



Don't use my name to launder yourselves...

YES, I'M INNOCENT

...but Lungu, Chitotela steal together - Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga

I appreciate the fact that President Edgar Lungu has realised that people just framed me, but I'll never take an offer to go back to PF because of what he did to me, NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has vowed.

In an interview, Kambwili wondered who lied to President Lungu that he was vulgar to Anti-Corruption Commission investigators, when he was never interviewed while in government, until after a year following his dismissal.

Meanwhile, Kambwili has thanked God that he was removed from government, saying as Chief Government Spokesperson, he would have been defending wrong things.

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Sesheke election was not free and fair, there was too much violence - UPND's Kang'ombe

By Mukosha Funga

Newly-elected UPND Sesheke member of parliament Romeo Kang'ombe says his victory is just a snippet of the election revolution that Zambia will see in the 2021 general elections.

And Kang'ombe, who will be the youngest parliamentarian

at 32, says he would not describe the Sesheke by-election as free and fair, because there was too much violence involved.

In an interview, Thursday, Kang'ombe said he emerged victorious in Tuesday's by-election because he was the peoples' choice.

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Corruption accused Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela arrives with his bodyguards at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court, where he was expected to take plea yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chitotela fails to take plea, as his lawyers seek 'cease fire' from media

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Artists from across the country gathered at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross to mourn and pay their last respects to late Brian Chilala yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Danny Pule's church sues 19 members accused of insulting in worship wrangle

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PF cadres besiege Parliament, harass opposition MPs

By Mirriam Chabala

Suspected PF cadres besieged the National Assembly entrance, Thursday afternoon, dictating which of the members of parliament could be allowed inside the premises, while harassing opposition MPs believed to be critical of the government.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says the 2019 mining fiscal regime needs to be revised because government will fail to raise their targeted revenues from a tax system that will prove burdensome on the sector. And Hichilema says he will not be surprised to hear that the PF government has adjusted downwards the tax regime owing to challenges in its administration and compliance on the part of mining companies. In the UPND’s weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Hichilema argued that the 2019 mining fiscal regime needed to be revised because government would fail to raise their targeted revenues from a tax system that was onerous on the mining sector. The 2019 mining fiscal regime, which took effect last month, has seen an increase in mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale. It also introduced import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while also hiking export duty on precious stones and gemstones to a rate of 15 per cent, a situation that had previously prompted mining companies to threaten job cuts, while compelling Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) to downsize its Nchanga Smelter operations due to low availability of concentrates. “The UPND wants more taxes to be paid by the mining companies. But we also believe that we need to feed the cow that gives us milk if we expect good yields. This is the only point of departure that we have from the current thinking in

2019 mining tax regime won’t lead to increased revenues – HH

the government. Otherwise from the analysis above, it’s very clear that although our tax regime is more onerous, it is not yielding commensurate revenues, but rather it is discouraging investment and increased production, thereby, denying the Zambian people the much-needed revenues,” Hichilema stated. In a detailed analysis outlining how government would fail to raise the desired mining tax revenues, Hichilema illustrated how punitive the 2019 fiscal regime was on mining companies because government had placed an increased tax burden on already squeezed earnings. “Let us assume a company produces 10 tonnes of copper at a cost of US \$7,500 and the copper price is US \$10,000. It means the company’s gross value will be US \$100,000 (i.e. 10 tonnes X US \$10,000 per tonne). Let us also assume that the company has no any other expenses. Its total expenses will be US \$75,000 (i.e. 10 tonnes X US \$7,500 per tonne). The company will pay mineral royalty to government amounting to US \$10,000 (i.e. 10 per cent of US \$100,000 since price is above US \$7,500). This means profit before tax is US \$15,000, i.e. US \$100,000 (gross sales) minus US \$10,000 (MRT) minus US \$75,000

(operational cost). Prior to the 2019 changes, the company would then go to ZRA (Zambia Revenue Authority) and pay 30 per cent company tax on the US \$15,000 gross profit. It means the company will pay US \$4,500 in taxes and profit after tax for the company will be US \$10,500,” he explained. “Now under the 2019 regime, ZRA will not allow the company to deduct the US \$10,000, which the company paid, as mineral royalty to government through ZRA. Instead, ZRA will only recognise the US \$75,000 operational expenditure and will not allow the US \$10,000,

meaning the company will be deemed to have profit before tax of US \$25,000 and, therefore, ZRA will charge 30 per cent profit tax on US \$25,000, which will be US \$7,500. In short, the company will be asked to pay an additional 30 per cent tax on the \$10,000 mineral royalty it already had paid to the government. Effectively, therefore, the company will pay 50 per cent tax on its profit as a result of double-taxation on the mineral royalty.” He also pointed out that government’s frequent mining fiscal policy changes would jeopardize future investments and negatively affect revenue inflows.

“What is even worse now is that the 2019 tax regime will further affect mine development, which in-turn, will impact negatively on production and thus government revenues, in the short to medium-term,” Hichilema stated. And he said he would not be surprised if the PF government adjusted downwards the tax regime owing to challenges in its administration. “Our conclusion was that while we agree that the ultimate objective of a mining taxation regime is to maximize the benefits that a country receives from the mineral resources, the tax instruments, their established

rates, and the institutional arrangements must not discourage the investment that is necessary to give commercial value to Zambia’s mineral resources and that mitigates the environmental, health, and social costs of mining activities. We will not be surprised to hear very soon that the PF government has adjusted downwards the tax regime and the rents will have been sought,” stated Hichilema. “We hope these stand offs between the mining companies and the government are not a deliberate ploy to create some rent-seeking behaviour aimed at benefiting the privileged few.”

Only God can oust Lungu from office before 2021 - East Rainbow

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda

Rainbow Party chairperson in Eastern Province Boston Phiri says there is no need for the opposition to try to force President Edgar Lungu out of office before the 2021 general election, saying only God can remove him from office. In an interview reflecting on the widespread political violence in the just-ended Sesheke parliamentary by-election, Phiri

said President Lungu would only be brought down from his office when God said so. His remarks also follow repeated attempts to move a motion of impeachment in the National Assembly against the Head of State, on grounds of abuse of office, among others. “There is no need for us to fight, we can fight and fight, but we can’t remove President Edgar Lungu as God’s time has not yet

come. Lungu is the only person who will rule and lead this country until 2021. It can only be God that would drop Edgar Lungu; it is God that can elevate him. Even if we fight to remove him, that will not happen until God says: ‘Edgar Lungu, today, you are going down.’ Nobody will challenge Almighty God. God’s time is the best,” Phiri argued. He also said in most cases it was the opposition that provoked government wherever there were elections, insisting that it was indiscipline for opposition political parties to conduct a meeting or campaign in an area where the Head of State was visiting. Phiri further condemned UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema for conducting a political meeting in an area where President Lungu was equally campaigning in Sesheke last Saturday. “Some of these things, we the opposition, we provoke the government because the recent violence in Sesheke was caused

because of the pride of our colleague. Imagine that time Lungu was in Sesheke and could it be fair for a ‘lower’ man like him (Hakainde) to conduct a meeting? That was wrong and it should be condemned! When Eagle One is visiting an area, no political party should show their face there no matter what until he leaves the area! We shouldn’t interfere with H.E. (His Excellency) meetings or visits,” he insisted. He regretted the enmity that existed between the PF and UPND, and appealed to the opposition political party to show President Lungu the respect he deserved despite their differences. “UPND and PF have been at loggerheads since time immemorial. All the electoral violence are because of the old grudges that the two parties have. Why is it PF and UPND whenever we talk of violence? That is why people should look at a non-violent party leadership come 2021,” argued Phiri.

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

Danny Pule’s Dunamis Ministries has dragged 19 church members, among them a pastor, seeking an order that their continued use of its Avondale House of God is illegal as they were expelled due to their unbecoming behaviour. Dunamis Ministries is further seeking an order compelling Pastor Peter Chalwe to surrender to the church, the PA system, musical instruments, bank accounts, keys to the church building, among other things. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Wednesday, Danny Pule’s

Danny Pule’s church sues 19 members after exchanging insults in worship wrangle

Dunamis Ministries stated that it was a company limited by guarantee and carried on the business of proclaiming God’s word, among other activities. It stated that the defendants, Pastor Chalwe and 18 others, were members of its church until they were expelled on October 31, 2018. Dunamis Ministries stated

that it established Dunamis Christian Centre in Avondale on plot number F/378a/1093, adding that the said plot was purchased by the Dunamis Church at K35,000 in 2014. “The plaintiff, whose one of the objectives is to establish Dunamis Christian Centres and plant churches, did establish a Dunamis Christian Centre in Avondale, which property is registered and belongs to the plaintiff. The money to buy the said plot was contributed by the members of Dunamis from the main centre and Avondale Dunamis as well as other Dunamis congregations,” read the statement of claim. Dunamis Ministries further stated that its overseer, apostle Danny Pule, personally contributed 6,000 blocks towards the construction. And in an affidavit in support of ex-parte summons for an order of interim injunction, Pule stated that in February, 2018,

the defendants wrote two letters talking about breaking away from Dunamis Miracle Church and demanded for the certificate of title relating to plot number F/378a/1093 in Avondale. He stated that in that same month, the church held a meeting chaired by himself, discussing the said two letters written by the defendants. Pule stated that the defendants were expelled from the church and told to surrender all church properties, but added that in spite of being expelled, the defendants had continued to cause chaos, confusion and had refused to leave. “The defendants have refused to surrender the said church properties. On December 18, 2018, the defendants through the help of some youths harassed and threatened a security officer who was employed to guard the Avondale Dunamis Church and the said youths have since camped at the church,” read the affidavit.

