



WYNTER SHAMES PF

...You can't punish Sesheke cops for your election loss

By Mukosha Funga

The PF must feel extremely ashamed that the best way to handle defeat is by firing innocent police officers, says Wynter Kabimba. And Kabimba says it is shameful to have a corruption-accused minister showing up at court with cadres and body guards like he has just landed from heaven with a message from Jesus.

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Chitotela's arrest was Lungu's trick to fool donors, says Hichilema

By Mirriam Chabala

Hakainde Hichilema says Zambians will believe the notion going around that Ronald Chitotela is an agent of President Edgar Lungu's corrupt dealings if the Head of State does not remove the arrested Minister from his government. And Hichilema, the UPND president, has charged that Chitotela's arrest was just a public relations gimmick aimed at hoodwinking the international community and citizens into believing that he was committed in tackling the vice. In a statement, Hichilema insisted that President Lungu should fire Chitotela, arguing that Zambians could not allow a situation where someone facing corruption charges was flying the country's flag and representing Zambia, both on local and international levels.

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L-r: Maureen Mwanawasa, Michael Mabenga, Davies Mulela and George Mpombo at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross during a church service for the late Peter Chintala - Picture by Tenson Mkhala



Lusaka lawyer Kelvin Bwalya Fube joins Ngoni dancers at the Ncwala fundraising gala held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre on Friday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

UPPZ wonders how PF will prove witchcraft in Sesheke petition

By Thomas Mulenga

United Prosperous and Peaceful Zambia (UPPZ) president Charles Chanda says there is no need for losing political parties and candidates to petition the outcome of last Tuesday's Sesheke parliamentary by-election because no one can prove allegations of witchcraft in a court of law. And Chanda says the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) should have dealt with the UPND and PF as they were the

ones involved in the political violence that erupted in Sesheke. Meanwhile, Chanda has given a seven-day ultimatum to construct a decent structure to replace one of the clinics that is currently in a deplorable state.

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IBA is acting on political directives complains Shawa

Story page 4

By Mirriam Chabala
The Community Resources Boards (CRBs) Association has threatened not to allow hunting in the various Game Management Areas (GMAs) this year if money duly owed to them is not settled before the start of the hunting season due to commence this May. CRBs national association coordinator Isaac Banda

Soon wildlife will be wiped out because govt is harvesting without investing - CRBs

observed that there would be no tangible partnership between the government and CRBs if the two parties did not meet and confront the issues and financial challenges affecting them. He said currently, there

was just harvesting without investment and sooner or later, wildlife would be wiped out. But Tourism and Arts Permanent Secretary Rev Howard Sikwela warned that government will not

tolerate any disorderly behaviour perpetuated through threats and arm-twisting tactics over its decisions. Speaking when he heard a petition from the CRBs, Thursday, who were

demanding animal fees deducted in 2016, Rev Sikwela said the Boards would be held accountable for any disorder arising from their demands, adding that government would not work with

threats and arm-twisting tactics. The PS explained that his Ministry was already looking into fees owed across the country to leverage the pressures that communities were facing, and adding that it would be presumptuous for the Ministry to promise that all the money would be released by the Ministry of Finance at once, but that through the petition, his office would continue to lobby for the funds. Rev Sikwela was, however, quick to mention that not all the money could be paid by the Ministry of Finance. He said the petition would only help his office to push and be advised on which monies would be released. Rev Sikwela explained to the representatives that all the monies collected by the Ministry, through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, were sent to Control Account 99 under the Ministry of Finance, and that it was only until such a time when the Ministry of Finance releases the money, the Tourism Ministry had no control whatsoever over the monies.

We benefit nothing from Ministry of Arts, musicians shame ministers

By Tenson Mkhala
Zambian artists have demanded that government should hand over some of the buildings bought through proceeds of corruption to them so that they can establish a music school. Speaking when hundreds of artists gathered during the funeral service for Brian Chilala held at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Thursday, former Zambia Association of Musicians (ZAM) Maiko Zulu argued that government had failed to recognise artists in Zambia. Zulu, the reggae star and human rights activist, accused government of getting funds from donors in the name of art, but failed to revamp the arts sector, which he said had remained poor. "Arts sector is not receiving a fair share deal of this pie called Zambia. We have Ministry of Tourism and Arts, but if we ask any actor here, we are not benefiting from this institution! They

are getting funding in the name of arts and yet we have remained poor! You should be ashamed of yourselves and I will not apologize! I will look into your eyes (as he pointed at Justice Minister Given Lubinda, Sports Minister Moses Mawere and Lands Minister Jean Kapata) and tell you that give us the share that we are contributing in this nation. Get some of the buildings that are proceeds of corruption and give us so that we can turn them into music school," Zulu demanded. He further expressed sadness that government did not give Chilala, a man that contributed heavily in the arts sector in the nation and employed a number of young people, national mourning privilege. "The man we are mourning and putting to rest today contributed heavily in the music sector of this nation and the sad part is that this government has failed to just give him a national mourning. We demand the

respect to be given to artists in this nation because we contribute heavily. It is a shame that we had to plead for a place where to mourn our dear friend! This is very sad and I want to announce now that as Zambian musicians, we are declaring that today is a national mourning of our late brother. We want you government to ask how we artists in this country survive? We are very upset with you, government," Zulu said, as mourners

applauded in agreement. And Kapata pledged that a piece of land would be given to artists in the country to be used as auditorium. "I want to thank Michael Zulu for the speech, and as government, I must say we have heard that you are not getting the fair share of the cake of this nation and for this through my President, I would like to pledge a piece of land, which should be used as an auditorium. And I am asking the ZAM president to write to my

Ministry so that the land can be released," Kapata said. The veteran kalindula legend died on February 10 in a road traffic accident, which happened on Lusaka's Lumumba Road. Among government officials in addition to Lubinda, Kapata and Mawere who attended the service were Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo and Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale.

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By Thomas Mulenga

United Prosperous and Peaceful Zambia (UPPZ) president Charles Chanda says there is no need for losing political parties and candidates to petition the outcome of last Tuesday's Sesheke parliamentary by-election because no one can prove allegations of witchcraft in a court of law.

And Chanda says the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) should have dealt with the UPND and PF as they were the ones involved in the political violence that erupted in Sesheke.

Meanwhile, Chanda has given government a seven-day ultimatum to construct a decent structure to replace one of the clinics that is currently in a deplorable state.

In an interview, Chanda said petitioning last Tuesday's by-election result on the basis that there were alleged practices of witchcraft by some political parties would be in vain as no one could prove witchcraft before the courts of law.

UPPZ wonders how PF will prove witchcraft in Sesheke petition

He also argued that if the ruling party proceeded to lodge their petition in court, it would be a waste of public resources to organise a fresh by-election in the unlikely event that the petition succeeded.

"This is where leadership comes into play. As UPPZ, we understand that if you petition and even if you succeed, then there should be another by-election, a lot of money will be spent on organising the election and who is suffering? It is the same citizens who will not receive what they are supposed to receive! I believe we need to be mature. For us, this issue of elections, we have a bigger target and that is 2021; we have no time to start going to courts

to petition election results. And that's the reason why we have congratulated those who won. If God sees it fit, he will be able to act himself because there are certain things we can't prove in the courts of law. I cannot prove before the courts of law that the bees were sent by the UPND, how can anyone do that? How do you prove that that lightning came from UPND? How would I know? There is no need for a petition, let's move on, let's go forward and avoid unnecessary tensions and waste of public resources that can be used to better the livelihood of the people," Chanda said.

However, Chanda hinted at the possibility of the use of witchcraft during the

campaign for the by-election as he revealed that the UPPZ candidate was also a victim of suspected witchcraft attacks.

"However, we cannot overlook the issue of magical powers or witchcraft. There was witchcraft at work and there was an incident I decided not to make public relating to witchcraft, which happened to our candidate. I was discussing with him one day and all of a sudden, our candidate fell down, flat! I had to pray for him, that's how he was resuscitated and in the process demons manifested. And when I asked him, he said there was an object that hit him and he blacked out. So, we are saying that there was witchcraft, but how are you going to prove

witchcraft in the courts of law?

This is the reason we are saying those who are using magical powers, we leave them in the hands of God, he will deal with that," Chanda said.

And he appealed to the ECZ to deal with the UPND and PF as they were the ones perpetuating political violence.

"We have a challenge in this country, and that's where ECZ has no idea that there is an Electoral Code of Conduct. There are rules and regulations for anyone who want to participate in an election, and there is a remedial action for anyone who contravenes the Electoral Code of Conduct. Apparently, the current ECZ has got no muscle to use the Electoral Code of Conduct and take appropriate action. There was violence in Sesheke and there were four political parties that were taking part in that by-election. You never heard that PAC (People's Alliance for Change) or UPPZ were involved in violence," Chanda said.

