



FINALLY, ACC NABS

CHITOTELA

...over unexplained wealth, property

“The minister concealed proceeds of crime”

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A family of Chindwale Village in Katete District of Eastern Province is captured on its routine hustle in search of piece works - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

PF has secured new markets for local products – Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF government has successfully secured new markets for various Zambian products.

In the PF's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that government had successfully secured new markets for various Zambian products.

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Anything pornographic is unacceptable, I'm working in the background – Sumaili

By Thomas Mulenga
Minister of Religious Affairs and National Guidance Godfridah Sumaili says possessing pornographic

material is not acceptable, and people should not condemn her for keeping quite on the Lawrence Sicalwe scandal, saying she has been doing 'a

lot of work" on the minister in the background. And Rev Sumaili insists that the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) acted in the good interest of citizens to ban the Lusaka Hustle reality show from airing on Dstv's Zambezi Magic channel. In an interview, Tuesday, the minister said it would be a waste of her energy to talk about Sicalwe who posted a pornographic video in a PF Whatsapp group, as she had already been doing some work in the background besides the police handling it.

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FQM offers to buy govt's 20% shares in Kansanshi Mine for US\$700m

By Stuart Lisulo
First Quantum Minerals Limited (FQML) has offered the Zambian government US\$700 million to buy off the latter's 20 per cent stake in its subsidiary Kansanshi Mining Plc through ZCCM-IH.

According to Bloomberg, the Canadian miner, which already owns 80 per cent of the Solwezi-based Kansanshi Mine, submitted a business proposal last year that included US\$300 million to \$400 million in cash, and an equal amount in special royalties over more than 10 years.

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Sesheke poll returning officer met State House officials, claims Nkombo

Story page 2

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Copperbelt MMD provincial chairman Denson Chisunka has told the Lusaka High Court that the 2016 convention which elected Felix Mutati and others into office remains an illegality because it was convened by a team of "illegal men who were in bad standing with the party".

Chisunka has, however, told the court that the term of office for the MMD National Executive Committee (NEC) where he's currently serving was supposed to expire two

2016 MMD convention was illegal, Chisunka tells court

years ago.

This is the matter in which Winnie Zaloumis in her capacity as MMD acting national secretary for the Nevers Mumba led-MMD has sued Felix Mutati, Mwansa Mbulakulima,

Raphael Nakacinda and George Kangwa in the Lusaka High Court, challenging the legality of the convention that was held in Kabwe that elected Mutati and others into office.

When the matter came up

before High Court judge Sharon Newa for continued trial, Monday, Chisunka, 63, who is also a peasant farmer in Luanshya, told the court that he had been a member of MMD for 28 years.

"I'm one of the founder

members of this party. I had the privilege to serve in various capacities at party level. I was appointed as member of NEC in September 25, 2014. That's when I also became provincial chairman for Copperbelt Province," Chisunka said.

He further told the court that only the NEC had powers to convene a national convention and that the people who summoned the 2016 convention, who were the defendants in the matter, had no authority because they were in bad standing with the party.

"The people who convened this convention had no authority. First defendant, Felix Mutati was expelled in February, 2016. He contested the expulsion in the High Court. And justice Mwamba Chanda confirmed the expulsion. So, Mr Mutati was not a member of MMD," he narrated.

Chisunka added that the 2016 convention, therefore, remained an illegality.

"Second defendant, Mwansa Mbulakulima was suspended in February, 2016, so he was also a member in bad standing and had no authority. Raphael Nakachinda was also expelled in February, 2016, and was also in bad standing. Forth defendant was expelled in 2014, therefore, when you consider the team, which

summoned the convention, it's a team of illegal men, and illegality whether coated with sugar, will remain an illegality. So, what my brothers did was illegal and it remains an illegality," he insisted.

"I would not attend something, which is illegal. I consider what happened not as a national convention, but just a gathering."

Meanwhile, Chisunka said the term of office for NEC members, as well as provincial, district, constituency and branch committee members, was five years.

He added no conventions were held every five years as they were either held before or after five years.

"So, when a term expires, it's for all party organs. When the term of office ends after five years, the incumbent leadership starting from the branch is the outgoing leadership that will organise the elections. The same happens at all organs. If the term of office ends and then the leadership runs away and it becomes free for all, that is anarchy, total confusion and it's not allowed anywhere!" he said.

"We have never as a party held conventions every five years, never. The first was in 1991 where Dr [Fredrick] Chiluba was elected; 1993 we had an extraordinary convention where we looked at the performance of the party; 1995 we had the national convention. The next was 2001; then 2005; 2011 and the last one was in 2012."

Chisunka, therefore, asked the court to nullify all the decisions, directives and resolutions, which were made at the 'illegal' convention.

He further asked the court to restore the original names of MMD officials headed by Nevers Mumba.

After he was asked by a lawyer representing the Mutati-led MMD Jonas Zimba in cross-examination whether it was his position that the four defendants summoned the 2016 convention, Chisunka changed his earlier position and said it was Mbulakulima who convened it while the rest only participated.

"These defendants participated in the convention, but the convener was Mbulakulima. So, they became part of the act," he said.

Chisunka further said that the term of office for the National Executive Committee where he was currently serving was supposed to expire two years ago, in 2017.

Trial continues.



Copperbelt Permanent Secretary Bright Nundwe (c) hands over pesticides donated by Gemcantion Investments Holdings Limited to traditional leaders meant for all the six chiefdoms in Lufwanyama District last week. (Picture: Suma Systems)

Sesheke by-election returning officer met State House officials – Nkombo

By Thomas Mulenga

UPND chairperson for elections Garry Nkombo says the party is concerned that the returning officer in the Sesheke by-election had a private meeting with some State House officials last Friday.

In an interview, Nkombo said whilst the UPND was confident of winning the seat, the party was concerned about a private meeting which an Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) returning officer had with State House officials last Friday.

"The ground is extremely fertile for UPND to win the by-election in Sesheke. We are confident that come 12th of February, we will carry the day. There are, however, some few challenges in terms of the management of this by-election; there are a few

named policemen, who are clearly partisan, and there are also some ECZ officials who are showing signs of partisanship. The most recent incident, which we are very much concerned about, is the returning officer in the Sesheke by-election, who had a meeting with officers from State House last week on Friday and we wonder what that meeting was all about. What we know is that returning officers are supposed to be neutral. But despite all these challenges, we are still in the comfort zone regarding the outcome of that election," Nkombo said.

"We are not lying idle, we are doubling our efforts in doing everything possible to secure our victory next Tuesday. So, it's not about our confidence only that would make us win; it's about

courtesy of the people of Sesheke. So far, they have shown a lot of support for UPND and adding our own efforts, without taking the peoples' support for granted."

Efforts to get a reaction from ECZ spokesperson Margaret Chimanse proved futile as her phone went unanswered.

And Nkombo, who is also Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament, appealed to Zambia Police Service to identify the officer who discharged a teargas canister in Vespers Shimunzila's room.

"The point is that the police are incapable of carrying out investigations themselves, they are the perpetrators of that death themselves and so, we would like to render the report of findings

by the Human Rights Commission supreme over any other investigations coming from other wings, especially from the police. Because the police are the ones who killed Vespers so there is really nothing to expect from the police other than for them to concede that they caused the death and our only call is that the specific officers, who caused the death of Vespers are identified. The police must help us to know who among them did that because time has now come for us to start indicting these police officers one by one as opposed to speak generally that the police have done this or that. They have a duty now to tell us which officer discharged a teargas (canister) in the room of that innocent, young girl," said Nkombo.

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Cyber Crime Crack Squad designed to spy on Zambian citizens - Msoni

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

All People's Congress (APC) leader leader Nason Msoni says Zambia desperately needs a poverty Crack Squad, not a Cyber Crack Squad which is only meant to snoop, spy and curtail personal freedoms.