Pule claimed that the defendants had also continued to issue threats of violence and insults against the leadership of the church, demanding for the certificate of title deed of the Avondale property number F/378a/1093. He stated that if not restrained, the defendants would cause more damage and their riotous behaviour may lead to loss of property. “The defendants’ rebellion and insults have caused great damage to the reputation and to the standing of the church leaders and to some members of the church. The defendants’ rebellious conduct has made it difficult for the church at Avondale to conduct worship services and prayers in a normal way,” read the documents further. Dunamis Ministries is now seeking damages against the defendants for trespass and unlawful occupation of its property number F/378a/1093, in Avondale and an order that the



continued use and congregating by the defendants at Avondale Dunamis Church, is illegal. It is further seeking an order compelling Pastor Peter Chalwe to surrender to the church, properties which include; PA system, musical instruments, bank accounts, member register and keys to the church building, as well as, interest on monetary awards, costs, among other claims.

Climate change has costs Zambia US\$4 billion – UNDP

By John Chola

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says Zambia has been estimated to have lost US \$4 billion in the last 10 years from the effects of climate change. The UNDP has since called for the need to mainstream climate change into all plans for all sectors through the National Adaptation Planning Process. Speaking during the project launch and inception of Strengthening Climate Resilience for Agricultural Livelihoods In Agro-Ecological Zones I And II In Zambia, UNDP Officer-in-Charge Sergio Valdiní told stakeholders that the country had lost an estimated US\$4 billion in the last 10 years from the effects of climate change. It was revealed during the launch that the seven-year project, which runs from 2019 to 2025, will have a total of US \$137.3 million in grants with US\$32 million having been secured from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and a co-financing grant of US\$105.3 million from the Zambian government and UNDP. The UNDP officer warned that if climate change was not addressed, Zambia risked losing the gains that had been made on the economic front. “Climate change is real, and the effects of water scarcity, floods, warmer temperatures and pests are a reality affecting us. The frequency and intensity of adverse weather and climate-related events is on the increase. Through our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Seventh National Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must apply the human and financial resources to combat climate change and build resilience for communities. As is understood, a dollar invested in resilience building can save more than US \$7 that would be needed to undertake disaster and risk management,” Valdiní said in Lusaka. Valdiní, however, commended the Zambian government for successfully satisfying the requirements of the GCF, which led to financing of the project proposal to the tune of US \$32 million that was being launched. “We need to use effective and efficient mechanisms to implement the project. The GCF Independent Evaluation Unit has selected this project [Zambia] as one they will use to learn lessons and improve designs and inform the approval requirements

by the board. Zambia is in the spotlight and we have an opportunity to leverage more funds from the GCF if we can show good implementation on this project. UNDP is committed and remains a trusted partner of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, and remains at your disposal for more resource mobilisation efforts in support of the Government,” Valdiní said. Under the launched project, government anticipates reaching more than three million indirect beneficiaries in 16 districts within the designed Agro-Economical Regions consisting of Mambwe, Nyimba, Chongwe, Luangwa Chilundu, Rufunsa and Chama. Other targeted districts include Mafinga, Kazungula Siavonga, Gwembe, Namwala, Shangombo, Senanga, Sesheke and Mulobezi. Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo said the project would support government to take meaningful steps to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations in the targeted districts, many of whom are women and the youth. Katambo said the women and the youth would benefit from the project through scaled-up use of tailor-made weather advisories to inform decision-making by the farming community. – Story courtesy of SUMA SYSTEMS.



Lumwana International School principal Martyn Howie, Kalumbila district administrative officer Frank Siatwinda, Lumwana Mining Company sustainability manager, Christopher Mukala (4th from left) and Community Relations Superintendent Febbie Busiku lead other Barrick Lumwana Mine staff and teachers in unveiling books donated by the mining giant during a books handover event in Lumwana. The beneficiaries of the books were pupils at Shiinde Primary School in Chief Mukumbi chiefdom, the host of the Lumwana East Primary School; Kamala Community School and Mukumbi Secondary School, among several other schools in the area – Picture by John Chola/SUMA SYSTEMS

Lungu should have fired Chitotela before his arrest to protect govt’s image - Kabimba

By Mirriam Chabala

Rainbow Party general secretary Wynter Kabimba says President Edgar Lungu should have fired Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela from his position before the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested him for corruption in order to protect government’s image. But Kabimba says those arguing that President Lungu is protecting arrested Chitotela from facing the law after being found wanting for corruption should know that there is no law that compels the President to fire a Cabinet Minister in order to have him investigated, adding “all ministers serve at his pleasure”. In an interview with News Diggers! Kabimba, guided that Chitotela should have resigned on moral grounds to pave way for smooth investigations if he were a decent man.

Kabimba, a former Justice Minister, explained that keeping Chitotela in office while being investigated would not only be interference in the investigation process, but it would also dent government’s reputation that a serving minister was suspected of engaging in corruption. “A Cabinet Minister serves under the pleasure of the President, the civil service general orders don’t apply to a Minister. He has only one document in his possession and that is a letter of appointment from the President, it stipulates your salary, it stipulates how many leave days you can accumulate in a year and it also stipulates the allowances given to you: ‘you shall be entitled to a personal-to-holder vehicle etc. So, your conditions of service are those in the letter and your service is at the pleasure of the President. That’s why when you are fired by the President,

you can’t sue for wrongful dismissal because you serve at the pleasure of the President. So, all these arguments that are going around are missing the point. The President can decide to fire a Cabinet Minister any time and he can ask a Cabinet Minister to resign; he can suspend a Cabinet Minister because all those are prerogatives of the President as appointing authority,” Kabimba explained. However, Kabimba said the law that permits the President to keep corruption suspects in government while investigations were taking place was an unfair piece of legislation. “Well, it is unfair and it is conventionally not acceptable that a Minister who is under arrest should remain in office because it compromises the investigation. It prejudices the investigation. It is against public service convention and practice to allow a Minister who has been

arrested to remain in office because it compromises the investigations. In fact, I, myself, I was at one point investigated by the ACC, but I was never arrested because they didn’t find any grounds upon which they would arrest me. So, that’s why I remained in office. But in the case of Chitotela, he has been investigated and arrested. So, even just on moral grounds on his part, if it were somebody in Europe, he would have resigned or the President should have fired Chitotela before he was arrested because this also reflects badly on the government that a sitting Minister is arrested,” said Kabimba. “What normally happens is that the President would dismiss the Minister once the ACC or the police tell him that we are about to arrest this person, to protect the image of the government, and that’s what he (President Lungu) did in the case of Kambwili.”

By Thomas Mulenga
Shang'ombo UPND member of parliament Mubika Mubika says it was wrong for President Edgar Lungu to publicly state that he would not fire Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela as that would make it difficult for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to investigate him. In an interview, Mubika said it would be difficult for junior ACC officers to investigate a sitting Cabinet Minister following the Head of State's firm refusal to sack him amidst the corruption claims. Chitotela was nabbed by

Lungu's public defence of Chitotela was a terrible mistake, says Shang'ombo MP

ACC officers in Lusaka last week on two counts of concealing property suspected to proceeds of crime contrary to Section 71 (1) of the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act Number 19 of 2010. "For a Minister to be questioned, I am sure the President was notified and obviously he gave a go ahead. But I think it was wrong for him to go public and say that he can't relieve

him of his duties because he doesn't want to 'lose him.' I think that statement was a terrible mistake. It is the same President who says 'bring evidence' whenever people say there is a case of corruption, but the evidence had been put forward; we read why he was arrested and the matter is now in court and I can't comment further. But the Head of State I am sure was supposed to show leadership by leaving the

investigative wings do their work freely without making such a statement publicly. Because I don't know now if those (investigators) are free to even go ahead with the case in court because as you know, they are also human beings; they are scared for their jobs; they have got families to take care of," Mubika said. He recalled how Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Dora Siliya resigned from

her ministerial position during former president Rupiah Banda's regime over corruption allegations. "I would give you an example of Honourable Dora Siliya when she was accused of corruption when she was in MMD as Minister of Transport and Communication. The case had to go to court while she was minister, she said 'no this is awkward, I am a Cabinet Minister, coming here in a vehicle with the Zambian flag to be questioned by junior officers, let me be an ordinary person,' so she resigned as Minister. That was around 2009 to 2010. She continued going to court and she later won the case and President Rupiah Banda reappointed her, that showed leadership!" he recalled. "I think he has to clear himself in court, the system has always been that if you are serving in government and you are accused of gross corruption, you are relieved of your duties or you resign until the courts make judgement and you can be reappointed. It also happened to honourable (Joseph) Mulyata, he was charged with abuse of power when he removed honourble GBM's bus on the weigh bridge in Livingstone, he was fired by president Mwanawasa. He went to court, when the court cleared him, he was

reappointed. These positions are very intimidating to junior officers and it is not even in order for a minister to be going to court, not for an election petition but for corruption. So, in my opinion, I feel Honourable Chitotela was supposed to be relieved of his duties or at least go on leave so that the people who are investigating him are free to investigate a Zambian citizen, and also that he doesn't use his office. I will take you back to 2013, him and other colleague were relieved of their duties by late president Micheal Sata, again, it has happened now, he is once more being accused of corruption." And Mubika said people were still waiting for investigations of those who were cited by the Auditor General's Report as directed by President Lungu. "From the Auditor General's report, there is massive corruption! We heard the President saying that all those who were cited by the Auditor General's report should be investigated, that was good from the President, but we are still waiting for action from the investigative wings because the President also gave a go ahead. It is easy to investigate corruption, you just go to the Auditor General's report and you will find all those irregularities," said Mubika. Meanwhile, Mubika said he was confident that the UPND would win the 2021 general elections because people know that they would perform better in government than the PF.

