other areas. But the battle should be for everyone not leave the battle to government alone or parents alone, no!" observed Tembo.

## People are jealous because Lungu is succeeding as President - Chitotela

*By Thomas Mulenga*  
Minister of Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela says those who are alleging that PF is corrupt are just jealous because they thought President Edgar Lungu would not succeed as Head of State after they left the ruling party. And Chitotela says it is normal to expect attacks both from within and outside government because his ministry is very political. Speaking at a PF interactive forum, Sunday, Chitotela boasted that President Lungu had scored massively in terms of delivering development. "President Lungu has not even served four years as president but he has scored massively in terms of development, particularly in infrastructure development. In four years if it's a child, you will find that the child is not even able

to talk properly or walk, but look at what President Lungu has done. We currently have more 2000 projects that are being worked on across the country, these are at different levels. So those who are not happy with the success of the PF are using all means to frustrate us by alleging that there is corruption in government. These who are going out of PF are just having sheer jealous because they thought President Lungu would not make it as President, then he made it and succeeded. Some of them were our cabinet colleagues, they know the processes with contracts. But what they have decided is to start spreading lies to create tension among the Zambian people so that the Zambian people can lose confidence in us, but we are determined to continue with the good works. They are not happy

with the many projects we are carrying out so they want to bring us down," Chitotela said. He wondered whether citizens expected ministers to move without waist belts in order to avoid corruption accusations. "There is this perception that has been created to malign the PF as a corrupt government run by corrupt people...I have been asking, today Sunday Chanda is not MP, he is able to build a house and buy a car, if he becomes MP and builds a house or buys a car, he is corrupt. Unless them, they can build houses and buy cars, they claim they have got 500 houses both local and abroad, and it's ok. If Sunday Chanda buys a car, he is corrupt, if Kaizer drives a nice car, he is corrupt, if Chitotela buys a new shoe, he is corrupt, where people even go to an extent of photographing a belt

of a minster and say see what belt he is wearing, so when you are minister you should be walking with a trousers without a belt?" Chitotela wondered. And Chitotela said it was normal for his ministry to be fought from all angles. "This ministry is very political and I know it is normal to expect fights from within and from outside," said Chitotela. "And for us to have succeeded in the manner we have, it's because of President Lungu. He is a champion of development. He always tells me that let's work for Zambians. I work hard because I know my appointing authority wants me to deliver. I am a human being, sometimes I can make mistakes like all other human beings but I can't do anything deliberately to frustrate the development of this country."





# Corruption in Zambia; Stolen Fortunes of a Wealthy Country

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” Proverbs 29:2 (KJV)

Hardly a day passes without headlines on corruption: overpriced fire tenders; stolen ARVs; overpriced ambulances; misappropriated social cash transfer funds...the list is endless.

The current levels of corruption are so entrenched that state institutions are on the verge of being captured in a web of deeply entrenched corruption. This calls for concerted efforts from all Zambians. Zambians from all walks of life are bemoaning the scourge and debilitating social, economic and political impact of corruption.

As UPND, we are as concerned as all patriotic Zambians about corruption in our country; we urge fellow compatriots to join forces with us to fight this abhorrent scourge that has been planted and nurtured by the PF Government.

In understanding corruption, we are reminded of the words of the late world renowned Tele-evangelist, Dr. Miles Munroe who said: ...A poor person uses power to empower themselves. A true leader uses power to empower others.

Corruption is a result of poverty mentality. [Mentally enslaved leaders will want to amass everything to themselves]. Corruption is like a cancer that comes from low self-esteem, poor self-concept, low self-worth, fear of scarcity and is probably the highest manifestation of insecurity.

This description aptly applies to the corruption we are witnessing in our country today. The scourge is sustained through a system of patronage, where a myriad of cartels are formed to dictate access to national resources.

Hence, it is no wonder that nowadays, for anyone to do any meaningful business, you have to be connected to the ruling elite. And because not everyone can belong to the ruling elite, most Zambians end up bearing the brunt of corruption through higher prices and poor service delivery.

The embezzlement or diversion of public funds reduces the capacity of Government to provide adequate and quality goods and services to its citizens. The recent happenings at the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, where Social Cash Transfer (SCT) funds meant for vulnerable people were corruptly misappropriated, is a good example of how corruption has become entrenched under PF. It is incredible that a party, which is supposed to advance the interests of its citizens can turn around and steal from the blind, the widowed and the poor; ba PF banaba



ndalama za bantu bovutika. Because of corruption, Cooperating Partners froze SCT disbursements and the Government ran out of resources to continue paying SCT beneficiaries; out of a budgetary allocation of ZMW540,885 for January to September 2018, the PF Government only released ZMW197,094 or 36% to the poor and vulnerable, but at the same time released 133% of the budget for PF Government officials to attend Public Affairs and Summit Meetings.

Corruption leads to wasteful use of public resources. Resources are not allocated to priority sectors and programmes. The Auditor General’s report for 2017 revealed that Zambia lost a total of ZMW193.3 million in 2017 and ZMW538.2 million in 2016 to financial irregularities like failure to follow procurement procedures, undelivered materials, wasteful expenditure, overpayments and so on.