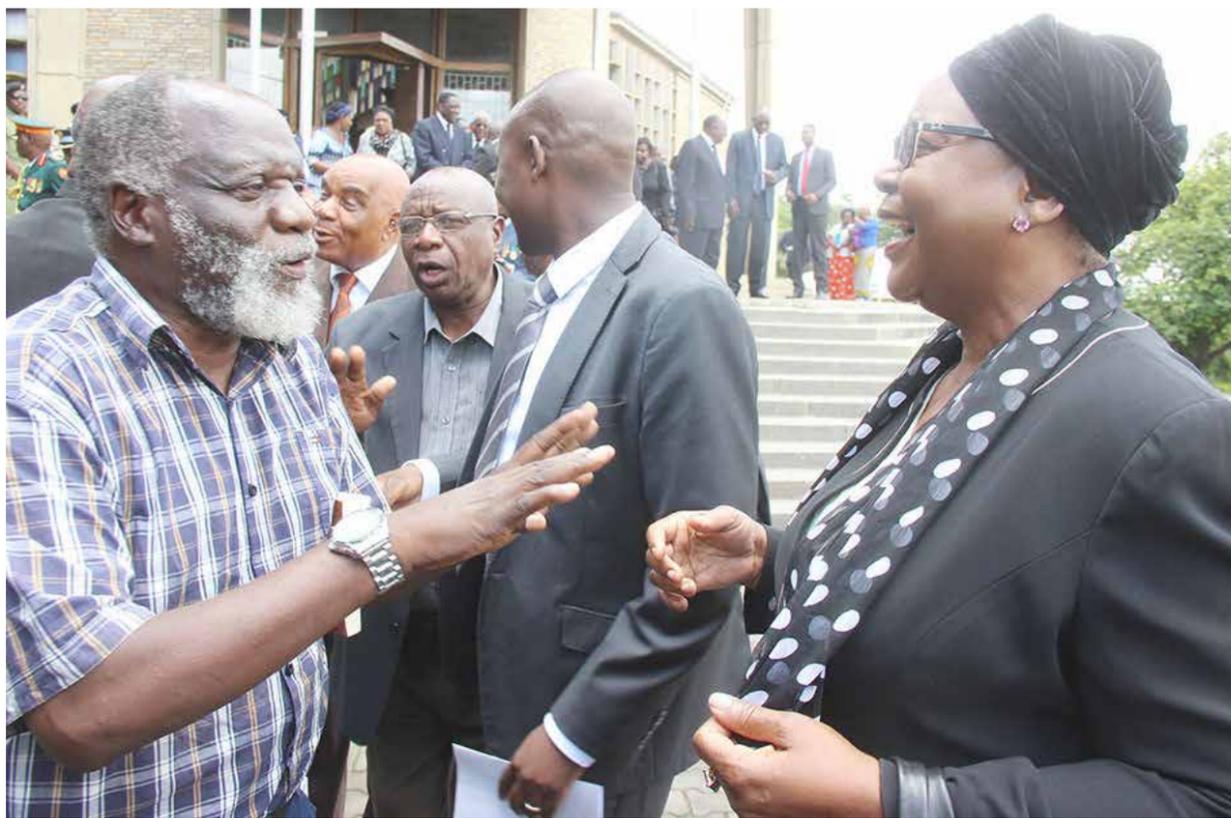
"The violence was between two parties: PF and UPND. In fact, it is even wrong to say there was violence in Sesheke; the best term would be that there was a fight between the PF and UPND because if there was violence, we were going to be affected; we continued campaigning amidst the fights between the two parties. But ECZ did not take action; they left the issues to do with elections in the hands of the police, but the police cannot beat two political parties at the same time. We cannot let the police be the captain of elections; that mandate is given to the ECZ. Once ECZ once acts to disqualify one political party disregarding the Electoral Code of Conduct, a precedent will be set for future elections."

Meanwhile, Chanda gave

government a seven-day ultimatum to construct a decent structure for one of the rundown clinics that is currently in a deplorable state, failure to which he pledged to refurbish the structure using his own personal resources.

"There is a clinic that is at the entrance to the airport in Sesheke; this clinic serves a huge community. Unfortunately, the makeshift structure is serviced by Zambia Army medical officers. It has no doors, it has no windows and medicine is kept there, and there is no proper storage for the medicine because some medicine requires being stored under certain prescribed conditions such as cool temperatures. So, when I went there, I realised that that was a big risk because anybody can poison that medication and then it becomes a problem. This is the reason I have decided to move in and help. But because of where it is located, it may be difficult to put up a permanent structure; we may require permission and other long processes. So, I said if the government does not respond by either relocating the clinic or to build a better structure, I have given them seven days. I will build a structure that will be safe for the people; a structure that will not be leaking because the current structure leaks!" narrated Chanda.

"So, we may be able to put up a better structure that would allow people to work properly without worrying about what would happen to their lives, especially in the rainy season. If government later agrees to put up a permanent structure, we shall be ready to contribute to it, but for now, we want to put up a decent structure that won't dehumanise the people of Sesheke."



Former first lady Maureen Mwanawasa shares a light moment with Former Defense Minister in MMD government George Mpombo shortly after the funeral service of Peter Chintala on February 15, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

KCM hasn't complied with business improvement plan - Musukwa

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Mines Minister Richard Musukwa has revealed that Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) has failed to comply with a Business Improvement Plan it pledged to fulfil with government to address various operational challenges.

And Musukwa says mines in Zambia will continue to run and be operated by private entities because government has no plans to nationalise them.

Responding to a question from Nchanga PF member of parliament Chilombo Chali on whether there was an improvement in terms of compliance in the various aspects of KCM's operations following the 2013 audit, Musukwa said there had been no significant improvement.

In 2014, Vedanta, Konkola Copper Mines' parent company, made several commitments in a Business Improvement Plan (BIP) to revitalise its operations.

The BIP was committed in writing to help KCM raise fresh liquidity to the extent of US \$250 million for meeting operational requirements and settling overdue creditors, which to-date are still owed.

That same year, controversial Vedanta Resources chairman Anil Agarwal had made lucid revelations that the firm

made in excess of US \$500 million profits despite having acquired KCM for a paltry US \$25 million.

"Following the 2013 audit of Konkola Copper Mine, there has been no significant improvement in terms of compliance in various aspects of the mine. KCM has not complied with the Business Improvement Plan, which was agreed upon following the audit. Production at KCM has not improved, it has declined further to 84,436 tonnes in 2017. This is an indication that KCM did not inject the committed resources in order to improve production," Musukwa revealed to Parliament.

He, however, said government was monitoring KCM very closely.

"Government has noted with regret that KCM continues to pose a challenge in terms of its viability and sustainability. To that effect, government is monitoring KCM very closely, and as a procedural aspect in terms of the Mines and Minerals Act, government did actually issue a default notice for KCM to ensure that they remedy all the issues that were outlined in the audit that was conducted. Mining operation is a business, they are not here for charity or to assist us. They are here to make profits and we must ensure that while

they are here, government and the people of Zambia must get the benefit going forward."

Musukwa added that as of October, 2018, KCM had still owed suppliers and contractors over US \$80 million. Chiengi FDD member of parliament Given Katuta then asked a follow-up question on why government cannot place KCM under liquidation since they were perpetual defaulters.

"I wanted to find out from the Minister, he said KCM has never improved in its production, it's been going down. He said that they have been defaulting. So, my question is that, since these are perpetual defaulters, why can't government place these mines under liquidation and appoint a receiver? Because since they are perpetual defaulters, they are likely not to fulfil what the government has asked them to do? We need another investor who can do better than the current investors," Katuta demanded.

But in response, Musukwa said government could not place KCM under receivership now because the company had other obligations, which they were currently following. He, however, added that government had placed a higher premium on KCM to ensure that they did the right thing

and followed the law.

"We cannot put the company under receivership as of now because the company has other obligations, which they are currently following and doing. What is lacking is for them to comply in terms of the standard processes that we have put across. Government will move in to ensure that we protect the investment and the jobs for our people. We have placed a higher premium on the company (KCM) to ensure that they do the right thing and they follow the law of land," he replied.

And Musukwa announced that mines in Zambia will continue to run and be operated by private entities because government has no plans to nationalise them.

He was responding to a question from Kabwe Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube in Parliament, Wednesday evening, who asked whether government intended to nationalise Konkola Copper Mine (KCM) as it appeared to have given them a lot of problems.

"KCM appears to have given government a lot of problems, starting with compliance in terms of paying taxes, secondly, in terms of environmental issues and in terms of all these audits that we are talking

about. Does government intend to take back the shares, or to nationalise KCM so that the country can run it or give it to other would-be investors?" Ngulube asked.

But in response, Musukwa said government was not in any way in the business of running mines, insisting that mines in Zambia would continue to run and be operated by private entities.

"Government is not in any way in the business of running mines. Mines in Zambia will continue to run and be operated by private entities with the interest of government in terms of shareholding across the mining houses. We have no plans to nationalise, but we have serious concerns of ensuring that the private entities, such as KCM follow the law," responded Musukwa.

"In the absence of KCM following the law, it is just natural justice that the right thing must be done. People or entities who have the capacity or shareholders who are able to invest in KCM must be encouraged to do so than allow our investment to continue to lag behind. In terms of paying taxes, no one should be a sacrificial lamb, no one should remain behind. All mining houses have a duty to contribute to the tax basket of the country."

IBA acting on political directives - Shawa

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Prime TV Managing Director Gerald Shawa has charged that the Independent Broadcasting Authority seems to be acting on political directives and statements, saying its request for Prime TV's editorial policy and broadcast recordings is ill-timed. And Shawa says PF Secretary General Davies Mwila's accusations that Prime TV is biased towards the UPND, is a perception which he created himself when he banned the TV station from covering the ruling party.

Last week Monday, PF Secretary General Davies Mwila wrote a letter to Shawa, accusing the media house of biased coverage and unethical reportage of political opinions during Prime TV's main evening news on February 9, this year.

He stated that on that day, Prime TV broadcasted a story with a wrong and provocative headline captioned: 'Armed State Police and PF cadres chase of HH in thick forest took eight hours as IG plans to institute inquiry.'

"We accordingly wish to bring to your attention the Prime TV 19:30hrs main news bulletin of Saturday February 9, 2019 which included a story with an erroneous and incendiary headline captioned as follows: 'Armed State Police and PF cadres chase of HH in thick forest took eight hours as IG plans to institute inquiry. The story alleged that PF cadres placed the life of Mr Hakainde Hichilema in mortal danger; further alleging that we attempted to assassinate the opposition leader by firing weapons at him and hunting him into the bush with a view to gunning him down in a dramatic human hunt that lasted eight hours," he stated.

Mwila charged that the said story was highly inaccurate and irresponsible because Prime TV showed no evidence to corroborate PF cadres allegedly firing at or pursuing the UPND leader, Hakainde Hichilema.

Mwila further accused the media house of blatant bias towards the opposition UPND.

He copied the letter to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Chairperson of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), PF Central Committee and MISA Zambia.

Meanwhile, IBA Director General Josephine Mapoma also wrote another letter to Shawa, on Thursday, requesting for the TV station's editorial policy and broadcast recordings.

"You are hereby requested to furnish the authority with; all Prime Television news bulletins including news analysis segments

aired from February 1 to 13 and episodes of the Oxygen of Democracy program aired from January 28 to February 13, 2019. Further Prime Television is required to furnish the authority with its current editorial policy. The material requested must be availed on or before February 18," read the letter.

However, in Prime TV's reply to Mapoma, Shawa charged that IBA's request was ill-timed and politically motivated.

He recounted some of the political attacks against Prime TV by some PF officials.

"It is our considered view that while the Authority is mandated by the IBA Act 2010 and 2017 to Post-Monitor broadcast institutions, the timing is rather perceived highly politically motivated for the following reasons: (I) That the request comes barely after Public attacks, and public chase of our Journalists by PF Secretary General Davies Mwila who also barred Prime Television from covering all PF functions. (ii) That our Minister of Information and Broadcasting Dora Siliya on February 13, 2019 at a briefing raised sensational reporting allegations of the Sesheke violence against Prime TV which allegations have been followed by your request," he stated.