Reacting to government's decision to establish a Special Joint Cyber Crime Crack Squad aimed at mitigating abuse and illegal use of the internet, Msoni stated that the move breached fundamental freedoms as enshrined by the Republican Constitution.

He feared that the establishment of the unorthodox squad would result in a cyber monster that would end up consuming online publications and block legitimate news websites, resulting in restricting citizens' access to information.

"What Zambia desperately needs is a poverty Crack Squad and not an eavesdropping Cyber Crack Squad meant only to snoop and spy on Zambians exercising their fundamental freedoms of expression. It is clearly deceitful and a blue lie for government to claim that it has specifically been formed to deal with the growing trend in cyberspace crimes. Government has formed a special branch called the Special Joint Cyber Crime Crack Squad (SJCCS). Clearly, this creation is inimical to public good and on the fundamental enjoyment of freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. Clearly, government intentions with the creation of this evil squad is in breach of the fundamental freedoms as guaranteed by the Republican Constitution," Msoni stated.

He stated that it was also possible that the architects of the idea were looking ahead to the 2021 general elections to blackout the internet, such as what obtained in neighbouring countries.

"Delegated legislation cannot override the Constitution to create monsters out to haunt citizens from enjoying their rights and freedoms. We should all be weary and suspicious of such unorthodox creation and which we think is not a priority amongst so many competing needs. This thing will turn out into a cyber monster consuming online publications and blocking news websites.

There is also an obvious danger that the architects of this thing are looking ahead to the 2021 elections to blackout the Internet like in the neighbouring countries where the elections were stolen and failed the true winners.


It would be a dangerous underestimation to buy into what the Transport and Communications Minister, Engineer Brian Mushimba, is asserting that the exponential growth in the information and communication technology

sector has necessitated the creation of such a squad," he stated.


Msoni stated that Zambia only needed viable squads to fight and minimise escalating poverty levels and suffering among Zambians. "Arguably, the only viable

squads we need are those that work towards fighting and minimising poverty and suffering amongst our people. Mr Mushimba's assertion that the wider and increased availability of the digital platforms, such as the Internet and mobile

technology, has led to some individuals using ICTs to propagate illegal vices. This statement alone is a clear tell-tale sign that the regime is now intent on muzzling the press and the free flow of information between citizens," argued Msoni.



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New mine tax regime may negatively affect mining houses - FQM boss

By Mirriam Chabala

First Quantum Minerals (FQM) director Philip Pascal has expressed concern that the mining industry will be adversely affected by the recent tax changes because of unique circumstances such as the gold export tax.

But Minister of Mines and Minerals Development Richard Musukwa has asked mining companies to submit their concerns about the new tax changes to government, saying government would accept proposals regarding the recent

changes to the mine tax regime.

Musukwa who is currently in South Africa to attend the 25th Africa Mining Indaba being held at the Capetown international Convention Centre, met with FQM directors whom he advised that particular concerns should be brought to the attention of government.

And according to a statement issued by the Zambian Mission in Pretoria, Musukwa stressed that government had a duty to develop the country from there resources that were available.

Meanwhile, FQM's Pascal said the mining company would submit concerns regarding the new tax changes, but expressed concern that Kansanshi as well as other Mines in North Western would particularly be adversely affected by the recent tax changes because of the unique circumstances such as the gold export tax. He disclosed that FQM had invested about \$5 billion in the mines at Kansanshi and Lumwana in North Western Province in the last 20 years, and that over the years, FQM had paid over \$3.5 billion in taxes.

ACC arrests Chitotela

By Mukosha Funga

The Anti Corruption Commission has moved to arrest Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela for corruption.

In a statement, ACC assistant public relations manager Dorothy Mwanza said the minister has since been charged with two counts of concealing property suspected to be proceeds of crime.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has today arrested the Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Honourable Ronald Chitotela. Honourable Ronald Chitotela aged 47 has been charged with two counts of concealing property suspected of being proceeds of crime contrary to Section 71 subsection(1) of the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act Number 19 of 2010," Mwanza stated.

"Details in the first count are that on unknown dates but between the 1st day of July, 2016 and the 30th day of October 2018 in Lusaka District, Honourable Chitotela did conceal a property namely lot number 148 of farm 50A situated in Makeni, Lusaka disguised in the names of Diris Mukange, property reasonably suspected of being proceeds of crime." Mwanza stated that the minister also concealed property in Ibex Hill under the same name.

"Details in the second count are that on dates unknown but between the 1st day of July, 2016 and the 30th day of October 2018 in Lusaka District Honourable Chitotela did conceal a property namely the remaining extent of Subdivision A of lot 22183/M situated in Ibex Hill Lusaka, disguised in the name of Diris Mukange, property reasonably suspected of being proceeds of crime. He has since been released on Bond and will appear in court soon," stated Mwanza.

ActionAid identifies snags in sales tax implementation

By Mirriam Chabala

ActionAid Zambia says it may not be possible to implement the newly introduced Sales Tax to replace the Value Added Tax because there seems to be no resources for it in the 2019 budget. Making a submission before a parliamentary committee, Monday, ActionAid country director Nalucha Ziba wondered whether the sales tax regulations would be considered on the floor of the House in readiness for implementation in April, 2019.

ActionAid noted that even though the Minister of Finance, in her 2019 budget presentation was quoted saying the new tax changes would be implemented in April, 2019, there seemed to be no resources in the 2019 budget for the development of requisite

infrastructure that would support the administration of this tax.

"A rather surprising tax measure proposed in the 2019 budget is the abolishment of the Value Added Tax (VAT) system, which is to be replaced by Sales Tax. The main objective according to the honourable Minister of Finance is to enhance the contribution of consumption taxes to government revenue. However, the budget address does not specify the rate at which the sales tax will be introduced, nor does it tell us what the administrative regime will be, who will charge sales tax on their goods and services, if there will be any goods to be exempt and how the ultimate users will be determined. Further, there are no estimated revenues to be raised from this sales tax. The

resources being estimated in the budget are for VAT," ActionAid observed.

"As at now, there will no bill to introduce although the Hon. Minister of Finance is quoted as having said it will be introduced in April, 2019. ActionAid doubts the regulations for this tax type will be read for consideration in Parliament in readiness for implementation in April, 2019. In addition, there seem to be no resources in the 2019 budget for the development of requisite infrastructure that will support the administration of this tax. This move is somewhat inconsistent with the general global trend whereby most countries across the globe have moved from sales tax to VAT. We know that during times as sales tax, many countries attempted to implement national retail sales taxes or variations such as wholesale-level taxes or 'ring' taxes but this was not for long. We also know that by 1995, almost all the countries had converted to Value Added Tax (VATs) that collect revenue at each stage of production. Almost all developing countries have also largely abandoned retail sales in favour of VATs."

Ziba highlighted some of the reasons why most developing countries abandoned the sales tax.

"One of the reasons was cascading. Cascading which occurs when taxed inputs are used to produce taxed outputs, [Tax on Tax] so that the total tax on the goods compounds beyond what was intended. However, we know that this effect can be avoided by exempting all business purchases from taxation but separating business purchases from consumer is difficult. Moving to VAT solves the problem since businesses receive credits for the taxes paid on their input purchases. The second is evasion, which actually is higher under a retail sales tax than a VAT for several reasons. First, the retail level is the weakest link in the enforcement chain, because there is no cross reporting; the government has no record of the transaction and the retailer responsible for sending the check to the government for the tax they collect knows this. As a result, compliance rates can be low," Ziba said.

"In VAT, the chain of crediting creates a natural audit trail.