Examples of non-priority allocations include the unjustified increase from ZMW 3.5 billion in 2018 (4.9 % of the Budget) to ZMW 5.1 billion in 2019 (5.8 % of Budget) for the Ministry of Defence; the country has further contracted a loan from the Exim Bank of India for Lusaka roads. In the midst of the debt crisis, these are not priorities; they are just a conduit for corruption, since the commission for such projects tends to be high.

Fellow Zambians, what should worry all of us more is that the corruption we are experiencing now in Zambia is deep-rooted and largescale! Gone are the days when corruption was mainly confined to service delivery frontline workers or patronage based awarding of Government contracts. Corruption in our country has become so engrained that public institutions have been hijacked and are now controlled by and work for the corruption cartels. We are on verge of a

state capture; the story of a foreign firm winning all ZESCO contracts either directly or indirectly, through its’ agents points to this unfortunate reality. What is even more disturbing is that officers who resisted this corruption at ZESCO lost their jobs.


The ZESCO example is a microcosm of a national malaise that has beset our country since 2011. Several hundreds of morally upright Zambians who have resisted corruption have ended up being fired from their public positions and are languishing. We are worried that the most corrupt and despicable person in our society are being flaunted as epitomes of success and role models for the young. The virtues of hard work, discipline, frugality, and patience are not as appreciated as before. The widely publicized Presidential clip of ubomba mwilaba alya mwibala, has not helped matters; it is a blatant endorsement of corruption.

Dear country men and women, we must join hands and stand up and be counted in the fight against corruption. Let us join hands and empower institutions that are mandated to fight corruption. Key institutions in this crusade such as ACC, FICA, and the AG should be given enhanced powers and enough operational space to execute their functions. We call upon all men and women – politicians, senior government officials, private sector practitioners, citizens, civil society, the media and other to forge an alliance against corruption.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”, Edmund Burke


#Together we can win the fight, together we will...

Issued by  
Mutale Nalumango  
National Chairman



# Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

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



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

# Zangena Businesses

**Zangena Businesses**  
Mobile money companies have introduced a very interesting concept of receiving and sending money through the popular tagline of ‘Zangena’. Zangena (or ‘account credited’ in banking terms) depicts the excitement associated with receiving money instantly from a sender.  
Mobile money has significantly changed the landscape of financial transactions in the country, with hundreds of millions of Kwachas being transacted to various recipients every day. Kenya, which is among the first African countries to use mobile money platforms, once reported about the significant business transformation that took place among micro and medium enterprises that did not fall under the formal banking system.  
In Zambia, traders in Nakonde can easily engage and transact with counterparts they have never seen in Kalabo for the supply of products. This medium of financial transaction has surely transformed small businesses. However, this ease of doing business has introduced another mindset that promotes a culture of receiving payment without offering a service. I want to share a few things for those businesses I consider to have the mindset of Zangena, or prioritising payment ahead of contract fulfilment.  
First, genuine businesses are not focused on earning money. They are interested in providing a service or product to a willing customer. Every day, an entrepreneur works up and thinks of what to offer the market; what gap or opportunity exists that should be narrowed through the provision of a product. Like it or not, there are gaps everywhere requiring an entrepreneur to respond. If you consider the definition of an entrepreneur, you will realise that there is an initial sacrifice being made before money is counted: ‘Enterprising is the willingness to forego immediate satisfaction for future gain, a degree of thrift, the desire to succeed and the capacity for hard and continuing work’.

In other words, as explained by various scholars, an entrepreneur perceives production opportunities, gains control over other factors of production, organizes production facilities, manages the continuing operation of the productive unit and restricts entrepreneurship to the industrial sector of the economy. In the Sam Chipungu edited book

***‘Enterprising is the willingness to forego immediate satisfaction for future gain, a degree of thrift, the desire to succeed and the capacity for hard and continuing work’.***

‘Guardians in their Time’, Yona Saleti says, “The Entrepreneur has the ability to assemble or reassemble a new kind of activity from what is available and has the ability to reinterpret the meaning of things and fit them together in new ways.”  
I have gone this length to show my readers that before

there is ‘Zangena’, there is a lot of hard work that is required of you. Learn to produce something first before you can think of money. Zangena businesses think that you just make a phone call, arrange some kind of deal and then run to the next payment line for your cheque. It never works that way in the real world of enterprise. There is no sweet without sweat!  
The second issue about Zangena businesses is that they never think of the impact of their product or service to the client. If you are the hit-and-run type of entrepreneur, who never thinks of repeat clients, you will not survive for very long. We have a lot of entrepreneurs who have made money by corrupting their way to the bank. They have earned a bad reputation in the market place but they do not care. As long as they have made money, they have acquired a license to command the market, bulldoze everyone, let alone destroying their opponents. As long as you have earned this money unscrupulously, the money source will dry at some point.  
Always ensure your transactions are above board whatever the cost. Your integrity is the license that sustains your enterprise. This is very important in Zambia because there are many people who have earned lucrative tenders, received the money and rushed for the latest car in the market without fulfilling the contract. One highly promising enterprise in Zambia, FOCUS, has had most of its operations grounded because they discounted invoices based on trust but counterparties let them down. Insulate your enterprise from the Zangena mentality. Value and invest in your product; be proud of your product and only earn money when you have truly satisfied the market. I personally have a policy of receiving nor more than 40 percent downpayment for any contract my company enters into. Our philosophy is that we should only be fully paid after the client has certified and signed off the contract. When the final payment is made, we know there is a very happy client with us.