"(iii) PF Deputy Media Director Antonio Mwanza was quoted by some online blog hereinafter referred to as 'TP News' as saying "Prime Television must be closed ... the IBA has already been directed to revoke the license ..."

(iv) Minister of Lands and Natural Hon Jean Kapata is also on record of having threatened to cause an attack on Prime TV."

Shawa charged that IBA seemed to be acting on political directives as opposed to section 38 of the IBA principle Act.

"We would also want to seek clarification as to whether the decision by the IBA will not jeopardize the process already commenced by Mr Mwila or compromise themselves in that they seem to be now acting on political directives and political statements and not in accordance with section 38 of the IBA principle Act, in that

their request come barely after public announcements are made referring to the IBA to consider acting. While we respect the law that establishes the IBA, we are aggrieved that any further decision that IBA will have to take will be politically induced. As a law abiding broadcast institution, we have decided to avail you the said request. Please, find enclosed herein the materials as requested." And responding to Mwila's letter on Saturday, Shawa reminded the PF SG of the press briefing held on January 26, where he publicly barred Prime Television from covering all the party activities. He added that although Mwila

announced to the public that Prime TV should never cover his party, the TV station still continued to cover PF.

"You further went on various forums intimating that you had no regret over your actions and did not need Prime TV. Note that even if you announced to the public that Prime TV should never cover your party, Prime TV, being a professional body still continues to cover your political party to the level of even playing your advertorials for Sesheke by elections," he stated.

Shawa further stated that the story that Mwila referred to as highly inaccurate and irresponsible was

backed by footage and pictures showing State police and PF cadres, together with Hichilema and his officials being pursued.

"Note that the caption you have referred to as "Armed state police and PF cadres chase of HH in thick forest took 8hrs as IG plans to institute inquiry", are all backed by footage and pictures showing State Police and PF cadres, together with the opposition leader and his officials being pursued, and Prime TV is not the only media which reported a similar event," he stated.

Shawa stated that the TV station awaited Mwila's advice on whether his ban was still standing.



Military officers pray during the funeral service of Former MMD cabinet Minister Peter Chintala at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross on February 15, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Chitotela's arrest was Lungu's trick to fool donors, says HH

By Mirriam Chabala

Hakainde Hichilema says Zambians will believe the notion going around that Ronald Chitotela is an agent of President Edgar Lungu's massive corruption if the Head of State does not remove the arrested Minister from his government.

And Hichilema, the UPND president, has observed that the Head of State's conduct in the fight against corruption shows that even Chitotela's arrest was just a public relations gimmick aimed at hoodwinking the international community and citizens into believing that he was committed in tackling the vice.

In a statement, Hichilema insisted that President Lungu should fire Chitotela, arguing that Zambians could not allow a situation where someone facing corruption charges was flying the country's flag and

representing Zambia, both on local and international levels.

"Chitotela must be removed with immediate effect for justice to prevail. Mr Edgar Lungu should immediately remove his Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela from government in order to allow for fair prosecution and adjudication of the corruption charges levelled against him. If Mr Lungu does not remove Chitotela, the public will have to believe the view going around that Chitotela cannot be removed because he is an agent of Mr Lungu in the massive corruption going on at that Ministry and elsewhere in government. We state so because Mr Lungu's defence of those facing corruption charges clearly shows that he, too, is a beneficiary of the same, but he must be stopped by the citizens of Zambia. These

resources belong to the citizens of Zambia, they don't belong to Mr Lungu and the PF! So, Chitotela must go now! That's what we demand as citizens," Hichilema demanded. He insisted that Zambians could not continue being represented by a corruption suspect like Chitotela.

"We cannot allow a situation where someone facing corruption charges is flying the pride of our Zambian flag, representing the country at both local and international levels. Clearly, Mr. Lungu's conduct shows that the arrest of Chitotela is just a public relations show whose aim is to hoodwink the international community and our citizens. There are several people who have been removed from their positions on mere suspicion of financial embezzlement or other misconduct and are awaiting their cases to be disposed of. We are also aware of

grand corruption by senior PF government officials, which is depleting our country's funds, this, too, must come to an end but if not, all those involved in this corruption syndicate will sooner rather than later be held accountable," he stated.

And Hichilema encouraged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and other law enforcement agencies to be relentless in their fight against corruption.

"We would like to appeal to the Anti-Corruption Commission and other agencies to be relentless in their pursuit to protect public property and finances from criminals masquerading as government officials or PF agents and that when in government, we will even empower these bodies to operate independently and safeguard our country's resources," pledged Hichilema.

ZEMA extends grace period for shopping plastic bag usage

By Thomas Mulenga

The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) has extended the grace period for usage of plastic carrier bags granted to selected chain stores that had applied for an extension in order to finish their old stocks.

In a statement, ZEMA acting Director General Simon Mwansa stated that the chain stores had been given two weeks in which to utilise their old stocks of non-compliant plastic bag carriers.

"The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) commenced enforcement

of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations Statutory Instrument No. 65 of 2018 ('the EPR Regulations') in February, 2019. As part of this enforcement, the Agency has continued to engage industries that manufacture, distribute, import, trade in or commercially distribute packaging materials listed in the regulations," Mwansa stated.

"ZEMA would like to inform stakeholders and the public that following the engagement and inspections carried out thus far, it has become apparent that some regulated entities have remaining stock, which would

need to be disposed of. To this end, the Agency has had to deal with the situation on a case-by-case basis. Stakeholders and the public are hereby advised that based on the foregoing, the Agency has granted an extension to chain stores that applied for an extension to utilise the remaining stock of non-compliant plastic carrier and flat bags (i.e. plastic carrier bags and plastic flat bags that are less than 30 microns in thickness). The extension covers Shoprite, Game Stores, Cheers Supermarket, Spar, Pick n Pay, Choppies and Food Lovers."

And Mwansa stated that the registration for

companies that manufacture and trade in packaging materials remained August 13, 2019.

"The listed chain stores have been granted an extension of two weeks for non-compliant plastic carrier bags and one month for non-compliant plastic flat bags. During the period of the extension, both non-compliant plastic bags and alternative bags are expected to be given to customers. The deadline for registration by existing businesses that manufacture, import, trade in or commercially distribute packaging materials in Zambia specified under the

regulations remains 13th August, 2019. The affected packaging materials are: cartons; non-returnable glass and plastic bottles; plastic carrier and flat bags; beverage cans; waste oils and lubricant containers; used lead acid batteries; pesticides and chemicals containers and expired chemicals. Others are: used tyres, near end of life or end of life electrical and electronics and electrical and electronic equipment. ZEMA remains positive that implementation of the EPR will result in minimisation of waste and promote a cleaner and healthier environment in Zambia," stated Mwansa.

By Mukosha Funga

The PF must feel extremely ashamed that the best way to handle defeat is by firing innocent police officers, says Rainbow Party leader Wynter Kabimba.

And Kabimba says it is shameful to have a corruption-accused minister showing up at court with cadres and body guards like he has just landed from heaven with a message from Jesus.

The Police Service Commission has fired four officers from Sesheke for allegedly beating up violent PF cadres during the just ended parliamentary by-elections in that area.

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila had written to Inspector General of Police, Kakoma Kanganja, demanding answers on why his party members suffered brutality at the hands of police and on why they were "butchered like common criminals".

Police have acted swiftly by firing senior officers; senior Superintendent Officer commanding Sesheke District Shaapa Wakunguma, second officer commanding Sesheke District Chilongo Fleming, Assistant superintendent in charge of Sesheke police station Lengwe Borniface, and Constable Mukela Fridric of Sesheke Police Station.

But in an interview, Kabimba

Wynter shames PF over dismissal of Sesheke cops after poll defeat

observed that this was killing professionalism among officers, warning that there would be mayhem in the upcoming Bahati by-election because of this.

"If you look at the officer in charge, Wakunguma is a Lozi name, the guy that was officer in charge is Lozi, I don't know about the other two or three. So the cry from police officers that are in the service today, especially those from Southern Province and Western Province that there is indiscriminate retirement of these guys in so called national interest because they are perceived to be aligned to an opposition political party, that there is unfair treatment of these officers purely on regional grounds, even as they try to perform their duties professionally, seems to be lending credence to the actions by the PF, especially where they have lost an election. If they had won the election even with that systematic violence that we saw, they wouldn't have fired Wakunguma," Kabimba said. "And this is what is causing problems in the police service. I have said many times on

radio that police officers are professional. They know what to do and they go by the rules of their training but they are intimidated by politicians, they receive instructions from the politicians and when they refuse to carry out those instructions, they are victimised by way of transfers to remote areas of this country or dismissals and so now, most of them are holding back in the discharge of their duties. And PF must feel extremely ashamed that this is according to them the best way of handling a defeat. And these things build up, if you have read the history of many countries, the civil strife that you see comes from incidents such as these." He said if instructions to fire the officers did not come from President Edgar Lungu, the Head of State should condemn the action.

"President Lungu as Head of State must get concerned about this if the instructions are not coming from him as Commander-in-Chief. He must show that he is worried about this and if he doesn't come out to condemn, I never heard him even during

the Sesheke by-election condemn the violence. I have not heard any senior official in the PF condemn the violence in Sesheke. The position that I have always held is that both PF and UPND are violent political parties and you can tell from the kind of youths that they put forward in any situation. But that is no justification for victimising innocent officers that are trying to discharge their duties professionally," Kabimba said.

"The people that suffered most during the by-elections are not PF or UPND cadres, it is the poor and helpless men and women that were running away from their homes." Kabimba said it was unacceptable for government to make people from certain regions feel like they did not deserve to be employed by the state.

"You can't have a system of governance where some people from some regions of this country feel like they don't deserve to work in government, it is a shame. I would be ashamed if I were Head of State, if I were

minister or secretary general of the ruling party. And we need leaders that can exhibit this sense of public shame," he said.

He urged civil society organisations to help the officers seek justice.

"We have a CSO movement and political parties that are urban based and they are not relevant to the lives of the ordinary people out there. What Wakunuma and his group are supposed to do, instead of folding their arms, they are supposed to take up this case in court and challenge the decision because they can clearly show that before the Sesheke by-election, they were good officers, there were no disciplinary cases that were taken against them. And they can't do that alone, they need a civil society advocacy movement that can go to them. But the poor fellows will be left out in the cold, alone. What message does that send to the officer in charge in Mansa where the Bahati by-election is due to take place? It is high time Zambians stopped being so passive," Kabimba said.