In a transaction between two businesses, the seller knows the buyer is reporting the transaction to claim a credit. So the seller has more incentive to report the transaction and pay tax. There's no similar incentive under a retail sales tax. In fact, most countries have found that, as a practical matter, retail sales tax rates of 10 per cent or higher aren't enforceable – buyers have greater incentives to avoid the tax and retailers have greater incentive not to send in the revenues. Not coincidentally, all state sales tax rates are below 10 per cent for countries still implementing sales tax. Then if a retailer evades sales tax, the full tax on the sale is lost. But with a VAT, successful evasion by retailers only costs the government the tax on the retailer's value added; and thirdly, with sales taxes, there is no paper trail that enforcers can easily follow. It is our belief that the government will take these challenges on board as they design the sales tax that is envisaged to be implemented in April 2019."

Ziba said there were a number of challenges in the collection of revenue and recommended that a full tax reform programme was undertaken to redesign both the tax policy and administration with a view to increasing domestic revenues to about 25 % of GDP.

"The ultimate objective of a mining taxation regime is to maximize the benefits that a country receives from the mineral resources. In this regard, ActionAid recommends that the government undertakes a major tax policy and administration reform that will bring various stakeholders on board to design a good tax policy and administration system with broad policy consideration and that will stand the best of time. These broad policy considerations sometimes referred to as principles of taxation include; neutrality, meaning tax must be neutral and equitable between reforms of business activities; Certainty, where tax rules should clearly specify when and how a tax is to be paid and how the amount will be determined. Effectiveness and Fairness, meaning that taxation should produce the right amount of tax at the right time, while avoiding both double taxation and unintentional non-taxation," said Ziba.

PF has secured new markets for local products - Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF government has successfully secured new markets for various Zambian products.

In PF's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that government had successfully secured new markets for various Zambian products.

"The PF government has successfully secured new markets for various Zambian products. For example, in 2018, the PF Government created a taskforce comprising of Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries, Agriculture, Commerce, Trade and Industry as well as representatives from the private sector. The aim of the taskforce was to develop a roadmap that will help expedite the process of goat and sheep commercialization in Zambia for export to Saudi Arabia, among other markets. Under this agreement facilitated by the PF government, Saudi Arabia shall be importing one million (1,000,000) goats and fresh vegetables on a monthly basis from Zambia," Mwila stated.

"In addition, the PF Government has also secured a new market for the export of Organic Honey to China. Currently, Zambia's annual honey production stands at 2,500 tonnes whereas the country currently exports only 1,000 tonnes to the European and African markets, which leaves a surplus of 1,500 tonnes. However, the new market to China secured by the PF Government has the export potential in excess of 3,000 tonnes of Organic Honey."

He stated that in line with the 7NDP,

government was also improving trade facilitation through effective and efficient implementation of the One-Stop Border Posts Establishment Programme (OSBP), to streamline cross-border trade processes. Mwila added that the OSBP concept was being implemented by government at all other border posts including Nakonde border. And Mwila stated that in order to further improve trade facilitation through transport infrastructure development, the PF government was currently implementing numerous road construction and rehabilitation projects.

He cited the Link Zambia 8000, which was aimed at Land-Linking Zambia with her neighbours by restoring over 8,000 Km of roads across the country over a period of five to eight years.

"Particularly, the PF government will, through the Link Zambia 8000 effectively link Zambia to the trade markets of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola – thereby accelerating economic diversification and the attainment of Vision 2030," Mwila stated.

He stated that government, under President Edgar Lungu, was rehabilitating the Chinsali to Nakonde Border Road to facilitate increased trade domestically and with the East African corridor.

"In addition to the above road project, the PF Government under President Lungu is rehabilitating the Chinsali to Nakonde Border Road in order to facilitate increased trade domestically and with the East African

corridor, through the provision of faster and safer movement of goods and people along this important trading route," he stated.

Mwila further stated that government, through the Road Development Agency had signed two contracts for the rehabilitation of the Great North Road from Chinsali to Nakonde, which had been divided into Lot one and two. "More specifically, government through RDA has signed two contracts for the rehabilitation of the Great North Road from Chinsali to Nakonde in Muchinga Province, which has been divided into Lot one and Lot two. Lot one, from Chinsali to Isoka, a 103 kilometre stretch has been awarded to China State Construction Engineering Limited at a contract sum of K 785,773,382. 49 and Lot two, with a stretch of 107 from Isoka to Nakonde has been awarded to China Railway Seventh Group Co. Zambia Limited at a contract sum of K713, 866,768.53," stated Mwila.

"Lot two also includes the urban section of the road to the border with Tanzania. The project is being financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) which is contributing US Dollar 193Million, Africa Growing Together Fund US Dollar 50Million, and US Dollar 12.76 million from the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ)."

He added that government, through RDA, would complete the rehabilitation of the Chinsali to Nakonde Road within 40 months. Mwila stated that another major road construction and rehabilitation project was the Ndola to Lusaka Dual Carriageway, which upon completion, shall boost inclusive economic development.

We can't go for elections before dialogue - Nalumango

By Mirriam Chabala
UPND national chairperson Mutale Nalumango says political parties should commit to the national dialogue process and conclude it before 2021, warning that Zambia cannot go to elections with political differences. In an interview, Nalumango said the lacunas in the Republican Constitution needed to be tabled on the floor of the House by the end of this year, but this could only be done if the national dialogue

process was successful. "As UPND, we believe that there are many issues in the Constitution that must be looked at. There are parts of the Constitution that must be amended; there are too many lacunas in our Constitution and we need to address them before 2021.

And the only way to go about this is through a conclusive dialogue [process] that will see people submit their concerns about the governance situation in our country, the judicial reforms, the Public Order Act... name it. The submissions that will made at the national

dialogue is what will determine what needs to be adjusted in the Constitution because it's all in there; all these judicial reforms and electoral reforms are all in the Constitution. So, if we can all commit to this process and get on with it once and for all, then we may

get somewhere by the end of this year," Nalumango said. Nalumango expressed concern that failure to go through with the national dialogue might affect the national atmosphere after elections in 2021. "Our hope is that this is done before elections in 2021. I mean, we agreed that when the dialogue process starts off, there are issues that must be prioritised and constitutional issues were among those that could be prioritised so that by 2021, we would have resolved all the concerns that have been registering. We just hope (as UPND) that the Church is not listening to detractors of the process. There is need for reforms in many institutions of governance, in institutions like the police itself, institutions like the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). All these, if they are not worked on, and we go to 2021, we will say it's a sham! We will win [the elections], probably under a revolution as Zambians are getting angry! But if you leave it to say 'the systems will work on their own' then we are saying the systems have failed to work, because

they have failed to provide an enabling environment for elections that are credible to take place," Nalumango said. And Nalumango insisted that the Church was the only body that could impartially handle the dialogue process. "The concerns we have in Zambia are not about religion; the concerns are about the way politics are being done. So, the stakeholders in this matter are the politicians, that's why we have said, us politicians, we cannot lead the process. Whether you say put the chairman for UPND to chair this dialogue, we would say no, because chairman will be a biased chairman. Whether you say let him come from ULP, we will say no! So, those saying they don't want the Church to lead the process, what do they want? Were they not part of the ZCID that was talking with the Church? For us as UPND, we are still believing and hoping that the Church will remain focused and we will ensure that the dialogue goes on. The Church will get the support of Zambians, not the detractors who don't want the process to take off. Our hope is that these things can be done quickly so that the amendments are looked at and we are just hoping that there will still be time to table the constitutional amendments within this year," said Nalumango.