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
Rainbow Party General Secretary Wynter Kabimba says the church and Zambia Center for Inter-party Dialogue (ZCID) must resolve their issues because it does not make sense for them to be bickering when they are merely facilitators of the dialogue process.  
And Kabimba has appealed to President Edgar Lungu and the Patriotic Front to submit to national dialogue process slated for the January 18, if they mean well for the country.  
Speaking when he featured on ZNBC’s Sunday Interview, Kabimba advised the Church and ZCID to put themselves in order and get on with the dialogue process.  
“The national dialogue is not about the Church and ZCID, that’s very important for the two organisations to realise. They should realise that this is not their national dialogue, this is national dialogue for and by political players and civil society organisations. The two organisations are facilitators, they are a conveyor belt to move everybody towards that appointed date when we can sit

# Church, ZCID must resolve their issues before dialogue - Wynter

down as political players and civil society organisations and look at the issues that are contentious in our country. I don’t understand why there should be this misunderstanding between facilitators who are not even the owners of the process,” Kabimba said.  
"But again, I think there is something between the Church and ZCID which they are not telling the public about. There is an under carriage which the two organisations are not telling the public as to why they are failing to work together and drive this process. The Church and ZCID had made progress, ZCID had agreed that the Church was going to chair the national dialogue and that ZCID was going to be charged with the responsibility of administering the Secretariat. But now we hear that the Church

wants to chair and also manage the Secretariat to the exclusion of ZCID. That is not the way to go and I think the Church must own up and do the correct thing, they can’t have both organs of this dialogue under their charge, that will create a problem.”  
And Kabimba advised President Lungu and his party, as well as politicians in the political alliance not to pull out of the dialogue process.  
“I want to appeal to my fellow citizens across these political divides and alliances to actually submit to this process. I want to also appeal to President Lungu and the Patriotic Front that if you mean well in terms of making progress for this country, submit to the national dialogue, so that all of us as Zambians can sit on a round table and agree. We may have contentious issues where

we may not agree, those can be adjourned and revisited later. But I think the spirit give and take and build consensus around this issues so that the country can run without this tension that we see today,” said Kabimba.  
Meanwhile, Kabimba suggested topic to be discussed during the process.  
“Before the date for the national dialogue comes, we need ZCID and the Church to give us the agenda. We don’t want to submit to national dialogue where we are going to be ambushed in terms of the agenda. When we met the Church as Rainbow Party, we made it clear to the Church that items that will be on the agenda must be those items that are of a national character and that if there are any items that relate to inter party between political parties, they must deal with those

items way before the national dialogue. We told the Church for example that the issue of political violence is a national item, the issue of printing ballot papers in 2021 locally is an issue of national contention. The issue of the colossal nomination fees that have unilaterally been imposed by the Electoral Commission of Zambia is an issue of national concern. Those fees are excluding leaders that may even be better than some of us who are there today. I don’t think that democracy must be about money, we in the Rainbow Party totally disagree,” said Kabimba.  
“Democracy must be about the participation of citizens. Once you introduce elements that exclude certain citizens from participating in the affairs of the State on account of their financial strength or weaknesses, then you

are not developing a democracy. Then the amended constitution, the article which says ‘once a Presidential petition has been filed then the incumbent must vacate office, it’s just ridiculous. It’s actually against the national security of this country. What would happen for example that in the event of the election petition and the incumbent President is out office, you don’t have a Commander-In-Chief and this country is attacked , to whom are the defense forces going to orders from? So some of these things are extremely academic and we have learnt lessons from these pitfalls in the constitution and the national dialogue is providing a forum to us to deal with these. So ZCID and the Church must provide the delegates to the national dialogue with that agenda.”



President Edgar Lungu has told the victor in the recently-held Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) elections, President-elect Félix Tshisekedi, to consider forming a Government of National Unity (GNU), on grounds that there are objections to the poll results announced by the electoral commission of that country.

“Given the strong objections to the provisional results of the presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called on all political leaders to consider a negotiated political settlement for a Government of National Unity,” President Lungu said, in his capacity as chairperson of the SADC organ on politics, Defence and Security.

“SADC draws the attention of the Congolese politicians to similar arrangements that were very successful in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya where governments of national unity created the necessary stability for durable peace. SADC, therefore, encourages all parties to enter into an apolitical process towards a government of national unity in order to enhance public confidence, build bridges and reinforce democratic institutions of government and electoral process for a better Congo.”