ECZ condemns Sesheke violence, asks police to arrest violent cadres

By Mirriam Chabala
The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has regretted the violence that characterised the just-ended Sesheke parliamentary and other ward by-elections in which several people got injured and others died at the hands of violent PF and UPND party cadres. In a statement, ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse called on political leaders to take responsibility for the violence and show leadership by condemning acts of violence. Chimanse, who called on the police to undertake the necessary

investigations into the violence and bring culprits to book, expressed concern that violence had the capacity to undermine the electoral process if not seriously handled. "The Commission noted with regret the violence that occurred during the polls in Sesheke, Lundazi and Mufumbwe. The Commission is concerned that such violence makes it impossible for the electorate to freely exercise their right to vote. We, therefore, urge the police to undertake necessary investigations and to bring to book all culprits. The Commission's mandate is to conduct free and fair elections

and hence, the reliance on law enforcement agencies such as the police to maintain law and order during elections," stated Chimanse. "Additionally, the Commission strongly urges political leaders to take responsibility and demonstrate leadership by condemning political violence. Violence has the potential to undermine the electoral process if not addressed immediately. The Commission hopes that in the wake of the country's democratic dispensation, political parties can gain maturity by participating in elections without exhibiting acts of violence."

Change of govt desirable in a democracy - VJ

By Thomas Mulenga
Veteran politician and former diplomat Vernon Mwaanga says a change of government is desirable and healthy in a democracy, adding "the system does not allow the election of dictators who should stay in power forever". And Mwaanga says election campaigns should not be a matter of life and death as witnessed in the just-ended Sesheke parliamentary by-election, but must be treated as a competition aimed at serving the electorate. In a statement, Mwaanga explained why a change of government was desirable in a democracy. "Because democratic elections are periodic, they do not elect dictators who stay in office for life. They enable people to elect leaders at various levels from the local councillors to the presidents, who are accountable to the people and who must go back to them at periodic intervals to seek their mandate to continue in office. What this essentially means is that public officials in a functioning democracy must accept the risk of being voted out of office. Usually, this happens when there are unpopular policies, corruption, incompetence or inability to keep election campaign promises. Renewal of political leadership from time to time is healthy and even desirable," Mwaanga stated. "In any democracy worth its

name, the authority of those in government derives solely from the consent of the governed. The principle mechanism for translating that consent into governmental authority is the periodic holding of free, fair and credible elections whose outcome must always reflect the true wishes of the people. Democratic elections should not be merely symbolic. They should be competitive, inclusive, free from rigging and violence, where decision-makers in government or in the opposition are genuinely and freely selected by citizens without intimidation or coercion." He said there was need to make the tallying of the totals of election results open to the public in order to avoid any suspicions of rigging. "Democracies are supposed to thrive on openness and accountability, with perhaps one exception namely the act of voting itself. In order to cast a free ballot and minimise the undesirable opportunity for intimidation, voters in a democracy must be permitted to cast their votes in secret. Here is the troubling part, which has been a source of suspicion in many countries in Africa, including Zambia, the tallying of vote totals, which is done in secret. It is my considered view that this part of the electoral process must be conducted as openly as possible so that citizens and participating candidates and political parties,

feel confident that the results announced are accurate and reflect the true wishes of the people," Mwaanga observed. "When an electoral process becomes more transparent, public confidence in our election management bodies will grow. It will ensure that when the elections are over, losers will accept the results more readily. Those who lose transparent

elections will be encouraged to continue participating in public affairs and in the wider political process of the country, in the knowledge that their role of holding the government accountable is vital in a democratic society." Meanwhile, Mwaanga insisted that election campaigns should not be a matter of life and death as witnessed in Sesheke.

"Political competitors be they from the PF, UPND, NAREP, ADD, DP, MMD, etc, don't have to like each other, but they must tolerate one another and acknowledge that each has a legitimate and important role to play. Our society must promote and encourage civility and tolerance in public affairs. The violence we witnessed in Sesheke and

Lundazi is a bad advert for our nascent democracy and should not be tolerated under any circumstances. Pangas, machetes etc, should have no room in our electoral process. They are a disgrace! Democratic elections are after all not a fight for life or death survival, but a mere competition to serve your country and people," said Mwaanga.



Vice-President Inonge Wina arrives from India where she was on medical treatment

By Thomas Mulenga
Newly-elected UPND Sesheke member of parliament Romeo Kang'ombe says his victory is just a snippet of the election revolution that Zambia will see in the 2021 general elections. And Kangombe, who will be the youngest parliamentarian at 32, said he would not describe the Sesheke by-election as free and fair, because there was too much violence involved. In an interview, Thursday, Kang'ombe said he emerged victorious in Tuesday's by-election because he was the peoples' choice. Kang'ombe also condemned President Edgar Lungu's sentiments during his campaign rally in Sesheke, Monday, that government would not take development to the area if

My victory is a snippet of 2021 revolutionary - Kang'ombe

people did not vote for the PF candidate. "This victory is not just for Sesheke, this victory is not just for Zambia, but the whole world because we have people in the diaspora who have been inspired by this victory!Zambians in the diaspora, who are hoping to see change in terms of our governance system for the development of this country. This election victory is an epicentre of the

revolutionary transition that will take place in 2021; it has started from here. People of Sesheke have shown thatZambians are ready for change; they are tired of the PF lies and their failure to transform their livelihood for the better," Kang'ombe said. "I managed to emerge victorious because I am the peoples' choice, UPND is the peoples' choice. I won because I work for the people of Sesheke,

I have been with them since 2011, I have been working, I am attached to the grassroots. There is no single ward where I can fail to point at a project that I have done for the people of Sesheke and as such, the people were not only voting for the UPND, but they were also voting for the candidate. People of Sesheke were teargassed, and sadly, I lost my dad, he couldn't withstand the teargas, he inhaled a lot of teargas! But it was not only my dad, but just yesterday, we lost another old man, who was actually a victim of teargas." Kang'ombe also condemned President Lungu's sentiments during his campaign rally in Sesheke last Monday. "There is a fund prescribed by the Constitution for every constituency in Zambia, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF); we will develop the constituency firstly through CDF by working on some projects that can be done using CDF. I strongly believe that we shall get help from the Zambian government, I am not calling it the PF government because this government is for the people of Zambia and everyone who is a Zambian must have a fair share of the resources of this country. I don't care whether the Minister is for PF, I will knock at his door

and present the problems of the people of Sesheke because they are just servants of the people like I am," Kangombe explained. "It is my democratic right to contest on any political party of my choice and that shouldn't hinder development to be brought in my constituency. And I believe that was just one of the campaign rhetoric from the President, soon as I start working, I will be moving to the necessary ministries and present the problems of Sesheke. For those projects that I can do using personal resources, I will work on them because I have been doing that even before being elected as MP." He also complained that despite emerging victorious, the by-election was not free and fair because it was characterised with violence and intimidation by the PF. "The elections were characterised with a lot of violence, I think people saw it. On my side as a candidate, I have been intimidated all the way even before nomination. The PF tried to buy me, they offered me money, which I refused! Then, they came up with trumped up charges to try and arrest me, but they couldn't manage because there was nothing wrong I did. On the day of nomination, they tried to block me, I think the

intention was to disqualify me, which they failed! And after nominations there was a lot of violence, our youths were attacked, we had situations where PF cadres put on UPND regalia, they engaged in violence and later got arrested by the police," Kang'ombe narrated. "But that didn't end there, the following day, Edgar Lungu was in Ethiopia and as per programme given to us by the ECZ, we wanted to proceed to a certain ward where we were expected to conduct campaigns, but we were teargassed, cadres came and harassed us, people were beaten! So, in all fairness, I would say the election was not free and fair because we had civil servants such as District Commissioners and Ministers who were campaigning using government resources! So, we cannot say the elections were free and fair, we complained to the ECZ, but the ECZ being a toothless bulldog, they couldn't bite, they couldn't do anything!" And Kang'ombe cautioned youths wanting to join politics to avoid the temptation of corruption. "I would want to tell fellow young people who wish to join politics to go there not with the intentions of bettering their own lives, but with the intention of serving the people who are suffering. If I wanted to better my individual life and that of my family members and friends, I would have gone to PF because their offers were very lucrative, but I turned them down because I was focusing on a bigger and important objective of serving the people of Sesheke," said Kang'ombe.