Zambia Air Force (ZAF) Deputy Air Commander Maj. Gen. Benedict Kalinda takes oath of office before President Lungu (l) at State House in Lusaka during the swearing in ceremony on Monday, February 4, 2019 - Photo by Salim Henry

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Former Miss Zambia Cynthia Chikwanda has pleaded not guilty to being in possession of stolen property and dye used for making stamps. Chikwanda, who was crowned Miss Zambia in 1999, is facing two counts before Magistrate Kate Sakwanda's court and another count before Magistrate Humphrey Chitalu. In some of the charges, she is jointly-charged with Benjamin Chitunhu, a Zimbabwean who was recently arrested on suspected theft of motor vehicles at the

Former Miss Zambia denies being in possession of stolen property

University of Zambia, and he's also pleaded not guilty. Before Magistrate Sakwanda's court, Chikwanda and Chitunhu are charged with possession of property believed to have been stolen. Particulars of the offence in the first count allege that on

January 24, 2019, Chikwanda and Chitunhu working with other persons unknown had in their possession assorted parts of a motor vehicle registration number ALJ 8125. In the second count, Chikwanda is charged with destroying evidence,

contrary to section 111 of the Penal Code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence allege that between January 23 and 24, this year, Chikwanda knowingly and willfully destroyed assorted parts of a motor vehicle registration

number ALJ 8125, which were required as evidence in court. And when the matter came up for plea, the duo denied the charges. The Court has since granted the duo bail of K8,000 with two working sureties employed in reputable organizations.

And before Magistrate Chitalu's court, Chikwanda is jointly-charged with Chitunhu for being in possession of dye used for making stamps. It is alleged that on January 1, 2019, in Lusaka, the duo jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown, had in their possession, dyes, four wire cutters and two revert guns for the purpose of making stamps. The duo, however, denied the charge. And when the two applied for bail, the State lawyer Brian Sianyengo objected to the application, saying the two were likely to commit a similar offence and interfere with evidence. The court, however, granted them K10,000 cash bail. Meanwhile, Chikwanda and Chitunhu are also expected to appear before Magistrate David Simusamba's court on similar offences. They will appear before Magistrate Simusamba on February 6, 2019, for plea and February 11, in Magistrate Chitalu's court. They will further appear before Magistrate Sakwanda's court on February 25, 2019, for trial.

FQM proposes US\$700m for Kansanshi – Bloomberg

By Stuart Lisulo
First Quantum Minerals Limited (FQML) has offered the Zambian government US\$700 million to buy off the latter's 20 per cent stake in its subsidiary Kansanshi Mining Plc through ZCCM-IH. According to Bloomberg, the Canadian miner, which already owns 80 per cent of the Solwezi-based Kansanshi Mine, submitted a business proposal last year that included US\$300 million to \$400 million in cash, and an equal amount in special royalties over more than 10 years. "The proposal, which was submitted last year, includes

US \$300 million to US \$400 million in cash, and an equal amount in special royalties, over more than 10 years, said the people, who asked not to be identified because they're not authorized to comment. First Quantum spokesman John Gladston declined to comment," Bloomberg reported in a story published, Monday. "Amos Chanda, Zambian President Edgar Lungu's spokesman, didn't immediately respond to a call and message seeking comment, and neither did a spokeswoman for ZCCM-IH. The deal would also include ZCCM-IH

dropping a US\$1.4 billion legal claim against First Quantum over a loan the company received from Kansanshi, the people said. The government is still considering the proposal, according to one of the people." Ministry of Finance spokesperson Chileshe Kandeta elaborated more on the proposed transaction in an SMS, Tuesday: "There are multiple unsolicited offers on the table, including from FQM, which are based on preferential share conversions," Kandeta stated. "The offers relate to the Ministry's 17 per cent holding in ZCCM-IH and a sale would

be subject to Cabinet approval." FQM hit a record-breaking 605,853 metric tonnes in copper production last year, mainly boosted by two of its Zambian subsidiaries in Kansanshi and the Sentinel Copper Mine in Kalumbila District. According to official Ministry of Mines data, FQM's Kansanshi recorded 249,532 metric tonnes last year in copper output making it the highest among all 10 mining companies in the country for a third successive year. Kansanshi is FQM's biggest mine, and accounted for more than half the company's revenue in 2017.



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The corridors of Government Ministries, agencies and State House are dominated by persons from a defined political outfit looking for favors and business contracts.

There is an acute breakdown in the system of governance and masked in Democracy, thereby rendering our civil service impotent and disjointed.

We have a case where whistleblowers on graft are demonized, the Financial Intelligence Centre and the Auditor General's reports year on end are trashed. How do we play a blind eye to the 2016 Report by the Centre for International Forest Research (CIFR) on trade discrepancy where Zambia reportedly exported Mukula worth US\$900,000.00 while the Chinese authorities declared Mukula imports from Zambia with a value of US\$87million?

How can we not know we export Cobalt to China when it's a bare fact that Cobalt is a by-product of Copper mining?

Isn't that reason to warrant our thorough investigation into mining revenues?

How do political campaign financiers' business interests transcend over the millions of Zambians engaged in

farming (Commercial or subsistent) and the long-term solution to fertilizer supply by recapitalization of Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia(NCZ)?

How do we decline a financing deal that guarantees the construction of a road that raises K1.2 billion annually and we remain ultimate beneficiaries in preference to financing that threatens the very sovereignty of our nation?

It's an extreme case of moral delinquency.

The Panacea: Democratic Party

We have become a polarized society, a people that are distinguished by the color of the political outfit one supports. Under the guise of Democracy, Politics have taken centre stage even at the expense of national development.

Politically motivated and intentionally created by-elections are the order of the day. The civic leaders too have not been spared as time and again, we read in print and social media about Councillor A resigning to join Party X, which is a strain on our already struggling economy, and the political players stand over every mountain top and shout, "Democracy is not cheap!".

The Democratic Party proposes Elevated Politics; the

kind of politics that put our nation before individualistic ideologies. One that seeks to restore public confidence in Government institutions/systems, one that rids Public service systems of Political cadreism. We propose:

1. Institutional Reforms for ACC, NPA, Auditor General, FIC, ZNBC, Daily Mail, amongst others.
2. Electoral Law Reforms extended to municipal/civic leadership.
3. Access to Information bill, Freedom of Information Bill have to be dealt with conclusively.
4. Enforcing a leadership code. An attitude of servitude for those that aspire for public offices will be a must.
5. Foster Industrialization And innovation. There's need to debunk the theory that politics is an industry because it is not an industry and only serves a few privileged individuals.
6. One Zambia, One Nation Campaign. We need to instill in our people the ideology that Country comes first.
7. Annual Lifestyle Audits for leaders.

Let's Believe Again

By Thomas Mulenga

Minister of Religious Affairs and National Guidance Godfridah Sumaili says processing pornographic material is not acceptable, and people should not condemn her for keeping quiet on the Lawrence Sicalwe scandal, saying she has been doing 'a lot of work' on the minister in the back ground.

And Rev Sumaili insists that the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) acted in good interest of citizens to ban the Lusaka Hustle reality show from airing on Dstv's Zambezi Magic channel. In an interview with News Diggers, Tuesday, the National Guidance Minister said it would be a waste of her energy to talk about Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs Lawrence Sicalwe who posted a pornographic video in a PF Whatsapp group, as she had already been doing some work in the background beside the police handling it.

She, however, could not state if she had been counselling Sicalwe to stop keeping pornographic videos on his phone, saying revealing such private discussions would discourage other people from seeking counseling and guidance from her.

Anything pornographic is unacceptable, I'm working in the background - Sumaili

"The thing is that, as you know we have different government ministries. The Police said something, that is Home Affairs, so what do you want me to say? That is just waste of my energy because it's already being dealt with, another ministry has already said something, you see what I mean? It's like now, I said something before ministry of information, now IBA has come in, I don't have to say anything anymore," Sumaili said.

"I talk about morals every day! Generally I am speaking about morals, that Zambia is a Christian nation, that we are also a country that is anchored on morals, good morals and therefore anything pornographic is not acceptable! That's what's given and we are anchored on that."