Our President threw his weight behind the statement from the Congolese Catholic Church, disputing the poll results, saying a recount of votes would erase doubts and inspire public confidence in successive general elections.

“SADC has taken note of the strong doubts cast on the poll outcomes by the Roman Catholic Church in the DRC, which deployed 40,000 monitors, the opposition ‘Lamuka coalition, and the observers and, therefore, feels a

# Lungu’s desperation for GNU in Congo exposes his hypocrisy and greed

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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recount would provide the necessary re-assurance to both winners and losers.”

President Lungu has exhibited the highest degree of hypocrisy in his stance on the Democratic Republic of Congo. But before we continue with our opinion, we would like to raise our suspicions around the manner in which our government has handled this matter.

To begin with, Zambians must wonder where President Lungu’s physical presence is at the moment. They should ask why he is not appearing on any television station or holding any press conference to announce this international decree or communiqué.

Wherever he might be, we are told that President Lungu’s statement on Congo represents the collective position of all SADC Presidents, yet this SADC ‘communiqué’ is not signed by President Lungu as chairperson of the SADC Peace and Security Organ,

but by a civil servant in Zambia called Amos Chanda. Why didn’t President Lungu’s substantive special envoy to the SADC organ who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs communicate this position on a SADC secretariat letterhead?

We ask this because, as ignorant as we may be on diplomatic affairs, one thing we know for sure is that it is easy for anyone to assume that the call for a Government of National Unity in Congo DR, communicated on our State House letterhead, represents the interests of President Edgar Lungu and his Cabinet not the SADC Heads of States. But we will leave this argument for veteran diplomat Vernon Johnson Mwaanga to give his professional opinion.

Instead, we would like to focus on the hypocrisy of President Lungu on a call for a coalition government in Congo. According to the officially announced election results, President-elect Tshisekedi got over 7 million

votes followed by a fellow opposition rival Martin Fayulu who polled about 6.4 million, trailed by the ruling party candidate Emmanuel Shadary who has a nearly two million votes deficit. This is not a narrow victory for the winner.

How can our President call for a Government of National Unity before the petitioners go to court to present their evidence of a rigged election? Where is President Lungu rushing to? Suppose the courts of law in Congo declare that, in fact, Tshisekedi was duly-elected and is not guilty of electoral malpractice, where will that leave the Zambian position announced by the State House Press Aide to Mr Lungu?

The Zambian people still remember that in 2016, President Lungu narrowly passed the 50% plus 1 vote threshold, and only beat his closest rival by about 13,000 votes. The election results were strongly objected and evidence of malpractice

was in public domain. The chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Zambia was at one point seen on television announcing constituency results that showed the ruling party winning by more than the number of total votes counted.

Unconvinced that they had lost the election to the PF, UPND filed a petition in court and called for intervention from the same SADC and the African Union – among other bodies – highlighting how President Lungu had abrogated the Republican Constitution during the elections. It is this same President Lungu who issued a very strong warning for SADC and all international bodies to stay away from Zambia’s sovereign affairs. What has changed today for President Lungu to make such a premature intervention in the Congo election situation? Why is he in a hurry to disregard the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Congo?

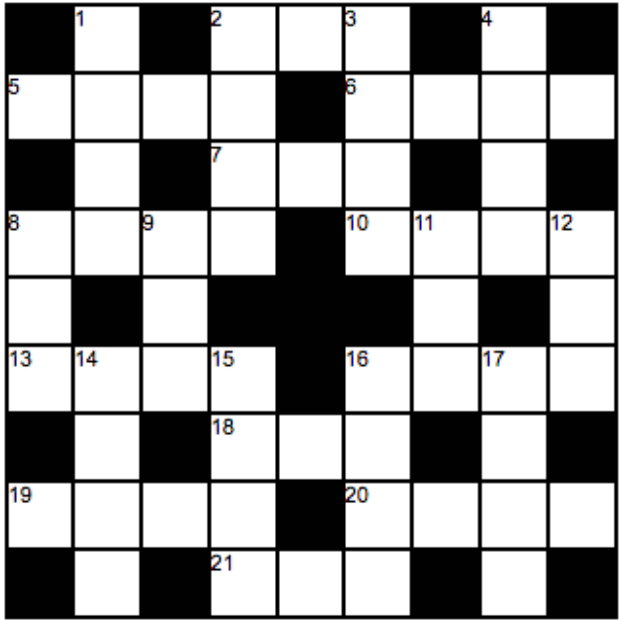
Our suspicion is that President Lungu and the Patriotic Front regime has an interest in one of the losing candidates of the Congo elections. They would have loved him to win the elections so that they can do government-supported private deals with Congo. That is why they want this candidate to be part of a coalition government, which would still give them room to transact.

President Lungu is not a proponent of coalition governments. He has on several occasions, here in Zambia, told us about how he would never sit with Mr Hakainde Hichilema because, according to him, the opposition leader would negotiate a Government of National Unity.