Former ZAM president Maiko Zulu speaks with Lands Minister Jean Kapata at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka during the funeral of late singer Brian Chilala yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chitotela fails to take plea, as lawyers seek 'cease fire' from media

By Zondiwe Mbewe
Lawyers representing arrested Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela yesterday complained that the News Diggers exposé that revealed the list of companies involved in the alleged corruption linked to the government official, was casting

public judgement on the accused without trial. And Lusaka Magistrate David Simusamba has directed that media houses should desist from misrepresenting facts in the case involving beleaguered Chitotela. Meanwhile, Chitotela's unruly sympathisers yesterday roughed up a Prime TV journalist in their

attempt to shield the corruption accused Minister from being filmed after he appeared at the Lusaka Magistrates' Court. The PF cadres, who were flashing the PF symbol after the court hearing, were against the idea of reporters filming Chitotela. In this matter, Chitotela, Gregory Chibanga, Brut Holdings

Limited and Diris Mukange are facing four counts of concealing property suspected to be proceeds of crime. However, Chitotela is only appearing in two counts in which he is alleged to have concealed two properties in Makeni and Ibex Hill, Lusaka, under the name Diris Mukange,

property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime. The Minister is being represented by six lawyers from different law firms. When the matter came up for plea before Magistrate Simusamba, Thursday, the accused could not take plea, as the representative of accused

number three, the company, was not present. But before that, defence lawyers Neol Simwanza and Jonas Zimba asked the Court to warn journalists from irresponsible reporting. Simwanza said it was the court's duty to determine the matter. "Without intent to gag responsible media coverage, we ask this court to speak into irresponsible reporting of the matter before you. It is the duty of the court to determine this matter based on evidence," Simwanza said. Zimba argued that irresponsible reporting would be prejudicial to their client, citing a News Diggers exposé published shortly after the minister was arrested. "I do adopt the submission, the prejudice that will be caused and has been caused by the publications under this discussion today, e.g News Diggers! 'Corruption Trail' brings public judgement on the client without a trial. At the same time, the cries that my client be suspended seriously places him on public judgement, which would prejudice this matter before court," argued Zimba. In his ruling, Magistrate Simusamba warned the media to desist from irresponsible publication or misrepresentation of facts. He told journalists to work professionally, as he would not black out anyone from covering the matter. The matter comes up on Tuesday next week.

PF cadres besiege Parliament building, harass oppositions MPs

By Mirriam Chabala
Suspected PF cadres besieged the National Assembly entrance, Thursday afternoon, dictating which of the members of parliament could be allowed inside the premises, while harassing opposition MPs believed to be critical of the government. And when Thursday's parliamentary session commenced at 14:30 hours, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini had a tough time trying to calm the angry lawmakers who rose on points of order over the fracas outside the building. When the House started considering questions for oral answer, Kafue UPND member of parliament Mirriam Chonya asked Minister of Local Government Vincent Mwale if there were any plans by government to upgrade Kafue Town Council to City Council status. It was at this point that leader of the opposition in the House Jack Mwiimbu, who is also Monze UPND member of parliament, rose on a point of order, beckoning Speaker Matibini to intervene

in the fracas that the opposition MPs were subjected outside the House. "Mr Speaker, I rise on a very serious point of order, hinging on the privileges of members of parliament. Mr Speaker, as we were coming into the premises of Parliament, we found party cadres controlling those who entered your Parliament grounds. Mr Speaker, I am a proponent of those members of the public who would want to demonstrate as long as they follow the laws of this country. But Mr Speaker, is it right that members of the public, especially members of the Patriotic Front, can come to Parliament and start controlling the premises of Parliament and harassing members of parliament as they enter these grounds? And there was no police whatsoever to protect your members here. Are they in order, Mr Speaker? Is the Parliament in order to expose your members to danger as the situation is outside there?" Mwiimbu asked. But in response, Speaker Matibini could not immediately condemn the act by

the suspected cadres, but promised to investigate the matter and take appropriate action. "This is a matter that has just been brought to my attention. Obviously, I need to investigate it and establish the facts and I will reserve my ruling," said Speaker Matibini as he invited the Kafue member of parliament to carry on with her follow-up question. Chonya, however, could not complete her follow-up question to Mwale when she was interrupted by Chiengi member of parliament Given Katuta, who rose on a similar point of order to petition Speaker Matibini to rule over whose mandate it was to protect members of parliament from danger. "Mr Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order regarding security of members of parliament. As I am talking, Mr Speaker, I am shaken! My vehicle is almost damaged outside. I want to know, Mr Speaker, if the ruling government would continue allowing its cadres here. Who should give us the protection? Mr

Speaker, who should protect us? Is it the National Assembly or the government? Or is it because we are opposition? Should anyone who is from the opposition be attacked? But for what? Mr Speaker, I need your serious ruling on the protection of the members of parliament! I need your serious ruling regarding those people who almost harmed me, they almost hurt me for nothing. Honourable Kakubo is my witness. I thank you, Mr Speaker," submitted Katuka. But in his response, Speaker Matibini maintained his earlier ruling. "Honourable members, let's have order! I have already indicated [that] first this matter has just been brought to my attention. Secondly, as I am talking, I have already given instructions. Third, I am going to render a formal ruling. The matter is being attended to already. I will render a formal ruling in the matter. But instructions have been issued. So, we shouldn't go over and over it," guided Matibini, as he called for normal business to resume in the House.



SESHEKE !

By Andyford Mayele Banda

The violent events that characterized the recent by elections are a clear indication that we need to find an alternative outside PF and UPND. In as much as we need the dialogue process which we hope can deal with some of these unfortunate events, it is our belief as PAC that the greatest answer will only come when we overhaul the current political system and a new breed of politicians are given the mantle to take us to the next level. We think there is urgent need for Zambians to be brave enough and know that as long these kind of politics are perpetuated, our economy will keep worsening, no jobs will be created and opportunities will be thinner.

Hence as PAC despite having thin resources we will continue fighting and participating in elections until we awaken the masses. Our goal is to ensure that the Zambian people open their eyes and realize that our politics have really affected how we do almost everything in this country. We believe there are a lot of people who want change but cannot clearly see the alternative. The lack of tolerance and mistrust between the so called two big political parties cannot just be solved through a dialogue process but there has to be genuine repentance and a change of heart. There is need to tame the appetite to keep or get power, this actually is the biggest issue. If the objective is just power but not working for the people, no genuine dialogue will take place.

We were disappointed with our performance in Sesheke but we are honest enough to know where our shortcomings are. It's not because we are inadequate but because we still have a few things to put in place as we go towards 2021. Hence we are comforted by the words of great men like Nelson Mandela who said "The greatest glory in living is not in falling but in rising each time we fall". We shall bounce back. We keep marching despite some defeats along the way, we knew there would be rough terrains. It cannot be smooth, how is that possible? Hence we are motivated to keep fighting for the good of our beloved country Zambia.

We have no doubt in our hearts of hearts that this is where we are supposed to be, this is where we belong and we will not give up until we see real change come to

Zambia. Just last month we celebrated our third year anniversary, the progress we have made in the political space has been extra ordinary despite having no previous political history or name recognition. A lot of people have no doubt that we stand for the right ideals and we have received a lot of encouragement to keep on keeping on after Sesheke. We have a belief system that is unshaken despite challenges we face. The amount of exposure and experience we are getting in participating in these elections is immerse.

Our political leadership has perpetuated a style of self-preservation at the expense of national interest. This is not just in the government leadership but in politics at large. Politicians have created camps which have in turn polarised our society in two camps. These two sides will never agree even when there is an opportunity to agree and even when that agreement is good for everyone. Political leaders conveniently forget that what unites us is greater than what divides us. This attitude has been passed on to our society in general and been accepted in many circles as a way of living. The abnormal has become normal. Whether we like it or not even when our agreements can prosper the country, we have resolved to not agree because we don't belong to the same camp. This has led to a greedy style leadership. This is the background for Sesheke violence.

Despite us as PAC escaping all this violence in elections, this topic has been part of us for some time. Today we just don't want to blame politicians but we also want to squarely blame it on weakened and compromised institutions such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia and the Zambia Police Service. First the Police have failed to handle these situations impartially and the moment they touch PF cadres, they are branded so bad that I wouldn't be surprised that some will lose jobs or be transferred after Sesheke.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia despite knowing the perpetrators of violence and the electoral code of conduct being clear, have failed to punish any political party or candidate in all past elections who have been found wanting. The truth is that the Electoral Commission of Zambia has

failed to actually implement existing laws. Questions that would rise are 1) why do we need dialogue to deal with unimplemented existing laws? 2) How do we hold people accountable working in institutions such as Electoral Commission of Zambia for failing to implement these laws? 3) How do we expect to curb acts of violence if existing laws cannot be implemented? 4) Does it mean our laws are useless?