When asked if she failed to admonish Sicalwe publicly because he was a fellow Cabinet minister, Sumaili said that was not the case as she had done something in the background that she couldn't disclose.

"No, it's not that, that's not the case and you don't even know what I did in the background, you don't know. But as I have said already, the ministry of Home Affairs were already dealing with the matter," Sumaili said.

"I can't say that (what I counselled him on), I don't want to begin to say that, I don't think it will be right for me to start....I counsel many people and I don't come to the open and say 'I counselled this on, I have admonished that one, no! Otherwise, I will lose value. For people to take me seriously and

ask for help, counseling, I have to be trusted, I have to respect them. These are private things, so I don't talk about the people that I counsel, but I talk to many people," Sumaili said. When reminded that she had publicly spoken out on the 'immorality' on a television show while dealing with the pornographic issue privately, Rev Sumaili there was no deliberate design to protect the minister, adding that government was not applying the law selectively but dealing with issues as they arose.

"You cannot be comparing issues, we deal with them as they come. That other one was already dealt with, you heard the Police talk. So it was already government that was dealing with that matter. I didn't have to come and say something about

it, no! This one, people cried out and of course the law also speaks very loudly. So I had to say something and IBA also followed, so we deal with the matters as they come. But I can tell you that we are resolved as government to respect the Law, to respect the Constitution of this country and we shall follow the constitution with justice. It's not that we decide on how to apply the law, even you people in the media you have to be fair and report things properly, you people have to promote peace among the people of Zambia," Sumaili said.

On the Lusaka Hustle show, Sumaili said it was the people who rejected it, in accordance with the laws of Zambia.

"In terms of guidance I mean, Zambians have given themselves values, you

even know that it's in the constitution, part 2 Article 8, go there you will find that as Zambians we have said 'these are the things to guide us, these are the things we are anchored on. Morality and ethics is one of the values that we embrace as a nation. So it's not just on the mouth, it has to become practical and anything that is contradicting our values, our Christ centered nation, we have declared ourselves as a Christian nation, is not acceptable!" said Sumaili.

"And you know, the good thing is that the people of Zambia themselves who gave themselves those values, they cried out. Peoples' eyes have now opened and they are embracing these values, and when something contrary shows up, they are able to say no, this is not us as Zambians, this is not what we believe in, this is not what we want to see in our nation. They cry out and they get it, because they are defending their values. The people of Zambia cried out, the people of Zambia said no! This is not just unchristian, it is not also part of our culture. What is it? Should we allow our Children to be exposed to this? The people of Zambia said no, and the constitution defends them."

Avondale mob attacks witchdoctor for killing two family members

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
A witch doctor of Chongwe Township is

nursing a broken jaw, unable to speak, after a mob attacked him for

allegedly bewitching two people of the same family.

In a statement, Deputy Police Spokesperson Rae Hamoonga revealed

that around 20:00 hours on Monday, an angry mob descended on the 68-year-old witch doctor identified as Peter Siame after he was accused of being responsible for the death of two family members. Hamoonga also reported that the same witchdoctor had been paid K2,500 by a named woman of the same community so that he could kill her husband and his family members, something which incensed members of the public. "Facts of the matter are that around November, 2018, The witchdoctor (Peter Siame 68years) was approached by the wife to a Mr Chisanga a local business man to kill him, his family and eight others. According to the list that was given to the witchdoctor, two members of the same family died within a week and the story came to light which incensed the public who apprehended Mrs

Chisanga and they wanted to kill her but was rescued by the Police, at this moment the Witch Doctor escaped and ran away to Chongwe where he stays," Hamoonga stated. Hamoonga further stated that the incensed residents tied the witch doctor and put tyres around him so that they could burn him to death but he was rescued by police. "However, Mrs Chisanga was kept in custody for her safety and the family for the deceased persons were advised to take a civil suit. The case came up for a hearing on 4th February, 2019 at Chelston local court where the Witch Doctor also attended. After the court case, they went to Chainda with the Witch Doctor where he apologized and revealed to have been paid K2,500 to kill the two persons, while the other person is nursing a swollen leg (a niece to the other two deceased persons). It was at this point that one of the family members informed the neighbours that the witch doctor was in the house and that was how they descended on him. Quick action by police rescued him and was taken to Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital where he is currently admitted. He sustained a broken Jaws and is not able to talk. We are appealing to the general public to desist from taking the law in their own hands but rather let the due process of the law to take its full course," stated Hamoonga.



COMACO staff train rural community leaders in the use of deforestation monitoring software available on computers recently donated by the U.S. government.

Court dismisses Heritage Coin's application for bail pending appeal

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has thrown out an application for bail pending appeal in a case where three directors of Heritage Coin Resources Limited were recently sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment for money laundering offences involving over K28 million. Last month, Magistrate Humphrey Chitalu jailed Hilda Agnes Raubenheimer, 35, a businesswoman of Salama Park; Orient Rio Zekko, 29, a secretary of Ibex Hill and Tapiwa Chirwa, 40, a managing director of Avondale, after they pleaded guilty to six counts of obtaining money by false pretences, money laundering, amongst other offences. The court had further fined the company, Heritage Coin Resources Limited, K150,000 for providing financial services without a license. It also granted an application by the State for restitution to the affected depositors. The court ordered that the K15,312,182,40, which was seized by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) should superintend the payment process. However, the three directors, through their lawyer, appealed against the court's judgement. The trio also applied for bail

pending appeal on grounds that their appeal in the higher court was likely to succeed. They had submitted that if they were kept in jail, the restitution order maybe thrown in jeopardy. The trio added that by the time the High Court ruled over their appeal, they would have served a substantial part of their jail term since the appeal cases took long to be heard. However, in his ruling, Magistrate Chitalu threw out the application, saying the reasons raised were not justifiable. "The applicants have not disclosed exceptional circumstances to warrant bail pending appeal," Magistrate Chitalu ruled. He further said it was misconceived and absurd for the applicants to claim that their continued incarceration may render the restitution order and partial repayment of stakeholders a nullity. In this matter, it was alleged in count one that Heritage Coin Resources Limited conducted banking business without a licence. Particulars of the offence alleged that between June 1 and October 15 last year, the company provided financial services to the public without a licence.

In the second count, Chirwa, Raubenheimer and Zekko were accused of conducting banking business without a licence. Particulars of the offence alleged that between June 1 and October 15 last year, the trio conducted banking business without a license. In the third count, Heritage Coin Resources Limited was accused of conducting a money circulation scheme contrary to the Banking and Financial

Services Act between June 1 and October 15 last year. In count four, Chirwa, Raubenheimer and Zekko were accused of conducting a money circulation scheme contrary to the Banking and Financial Services Act. Particulars of the offence alleged that between June 1 and October 15 last year, Chirwa, Raubenheimer and Zekko, being Heritage Coin Resources Limited directors or shareholders, issued

documents inviting the public to subscribe to a money circulating scheme. In the fifth count, Chirwa, Raubenheimer and Zekko were accused of obtaining money by false pretences. It was alleged that June 1 and October 15 last year, the trio, with intent to deceive and defraud, obtained K28,346,800 from members of the public by falsely pretending that the money was cryptocurrencies trade when in fact not.