"For as long as you have individuals that look at these emerging dictatorial tendencies, individuals and groups that are just good at talking in the press, then we will not develop this democracy and we will not tame dictatorial tendencies. Dictators feed on passiveness of citizens. This is killing professionalism. So even the officer in charge in Mansa is going to hold back, he will not act like a police officer. When he doesn't act like a police officer, it means there will be mayhem in Mansa. This is what killed UNIP, it is what killed MMD. For me, I say it is high time the Zambian people started looking for alternative leadership in this country, to bring the country back to law and order and discipline, and it can be done. But if the choice is between the PF and UPND, I can swear to the living lord that nothing is going to change in this country."

And Kabimba said it was shameful to have a corruption-accused minister showing up at court with cadres and body guards like he has just landed from heaven with a message from Jesus.

"How can you have a minister who has been charged with corruption going to court and being accompanied by PF cadres and body guards and you claim to be fighting corruption? A minister has been charged by a government agency and he is going to court looking like a hero as if he has landed from heaven with a message from Jesus Christ. And you want to hide under the presumption of innocence that the man is innocent until proven guilty, yes, that is true but morally, what are your cadres doing around him? Giving him support and chanting names as if the man is a war hero when he is supposed to be a corruption hero because he is under prosecution," said Kabimba.

Africa Free Trade Area may hurt domestic growth, cautions CSPR

By Mirriam Chabala

CSPR has urged government to come up with clear legislation on industries, import and export policies in its implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), cautioning that the agreement had potential to hamper economic growth if not well implemented.

In a statement sent to News Diggers! Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) executive director Patrick Nshindano commended President Edgar Lungu for signing the ACFTA agreement, noting that the ACFTA would not only improve regional production networks and the global value chain but also improve the welfare of the local citizens.

Nshindano, however, observed that if not well implemented, the ACFTA could hamper the growth of domestic industries, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) due to the introduction of unfair competition by already established foreign industries when it came to resources, market power and experience.

"The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction welcomes Zambia's signing of the ACFTA agreement. The Continental Free Trade Area is a planned free trade area outlined in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 49 of the 55 African Union nations. CSPR believes that the ACFTA will not only improve regional production networks and global value chain, but also improve the welfare of the local citizens as this will lead to increased access to higher quality goods of

lower prices, boost economic growth, promote efficiency and innovation, increase revenue to government through more exports, benefits from economies of scale and generally offer a greater market for Zambia's products," Nshindano observed.

But Nshindano asked government to come up with legislative measures where industrial, export and import policies were concerned, saying

the ACFTA had potential to hamper growth of industries if not well implemented.

"CSPR further understands that the ACFTA has potential to offer a superb opportunity for domestic industries to showcase their products at the continental level thereby increasing the significance of the domestic industry in Zambia's supply chain networks through intra-firm trade and restrain the hollowing out of the

domestic industry. However, CSPR cautions the government to put in place all the relevant measures such as a clear piece of legislation including the industrial policy as well as export and import policies in the implementation of the ACFTA as it has the potential to hamper the growth of domestic industries, especially small and medium enterprises, due to the introduction of unfair competition as the already

established foreign industries have an advantage when it comes to resources, market power and experience," stated Nshindano.

"Therefore, CSPR encourages the government as well as domestic industry to take advantage of the available local resource to create a robust comparative advantage against other participating countries if Zambia is to benefit fully from ACFTA."

DEC notes rise in drug addicts needing counseling

By Mukosha Funga

The Drug Enforcement Commission has noted an increase in the number of drug addicts needing counseling and rehabilitation by 7.5 percentage points from 704 in 2017 to 757 in 2018.

In a statement on annual statistics, Sunday, Katongo also stated that those whom the commission attended to in the counselling and rehabilitation programme were aged between 9 and 50 years while the primary drugs or substances of abuse were cannabis, alcohol, tobacco, codeine, cocaine, heroin and diazepam.

"The Commission through the National Education Campaign Division (NECD) conducted a total of 2,310 awareness activities from which a total of 486,106 people were sensitised through institutions of learning, community and workplace programmes as part of the drug demand reduction strategy. Further, the Commission attended to 757 clients under the counselling

and rehabilitation programme as compared to 704 in 2017, representing a 7.5 percentage increase," Katongo stated.

Katongo stated that the Commission recorded 5,241 arrests countrywide for various drug related offences as compared to 5,757 in 2017, representing a reduction of nine per cent. Of the total number of people arrested, 375 were female and 4,866 were male including 295 juveniles aged between 11 and 17 years.

"Further, a total of 1,888 convictions were recorded against 77 acquittals with a further 2,804 cases still pending in the courts of law at various stages. Overall, the Commission seized a total of 128.82 tons of cannabis plants and 22.30 tons of cannabis herb with the highest quantity recorded in Muchinga province followed by Southern and Eastern Provinces respectively.

Among other drugs seized by the Commission are Miraa (177.749 kg), Ephedrine (57.106 kg), Cocaine (2.315

kg) and Heroin (4.121 kg)," Katongo stated.

She stated that under the anti-money laundering Investigations Unit, the Commission arrested 77 people for various predicate and money laundering offences from 51 cases involving K 37,471,220.18 and USD1,171,064.36.

"The Commission further seized various assets suspected to be proceeds of crime amounting to a total of K 71 million while cash seized amounted to K 13,043,732.02 and USD 59,901.56. A total of twenty-five (25) persons were convicted for various predicate and money laundering offences from twenty-four (24) cases whilst five (05) were acquitted by the courts of law. The trends observed in the year under review indicate an increase in cases of fraud and embezzlement of public funds involving officers in the public sector mainly arising from abuse of authority of office. Other notable typologies included cybercrime cases

involving ATM/Credit card cloning while the most prevalent type of money laundering used by suspects was conversion of proceeds of crime into livestock, real estate and motor vehicles," stated Katongo.

"The Commission continues to fulfil its mandate of prevention and control of illegal cultivation, production, trafficking, abuse of narcotic and psychotropic drugs as well as prohibition and prevention of money laundering activities. In this regard, the Commission has since launched a Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2021 under the theme 'a smart and value-centred Drug Enforcement Commission' with a view to improve on the Institution's operations and procedures. Further, the Commission has developed a service charter as a way of encouraging service excellence while providing a platform for members of the public to hold the Institution accountable for its performance."



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote *Leaving no one behind*

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT IN SEVEN YEARS: A 7NDP AND VISION 2030 PERSPECTIVE

By Hon Davies Mwila

INTRODUCTION

This article is a sequel to previous ones that have highlighted some of the achievements made by the PF Government in diversifying the economy and creating jobs through “improved water resources development and management”, in line with the 7NDP.

PF ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 7: IMPROVED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The first among the five (05) strategic areas of the 7NDP is “Economic Diversification and Job Creation”. Among the ten (10) Development Outcomes to achieve “Economic Diversification and Job Creation”, is Development Outcome Number 7: Improved Water Resources Development and Management. This article will highlight the performance of the PF Government vis-à-vis “Improved Water Resources Development and Management” to achieve “Economic Diversification and Job Creation” in Zambia, and ultimate actualize the Vision 2030 objective of becoming a “prosperous middle-income country by 2030”.

The well-known adage says, “water is life”. Indeed, good access to safe, adequate water and sanitation is life, because that: prevents infant mortality; enables human and environmental flourishing, economic diversification and employment creation. Evidently, there can be no economic diversification and job creation without improved water resources development and management.

Based on the above sound thinking in line with the 7NDP, the PF Government increased national budget allocation to water and sanitation from 1.2% absolute share of the National Budget in 2015, to 2.3% share of the 2019 National Budget – the highest ever budgetary allocation for the sub-sector. This signals the strategic importance the PF Government attaches to this sector as a tool of economic diversification and employment creation. The PF Government mobilized funds amounting to US Dollar 355 Million from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States of America to implement the Lusaka Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Project. The project commenced on 15th November, 2013, and was expected to end on 14th December, 2018. The project involves the improvement of water supply, sanitation and drainage systems in selected townships of Lusaka city (www.mwdsep.gov.zm) and strengthening the institutional capacity of Water Utility companies. The project will benefit more than 1.2 million people.

Due to increasing demand for water supply in Lusaka city as outlined in the Lusaka Water Supply Masterplan, the PF Government has been discussing with JICA and the African Development Bank to provide US Dollar 350 Million for the implementation of the Lusaka City Water Supply Improvement Project. The project is expected to commence by April 2020. The project will involve the construction of: intake facility works, raw water transmission pipeline, treated water booster pump stations at the Water Treatment Plant, a treated water transmission pipeline from Kafue to Lusaka, Water

Treatment Plant, and expansion of the water distribution network in selected areas (www.mwdsep.gov.zm).

The PF Government is also implementing the Lusaka Sanitation Programme, having mobilized funds amounting to US Dollar 300 Million from the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and kfw. The programme will involve: construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks, pump stations and treatment plants; provision of sanitation facilities in public institutions; construction of faecal sludge management systems; strengthening of Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company’s (LWSC) operation and maintenance of sewers; enhancing the capacity of LWSC, Lusaka City Council, the responsible Ministry for water and sanitation, and other stakeholders (www.mwdsep.gov.zm).

Further, the PF Government facilitated the continuation of water and sanitation projects under the Millennium Challenge Account which has led to the addition of other projects, including: the Kafulafuta Water Supply project and the Nkana Water and Sanitation project.

In addition, the PF Government under President Lungu is implementing the Kafuba Water Project, a US Dollar 450 Million project, which will have a 120 million cubic metres dam. The project will significantly improve clean water supply in neighboring areas.

More so, the PF Government under President Lungu mobilized US Dollar 150 Million from Exim Bank of China for the implementation of phase 1 of the Kafue Bulk Water Supply Project. This is a Contractor Procurement Construction (EPC) Contract where the contractor secures financing, design, build and handover to the client. Among others, the project involves the construction of transmission lines to deliver a total of 50,000 m³/day of water into the existing Stuart Park storage facilities in Lusaka. The project was completed in April 2018.