“Why should I meet the opposition now? What are we going to talk about? We are in charge because we won 50 plus, and they lost, that’s what the Constitution says. There is no room for negotiations now. Power belongs to us! I appeal to the Church to bring their issue, but don’t force us to be compelled to form a Government of National Unity. Winner takes all,” said President Lungu at State House on July 6, 2017. We have a verbatim of his “no negotiations” remarks on the following link: <https://diggers.news/local/2017/07/06/verbatim-of-lungus-press-conference/>

As can be seen above, President Lungu is a shameless hypocrite and Zambians must know him for what he is. He stands a moral high ground on issues that don’t involve him, but he fails to practice what he preaches. President Lungu has no moral right to propose a Government of National Unity for Congo. He is evidently selfish, and his greed has left Zambia bleeding!

## Crossword puzzle 272



*“The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not when it misses.”*  
- Francis Bacon

- Across

2. Stitch  
5. Weight measurement  
6. Deserve  
7. Web address  
8. Fail to mention  
10. Temporary worker  
13. Equal amounts  
16. Glance over  
18. Iota preceder  
19. Skiing surface  
20. Reebok rival  
21. Small amount
- Down

1. Gift tag word  
2. Lewd material  
3. Contusion  
4. Prudish; proper  
8. Mined material  
9. Make angry  
11. Deer relative  
12. \_\_\_\_-pom  
14. Blow off steam  
15. A lizard  
16. Beach surface  
17. Tattooist's supply

## Solutions to puzzle 271





# Reader's feedback

## PeP on PF wanting to use Tourism Minister's excuse to shun dialogue

Editor,

"They're scared of sending their main man in that gathering room expected to house big brains, who have burning issues... So, they're looking for excuses to make it flop! These guys around him are afraid that he will be rebuking them like: 'it's not me who issued orders on such & such'..." - Robby LM

"If he can shun political debates what is this dialogue to them?" - Nalipapa

"All political party presidents carry respect, but understand that the Republican President carries extra respect by

virtue of him being the governing President. So, such should be accorded him regardless of the situation. Certain situations, which may be normal to opposition presidents, can be embarrassing to a Republican President!" - Jameson Munengo

## 'LWSC should be split to avoid another contaminated water mix-up'

Editor,

"It is no longer a joke that actually LWSC should be split: the sewerage part one company, and the water part the other. Such mix-ups would be avoided!" - Mwewa Kyamz

"I feel it's an insult to the affected families

to be compensated in such a manner. They need to be paid money! This incident serves as a reminder to all of us to always purify our drinking water. I don't drink water that's not boiled, no matter what." - Mwamba Rozaria Musaba

"The LWSC must explain to the residents of Cathedral Hill what is happening at their facility in Long Acres/ Cathedral Hill where for more than a week now they have been discharging water through their wall fence into Birdcage Walk. This has flooded part of the road and is inconveniencing motorists and pedestrians. Please tell us what is going on behind your walls! You are a public utility and there is need for utmost transparency in your operations!" - Kanyata Mubita



Diggers' OPINION: Kambwili must refrain from body-shaming

Editor,

"I love this! Diggers, spot on!" - Rodgers Banda

"Ba Diggers!, this write up is speaks volumes for the voiceless...Thank you!" - Gp Sitali

"Editor, you have spoken so well. Body shaming is not politics, but arrogance! I have endorsed your last sentence of your write-up." - Chileshe Chishimba

"Kambwili is a great leader; he shouldn't fear to call a spade a spade! bwili ni bwili!" - Lubinda Mulobela

## HH on UPND now ready to govern Zambia

Editor,

"We are giving you the last chance in August, 2021; don't ever come back to us that our votes have been stolen! This time, we give you the votes; your job is to secure them and win or else we beat you as your angry fans. Let's go!" - Brighton B. Banda

"UPND, the only party that can make Zambia a better place." - Nicholas Alex Mutinta

"We are behind you, sir!" - Newton Banji

"Certainly NOT in 2021, with the way they've conducted themselves lately, I don't see that happening!" - Andrew Siwabamundi

"20 years in existence is of failure and disappointments! UPND has no direction whatsoever. 2021 will be the same story." -

Raphael Banda

"If UPND forms government under HH in 2021 then just know that that's the burial of democracy!" - Peter Kasempa

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.

"The fact that LWSC supplies water sporadically to affected areas means that the contaminated water is still lurking in homes. It's stored in containers and water tanks out of necessity and habit. This, of course, will feed in how quickly the problem will go away." - Kapandila Simfukwe

"Lack of seriousness on the part of management! Nothing else." - Evaristo C Mwenya Snr.

"That's an insult to exempt the affected from paying January bills for water. Sue the company! They have to compensate the affected households." - Rhodes Chipengu



The “black box” voice recorder from a Lion Air flight which crashed off the coast of Jakarta in October has been recovered, said officials on Monday.

All 189 people on board died when Flight JT610 fell into the sea shortly after taking off for the short journey to Pangkal Pinang.

The pilot had asked air traffic control for permission to turn back to the airport but then contact was lost.

Investigators say the plane had encountered technical problems.