The PF and UPND are sworn enemies. We are sorry to say this but these camps hate each other with a passion. They don't trust each other. They can't agree on any fundamental issue. Power is the biggest issue here. It's not about service delivery. The dialogue in as much as we need it, is a far-fetched solution because of other human characteristics within individuals. The dialogue has stalled for almost two years now just on the question of who should lead the process. Very simple issue. We have not gotten to serious fundamental issues that must be dealt with such as electoral reforms, repealing and replacing the public order act, constitutional reforms etc and its another slightly over two years before the 2021 elections. You think this will happen in six months looking at the parliamentary sittings and this is 2019? Violence has continued because both the PF and UPND believe if it's the last resort so be it!

If we think deeply, the necessary laws are there but we lack leadership. We need leadership that possesses values that appeal to the conscious; a leadership that unites people to advance this country for the common good, as opposed to leadership that sows seeds of discord to advance personal ambitions. We need a leadership that inspires the general populous to greatness as opposed to keeping the status quo. As we have emphasized before, we should focus more on promoting politics of alternative ideas and solutions rather than politics of glorifying and idolising individuals, and the subsequent divisions based on class and regionalism. This can only happen under PAC.

Andyford Mayele Banda
President
People's Alliance for Change (PAC)

By Mukosha Funga

I appreciate the fact that President Edgar Lungu has realised that people just framed me, but I'll never take an offer to go back to PF because of what he did to me, NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has vowed. In an interview, Kambwili wondered who lied to President Lungu that he was vaguer to the Anti-Corruption Commission investigators, when he was never interviewed while in government, until after a year following his dismissal. Meanwhile, Kambwili has thanked God that he was removed from government, saying as Chief Government Spokesperson, he would have been defending wrong things. Reacting to President Lungu's praise on him last week, and the refusal to fire Ronald Chitotela, Kambwili said keeping the arrested minister in Cabinet was proof that the Head of State and the Infrastructure Development

Yes I'm innocent, but Lungu, Chitotela steal together - Kambwili

Minister were stealing together. “So you want to protect people who even the kids know that these people have soiled hands and fire the innocent people who had only mere allegations. My dismissal in government is water under the bridge and I have forgotten about it. I have moved on. If Lungu fired me for no reason, it will haunt him. But

I appreciate the fact that he has realised that people just framed me. The best President Lungu can do is to fire Chitotela. If the court proves him innocent, then they can reappoint him,” Kambwili said. “But I think for now, it is a de-service to the nation. It is actually killing the whole fight against corruption that you can dismiss

others on mere allegation and keep others who have even been arrested by law enforcement agencies. At the time I was fired, I was not even questioned by the Anti-Corruption [Commission], not even one day. I even tend to wonder who lied to President Edgar Lungu that I was not being corporative to the Law Enforcement

Agencies particularly the Anti-Corruption. You and I know that I was questioned one year two months after I left office, that was when the Anti-Corruption called me. There had never been a time when I was in office that the Anti-Corruption came to investigate me on matters of corruption. It's unfortunate that President Lungu is calling me that I am vaguer based on lies because I was never interviewed by the Anti-Corruption. And I think integrity tells that you treat people fairly and equally. This is not animal farm where Kabanshi can be fired on mere allegations, where Kambwili can be fired on mere allegations but Chitotela not fired even after he has been arrested and charged by the Anti Corruption Commission.” Kambwili charged that keeping Chitotela in cabinet was a sign that President Lungu and the minister were both thieves.

“It all goes to tell that Chitotela and President Edgar Lungu are all birds of the same feathers, they flock together. It is straight forward and you want to use my name to justify a wrong. In fact the integrity of government all over the world is that immediately there is just an allegation, an individual minister must just resign but in this matter the minister is even arrested by the Anti-Corruption [and] then the president says ‘I cannot fire him,’ it is clear that they steal together. There are many issues against Chitotela, we want to know who bought the guest house from Mr Maybin Mubanga at K600, 000 cash in Mbeleshi? We want to know who owns 40 Volvo trucks that are operating under the name of Swift or that have been concealed in the company called Swift which is run by Mr Mulubwa? there is an allegation that those trucks belong to Chitotela so can we have a clearance. And local people are saying that even his employees, the people who used to work for that company were saying the person who used to pay their salaries is Chitotela. Are you telling me that the Anti-Corruption does not know about these things? We want Mr Mulubwa to come out clean otherwise he risks being put in mud when he has been in business for too long,” he said. Asked if he would consider working with President Lungu if he was offered a position again, Kambwili said it was too late because he had moved on. “Once water is spilled, you cannot collect it. I have moved on. I have been treated very badly. Look how I was treated when I was sick, being put in custody, admitted in hospital, being guarded by the police as if I was a common criminal, my passport has been grabbed by the government, my businesses have been closed. Surely what is

there to go back to PF for? What is there to go back to President Lungu for. I have said it and I want to say it again [that] I have nothing against the PF because we started the PF, we started the PF and yet other people are now making money out of the PF that we suffered to make, but for President Lungu particularly, I have every problem because he has never come to me to say ‘my brother I am sorry, I was misled.’ He never called me, he has never spoken to me, he has never approached me,” Kambwili explained. He said if president Lungu really regretted losing him as minister, the best he could have done was to phone him and apologise. “So how could I think of responding to a question as to where I would consider working with President Lungu or not? A person who cannot apologise to you or who cannot approach you and say ‘I think my brother this thing was done in bad faith without due consideration’ [how] do you even think of going to work with such a person? He knows my phone numbers, he can phone me and say ‘look my brother, I think I was misled’ but there was never such a thing. So what he was speaking here was merely to defend Chitotela, I don't think it was meant for me because if it was meant for me, he could have told me. So I am not happy that my name was used in that manner,” Kambwili said. Meanwhile Kambwili thanked God that he was out of a corrupt regime. “I forgave him a long time ago. I only pray for him that ‘forgive him father for he knows not what he does.’ I have no hard feelings against him. Maybe God took me out because I was chief Government Spokesperson, I may have been defending the wrong things but God said no, get out of this spot so that your name is preserved. So the question of going back to work with President Edgar Lungu is neither here nor there,” Kambwili said. And Kambwili said the country's integrity would be messed up if government decided to send Chitotela to represent Zambia at high level meetings abroad. “Chitotela must be fired or he must resign on moral ground himself. There is no way that the international community donors will take us seriously like Kabimba said ‘there is an IMF meeting and you send Chitotela as part of the delegation’ do you think the IMF will look at you as normal people? because the whole world knows that a minister in Zambia has been arrested by the Anti Corruption Commission for corruption. And you know what the International Community does, I have been minister before, if I am going to the African Union for a meeting, the host of the meeting will google me, they will collect as much information about me. When you arrive they will tell you who you are, what you have done and everything. So immediately names are submitted that these are the people that are representing Zambia, they will google Chitotela and then all they will be finding [is that] he was arrested for corruption [and] immediately you go for that meeting, whatever you ask for will not be given because people will not take you serious,” said Kambwili.



PF cadres march to Parliament yesterday to protest against alleged UPND violence in Sesheke

24kg cocaine still missing, only few grammes recovered, DEC tells court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) officer has told the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that out of the 24 kilogrammes of cocaine that went missing under the custody of the court, the Commission only recovered a few grammes. Choolwe Kaliba, 39, a DEC investigations officer, also admitted that the seven court officials accused of trafficking in the 24Kgs of cocaine were not found with any drugs, adding that the revelation of the first three accused persons is what led to the apprehension of the rest. In this matter, businessmen Eric Chipango, Emmanuel Chimba and court officials Emmanuel Chirwa; Bearvan Mengo; Mathews Mukanda; Victor Nzaila; Florence Mushoka; O'Brian Muyunda and Didie Kangwa, a senior clerk of court, are charged with four counts of trafficking in cocaine and two counts of theft by servant. The accused persons are charged with one count of trafficking in 80.11 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority and another count of trafficking in 1Kg of cocaine without lawful authority. Chimba, a businessman, and Chirwa, a court interpreter, are facing another count of trafficking in 1.5 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority. Chirwa is also facing one more count of trafficking in 4.5 grammes of cocaine without lawful authority and another

count of theft by servant where he is alleged to have stolen 4.5 grammes of cocaine, the property of the government of Zambia. And all the seven court officials are charged with one count of theft by servant where they are alleged to have stolen 24Kgs of cocaine between August 4, 2017, and August 9, 2018, the property of the government of Zambia. Kaliba had previously told the Court that on September 5, 2018, he received a call from an informer, saying there were some people who were about to conduct a drug transaction at Cheers Supermarket along Tokyo Road. He testified that after he drove to the said location in the company of other officers, he found a Toyota Corolla that was being driven by Chipango. Kaliba said when Chipango's vehicle was searched, a black plastic containing sachets of cocaine was discovered but the accused refused, arguing that they were not his. He had told the Court that after Chipango was apprehended, he led the officers to his colleague, Emmanuel Chimba. However, Chimba also revealed that he got the drugs from Chirwa, a court interpreter at the Magistrates' Court. Kaliba testified that after Chirwa and Chimba were arrested, Chirwa later on revealed the names of other court officials