Also, the PF Government under President Lungu is also implementing the “Integrated Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Programme” in Northern, Muchinga, Luapula and Western Provinces – targeting 12 districts in these provinces, namely: Mbala, Kasama, Mpika, Nakonde, Samfya, Kawambwa, Mwense, Mansa, Kaoma, Mongu, Senanga and Sesheke. This is a 48-months project, costing US Dollar 150 Million – with Government counterpart funding and a US Dollar 1.6 Million Grant from MIC TAF. This Project aims at increasing access to quality, safe and reliable water supply and sanitation for people in Kaoma, Mongu, Senanga, Sesheke, Mbala and other project areas. This Programme shall improve the livelihoods and health of over nine and thirty thousand (930,000) people in the targeted districts, due to improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

Similar to the above Programme, the PF Government is also implementing the 5-year Water Resources Development Project (WRDP) at a cost of US Dollar 50 Million. Component A (Water Resources Management) of the project amounts to US Dollar 8 Million and involves the supply, production and delivery of LiDAR Mapping, Aerial Surveying Equipment for Mapping; delivery of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV); Flood

Risk Zone Delineation, among others. Component B (Water Resources Development) is allocated US Dollar 30 Million, and includes: identification of small dam sites; construction and rehabilitation of small dams; identification of project beneficiaries of which 50% are women; and the development of community boreholes countrywide. Component C is allocated US Dollar 12 Million and is aimed at strengthening capacity: to facilitate management of international waters, and institutional capacity for new institutions in the water sector.

In order to “improve water resources development and management” for “economic diversification and job creation” as detailed in the 7NDP, the PF Government under President Lungu is also constructing the Mwomboshi Dam in Chisamba, which is a US Dollar 28.3 million Project funded by the World Bank. The Project will have the capacity to hold up to 65 million cubic litres of water – making it Zambia’s largest irrigation dam, consequently, reducing Zambia’s over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture and vulnerabilities to climate change. Also, the PF Government is implementing the US Dollar 450 Million Kafulafuta Dam Project on the Copperbelt, which is being funded through a loan secured from Exim Bank of China. The Kafulafuta Dam Project will significantly enhance the provision of clean and safe water in Masaiti, Mpongwe, Ndola and Luanshya districts.

As Massoud, Al-Abady, Jurdi and Nuwayhid [“Challenges of Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water in Rural Areas of Developing Countries”, 2010:24] emphasized:

“Adequate and safe water is important for human health and wellbeing, economic production, and sustainable development. Failure to ensure the safety of drinking water may expose the community (ies) to the risk of outbreaks of waterborne and infectious diseases.”

The above quotation is a “mission” the PF Government is equal to, that is: “to provide adequate and safe water for human health and wellbeing, economic production, sustainable development, and elimination of outbreaks of waterborne and infectious diseases in Zambia”.

This article mentions only a few out of numerous projects and programmes being implemented by the PF Government under President Lungu. Collectively, these PF Government projects and programmes will facilitate the achievement of the 7NDP strategic objectives; and ultimately the Vision 2030 objective:

“To provide secure access to safe potable water sources and improved sanitation facilities to 100 percent of the population in both urban and rural areas; attainment of 90 percent access to sanitation by 2030; and attainment of a fully integrated and sustainable water resource management”.

The next article will highlight the achievements of the PF Government vis-à-vis 7NDP “development outcome number 8: Enhanced Information and Communication Technology” for “Economic Diversification and Job Creation”.

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General



POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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Lessons from Sesheke

Last Tuesday, the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) scooped the Sesheke parliamentary by-election after defeating the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) and two other opposition parties, namely, the United Prosperous and Peaceful Zambia (UPPZ) and People's Alliance for Change (PAC). Previously held by the UPND's Frank Kufakwandi, the Sesheke seat fell vacant after the death of Kufakwandi in November 2018. UPND candidate Romeo Kangombe polled 8,496 votes and was followed by the PF's Dean Masule who obtained 3,640 ballots. UPPZ's Victor Kayukwa was third with 160 votes while PAC's Charity Muhau earned her position at the bottom with 139 votes. Ahead of the 2016 general election, the constituency had 27,872 registered voters, out of which 12,516 turned out to cast their vote in last week's election. The result of the Sesheke by-election presents three important lessons.

First, the outcome of the poll demonstrates the enduring appeal of the UPND in the area and the need for political parties to pay significant attention to the candidates whom they adopt for parliamentary by-elections. Despite the PF's pre-election claims of commanding some semblance of popularity in Sesheke, the truth is that the constituency has been a traditional power base for the UPND, which has held the seat since 2001 (except for the 2006-2011 period when it was won by the then ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy, thanks to the Levy Mwanawasa factor). Such is the appeal of the UPND in Sesheke that in the recent 2016 election, Kufakwandi obtained 13,069 votes of the 16,009 total valid votes cast. His only rival, the PF candidate's Sililo Namawa, received a paltry 2,940 votes. What this most recent context shows is that anything other than a UPND victory in Sesheke would have been surprising.

What also helped the main opposition party was the choice of their candidate for Sesheke. Kangombe is a well-known community leader and an effective mobiliser who has lived in Sesheke throughout his life. Despite his youthful age, he is already a household name and has initiated a number of community projects in the area that appear to have endeared him to the local population. Using his personal resources and long before the by-election, he constructed two community schools (which have since been handed over to the government and are now operational), bought a diesel-powered genset that services the local Yeta hospital, procured boats that locals use for water transportation especially when crossing the Zambezi River, built toilets for use by pupils at Katimamulilo school (where President Edgar Lungu held one of the PF's main rallies during the campaigns), dug several boreholes in Sesheke to address the acute shortage of communal safe drinking water, and bought paint to refurbish Sesheke Secondary School and sections of the local police station. In addition, he is not entirely new in the UPND. In 2016, Kangombe finished a close second (behind Kufakwandi, who was eventually adopted) in the party's primaries, demonstrating that he is a popular figure with the grassroots. The reported attempts by the PF to lure him into joining them represents an acknowledgement that their own candidate was weak and that they saw Kangombe as a formidable candidate who would strengthen

their chances of winning the seat.

The result of the Sesheke poll suggests that voters are increasingly 'local' in their choices: settling for those who have lived and worked amongst them, whom they have a sense of connection with, whom they view as an embodiment of their daily struggles, can relate to and hold accountable, and a person they feel will most effectively represent their grievances and immediate concerns. In other words, voters are increasingly looking for candidates who enjoy a genuine affinity with the area, an affinity that is supported by material and affective engagement with the place. Unlike urban constituencies whose needs mainly revolve around bourgeois concerns such as money or wages, taxation, jobs, housing and the constitution-making process, the needs of rural constituencies are simpler to meet but not as easy to identify and express in a campaign promise. It takes more than a campaign trip or speech to effectively articulate them. One has to live amongst such communities to understand their core concerns, tap into the less visible but important social ties or networks that are central in their communal realm, and to secure their trust. The Sesheke results reveal a politics that is locally contested in terms of its candidates and the key concerns of the electorate.

Second, the result of the Sesheke by-election demonstrates the limits and vulnerability of the PF campaign strategy. In rural constituencies where the government's policy failures are more pronounced, the PF's campaign strategy appears to rest on three elements: extensive vote-buying or bribing the electorate with cash and other luxurious goods to vote for the ruling party – a strategy that has previously proved effective in securing the support of impoverished electors, especially those deprived of the knowledge of 'Don't Kubeba'; threatening voters that they will not receive development or tangible benefits from the State if they voted for the opposition (In Sesheke, for instance, President Lungu made similar remarks, which in a country with a functioning judiciary, provide sufficient basis for invalidating the results of the poll if petitioned by the losing candidate); and employing the use of political violence to persuade the electorate to stay away, a development that mainly affects opposition supporters and makes it easier to manipulate the results due to the resultant low turnout. In Sesheke, this campaign strategy tumbled. Voters refused to be patronised, defied presidential threats that encourage a partisanship approach to development, and braved the possibly orchestrated violence to choose their preferred candidate. The PF's poor reaction to the loss of Sesheke should be understood in this context: reality is finally hitting upon them as a consequence of their realisation of the limitation and vulnerability of their previously reliable campaign strategy. The ruling party may be concerned that if other rural areas adopt a similar approach, then their days in power are numbered.

A possible reason that explains why Sesheke voters may have been unimpressed by the PF's campaign strategy is the noticeable evidence of the government's policy failures, exemplified by the impoverishment of the district, especially when compared to the neighboring Katimamulilo in Namibia. The Sesheke-

Livingstone road, for instance, which connects the constituency to the line of rail and is so central to the economy of the district, is littered with potholes, with wide sections missing and no prospects of an upgrade seemingly imminent. Motorists are often obliged to go off the road and into the bush. Another possible reason that undermined the PF's campaign in Sesheke is the choice of their campaign team. The campaign manager, Kebby Mbewe, and his deputy, David Silolezya, are both based in Lusaka and have no established connections with the constituency or Western Province. Their selection was ill-advised and reflects the party's poor understanding of the salience of ethnic politics in the constituency. The ruling party may have easily won Mangango, but the demographics in Sesheke are entirely different.

The PF's campaign strategy also failed to pay attention to the nuanced needs of Sesheke voters. A number of Sesheke residents I spoke to in the aftermath of the poll, some of whom disclosed that they voted for the UPND candidate in protest, repeatedly made reference to the same point: that they felt alienated by the PF campaign: 'The PF came with hundreds of cars from Lusaka for the campaigns here. That is fine. What we did not appreciate was that they even imported drivers all the way from Lusaka when we have so many qualified and unemployed drivers here who could have been easily assigned those jobs for the duration of the campaign. It is easy to downplay the significance of this point, but when one takes into account the fact that the unemployed local driver has an army of extended relatives behind them, over which they retain a considerable degree of influence, it is possible to understand how the importation of drivers into Sesheke may have alienated some voters.

The final lesson from Sesheke, one that is to be found in the events that followed the declaration of the result, is that the PF are bad losers. The reported dismissal (in 'national interest': read in the interest of Edgar Lungu, which is the opposite of the national interest) of several police officers who beat up pangawielding PF cadres, transported to Sesheke to cause mayhem, demonstrate extent to which the ruling party had really wanted to secure victory in Sesheke. Before analysing the Government's response to the actions of the erring police officers, I must pause to condemn the police for beating PF supporters much in the same way that I have previously condemned their beating of opposition supporters. Instead of beating cadres, the police are supposed to arrest perpetrators of violence (regardless of their political affiliation), put them in police cells and have them charged. If the police occupy themselves with beating cadres, be they PF or UPND, then they would have forgotten about the rule of law, joined the thuggery and established themselves as an independent gang of thugs. The problem of interparty violence would then become a three-way war between the PF and the UPND and the police. Since the PF, in effect, control the police, the likely result of such a contest would be the erosion of public confidence in the police service.