The aircraft - a new Boeing 737 Max - broke into many pieces when it hit the water at high speed. The plane should not have been flying on the day it went down as it was not airworthy, Indonesian investigators have said.

The bright orange voice recorder was found at least 50m (165ft) from where the first black box - the plane’s flight data recorder - was found last November.

The voice recorder was found on Monday morning but was “broken into two pieces”.

“Hopefully it’s still useful [to investigators],” Haryo Satmiko, deputy head of Indonesia’s transport safety committee (KNKT) told Agence France-Presse.

Indonesia’s Navy spokesman Agung Nugroho told Reuters that the recorder was found 8m deep, under mud on the sea floor.

Mr Nugroho said that a weak signal from

# ‘Black box’ voice recorder recovered from Lion Air flight



the recorder had been detected “for several days”. He added that the recorder had “obvious scratches on it”, but that it was unclear what damage it had

suffered. Human remains had also been found near where the voice recorder was discovered, said Mr Nugroho.

When the flight data recorder was found in November, officials said that it could take up to six months to analyse data. Listening to the last

conversations between the pilots and ground control on the CVR should help investigators finish piecing together what went wrong in the short flight.

Flight JT610 took off from Jakarta at 06:20 on Monday (23:30 GMT on Sunday).

It crashed minutes after the pilot asked for permission to turn back to the airport.

Findings by Indonesia’s transport safety committee (KNKT) suggest that Lion Air had put the plane back into service despite it having had problems on earlier flights.

The pilots appeared to struggle with an automated system designed to keep the plane from stalling - a new feature of the Boeing 737 Max.

The anti-stalling system repeatedly forced the plane’s nose down, despite efforts by pilots to correct this, the findings suggest.

Investigators have now said that the plane was not airworthy and should have been grounded.

Some victims’ families are suing Boeing over the accident. **BBC**

# Turkey dismisses Trump threat to economy over Syrian Kurds

Turkey has dismissed President Donald Trump’s threat to “devastate” its economy if it attacks Kurdish forces in Syria following a planned pullout of US troops.

“You cannot get anywhere by threatening Turkey economically,” Foreign Minister Nevlut Cavusoglu said.

US forces have fought alongside a Kurdish militia in northern Syria against the Islamic State (IS) group.

Turkey, however, regards the

People’s Protection Units (YPG) as terrorists.

In December Mr Trump announced that the US would pull out all troops from Syria because the Islamic State militant group had been “defeated”.

The sudden move shocked allies and led to criticism. Several senior US military officials resigned shortly afterwards.

There were also fears that Kurds in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which had partnered with the US, would be attacked by Turkey once the US withdrew.

Mr Trump tweeted on Sunday that the withdrawal from Syria had begun, and that the US would “devastate Turkey economically if they hit the Kurds”.

He also said any remaining IS fighters could be attacked from the air, and that a 20-mile (32km) “safe zone” could be established.

His tweet could be seen as a response to criticism that his decision to withdraw troops will hurt the US’s regional allies.

Mr Trump offered no specifics on how the US could hurt Turkey’s economy, and

his announcement appeared to catch his advisers by surprise.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is currently touring the Middle East, responded to questions about Mr Trump’s threat with: “You’ll have to ask the president... We have applied economic sanctions in many places, I assume he is speaking about those kinds of things.”

Meanwhile, Turkey’s foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu described Mr Trump’s tweet as a “domestic policy message” to critics.

Mr Cavusoglu has rejected Mr Trump’s threats, saying: “We have said multiple times that we will not fear or be deterred by any threat.”

He also criticised Mr Trump’s methods, saying: “Strategic alliances should not be discussed over Twitter or social media.”

However, US sanctions have had an impact on Turkey’s economy before.

The Trump administration imposed sanctions and trade tariffs in August, amid a row over a detained US pastor - contributing to a sharp drop in the value of the Turkish lira. Pastor Andrew Brunson was released in October.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said Turkey expected the US to “honour our strategic partnership”.

“Terrorists can’t be your partners and allies,” he said. **BBC**

# Angry Zimbabweans riot after 150% fuel price hike imposed

Protesters in Zimbabwe barricaded the main roads into major cities on Monday to protest a fuel price hike announced by President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

In the southern city of Bulawayo, commuter bus drivers and touts blocked thoroughfares with burning tyres, tree branches, and blocks of stone. Riot police tried to quell demonstrations in the western suburbs of Emakhandeni and Luveve, firing warning shots and tear gas but the protesters remained defiant.

Demonstrator Glen Ncube, 25, expressed anger at the president’s announcement on Saturday of a 150 percent fuel price increase and the police actions.

“What kind of a man does this? Can Mnangagwa even be called a president? He’s making life hard

for us and these police are trying to stop us as if they don’t know our pain,” said Ncube.

The government has vowed it “will not hesitate to take action” against protesters who threaten to destabilise the country and the military was deployed to assist police.

Zimbabwe is going through its worst economic crisis in a decade.

The government announced an increase from \$1.34 for a litre of petrol to \$3.31 with diesel surging to \$3.11 per litre, igniting widespread discontent. A three-day nationwide shutdown was called by workers’ trade unions in protest. The action comes shortly after junior doctors ended a 40-day strike demanding salaries in US dollars and better working conditions.