Wildlife offender gets 6 yrs

By Thomas Mulenga
The Lundazi Subordinate Court has sentenced a wildlife offender to six years imprisonment for illegal possession of prescribed trophy and another one to six months for illegal possession of a fire arm. In a statement issued by Ministry of Tourism and Arts Public Relations Officer, Sakabilo Kalembe, the court sentenced Lubinda Lay, 43, to six years imprisonment with hard labour for unlawful possession of three pairs of Ivory, and Moses Nyirongo, 36, to six months imprisonment with hard labour for illegal possession of a firearm. "The Lundazi Subordinate Court has jailed two wildlife offenders for being in illegal possession of prescribed Trophy and an unlicensed fire arm. The Court has convicted and sentenced Lubinda Lay, 43-year old man to six years imprisonment

with hard labour for unlawful possession of three pairs of Ivory, contrary to section 130 (a) of the Zambia Wildlife Act No.14 of 2015," Kalembe stated. "The suspect, a mid-level ivory illegal dealer, middleman between poachers and kingpins who has been on the Department of National Parks and Wildlife's wanted list, was finally apprehended with the contraband in Phikamalaza's area. In another case, the court convicted and sentenced Moses Nyirongo, 36, to six months imprisonment with hard labour for unlawful possession of a firearm contrary to Section 10 of the Firearms Act, Chapter 110 of the Laws of Zambia." Kalembe stated that continued poaching was leading to the extinction of some animal species and that the scourge was denying the country economic

development. "Illegal wildlife activities especially poaching according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature is pushing many species to the brink of extinction. According to recent surveys conducted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) with the Support of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and International Crane Foundation (ICF), species like the Kafue Lechwe population that stood at 28,711 in 2015, now stands at 23,306 animals," stated Kalembe. "The indiscriminate poaching of elephants and other wildlife in a threat to the environment and to Zambia's economic development as it denies the country maximum benefits from sustainable tourism."

Yesterday, we disagreed with Pastor Nevers Mumba's argument that former vice-presidents deserve retirement benefits that should sustain their lives until they die. He made a comparison, saying "former Presidents, Chief Justices, Speaker of the National Assembly, Service Chiefs and several other government officials get sustainable packages once they retire but a former vice-president has none.

In our argument, we tried to illustrate that, with the kind of privileges and benefits that a sitting vice-president gets, there is no need for anyone to steal in order to live comfortable for the rest of your life. But we want to thank Pastor Mumba once again for raising this issue because his personal problem is just a pointer to the real scandal.

Today, we would like to talk about people who get retirement packages without contributing anything to the pension scheme. Who pays for those packages? We need to find out. But first, let's talk about those who get retirement benefits outside the law.

In Zambia, we have a situation where some government office bearers take home sustenance retirement packages, without any law backing such benefits. All it takes is the President writing a letter and adding those entitlements to the contract of a person holding a particular office of interest. In other words, a head of a government institution who has a strong connection with the Head of State can negotiate

Judges disregarding law on contributing to pension schemes

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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with the President to give him or her such retirement benefits where they get a percentage of the incumbents salary, for life.

This has been happening, but no one is talking about it. For example, of the three substantive Auditor Generals that have served Zambia in the past, only one was privileged enough to get such an offer from the President, to retire with a percentage of the incumbent's salary until they die. The other two did not retire with such conditions because the entitlement is not provided for in the law. Is that normal for a country like Zambia which is surviving on loans?

We can understand the need for service chiefs, top intelligence officers

and other senior security personnel of government, to retire with such benefits because of the sensitive nature of their jobs. It can be justified why government would want to specifically ensure that these individuals don't become destitute retirees. But for these other office holders, the only justification is that they make a lot of enemies in their line of duty. The whole logic doesn't just make sense.

But our point is that a President cannot just decide to give someone a pension without a pension scheme attached to it. That is illegal and unfair. If people are being given pensions without a pension scheme, then who is paying for those packages? A worker is supposed to make

contributions to a pension scheme during the time of their employment before they can go and claim those benefits from the Pensions Fund; simple and straight forward.

But there is an even bigger scandal. We don't know how many Zambians are aware that today, when eligible judges retire, they continue to get 80 per cent of the salary of the incumbent judge until death. And that is not all; when that particular judge dies, the widow, or spouse continues to get 50 per cent of the incumbent judge's salary until she also dies.

That is the kind of money that Zambians pay to the households of judges. Now, we don't have the statistics of how many judges have retired in Zambia and are still

living with their spouses; we will leave that to the imagination of you, our readers. And while we are at it, our readers may also want to imagine the kind of money those retired judges get when they are reappointed to head institutions such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia.

Ridiculous as that retirement package may sound for a country like Zambia, where more than half the population is in abject poverty, it is not illegal. Since these people already get huge salaries per month, and considering that they are constitutional office holders who cannot be fired unless they do wrong, one would expect that they don't need such staggering retirement benefits, but the laws of Zambia say

they are entitled.

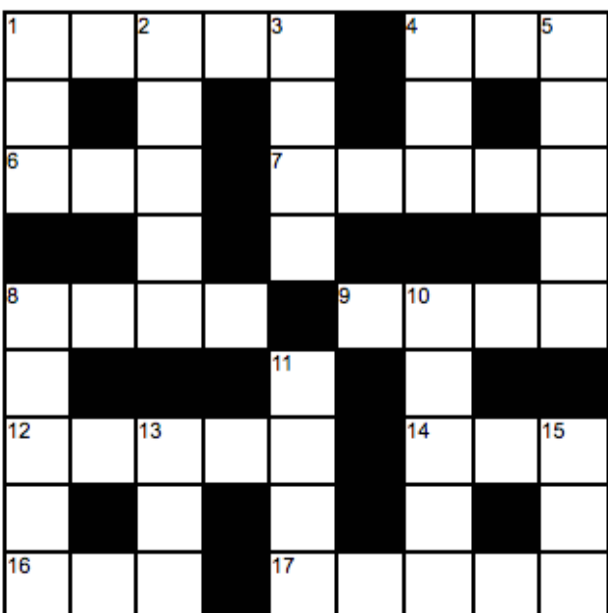
But the scandal gets worse. The same law that allows them to get that kind of money also says they should contribute to a pension scheme, but they have never contributed. Why are the judges breaching the law with impunity?

Chapter 277 of the laws of Zambia under the Judges Conditions of Service Act, section (10) states: "A Judge shall contribute towards the cost of the pension scheme described in this Act at the rate of seven and one quarter per centum of his pensionable emoluments or at such other rate as the Minister may fix by statutory order in consultation with the institution designated by section nine."

Our judges who are eligible to that retirement package cannot claim that there is a deduction from their salaries, which goes to a pension scheme. So, they get that money from the Treasury, paid by other taxpayers, to live on for life after they retire. How fair is that?

The judges' conditions of service Act is being disregarded by the very learned judges who must be upholding the Republican Constitution. This is the much bigger problem that Pastor Nevers Mumba has pointed us to, which Zambians should take interest in. We would like to hear what governance stakeholders, the Law Association of Zambia and academicians have to say about this. In our view, Zambians are being robbed by those who must be jailing robbers.

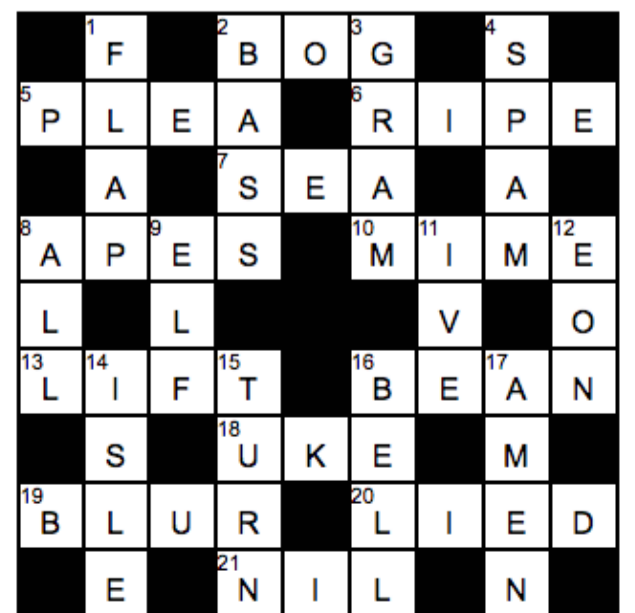
Crossword puzzle 287



"You make all kinds of mistakes, but as long as you are generous and true and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her." - Winston s. Churchill