I do not however think that Lungu, Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo and Inspector General of Police Kakoma Kanganja care much about what the public thinks of the

police as long as the latter are seen as doing the bidding of the ruling party. A fundamental part of corruption is corrupting the system, including the police, the judiciary and other supposedly independent public institutions in order to legitimise wrong and even illegal actions. By dismissing the erring police officers, the police command and the Government have in effect warned that any police officers who does not support the interests of the ruling party will be dismissed. Here we see that the whole system of following the law itself and observing the rule of law and the Constitution is a punishable offence. In other words, if the PF's project is to destroy the instruments of governance, then anybody who stands in the way of that project is going to be disciplined. In this regard, the PF may have interpreted the actions of the police officers as partly responsible for their loss of Sesheke. By beating the unruly cadres employed to cause violence in the constituency, the police may have inadvertently foiled ruling party's campaign strategy, particularly the element of deploying violence as a tool of winning elections.

The PF had really wanted to win Sesheke for two main reasons. First, a victory there, following the recent one in Mangango constituency, would have given PF leaders a platform for inflating the party's appeal in Western Province. Had they won Sesheke, Lungu and the PF would have claimed that their popularity across the country is in the ascendancy. The defeat shattered that script. Second, establishing a reliable foothold in Western Province would have allowed Lungu and the PF to compensate for the possible loss of political support that they are likely to suffer in 2021 in some of their strongholds, especially the key Bemba-speaking constituencies in Luapula and Northern provinces. For instance, since the party's founding in 2001, no province has given the PF more support at the ballot than Luapula. 2021 is likely to be different. Two former leading PF ministers have formed their own parties. Harry Kalaba, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs who hails from Luapula and now leads the opposition Democratic Party, and Chishimba Kambwili, the former Minister of Information who now leads the National Democratic Congress (NDC), will likely contest the presidential election and take away significant support from the PF in its traditional bases of Copperbelt, Luapula and Northern provinces. Lungu and the PF may still win these constituencies, but with reduced margins, a development that is likely to benefit the UPND if the opposition party wins its traditional constituencies with wide margins. Zambia's political geography is such that to win a general election, a party generally needs to retain high level of support in its strongholds and avoid losing by large margins in areas that are traditionally loyal to their opponents. To ward off the threat posed by Kalaba and Kambwili ahead of 2021, Lungu and the PF need to increase their appeal in UPND strongholds and a victory in Sesheke would have represented a significant step in that direction. The politicisation of the police, an important player in elections, should be understood in this context: as a desperate attempt to turn a supposedly independent state institution into a partisan arm of the ruling party. Zambia is entering a very dangerous phase of officially sanctioned intolerance and impunity.

Good leaders know they're not the best

A fortnight ago, one misguided UPND official from Northern Province made a statement that the opposition party was not going to let any member of the opposition alliance take up the position of presidential running mate because there was already Mr Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba who would not be replaced by anyone under any circumstances.

We pointed out in our editorial opinion that the party, through the Northern Province Chairman Mr Nathan Illunga, had demonstrated a spirit of greed, selfishness and lack of sacrifice; given that the other opposition alliance leaders were willing to support any other presidential candidate other than themselves.

It was encouraging to see the UPND top leadership nullify the position taken by its official, and further banning unauthorized comments on the opposition alliance. We feel this was a good step towards correcting a bad statement. Instead of simply defending, for the mere sake of collective responsibility, the UPND realised that the position was detrimental to unity of purpose.

But what was more uplifting was the reaction from Mr Geoffrey Mwamba himself. Against obvious expectation, Mr GBM came out

to say he was not a life vice-president of the UPND, and as such he was willing to surrender a running mate position to any other leader of the opposition alliance who would make a good pair with any chosen presidential candidate to win the 2021 elections.

"I can tell you that the friendship that we are enjoying with other political parties is very solid. I think that issue [of sole running mate] has already been resolved. And let me tell you my dear, with time, if that is the situation that would prevail at that particular time, we'll support anyone else, as long as that person will be able to see us win and form government so that we oust these criminals; these PF criminals. I am ready to do that,"

said GBM

We must admit that when the statement from the UPND provincial chairman for Northern Province came, we suspected that it could have been with the blessings of the UPND vice-president. We thought, perhaps he felt threatened with the coming together of other political leaders to form the united alliance. But he has proved us wrong so far.

We can't tell if Mr GBM's generosity is genuine at this stage, but if we are to take his word for it, then we have to acknowledge that his statement is a mark for selfless leadership. In Zambia, we have always had a problem of politicians wanting power at all costs and by all means. They never care about what they intend to do when they

get that power, as long as it is them who get in those high offices and not anyone else. This is the reason why our country is trapped in lawlessness, corruption and abuse of power because our leaders fail to recognize and accept their limits.

We find it selfless and inspiring to hear Mr GBM say that much as he would like to be vice-president of Zambia, if other team members find someone else who could be better than him, he would support that individual. In other words, he is declaring that the same way that he would like to be supported if chosen as running mate to the presidential candidate; he would also give the same measure of support to someone found to have better qualities, as long as the

current government is removed from power.

We believe that the position taken by Mr GBM is one which should be embraced by other alliance members, especially the presidents. If the purpose of coming together is to augment the strength of the opposition, then no one should feel they are the best and cannot be led by others.

And beyond this, the opposition, as an alliance, or as individual political parties, should not seek power from Zambians without planning for it. Like GBM is stating, the initial plan is to ensure that PF is removed. But after that, what next? What is the national restoration plan for those who want to replace PF?

It is easy to simply

brand those in charge of government as thieves who must go, but Zambians deserve to start hearing rescue plans from power seekers so that when the candidates and their running mates are unveiled, they can go and vote with confidence.

The only way Zambia will come out of the economic and governance mess that it is in, is if voters fully understand the individual aspirations of those that seek to govern them. If that can become a factor and vote buying can be defeated with morality, real change would be achievable.

So, let Mr GBM spell out his debt repayment plan for Zambia if he formed government. Let Mr Milupi lay out his restoration plan for the rule of law and how he will bring transparency to the judiciary. Let Mr Hakainde Hichilema point out which presidential powers he will shed off once in State House. We want to hear what Mr Kambwili will do to change people's mindset on tribalism; how will he make Tongas love Bembas and vice versa?

Leaders should not just demand for power, they must do self introspection and interrogate their own capacity to achieve what might be the most difficult task once in office.

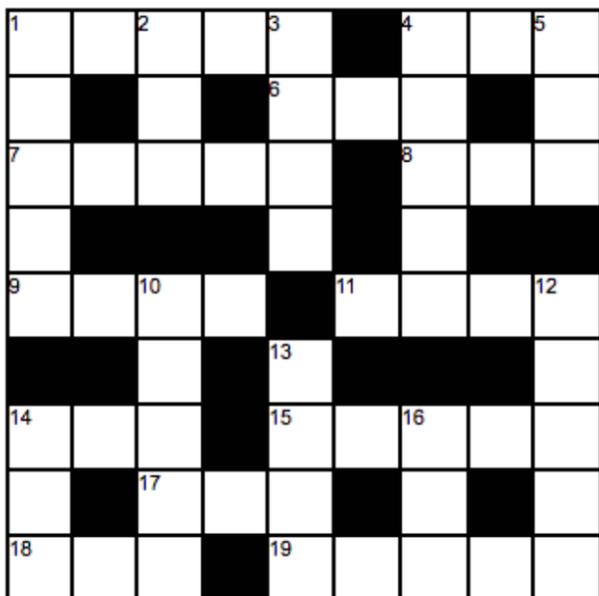
Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: 0979576625 / 0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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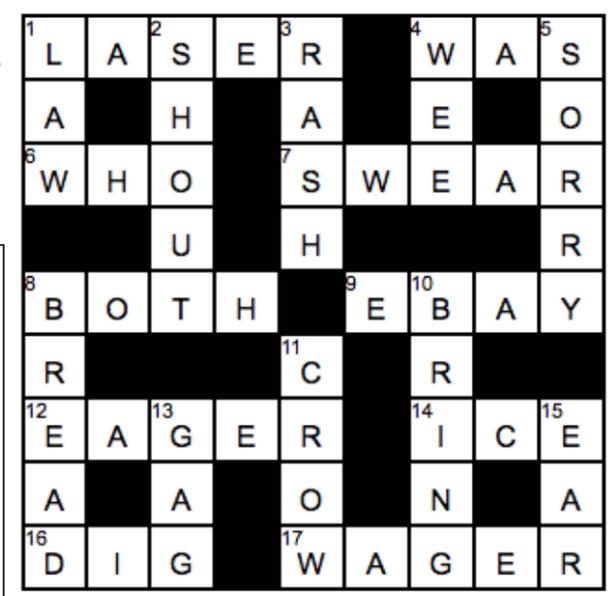
Crossword puzzle 295



"It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it."
- Maurice Switzer

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climb onto, as a horse 4. Bro's sibling 6. Incorporated (abbr.) 7. Narrow 8. Target towards a goal 9. "You betcha!" 11. Minus 14. Ailing 15. More than enough 17. Fingers to shoulder 18. Thumbs down vote 19. Without exception | <p>Down</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They're drawn to the flame 2. Umpire 3. Lose energy 4. Startle 5. Tally 10. Track event 12. Like a run-down motel 13. Not different 14. Lodge 16. A dessert |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 294



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Go to our News Diggers! Facebook page, select a story you like and jot down your comment. We will pick that as your feedback and get you published on this page. The shorter the comment the higher the chance of getting published.