Since the crash of the hyper-

inflated Zimbabwe dollar in 2008, the country uses several currencies including the US dollar and its unpopular local surrogate called the bond note. Because of a severe shortage of forex, most daily transactions are done in bond notes with the US dollar and South African rand trading on the black market at inflated rates.

Unemployed Morrisson Nxulmalo, 33, told Al Jazeera he was prepared to protest until the government reversed the price increase.

“The fuel prices must come down, we are not going anywhere until they bring it down. This government is trying to play with us, they can bring their tear gas and police but we’re here to fight for this country, I’m not going anywhere,” he said.

A shopping complex in neighbouring Entumbane was looted with people carrying out crates of food and drinks and bottles of cooking oil while police battled to stop them from entering shops.

In Bulawayo’s city centre, people marched to the courthouse and disrupted proceedings. Crowds swelled as ordinary citizens joined with protesting activists and touts to add their voice to the anti-fuel price demonstrations.

The hike has impacted commuter fares that have doubled since Saturday’s announcement while some businesses shut their doors to protect stocks from potential looters.

The government of Zimbabwe issued a statement condemning the riots as Western-sponsored acts. **AL JAZEERA**



# ‘What’s Ozil done for Arsenal? Absolutely zero!’ - Ex-Gunners star baffled by business

Mesut Ozil has offered “absolutely zero” to Arsenal since signing a lucrative new contract with the club, claims former Gunners star Paul Mariner.

Back in February 2018, a long-running saga regarding the German playmaker’s future was brought to a close as he penned fresh terms. That agreement was considered to be a triumph for those at Emirates Stadium, as another prized asset was prevented from heading for the exits.

Questions have, however, continued to be asked of Ozil’s contribution in the wake of that extension, with Unai Emery having taken to overlooking him on a regular basis since inheriting the reins.

Mariner believes that is because the 30-year-old is doing little to justify a regular role or his new deal, telling the ESPN FC podcast of some baffling business: “I’m dumbfounded why Arsenal would let [Alexis] Sanchez go. Sanchez, when I used to go to Arsenal to watch him play, he was phenomenal. “It didn’t pan out so much for United but they let Sanchez go, they’re letting [Aaron] Ramsey go for nothing! What’s going on? “And with Ozil, there’s something going on with Ozil that we don’t know about.

“Arsenal decided to put all their eggs in one basket with Ozil, right? But what’s Ozil done for the club? Absolutely zero! Zero.

“Yes, he’s a fantastic player, but he’s got to get fit. He’s never fit! There’s something going on with this kid that we don’t know about.”

Ozil was absent for Arsenal once again over the weekend as they suffered a 1-0 derby defeat to London rivals West Ham.

The Gunners lacked creativity without the World Cup winner, but Emery sought to defend his selection afterwards by claiming that he had enough quality within his side to cope without one player.

The Spaniard said of Ozil: “He’s working this week normally. Like I said we win with him and lose with him. Today the decision is to come with these players.

“But, like I have said, we have won with him and lost with him, and today I chose the players who

deserved to play in this match.

“I decided that these players were the best for this match.

“We had enough players to win today. The quality is there. And I chose the players who deserved to play in this match.”

It now remains to be seen whether Ozil will be drafted back into the fold for a crunch clash with Chelsea on Saturday which could go a long way towards determining whether Arsenal remain in the hunt for a top-four finish. *Goal.com*



## Battling Murray crashes out as Federer, Nadal fight on

A battling Andy Murray bowed out of the Australian Open at the first hurdle Monday, but it was business as usual for ruthless Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal who joined Caroline Wozniacki in round two.

The Scottish five-time Melbourne Park finalist gave it everything he had and showed glimpses of the form that won him three Grand Slams, but his ailing body let him down during a gutsy 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-7 (4/7) defeat to 22nd seed Roberto Bautista Agut.

Murray tearfully revealed before the tournament that he was in constant agony from a hip injury and planned to retire this year.

The 31-year-old hopes to end his career at Wimbledon, but has admitted the Australian Open could be his last event, unless he has a late change of heart.

"Amazing. That was incredible, thank you so, so much to everyone that came out tonight," he said after being given a rapturous send-off.

While his tournament ended in despair, Swiss master Federer, six years older than Murray, continued his march towards a record seventh Australian Open title.

He swept past Uzbek Denis Istomin 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 said he was in "disbelief" that he was the double defending champion at his age and



vowed to give his all to make it three in a row.

"I'm going to try everything possible (to win again) and leave it all on the court," said the world number three.

His long-time rival Nadal, who cut short his 2018 season to have surgery on a foot injury, showed no mercy to Australian wildcard James Duckworth in his opening round clash.

The 17-time Grand Slam winner cruised through 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 and said it was an important victory.

"Not easy to come back after a lot of months, especially against a player playing super

aggressive on every point," said the 2009 Australian champion, who showed no sign of any injury worries.

"The energy I feel in this place is fantastic."