involved in cocaine trafficking. And when he was cross-examined by defence lawyers Jonasimba and Keith Mweemba before Magistrate Victoria Chitulungoma, Wednesday, Kaliba claimed that the informer, who allegedly transacted with Chipango, the first accused, was a public informer, adding that he didn't know him prior to his call. At this point, Mweemba challenged him, saying: “for that informer to give you that information, he may have something to do with the drugs. You can't tell whether this informer planted drugs on an innocent person?” In response, the witness said he couldn't tell. The witness also admitted that in its entire operation, DEC didn't use video evidence or any other methods that could eliminate the dangers of planting drugs on the accused. Kaliba also said that apart from an exhibit bag, which was found on Chirwa, none of the accused persons were found with the drugs that they were accused of. The witness further said the 24Kgs of cocaine was also not found on the court officials. Asked by Zimba whether DEC had recovered the 24Kgs of cocaine, which implicated the accused persons, Kaliba said “we have recovered some grammes.” Trial continues.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) last week ordered a ban of a local television reality show called “Lusaka Hustle” which airs on DStv’s Zambezi Magic, on grounds that it is corrupting people’s morals and promoting homosexuality in the country. The IBA has since ordered local producers of television shows to produce content that reflects the Zambian culture and suits the needs of content consumers.

“This follows public outcries that the *Lusaka Hustle* reality show promotes a lifestyle contrary to our Zambian values and culture. Further, the Authority has received several comments from the Public concerning the show in question and as such, has directed Multichoice Zambia to withdraw the *Lusaka Hustle* reality show in Public interest,” said Independent Broadcasting Authority director general Josephine Mapoma, quoting a section of the IBA Act.

To those who have not heard about this reality show, *Lusaka Hustle* is more or less like a localized version of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, an American reality television series that also airs on DStv’s E! channel. The show focuses on the personal and professional lives of selected Zambian celebrities who showcase their daily “hustles” through various activities.

Banning gays, while promoting incest and infidelity on TV

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Some conservative Zambians have risen to complain about the airing of this television show, and the Independent Broadcasting Authority has moved with lightning speed to take action, “in public interest”. The reality of the matter is that this action from the IBA has emanated from a photograph that was shared on social media, depicting a male participant on the show exposing his thigh. The gentleman in question is a man called Mukuni Godfrey Mulundika, whom a wide section of society perceives as gay because of the manner in which he carries himself.

In the past, this gentleman, who is popularly known as Kuni,

has been confronted on this issue and he denied being gay or promoting homosexuality. He has never been arrested or prosecuted for related offences, and therefore, he is only guilty of being gay by the fact that he dresses like a girl, talks like a ‘she’ and walks like one. Now, it cannot be disputed that although gay people exist in Zambia and their numbers seem to be on the rise, our Zambian society has not yet embraced this minority group of people – not to mention the laws. What gay people are facing is not stigma, but rejection.

On that basis, we have no problem with the banning of this television series, if, indeed, Zambians find it appalling

by the mere fact that Kuni features in it. The only observation we can make is that those who called for the banning of this show are burying their heads in the sand. They want the evolution of culture to seem like it is flourishing on the surface, while the underground is rotting. Instead of facing the problem and addressing it, they don’t want their eyes to see the reality of what is going on around them.

Anyway, our opinion today is not debating whether or not gay people should be embraced. Our concern, rather, is the hypocrisy that is embedded in this decision by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. While MultiChoice airs

other local programmes on the same Zambezi Magic channel that showcase infidelity, incest and gender based violence, the Independent Broadcasting Authority has picked on this particular one where there is a suspected gay man. Can madam Josephine Mapoma claim that this is the only show that is corrupting the morals of viewers? Why hasn’t the IBA banned the other TV shows that are televising scenes of incest and infidelity? It appears as though the IBA is saying infidelity and incest are part of Zambian culture, while homosexuality doesn’t exist in our society.

We will not be far from the truth if we brand this country as the most

hypocritical nation in the world! Some of the decisions that come from our leaders don’t make sense even to a toddler; it’s insane and sickening!

Like UNZA lecturer Brenda Bukowa has rightly observed, the most prudent thing that the Independent Broadcasting Authority could have done was to summon the producers of the series to understand the nature of television show they are selling. It is not like the *Lusaka Hustle* airs every day, such that by the time they would be holding that meeting another ‘gay episode’ would have been televised. IBA had all the time to conduct an investigation before the airing of the next episode so that they have an independent view of the public compliant. But in their own wisdom, or lack of it, they have rushed to flex their muscles and ban the show.

On the other hand, it’s over three weeks since the Minister of Traditional Affairs Lawrence Sicalwe posted a pornographic video from his phone. People complained and demanded for justice, but we have not heard anyone from the government condemning the Minister or police taking action. Rev Sumaili even has the audacity of saying she is “working in the background” to help her fellow Minister come out of the porno scandal. Surely, there is something awfully wrong with our society!

Crossword puzzle 294

1		2		3		4		5
6				7				
8					9	10		
				11				
12		13				14		15
16					17			

“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

- James Baldwin

- Across

1. Surgical beam
4. Used to be
6. One of the 5 W's
7. Promise
8. Two together
9. Internet auction site
12. Zealous
14. Drink cooler
16. Investigate
17. Risk money
- Down

1. Rule
2. Holler
3. Impulsive
4. Miniscule
5. Feeling regret
8. Sandwich necessity
10. Take along with you
11. Bird in a cornfield
13. Comedian's bit
15. Unit of corn

Solutions to puzzle 293

1	I	T	S		P		T	W	O
	B		P	R	I	Z	E		W
7	M	A	Y		N		N	I	L
		R		E	E	L		N	
13	U	S	E	S		A	L	T	O
		O		P	U	P		R	
17	O	N	E		N		E	O	N
	U		T	E	D	D	Y		U
22	T	E	A		O		E	S	T

Reader's feedback

PF's complaint to ECZ after brutal attacks in Sesheke

Mwashingwele's view on Lungu's selective developmental strategy

Editor,

“If the ECZ entertain Mwila’s complaint, they will be doing so at the risk of their own relevance.” – Joseph Chisenga

“Davis Mwila must learn and teach his party members that in life, everyone has a responsibility to others. He must learn to do unto others what he would have them do unto him. We have been sabotaged; pillaged and our belongings were looted from us by State-sponsored thugs, yielding machetes, yet we did not wrong them, and we don’t owe them any money.” - Namasiku Likukela

“This is when we miss Mwanawasa; everybody is crying foul, but no one is man enough to guarantee the safety of the citizens. Shame!” - Thomas Simubali Mankisi

“You have yourselves to blame as PF for exporting PF vagabonds from Lusaka to Sesheke. In fact, it’s the police that beat up your own PF cadres. So, just swallow the bitter taste of your own

medicine and shut up!” - Holyfield Bashi-Tasheni Mumba

“Just in case Mwila thinks the election results can be challenged on the basis of violence, ConCourt already set a bad precedent on Munali case!” - Bright Mweetwa Kapuma

Dear Editor,

“I totally agree.” – Kaumba Mulanda

“I agree with you, Honourable madam Mwashingwele. I was thinking that if someone becomes President, he/she should take the development to the all parts of the country. Now, it is opposite and it until when you vote for that person, that’s when you can receive the development?”

– Burton Siankwilimba

“I’ve always wondered where the logic is when a politician says ‘your area will only develop if you vote for our candidate as the ruling party.’ Firstly, State resources are not party resources and as such, resources should be shared equitably across the nation. Secondly, if you withdraw development from that region, then government should also stop taxing people from that region. Away with this primitive type of politics, please!”

– Stephen K. Manda



Miles' threat to shut down Lusaka Magistrates' Court over dirty toilets

Editor,

“I support Sampa on this. Can we please learn to do our work for our common good?” – Frank Gwaba

“I support Sampa on this one.” – Mwansa Chitundu

“Just shut them, don’t threaten.” - Noel Kalimamukwento

“You should have closed and asked them to work on the cleanliness of that public place. It is a health and safety hazard to the public who throng the courts! You have staff that inspect public places from the Council, but failed to do so in this case. It’s their job to go round not sitting in offices reading online media at the expense of field work inspections.” – Chad Mupila

“That’s too low a job for a mayor. He seems to be more comfortable doing his juniors’ jobs than his. Give chance to your healthy/safety inspectors to do their work.” - Thamanga Udyé

Congrats, UPND!