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

PF's move to petition Sesheke election results

Editor,
"Ba PF, be magnanimous in defeat. The margin the PF were walloped is too big to change the voting pattern, even through a petition. The PF is the party in government with all the State machinery at their disposal. At the helm of the PF are poor strategists i.e. SG Davis Mwila and his deputy. I need not mention the ineffective information wing of Sunday Chanda and Antonio Mwanza who people don't want to listen to because they don't speak issues of substance. The PF ferried busloads of cadres to drum up support in a supposedly opposition stronghold as opposed to explaining their developmental programmes. How did they hope to sway the voters with cadres, the days of voting for a song and Chibuku are long gone!" - Ben Kauzeni

"Police are not answerable to your character and don't cheat yourselves that these services are with you because they are fed up with useless leadership of PF! Whatever goes up must come down." - Oliver Muunga

"It's actually PF that reaped what it has been sowing since 2011 after they came into power; they lost the Sesheke by-election fair and clear. They are just embarrassed that after carrying the whole Cabinet, including the President, they were rejected in good fashion!" - Mutinta Mulonda

"Why petition a whitewash???" - Anastasia Lifumbo

"Who's the cry baby now?" - Flavio Kalunga Chipakula

"You just want to steal money! Instead of doing something else with some cash; empower the youths now!" - Lee Mwale



The ban of bare titties at Nc'wala Ceremony in EP

Editor,

"Madness! How can you change tradition because of time? Let Mpezeni check himself!" - Luckson Luhanga TJ Jr.

"It takes away the whole essence of

their culture; it looked so unique and original without any modern regalia because even men are half naked, too. My opinion." - Arthur Hakalima

"Big up, Mpezeni! I have never really figured out why they did that. Typically, only women with no children should do that." - Paul Miti

"Better! We were being sickened by seeing elderly women displaying their breasts! Indeed, times have changed and the dignity of the person must be respected, and covered." - Namasiku Likukela

"Am not surprised he banned the bare titties considering only old wornout titties show up for the Nc'wala ceremony. It's got nothing to do with Mpezeni's moral standing, but rather his dislike for mature women his age in favour of young underage girls," - Mwiche Phiri

"And the men must wear boxers under those skinny skirts! We don't want to see tuntako utwabutuluka in g-strings like we did last year!" - Verona Mwelwa Chilonge Mwansa

"No complaints here, there was nothing interesting about those breasts anyway. Finally Mpezeni has done something sensible, I thought he only thinks about gifts and smelling blood," - Patrick Tembo

DEC's arrest of former ZAF boss, Chimese for theft

Editor,

- Zak Zim

"The corrupt have started arresting themselves! There is no loyalty among thieves." - Wuselewa See

"Unlike Chitotela, Chimese was fired before the courts could find him guilty. So, what is the difference between Chitotela and Chimese?" - Josef Banda

"Used like toilet paper and dumped! Surely, don't these service chiefs learn from precedent? From the highest order of Air Force Service Chief to 'criminal elect'." - Lameck Nyirenda

"When army senior officers compete with civilians on becoming rich, it has been known to induce coup d'état and mutinies by the lower ranks in the army and armed forces in general." - Chad Mupila

"Turn of events; the once powerful man denying the opposition UPND flying space in 2016 when they needed it most; grounding their aircrafts. Sad!" - Chiko H Owens

"There is a lot of corruption going on in this country. At the end of the day it's the regular people who work for small Kwacha's, pay taxes that suffer the effects of this corruption. Glad there is some justice," - Michelo Mnalula

"It's a syndicate! A lot of properties in Ibex Hill belonging to these leaders have been built dubiously."

"We call on all Nigerians to remain calm and support the electoral process", said a statement from EU, UN and African Union representatives.

President Muhammadu Buhari and his main rival Atiku Abubakar condemned the election delay.

The presidential and parliamentary polls will now be held on 23 February. Election officials cited "logistical" reasons for the 11th-hour postponement.

In a press conference on Saturday, the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec), Mahmood Yakubu, said the decision to delay had "nothing to do with political influence". The

Observers urge calm in Nigeria after delay



foreign observers urged Inec to adhere to its new election date and provide

regular updates to the public. The two main groups, the ruling All

Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP),

both condemned the move and accused each other of trying to manipulate the

vote.

President Buhari, of the APC party, urged Nigerians to "refrain from civil disorder and remain peaceful, patriotic and united to ensure that no force or conspiracy derail our democratic development". His main rival, Atiku Abubakar, called for calm, saying: "I'm appealing to Nigerians to please come out and vote and I'm asking them to be patient about it."

In a tweet he said the administration was trying to disenfranchise the electorate.

The chairman of the PDP, Uche Secondu, said the delay was "dangerous to our democracy", accusing Mr Buhari of trying to "cling on to power even when it's obvious to him that Nigerians want him out". In many cases they reacted with disappointment, frustration and anger.

In the northern town of Daura, Musa Abubakar, who had travelled 550km (342 miles) from Abuja to take part in the election, told the BBC that he "couldn't believe" what had happened.

Hajiya Sa'adatu said she was "greatly disappointed" to learn of the delay when she came out to cast her vote in the northern city of Kano. "We spent all night without sleeping hoping to vote today," **BBC**

Guaidó sets up possible confrontation over US aid

Juan Guaidó wants a "humanitarian avalanche" and "caravans" to go to the borders to get the aid next Saturday.

President Nicolás Maduro says the aid is part of a US plot to disguise an invasion into Venezuela.

The US says Mr Guaidó requested aid because the country was in crisis.

USAID administrator Mark Green said children were going hungry, that nearly every hospital in Venezuela was experiencing medicine shortages and that three million people had left the country.

It remains unclear if the aid will be allowed to enter Venezuela. US military planes have already delivered aid to the Colombian border town of Cucuta. Mr Guaidó

said more aid distribution centres would be opened in the Brazilian border town of Roraima and in the Caribbean. Outlining his plans for 23 February, Mr Guaidó, who is leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, urged Venezuelans to mobilise en masse in all of the country's states. He said aid would enter Venezuela by land and sea and also urged Venezuelans living abroad to demonstrate and for those in Colombia and Brazil to accompany the aid into Venezuela. In an earlier tweet he said 600,000 people had signed up as volunteers to help bring in the aid and appealed to the military - which has so far remained loyal to Mr Maduro - to "put itself on the side of the

people" and let the aid in. Mr Guaidó has also said that more aid will be flown to the Dutch territory of Curaçao early next week. The opposition says that if it gets in Venezuela it will be first distributed to infants and pregnant mothers living in extreme poverty. He has denied there is any crisis in Venezuela and has called the operation a US-orchestrated show.

On Friday he ordered the military to remain on high alert against what he described as US "war plans". His Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez meanwhile alleged that the US aid was contaminated with carcinogens "to poison our population" and described it as a "biological weapon", Spanish newspaper El Mundo reported.

One road bridge between

Venezuela and Colombia remains blocked on the Venezuelan side by shipping containers. Mr Maduro, who has been in power since 2013, was re-elected to a second term last year. But the elections were controversial, with many opposition candidates barred from running or jailed. There were also allegations of vote-rigging.

BBC

Macron condemns anti-Semitic abuse

Police stepped in to protect the philosopher Alain Finkielkraut after he was bombarded with insults and anti-Jewish taunts in the French capital.

President Macron said it was an "absolute negation" of what made France great and would not be tolerated.

Tens of thousands took part in anti-government protests on Saturday.

Police used tear gas to control the crowds as the so-called "yellow vest" demonstrators took to the streets across the country for the 14th consecutive week. In Paris on Saturday, officers intervened to form a barrier after a group of individuals involved in the march confronted Mr Finkielkraut and started verbally insulting him. It comes after France's interior minister warned that anti-Semitism was "spreading like poison" in the country, with a series of anti-Jewish incidents reported in central Paris last weekend.

These included post boxes featuring a holocaust survivor's portrait being vandalised with swastikas. Jewish groups have also been warning of a rise in the far-right promoting anti-Semitism and hatred of other minorities across Europe. **BBC**

Jussie 'paid Nigerian brothers to attack him'

Two Nigerian brothers who had worked as extras on Empire told police that they were paid to take part in the 29 January attack, police sources said.

Smollett had said he was attacked by two white men. His lawyers have strongly denied he played any role in the alleged homophobic and racist assault. "Nothing is further from the truth and anyone claiming otherwise is lying," they said in a statement.

The statement said one of the brothers had worked as Smollett's personal trainer. Ola and Abel Osundairo have both appeared as extras on Empire. In this Instagram post, Ola Osundairo (R) is seen alongside Empire creator Lee Daniels (C). The

Nigerians, aged 25 and 27, left the US after the alleged 29 January attack. They were arrested on their return on Wednesday but were released on Friday and are now reported to be working with police. On Saturday Chicago police said the investigation of their attack had "shifted",

having previously dismissed earlier suggestions that the attack had been staged. The Nigerians said they had bought the rope used in the attack at a nearby hardware store, police sources told US media. Smollett said the alleged attackers hurled racial and homophobic insults as they punched

him, poured a chemical substance over him, and put a rope around his neck. "This is Maga country," he says they told him, referring to President Donald Trump's Make America Great Again slogan.

The actor said he had been "forever changed" by the incident. **AFP**



Boateng horror show not the only bad news for Barcelona ahead of Lyon clash



First, the good news: Barcelona suffered no injuries in beating Real Valladolid 1-0 on Saturday night to move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

Now, the bad news: everything else about this performance. Indeed, the best thing that one could say about it was that the second half wasn't quite as horrid as the first.

Barcelona were atrocious in the opening 45 minutes, appearing to play the game as if it were literally a warm-up for next week's Champions League clash with Lyon, and they only led at the interval thanks to a penalty from Lionel Messi.

In truth, they were lucky not to be behind, with Nacho having blown an extraordinary four-

on-two break just moments before Gerard Pique – of all people – was bundled over in the Valladolid area in the 43rd minute.

The centre-half's decision to venture forward was hardly surprising.

Barca were slow and stagnant in midfield, and utterly ineffective in attack.

The temptation would of course be to blame Kevin Prince-Boateng, who endured a horrendous Liga debut for Barca.

However, it is not his fault that the Catalans opted for a cut-price option during the January transfer window when their need for another quality centre-forward has been

evident since Paco Alcacer was allowed to join Borussia Dortmund at the start of the season.

Krzysztof Piatek was available but he was allowed to join AC Milan, meaning on the same night he was plundering his sixth goal in five appearances for the Rossoneri, Boateng was toiling up front for Barca.

It was actually tough to watch. The likeable and multi-talented striker nearly cleared the stand with one effort midway through the second half.

When he was put clean through on goal moments later, he didn't even manage to get a shot away, which prompted an embarrassing attempt to win a penalty, and then a desperate appeal for a corner.

Ultimately, he could do nothing but put his head in his hands.

This was a nightmare first Liga outing for Boateng after his dream move to Camp Nou and it will hit him hard.

But he shouldn't be made the scapegoat on a night when so many players underperformed.