The second seed is bidding to become the first man in the Open era, and only the third in history along with Roy Emerson and Rod Laver, to win each Grand Slam on two or more occasions.

Fifth seed Kevin Anderson progressed, as did NextGen Finals champion Stefanos Tsitsipas. But ninth seed John Isner became the first top seed to crash out.

World number three

Wozniacki, who made her Grand Slam breakthrough in Melbourne last year, opened her defence with a convincing 6-3, 6-4 win over Belgium's Alison van Uytvanck.

It was an emotional win for the Dane who is struggling with rheumatoid arthritis and she was in tears afterwards.

"Last year I had some special memories and just to be able to be back out here on Rod Laver Arena is something extremely special and emotional," she said.

- Good test -

Second seed and 2016 champion Angelique Kerber was also impressive, breezing

past Slovenia's Polona Hercog 6-2, 6-2.

Maria Sharapova, a winner at Melbourne in 2008, signalled her intent with a rare 6-0, 6-0 double bagel demolition of Britain's Harriet Dart.

Playing in her 15th Australian Open, the three-time finalist said she was pleased to go through so easily as she battles back from injuries.

"I'm still working through some painful days. But, you know, I felt like I did all the right things today in order to get through that match," said the Russian.

Fifth seeded Sloane Stephens, the 2017 US Open champion who struggled in her warm-up tournaments in Brisbane and Sydney, got back to business with an easy two-set win against fellow American Taylor Townsend.

Eleventh seed Aryna Sabalenka, widely tipped as a potential future champion, also safely negotiated round one on a hot day. But Germany's 14th seed Julia Goerges was knocked out, as was former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

*AFP*

## Sarri missing Fabregas already

Maurizio Sarri admitted the departure of Cesc Fabregas has left a gaping hole in his squad magnified by Jorginho's below-par performance in Saturday's 2-1 win over Newcastle.

Sarri said the 31-year-old Spanish World Cup-winning midfielder, who left for Ligue 1 strugglers Monaco last Friday, would have

been a natural replacement for Jorginho.

The Italian international -- a lynchpin of Sarri's midfield this season -- lost possession on several occasions against Newcastle.

"After 20 minutes he lost a lot of balls. It's unusual and I think he was in trouble," said Sarri.

"Maybe he was tired, I don't know.

But if Fabregas was on the bench I think that in the second half he would have been on the pitch instead of Jorginho."

Sarri is keen to recruit an experienced midfielder as back-up to Jorginho, who has displaced N'Golo Kante from the pivotal central role, but also praised the potential of 18-year-old Welsh

international Ethan Ampadu.

"In the future, maybe," the Italian replied when asked about Ampadu's prospects of filling the back-up spot.

"Playing as a central midfielder in our team is not easy.

"We need to try and try and try in training. But I think he is able to do it." *AFP*





# Benatia to miss Juve - Milan showdown

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has disclosed that Medhi Benatia will miss Wednesday's Italian Super Cup final against AC Milan due to a groin inflammation. The centre-back was initially in contention to feature in the Bianconeri's 2-0 win over Bologna in Saturday's Coppa Italia outing but suffered a muscle strain on his right thigh during the pre-match warm-up. The injury comes as a blow for Benatia who has found playing time limited this season with his last appearance coming against Milan on November 11. Ahead of the crucial Super Cup tie against the Rossoneri in Jeddah, Allegri gave an update on the defender's injury and his defensive options. "Benatia got hurt with a groin inflammation

in the warm-up, so he won't take part," Allegri was quoted by Football Italia. "We're already without Andrea Barzagli, but hope to have Joao Cancelo back. "Wednesday is a one-off match, we already lost to them before on penalties, so hope to at least not go through extra time and penalties. We're ready to play" The club confirmed on Sunday that the 31-year-old missed the team's training before they leave for Saudi Arabia on Monday. Benatia has made just seven appearances for Juventus this term – a worrying situation that has seen him linked with an exit from the Allianz Stadium as Arsenal and Marseille indicate interest in his services. **Goal.com**



Roger Federer begins his Australian Open title defence in style - AFP

## Zambian teams on course for CAF Confederation Cup...



# FAZ SALUTES NKANA, ZESCO

**By Elias Banda**  
FAZ President Andrew Kamanga has congratulated Zambian envoys in the CAF Confederation Cup, Nkana Football Club and Zesco United, for recording first leg home victories on

Saturday and Sunday respectively. In a statement issued by FAZ communications manager Desmond Katongo yesterday, Kamanga said victory by the two sides was a firm indicator of the state of the Zambian

league on the continental chart. The FAZ boss and his executive committee further encouraged the two teams to remain focused ahead of the second leg fixtures set for this weekend.

Kamanga said given the margins posted in the first legs, the Zambian teams could finish off the job with better planning and focus. "A big congratulations to our representatives in CAF competitions.

We have no doubt that you will finish off the job in the second leg and make us even prouder," said Kamanga. Nkana defeated Ivorian side San Pedro 3-0 while Zesco United overcame Kaizer Chiefs 3-1.