Editor,

“Congratulations to UPND and to my hommies in Sesheke for standing up to intimidation and violence! You’ve shown those Nkoyas and Mbundas in Mangango that you can’t be bribed like them. Let all UPND members learn to defend their votes like Sesheke residents in 2021.” - Mutinta Mulonda

“Congratulations, Mr Kang’ombe! It was a rough battle, but God’s will prevailed.” - Cuma Nyanga

“Congratulations to the winning team!” - Evaristo C Mwenya Snr

“Congratulations, UPND and Hon. Kang’ombe for winning by TKO.” - Flávio Kalunga Chipakula

“Congratulations, but we want you to do it in other regions as well not only in Western, Southern and North-Western with some parts of rural areas of Central Province. Keep it up! See you in Bahati.” - Daev

Hams

“I love to hear that! See you in Bahati; you need to do the same thing!” - Cloudy Muleya

“Time to work now. Deliver on your promises. Develop Sesheke.” - Adiel Chimbane’ngo Suchilila Siwale

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.

“Mama, leave him with the money, which he thinks is his. Just tell the people in your constituency that people are being punished because they voted for someone who doesn’t belong to PF.” - Wachila Kazundulu

Women are gaining ground in politics around the world. Last year, the so-called “pink wave” saw a record number of women elected to Congress in the US’s mid-term elections. There are signs of progress in Africa, too. Last October, Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was praised for his “transformative leadership” after appointing a new

Women politicians in Africa face huge odds but can make a real difference

set of ministers – half of whom were women. Earlier in February, Egyptian lawmakers proposed amending the constitution to guarantee women 25% of the

seats in the national parliament. If it’s approved, this change would significantly increase the political representation of Egyptian women. At present they make up just 15% of the legislature. There’s a huge amount of variation in women’s political representation across Africa, a fact shown by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women’s map of Women in Politics. In some countries, including Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, they make up a substantial portion of the

legislature. However, women remain poorly represented in many others. Some question whether the increased political representation of women is necessarily a good thing, particularly in the context of Africa. They argue that it’s not entirely coincidental that many of the countries making the greatest progress in including women in politics are making far less progress in terms of democracy. As others have argued, high profile efforts to promote women’s

rights can help authoritarian leaders to present themselves as modernisers. This, they hope, will attract the interest of both investors and lenders. Including more women in positions of power can also be useful domestically. It allows leaders with authoritarian leanings, or dubious democratic credentials, to expand their support base and bolster political stability. The recent reforms in both Ethiopia and Egypt could well be the product of such

strategies, rather than a genuine commitment to promoting gender equality. Does this mean that there’s nothing to be gained by including more women in politics? There may be no guarantee it promotes democracy. But there are reasons to believe it might pay off in terms of development. It’s often said that opening up positions of political power to women will lead to development policies that are more effective and better implemented. Now, we’re starting to see evidence that this is in fact the case. For example, several recent studies show that improving the representation of women in parliament has a positive impact on the health sector. *News24*

Zahara is secretly engaged

SONGBIRD Zahara, whose real name is Bulelwa Mkutukana, is once again off the market. The singer confirmed to Move! that her boyfriend Ian Sibiya proposed late last year. Even though Zahara is reluctant to talk about her love life, she reveals how he proposed. She says Ian surprised her when he asked for her hand in marriage. “My parents were in Joburg and he called his parents. While we were all sitting together he started talking and asked for my hand in marriage,” she reveals. A smitten Zahara says she agreed to the proposal as it was a pleasant surprise. There were already plans to make things official between the families. “They’re going to my home for lobola negotiations,” she shares. Zahara can barely contain her excitement about the developments in her life. But When Move! bumped into her at the Mahika Mahikeng Festival in the North West, where she was one of the headline acts, she was not wearing an engagement ring. “I wanted to keep it to myself and family until everything is done properly, this is why I am not wearing the ring,” she explained. In her latest music video for her song, Themba Lam from her album, Mgodì, Zahara gives a glimpse of what she would look like as a bride in a white wedding dress. In the video, she is getting married to Skeem Saam actor, Clement Maosa. She says the song was actually inspired by her real-life bae. “It’s Ian who inspired me to write the song Themba Lam,” she says with a grin. The song is about finding her bae and how he adores her. Zahara has been with Ian for about two years. She revealed him after the break-up with Umhlobo Wenene FM presenter, Amaza Ntshangana. Zahara and Amaza were engaged. She dispelled cheating rumours, but none of them would divulge the reasons behind their split, which caught headlines like wildfire. She did tell Move! that she wasn’t quite happy with Amaza. “I asked myself, am I happy? I found that I wasn’t. Every relationship has its challenges. I will not say he was wrong or I was. Maybe he wasn’t for me or me for him,” she said in an earlier interview. *Channel24*

Stigma ‘causing Pregnant women to smoke privately’

Mothers-to-be who smoke or drink could be hiding their habits in private - because of negative reactions, a study has found. Pregnant women told Cardiff University researchers they felt “irritated and alienated” by people if they smoke or drank in public. According to the latest figures, 21% of women in Wales smoke at the date of their first pregnancy assessment. Researchers said women need “empathy” rather than being stigmatised. The study claimed women who smoke or drank during pregnancy said they had “awkward” relationships with their midwives and would receive health advice in a “judgemental tone”, making them less likely to seek support. Some women said they were also judged negatively by anti-smoking partners, although others were encouraged to drink alcohol



at home as it was an enjoyed shared activity prior to pregnancy. But despite the feedback, it did not stop women smoking, with many saying that in private it is “acceptable” for pregnant women. Dr Aimee Grant, from Cardiff University’s Centre for Trials Research, said: “Moral judgements are commonly directed towards mothers

through reference to health behaviour in pregnancy, and working-class mothers are particularly subject to this criticism, ignoring the challenges of living on a low income. “Our study shows that these looks and comments - including by members of the public - irritate and alienate pregnant women, making them less likely to seek help.

No one wants to be judged and shamed.” Dr Dunla Gallagher, also from the study team, said smoking is a “coping strategy” for some low-income, expectant mothers. She said: “Rather than stigma, women need empathy and a recognition of the challenges that pregnancy can bring in terms of women’s independent choices.”*BBC*

Black panther caught on camera in Kenya

Black Panther has been everywhere in recent years - but spotting one of the animals the famous superhero is named after in the African wilderness is a little more rare. Wildlife photographer Will Burrard-Lucas managed it - and there are even claims this is the first time anyone has captured a melanistic leopard on camera in Africa in 100 years. Very few images of these iconic, secretive creatures exist. Will heard rumours of a black panther - which is a loose term for a black leopard or black jaguar, depending where in the world it’s from - at the Laikipia Wilderness Camp in Kenya. After following leopard tracks through the undergrowth with a guide called Steve, Will settled on a place to set up his Camtraps camera traps. “I’m quite used to doing camera traps and not actually achieving anything because it is such a speculative thing - you don’t know if the animal you’re trying to get is going to come down the trail that you’ve set the cameras up on.”

They weren’t sure whether the tracks they were following were those of the black leopard or a regular spotted one. “I never get my hopes up, and after the first couple of nights I hadn’t got this leopard and I was beginning to think I’d be lucky if I get a photo of a spotty leopard, let alone this black one.”

On the fourth night though, his luck was in. “I don’t think it sank in immediately what I’d managed to achieve, it was such an unusual subject. “Usually on these camera trap photos with the flash you see the animal very clearly. But as it blended in with the black night so

well all I could see was these eyes staring out of the picture.” The black leopard Will captured is a male and based on its size, thought to be around two years old. “We had always heard about black leopards living in this region, but the stories were absent of high quality footage that could confirm

their existence,” said Nicholas Pilfold PhD, lead researcher for a leopard conservation program in Laikipia County. “Collectively these are the first confirmed images in nearly 100 years of a black leopard in Africa, and this region is the only known spot in all of Africa to have a black leopard.” Dr Pilfold and his team say that “confirmed” here means that the image is clear and detailed enough to see the leopard’s characteristic pattern. Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper photographed a similar animal in 2013, although Dr Pilfold claims that leopard was not wild and was brought to Kenya from America as a cub. Will has left his cameras at the park in Kenya and is flying back in a few weeks to see what else they’ve picked up - but time to get more pictures is running out. “At this age is when he’d usually get pushed out of his territory by a bigger, stronger male and go off to find his own territory - so it’s a bit of a race against time to get more photos.”