As Pique pointed out afterwards, while this may have been a much-needed win for Barca after back-to-back draws in La Liga, they were collectively awful.

"It's important to pick up the three points, but we have not played well and the feelings on the pitch were not positive," he confessed.

"It was not a good performance. We weren't the Barcelona that we want to be. The only good news is the win, getting back to winning ways, but we struggled against them. [Goal.com](#)

Ramos stretches La Liga red card record with 20th sending off

Sergio Ramos stretched his record as the most sent off player in La Liga history after being shown a red card in Sunday's clash against Girona.

The centre-back was shown two yellow cards as Madrid suffered a 2-1 defeat at Santiago Bernabeu, ending their eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

Ramos was penalised for a hand ball in the box in the second half, allowing Girona to draw level from the penalty spot through Christian Stuani.

The Spain international was then handed his marching orders in the

final minute when he appeared to catch the visitors' defender Pedro Alcala as he attempted an overhead kick.

It is the 20th time in his career that the 32-year-old has been sent off in the Spanish top flight - the next highest is 18 - and the 14th in which he has been dismissed with a second caution, though one of those was retrospectively rescinded.

Overall, he has been given 146 bookings in his 454 La Liga games - a rate of about one in every three matches.

The latest red card comes just days after the defender landed himself

in trouble with UEFA for his yellow card against Ajax.

Ramos admitted after the game that he had committed a foul with the intention of getting booked in the first-leg of the Champions League last-16 tie. Although he will miss the return fixture in the Spanish capital, it ensures he will be available for the quarter-finals should they preserve their 2-1 advantage over the Amsterdam side.

He soon backtracked on those statements, however, after European football's governing body announced it has opened a disciplinary investigation into the

matter.

"I want to make it clear that it hurts more than anyone, I have not forced the card, as I did not against Roma in my previous Champions League match," Ramos posted on Twitter. He then told Marca: "I'm very surprised by all of this. I meant to force the foul, a foul that was inevitable; not to force the suspension."

In a similar vein, the suspension he will serve for his sending off against Girona means he will be back in time for Madrid's La Liga encounter with league leaders Barcelona on March 2. [Goal.com](#)

40-yr-old Pizarro becomes oldest Bundesliga scorer with last-gasp equaliser for Bremen against Hertha

Claudio Pizarro has become the oldest player to score a goal in Germany's Bundesliga after his 96th-minute equalizer rescued a point for Werder Bremen against Hertha Berlin.

The Peruvian striker, who turned 40 on October 3, 2018, scored with virtually the last kick of the game at the Olympic Stadium on Saturday, cancelling out David Selke's first-half goal for the hosts.

Pizarro assumes the record from Miroslav Votava, the Czech defensive midfielder who had held the record since 1996 when he also netted for Bremen against Stuttgart.

He takes the title by 15 days from the Czech, who left the club shortly after netting his record-breaking goal more than 22 years ago.



The striker is best known for his time spent playing for Bayern Munich, where he spent nine seasons across

two spells. During that time he won six Bundesliga titles and the 2013 Champions League,

scoring as the team knocked out Juventus in the quarter-final.

He is currently in his fourth

spell at Bremen, having rejoined them in the summer on a one-year contract.

Despite his years, Pizarro has

held down a regular place in Bremen's team this term, and his last-gasp strike against Hertha on Saturday was his fourth goal of the season for the team that sit tenth in the Bundesliga.

The 40-year-old also had an illustrious career for his country's national team.

Between making his debut in a 2-1 defeat to Ecuador in 1999 - a game in which he scored - and his final appearance in 2016, he netted 20 goals in 85 appearances, retiring from international duty shortly after the beginning of Peru's successful World Cup 2018 qualifying campaign.

It is unknown whether he will prolong his career beyond the end of his Bremen contract, which expires in July. [Goal.com](#)

By Abraham Kalito
ZANACO FC and ZESCO United FC yesterday dropped points for the first time when the super division giants clashed at Levy Mwanawasa stadium in week four. ZANACO and ZESCO were wasteful at goal with both sides missing clear chances to earn maximum points. "It's just a matter of training. We came from Ghana just two days ago or is it three days ago. And we didn't have training, we just went straight into the match today without proper training. So, I think the boys have done well because I didn't expect them to even play like this,

WASTEFUL ZANACO, ZESCO DROP POINTS

they were tired. So, like I said for us its just a matter of training for us. When we train, we will play better," said ZESCO coach George

Lwandamina. Meanwhile ZANACO coach Mumamba Numba described a nil all draw as a fair result.

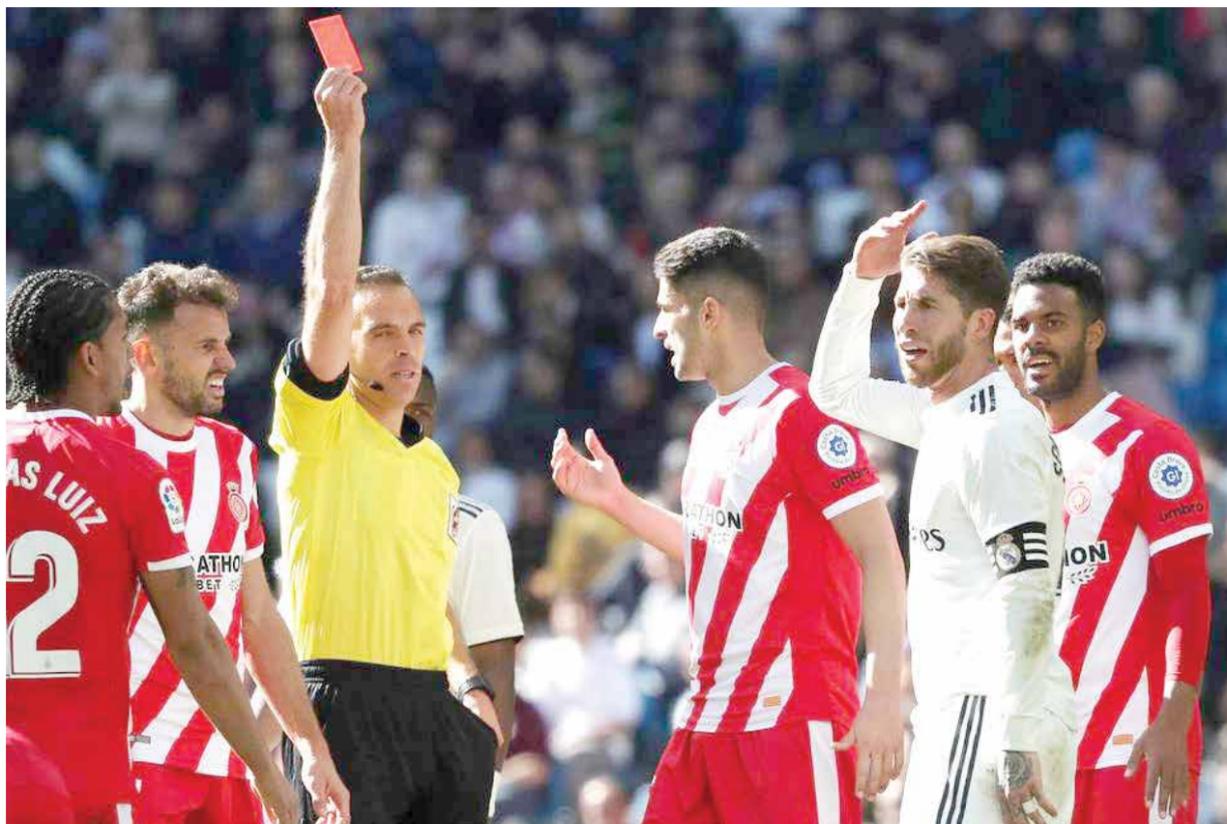
"I think both teams played good football. I think both teams read the game. These are games that are lost by just lapses in concentration

but it's good that both teams were equal to the task and we managed to get a fair result. A nil, nil draw is good enough for the teams."

ZANACO still tops the log in stream A while ZESCO have a game in hand against Kabwe Warrior to be played during the week.

Ramos stretches red card record with 20th La Liga sending off

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Sanchez admits worry over form

Manchester United forward Alexis Sanchez admitted having failed to bring more joy to the Premier League club and their fans has left him worried. Sanchez has struggled for form and fitness since arriving from rivals Arsenal in January last year, with the 30-year-old scoring just five goals as a United player.

And ahead of Monday's FA Cup fifth-round meeting with Chelsea, Sanchez said he is determined to showcase his best at Old Trafford. "He (Solskjaer) hasn't spoken to me a great deal about what I have to do on the pitch, but I think I'm an experienced player and I think I know what I need to do and what I shouldn't do," Sanchez told the BBC.

"I'm a player that, if I'm not in contact with the ball, I lose that spark, and sometimes I want to play in every game. You're in, you're out, and I'm used to playing.

"It's not an excuse because if I go on for 10, 20 minutes, I have to perform because that's what I'm here for, to make a difference.

"I would like to have brought more joy to the club. Yes, it worries me because I believe in my abilities as a player, I want to show it." *Goal.com*

For me, Anfield is the worst stadium - Robben

Bayern Munich veteran Arjen Robben said Anfield is his "worst stadium" ahead of the Champions League last-16 tie against Liverpool.

Bundesliga champions Bayern will travel to last season's runners-up and Premier League leaders Liverpool for the first leg on Tuesday.

Robben - who will leave Bayern at the end of the season - has some unhappy memories of Anfield from his time

with Chelsea.

Chelsea were edged 1-0 on aggregate by eventual winners Liverpool in the 2004-05 Champions League semi-finals, while Robben and his teammates lost on penalties to the Reds at the same stage of the tournament in 2006-07.

"I think, if you ask [about] the worst stadium for me, it's probably Liverpool," the 35-year-old Dutch

winger told The Guardian. "You always have your favourite opponent and there always has to be a negative one."

Reflecting on the two semi-final defeats to Liverpool in Europe, Robben added: "At that time [Liverpool] were really capable of being this cup fighter team, also in the FA Cup or [League] Cup.

"In one or two games they could really live up to it and perform, just not the whole season, which was maybe too

much. That was their biggest quality: they were there at the moment they needed to be there.

"Now I think it changed and they developed really well. The manager has done a great job. Last year they were in the Champions League final and at the moment they are top [of the Premier League]. It's a long, long time ago that they won the league and that's the one they're dreaming of." *Goal.com*