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ___ car; trolley 4. Eye protector 6. Small round veggie 7. Go around 8. Stay out of sight 9. Equipment 12. Complete 14. Morning moisture on grass 16. Nautical journal 17. Lose sleep over | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Head cover 2. Full facial hair 3. Piece of cake 4. Floral necklace 5. Impede 8. Monopoly purchase 10. Older 11. Took to the air 13. You're it game 15. Method |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 286



Reader's feedback

Mwila's defiance of not apologizing to Prime TV

Editor,

"The results of having a riffraff as a leader! Wait for 2021, you will reap the fruits of all these seeds you a sowing. Don't think these seeds will not germinate, they will germinate and bear fruits for your exit .PF is finished and no longer attracting well-meaning Zambians." - Ernest Mubanga

"He thinks like PF will always be in power? Let him ask William Banda!" - Kamwambi James

"That is the character of the PF. Arrogance!! Even stupid ones, they display this character." - Evans Singoyi

"Whatever goes up eventually come down; your time is coming, bwana. Indeed, politicians have a short memory!" - Posen Sheleni Mwanza

"Your pride will lead to your down fall. Pride comes before a fall. You are not the first Secretary General and neither are you the

last!" - Geoffrey Samusungwa

"Misplaced sense of self-importance. This man could not even win an election in his own village!" - Simon Chinyama

"Time and chance happen to us all, Kambwili was that pompous!" - Mudivu Nkhonjera



Kasolo's departure from ZCCM-IH over mine tax remarks

Dear Editor,

"Kasolo's statement is 100% correct. He was not against new taxation regime from the government, but had to indicate to his employers

that the returns are likely to be affected because of the taxation regime changes.

He was very professional to state things the way they are. The State would have just advised him not to worry as they wanted a bigger share of revenue from the mines than just looking at the dividends paid by ZCCM-IH." - Shamz Chibwe M

"It's disheartening to say the least; professionals can't give professional advice. The new tax is a government policy; Dr Kasolo's opinion may not have been view of the board, that doesn't in any way distract from what is likely to happen in the mining sector." - Ben Kauzeni

"I am personally not surprised as this government is so mediocre and always paranoid with professionals. Ethical professionals have no place in PF; it's the new UNIP, really!" - Max Mulenga

"I foresee a very long legal battle like the IDC one that just got concluded, and again, taxpayers' money will be lost..." - Kapampa Musukwa

Diggers' OPINION: Reporting corruption is a big risk in Zambia

Editor,

"Nailed! ND! you are the best!" - Sydney Chibozu

"Through my interactions with various service providers, I have come to one conclusion: Corruption in Zambia is now ingrained in the fibre of our society such that it qualifies to be called stage 6 cancer. Ain't seeing much hope if there is no serious and sustained political will." - Nchimunya Bbebe

"It isn't good having an institution that doesn't serve its real purpose; people need to be prosecuted for the offence that they have committed, not just to be followed when they're out of office. And when it comes to justice, it shouldn't be selective in nature, but it should be applied to any offender regardless of the position one occupies in order to gain confidence from the public." - Charles Chiluba Chuutu

Belemu on MMD's looting during privatisation

Editor,

"Privatisation story won't finish as long as the Inquiry is not established. And it's well known that some people were nothing before privatisation and a lot of people suffered!" - Lawrence Chimukwaya

"If these PF lunatics have got essential and proper evidence against HH for having privatised the mines, let even this disgruntled PF thug Lusambo substantiate in court rather yapping like zombies!" - Sibong'le Mwaana

"We already closed the chapter of privatization. If anyone wants to use it for de campaigning purposes, it was already used in 2016. We want new tactics now." - Emmanuel Phiri

"And the privatization fiasco is part of the reasons why the people booted MMD out of power! And the same

people have regrouped under PF to continue where they left off. This includes Minister Lusambo. MMD inside and PF outside it would seem!" - Kanyata Mubita

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.

UN warns of 'massive' impact of tariff hike

A UN trade official has warned a US plan to raise tariffs on Chinese goods next month would have "massive" implications for the global economy.

The US plans to increase tariffs on Chinese goods if the two sides fail to make progress on a trade deal by 1 March.

The comments followed a report by a UN trade agency on the impact of the US-China trade war.

It said Asian countries are likely to suffer most from protectionism.

The US and China are locked in a damaging trade dispute that has seen both sides levy tariffs on billions of dollars worth of one another's goods.

In December, both countries agreed to hold off on new tariffs for 90 days to allow for talks.

The US and China have a deadline of 1 March to strike a deal, or the US has said it will increase tariff rates on \$200bn (£152bn) worth of Chinese goods from 10% to 25%.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) has warned that there will be huge costs if the trade war escalates.

"The implications are going to be massive," Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Unctad's head of international trade, said at a news conference.

"The implications for the entire international trading system will be significantly negative."

Smaller and poorer countries would struggle to cope with the external shocks, she said.

The higher cost of US-China trade would prompt companies to shift away from current east Asian supply chains.

Unctad's report estimates that east Asian producers will be hit the hardest, with a projected \$160bn contraction in the region's exports.

But it warns the effects could be felt everywhere.

"There'll be currency wars and devaluation, stagflation leading to job losses and higher unemployment

and more importantly, the possibility of a contagion effect, or what we call a reactionary effect, leading to a cascade of other trade distortionary measures," Ms Coke-Hamilton said.

The higher cost of US-China trade would prompt companies to shift away from current east Asian supply chains, but report suggests it's unlikely that US firms would pick up that business.

The study found that US firms will only pick up 6% of the \$250bn in Chinese exports that are subject to US tariffs.

Of the approximately \$85bn in US exports that are subject to China's tariffs, only about 5% will be taken up by Chinese firms, the UN research shows.

The study found that European exports will grow by \$70bn, while Japan, Canada and Mexico will see exports increase by more than \$20bn each.

Other countries that could benefit include Australia, Brazil, India, the Philippines and Vietnam, the report said. *BBC*



US actress, filmmaker and humanitarian Angelina Jolie (L), a special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visits a school in the Kutupalong camp for Rohingya refugees in Ukhia in southern Bangladesh on February 5, 2019. UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie is visiting the refugee camps for Rohingya communities in southern Bangladesh who have fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar.

Premature to Say Social Media Use Leads to Depression

Use of social media does not necessarily cause depressive symptoms later in adolescents and young adults, according to a recent research.

The study, however, showed that relatively higher depressive symptoms resulted due to more social media use later only among adolescent girls.

use later only among adolescent girls.

The latest study stands in contrast to recent claims that suggests teenagers' use of social media could lead to depression.

"You have to follow the same people over time in order to draw the conclusion that social media use predicts greater depressive symptoms. By using two large longitudinal samples, we were able to empirically test that assumption," said lead author Taylor Heffer from the Brock University in Canada.

For the study, the team surveyed 594 adolescents and 1,132 college undergraduates.

The results, published in *Clinical Psychological Science*, showed that social media use did not predict

depressive symptoms later among adolescents or college undergraduates; rather, greater depressive symptoms predicted more social media use over time, but only among adolescent girls.

"This finding contrasts with the idea that people who use a lot of social media become more depressed over time. Instead, adolescent girls who are feeling down may turn to social media to try and make themselves feel better," said Heffer.

In addition, different groups of people use social media for different reasons including making social comparisons or while feeling down. While another group of people may use it for more positive reasons, such as keeping in contact with friends, according to the study.

Examining the role that these differences play will help clarify the ways in which social media interacts with mental health, with implications for parents, policymakers, and healthcare professionals alike, the study noted.