What makes a black panther? It’s easy to think of black panthers as animals in their own right, but Will says that’s not the case. “The term that makes them black is called melanism and it’s the same thing that makes a house cat black, or any other cat species. “It’s kind of like albino but the other way. “A black panther is basically a melanistic big cat. Typically in Africa and Asia that would mean a melanistic leopard - a black leopard. “In South America it would be a melanistic jaguar - a black jaguar. “Black panther is a looser term.” Will captured a spotted leopard on one of the camera traps, which could be the black leopard’s dad. You don’t need two black leopards to make one, but both parents need to carry the recessive gene for melanism. Will says it’s hard to say how many leopards there are in East Africa, given how secretive they are “And then add to that only a tiny, tiny fraction would be black? “There might be a handful in east Africa that are black.”*BBC*



FAWUZ, FAZ signs MOU to improve player, administrator relations

By Abraham Kalito

Footballers and Allied Workers Union of Zambia (FAWUZ) says lack of players' representation in decision making has partly contributed to inconsistent success on the field of play. FAWUZ general secretary Linos Chalwe said when he signed an MOU with FAZ, that the relationship existing between players and administrators is that of master and servant rather than employee and employer. Chalwe said the MOU seeks to create partnership between football administrators at club level, national level and players' representatives. "Zambia's lack of consistent success on the field of play commensurate with its talent, and its failure to qualify for the Africa cup, can partly be attributed to the exclusion of players representation in decision making. This MOU is a major step in changing this as it will ensure that there is partnership between football administrators at club level, national level and players' representatives. Unlike in the past, there will be more consultations in the running of the game with players as they are the key to success. The Union is convinced of the need to find, within the football family in Zambia comprehensive solutions in response to the challenges and threats that the game faces which cannot be solved by one institution alone," he said. "The relationship that exists between players and administrators is that of master and servant

rather than employee and employer the relationship is such that the administrators do not fully understand the needs and aspirations of the players and cannot relate to them. The administrators are well educated and have been in the corporate world for many years while the players come from humble beginnings with no education. The FAWUZ through this MOU will engage in educational activities with players and clubs."



Fernando Llorente (2nd R) beats Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Burki on Wednesday

Coach who mentored Beckham, Giggs dies



Eric Harrison nurtured the talents of the 'Class of '92' including David Beckham and Ryan Giggs at Manchester United

Eric Harrison, the former youth team coach of Manchester United's 'Class of 92', which included David Beckham and Ryan Giggs, has died aged 81, the club announced on Thursday. Harrison, who helped forge the fledgling careers of Beckham, Giggs, Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes and Gary and Phil Neville, was

diagnosed with dementia four years ago. Appointed by then United manager Ron Atkinson in 1981, Harrison mentored a number of other high-profile youngsters, including Mark Hughes and Norman Whiteside. His greatest success came under Alex Ferguson with the 'Class of 92' players forming

the backbone of United's treble-winning side of 1999. His decline was such he was too ill to travel to London last year to receive an award from the queen. "Manchester United is extremely saddened to report our former youth coach Eric Harrison passed away on Wednesday. He was 81," the

club said in a statement. "We've lost our mentor, our coach and the man who made us," Gary Neville tweeted. "He taught us how to play, how to never give up, how important it was to win your individual battles and what we needed to do to play for Manchester United Football Club. Eric we owe you everything."

Beckham paid tribute. "He was always watching and always with us every time we played. I can still hear him telling me NO MORE HOLLYWOOD PASSES," he wrote on Instagram. "I can still see him as we played on The Cliff training ground looking down on us either with a proud smile or a loud bang of his fist on the window knowing any minute he would be on his way down to probably advise me in the most polite way to stop playing those passes. "More importantly he made us understand how to work hard and respect each other and not just on the pitch. We won't forget the life lessons he gave us. "Eric we love you and owe you everything. Gary, Phil, Ryan, Paul, Nicky and David." Ferguson, who decided to retain Harrison's services when he replaced Atkinson in 1986, said Harrison was one of the "greatest coaches of our time" who had "built character and determination". "On a personal level Eric had a wicked, dry sense of humour and was straight-talking and I admired that in him," said Ferguson. *AFP*

Foreign players divide football stakeholders

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambia's first ever player agent Chiti Chitundu has attributed the influx of foreign players in the Super Division league to clubs' pressure to withstand competition from other clubs that are no strangers to absorbing foreigners. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Chitundu mentioned ZESCO United, Nkana and Buildcon as some of the clubs that had forced other teams to sign foreign players as a way of withstanding competition. "The game is getting tougher and ZESCO United and Nkana that are always topping have foreign players who are defending well and scoring goals. Other clubs are left with no choice but to purchase foreigners

who can help them deliver good results. Even Power Dynamos who was reluctant is left with no choice," he said. Chitundu however advised clubs to ensure that they either sign quality foreign players that are above average or simply groom local players and absorb them. "There's need to regulate these foreign players. If they are not above average and are ever on the bench, there's no use to keep them, they might as well just groom local ones and take them in. This is the only way we will keep intensifying the competition," said Chitundu. Meanwhile, Nkana football club CEO Charles Chakatazya said that signing of foreign players would

make local players work harder. "Football has become very competitive especially among African clubs. Each club for a particular country is looking for what they do not have in order to make it. We are looking for more macho players while other countries are buying our own for speed and swiftness. In fact, the influx of foreign players in the end makes our own work even harder because they will always be fighting for game time. That's competition," said Chakatazya. And FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala said that the association was regulating the number of foreign players that come in the country. "We are always keeping an open eye

and attentive ear to the number of players from other countries. We can't just sit down and watch because it can end up being an invasion of our league. We need to protect our own and ensure that they are part of the competition," said Kashala. Super Division clubs in ZESCO United, Nkana, Kabwe Warriors, NAPSA Stars, Buildcon and Lusaka Dynamos have an approximated number of foreign players between 3 and 9. In their first CAF Confederation Cup group match against Nkana, ZESCO United had seven foreigners on its starting lineup while Nkana had four. The trend has been the same with NAPSA Stars, Lusaka Dynamos and Buildcon.

Real Madrid needed a late winner from Marco Asensio and VAR's debut in the Champions League to beat a spirited Ajax 2-1 in the first leg of the last 16 on Wednesday.

Ajax have not beaten Madrid in 24 years and thought they were on their way at the Johan Cruyff Arena when Nicolas Tagliafico headed home after a Thibaut Courtois error.

But referee Damir Skomina judged Dusan Tadic to be offside upon review and Madrid showed no pity on their youthful opponents, Karim Benzema and Asensio scoring two precious away goals in the second half.

Hakim Ziyech's equaliser at least keeps Ajax in touch heading into the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu but Asensio's 87th-minute winner was a sucker-punch in a match the Dutch team had largely dominated.

Their ruled out opener will only add to the sense of what might have been and it was no surprise to see a cluster of red and white shirts surrounding the officials at the final whistle.

VAR has been introduced to the Champions League for the first time in this year's knock-out stages and leaflets were

Asensio, VAR help Madrid snatch victory against Ajax in amsterdam

distributed to the media before kick-off, one of the points explaining how reviews should only be for "clear and obvious mistakes".

UEFA later tweeted Ajax's goal was "correctly overturned for offside" but Tadic's intervention on Courtois was minimal and it seemed generous to deem it enough for a call to be reversed.

"We can't see the replay," Madrid coach Santiago Solari said. "We have to be confident in what the referees say."

"I saw it," said Ajax's Erik ten Hag. "In my opinion it was not offside and I don't see it as a foul on the goalkeeper either."

Still, there was more than an hour to play and Ajax were twice too easily undone on the counter-attack. Frenkie de Jong, who will join Barcelona in the summer, and Matthijs de Ligt, who could follow him, were each dealt a lesson in the ruthlessness of top European football. **AFP**



Hamsik joins Chinese club

Napoli captain Marek Hamsik has sealed his move to Chinese Super League club Dalian Yifang, the Serie A side's lawyer told Italian radio on Wednesday.

"Hamsik is a Dalian player from 2030 (1930 GMT) this evening," Napoli lawyer Mattia Grassani told Radio Kiss Kiss. The Slovakian, who is currently in the city where he was born, Banska Bystrica, will arrive in China on Friday.

Napoli had initially suspended the deal because of a problem with agreed "payment methods" with the Chinese club who are coached by German Bernd Schuster.

Gazzetta Dello Sport reported on Wednesday that under the renegotiated deal the 20-million-euro (\$22.6 million) fee will be paid in two instalments -- five million euros immediately and another 15 million euros already guaranteed within a year.

Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis had also demanded additional bank guarantees from the Chinese club.

Hamsik, 31, capped 111 times for Slovakia, has played for Napoli since 2007. **AFP**

KOLA AIMS TO CRIPPLE ZESCO

By Alex Chilumbwe

With Five goals to his name in only three games of the FAZ/MTN transitional league, ZANACO's sensational versatile forward Roger Kola says he is determined to break the ZESCO United defence when the two sides clash on Sunday at Levy Mwanawasa stadium in Ndola.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kola who returned to the Sunset stadium in 2018 after nearly a decade of playing for other clubs, and is the current league top scorer, said that he will stay on top of the scoring board and consequently guide his team to important victories.

"I want to score more goals

and not let anyone go above me. It sounds selfish but games are won by scoring goals. ZESCO is very tough so we need to work harder and play better when we face them. It is all about team work and knowing what we are playing for," said Kola.

Before Kola re-joined ZANACO, he was a free agent after his contract with an Israeli club came to an end.

And ZANACO coach Numba Mumamba noted the need to tighten his defence as he awaits a crunchy fixture against league title holders, ZESCO United.

"I have little trouble with my



strikers but my defenders need to be trained harder. We are scoring between 3 and 5 goals in each game but again we concede too many. That's not very good so I have a task to complete with my defenders. ZESCO

is big so we need not to slumber for anything if we are to win," said Mumamba. ZANACO is topping Stream A with 9 points while ZESCO is second with 6 points and has a game in hand.