News24

Man 'to sue his parents for giving birth to him'

A 27-year-old man plans to sue his parents because they did not ask for his consent to bring him into the world, it is reported.

Raphael Samuel, from Mumbai, India, is reportedly part of a so-called 'child-free' advocate who believes children shouldn't be made to suffer life.

He has been described as an 'anti-natalist' who thinks parents don't have the right to give birth if a child has not agreed to being born.

And he is planning on taking legal action against his own parents for giving birth to him without his permission, *Times Now News* reports.

Remarkably, he claims he has a "great relationship" with the pair.

"I want to tell all Indian kids that they don't owe their parents anything," he told *The Print*.

"I love my parents, and we have a great relationship, but they had me for their joy and their pleasure.



"My life has been amazing, but I don't see why I should put another life through the rigamarole of school and finding a career, especially when they didn't ask to exist."

Raphael said that people must know it is an option to not have children and to ask your parents for an explanation as to why they have birth to you.

In a video posted on

YouTube, he talks about a 'myth' of respecting elders in India, but says what we should be respecting is people's actions.

He asks: "Has that person treated you well? Is that person giving you freedom? Is that person encouraging your growth?"

"Your parents are two people at the age of 20-25 who just wanted a good

night together and then they had you," he adds.

He thinks parents owe children for bringing them joy, rather than the other way round.

"You must love them if you feel like loving them," he says.

Raphael talks about respecting a person for who they are instead of merely because of their position. *Times Now News*

Liverpool need to try something different - Fabinho



The Brazilian concedes that the Reds have to come up with a way of breaking down opponents who set up to contain Jurgen Klopp's title hopefuls Fabinho concedes that Liverpool need to try something different in their Premier League title bid, with solutions being sought after seeing their

lead at the summit cut to three points. The Reds looked to be well in control of the battle for the English top-flight crown a matter of days ago. They were, however, to miss the chance to go seven points clear when being held 1-1 at home by Leicester and were left

frustrated by the same scoreline on their most recent outing against West Ham. Two disappointing stalemates mean that Jurgen Klopp's side have allowed the chasing pack to close in, with it possible that Manchester City could knock them from top spot on Wednesday. Fabinho insists that is no cause for alarm at Anfield, but admits that Liverpool have to find a way of breaking down stubborn opposition if they are to ultimately emerge as title winners.

midweek action, Liverpool must wait until Saturday before playing host to Bournemouth. After that contest, Klopp's side will head into a testing run which is set to see them face Bayern Munich in the last 16 of the Champions League and Manchester United, Watford and Everton in the Premier League.

"We want to play better every day and unfortunately it is not happening," Fabinho said.

"We know our quality and we know that we can give more.

"If we do it, with our quality, we will continue at the top. But I'm talking and talking is always a little easier, so we have to try to put it into practice. Personally, I am not worried. But we know that in the next game we have to give much more.

"Beating Bournemouth is important to continue with a three-point gap at the top of the table. Now we only look at the next game and that is against Bournemouth.

"Then there will be a run of difficult games, but we will get some players back from injury and the manager will have more options to choose for those games." **Goal**



French dedicate a weekend to women in sport

Women's sport will be the focus of attention in national media and on the playing fields of France this weekend as part of an annual event called "Women's sports always." The country's broadcasting commission on Tuesday presented a schedule that will include live network broadcasts of the women's Six Nations game against England and France's Fed Cup match with Belgium. In addition, clubs across France are organising women's matches or open days over the weekend. France is hosting the women's football World

Cup from June 7 to July 7. On TV, women's competitions peaked at 16-20 percent of sports broadcast time in France in 2016, up from 14 percent in 2014 and seven percent in 2012, according to commission. In 2017, a non-Olympic year, it fell to 14-18.5 percent. Female participation in organised sport in France has been increasing. Between 2012 and 2017, the percentage of registered competitors who are women rose from 37 percent to 38.3 percent of the total to 471,010, according to figures from

the Ministry of Sports. Women, who mostly practise walking, swimming and fitness,

remain underrepresented in team sports, making up only 17 percent of those participants in 2017. **AFP**

While City are in

Chiyangi dissatisfied with performance despite win

By Abraham Kalito
Green Eagles coach Aggrey Chiyangi has expressed dissatisfaction with the team performance that produced a 2-0 win over

rivals Power Dynamos on Saturday. Chiyangi said he envisioned and expected the team's performance to be far better than what was displayed in

that match. "If there is a person who is never satisfied it is a coach because the coach is hoping to see the best out of the players. Not 70 percent not

90 per cent but more than 100. Yes, we won the game but as a coach I still feel my players can do better than they did. Football is competition and when you lose it doesn't mean you haven't played well. You can lose but the team has played well and again at the same time you can win but the team hasn't played well," he said.

"The only difference that was there is that we played one game, one away one at home. So, when you play at home you make sure that you get maximum points because you have home advantage. So, the difference was just that one game was away the other at home. But performance wise the team did well when the team played at home we created chances and used those chances. And in football when you score goals that is what makes the difference."

Eden Hazard has made future call as Chelsea wait to discover his decision

Eden Hazard has made a decision on his Chelsea future but stopped short of revealing whether he will be at Stamford Bridge next season or heading elsewhere. The Belgium international is into the final 18 months of his contract at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea had been hoping to put fresh terms in place with a key man by now. Those efforts have so far come to nothing, with Hazard continuing to generate plenty of transfer talk as a result. Rumours of interest from Real

Madrid refuse to go away, with the 28-year-old doing little to curb the speculation with regular admissions of an ambition to one day represent the Blancos. It could be that such a switch is made in the summer transfer window of 2019, with Hazard revealing that a call has been made on his future. He told RMC : "I know what I am going to do. I have made a decision." Hazard has not admitted in public as to what his next move will be. That is likely to ensure that exit gossip intensifies heading towards the next

window. When last quizzed on the Madrid speculation back in January, Hazard told France Football: "Would I like to sign for Real Madrid? Why not? "I have never heard from Zidane and if he goes to Manchester United tomorrow, for example, I would not be there. "Real Madrid without Zidane is different, but it is still Real Madrid. "I've won everything in England, except the Community Shield, but that doesn't mean I'm going to leave. I've always said that I want to try

something different after England, but there are things that might make me stay." Since those comments were made, Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri has stated that Hazard will be allowed to leave if he makes it clear that he wants out of west London. He has said: "Eden is 28. If he wants to go, I think he has to go. "Of course, I hope the opposite. I hope he wants to stay here with us and improve. He has the potential to be the best player in Europe at the moment." **Goal.com**



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Mourinho accepts 12-month sentence

Jose Mourinho has accepted a 12-month prison sentence and a fine of close to €2.2 million after admitting to tax fraud in Madrid - but will not serve time in jail.

The 56-year-old was accused of evading paying in the region of €3.3m in taxes on image rights while he was head coach of Real Madrid.

The Portuguese will not spend any time in prison as the sentence is for less than two years.

In 2016, Mourinho's representatives Gestifute released a statement insisting he was "fully compliant with tax obligations" after allegations of tax evasion first came to light via the whistleblowing platform 'Football Leaks'.

However, he struck a deal with Spanish prosecutors last year, which was ratified at a court on Tuesday.

Mourinho was in charge of Madrid from 2010 until the end of the 2012-13 season. The offences were alleged to have been committed between 2011 and 2012.

It was reported last September that he had agreed to accept a one-year prison sentence and fine in order to bring the legal proceedings to an end.

Speaking to reporters outside court in Pozuelo de Alarcon in November 2017, he said: "I did not answer, I did not argue. I paid and signed with the state that I am in compliance and the case is closed."

A number of prominent figures in football, including former Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo, his ex-team-mate Marcelo and Barcelona forward Lionel Messi, have been punished for tax offences in the last two years. *Goal.com*

