



# CORRUPTION IRKS

## MPUNDU

**We've a govt of thieves, for thieves, by thieves**

*By Mukosha Funga*  
Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu says President Edgar Lungu's refusal to fire corruption-accused Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela gives credence to the assertion that

he is running a government of thieves, by thieves, for thieves. And Archbishop Mpundu has condemned the firing of four Sesheke police officers over allegations that they beat up PF cadres saying the law should be applied fairly, regardless of

the political party which law breakers belong to. In this verbatim interview, Archbishop Mpundu insists that corruption has become endemic in Zambia and vows that he will not stop talking because he is not scared. *Story page 4*



Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu during an interview - Picture by Mukosha

## Chitotela's sympathisers threaten to petrol-bomb News Diggers offices

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
Sympathisers of corruption-accused Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela have threatened to petrol-bomb News Diggers offices in Lusaka if the newspaper continues to write negative stories about him. And News Diggers Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda has reported the matter

to Lusaka Central Police where an inquiry file has been opened. Mwenda explained that since the newspaper published the "Corruption Trail" exposé involving Chitotela on February 7, 2019, some anonymous callers have been warning him to stop 'scandalising' the minister or face serious consequences. *To page 3*

## Opposition Alliance to report Lungu to ICC

*By Mukosha Funga*  
The Opposition Alliance says it has decided to report President Edgar Lungu, some high ranking PF

officials and four PF cadres to the International Criminal Court for various crimes against humanity. *To page 6*



US Embassy Director of Public Affairs Sean McIntosh with Brith High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyett at the launch of the OSISA media training programme in Lusaka on Tuesday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

## PF on track to realising vision 2030, says Mwila

*By Zondiwe Mbewe*  
PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says government has been in discussions with JICA and the African Development Bank (ADB) to provide US\$350 million for the implementation of the Lusaka City Water Supply Improvement project. And Mwila says PF government is further implementing the Lusaka Sanitation Programme which will involve among other things, construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and provision of sanitation facilities in public institutions. In the PF's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that the PF government

attached strategic importance to the water and sanitation sector. *To page 7*

**Zambia's gross reserves drop to near 10-year low**  
*Story page 5*



# Retired Sesheke officers did not beat PF cadres - Mweetwa

**By Thomas Mulenga**  
UPND deputy spokesperson Cornelius Mweetwa says it was mobile unit junior police officers who beat up PF cadres after they were provoked, not the senior cops who were fired. Speaking when he featured on Diamond TV's Costa programme, Monday, Mweetwa said PF cadres taunted police in Sesheke and they were armed with pistols. "I can tell you that it's a very shameful route to take and I think they are behaving like kids! This is a bad way to accommodate a loss, but I understand them, they pumped in lot of money in that election than in any by-election. They took more iron sheets, more mealie meal, more chitienges and T-shirts and they had more vehicles than they have had in any by-election. And so for them, their huge expenditure would have [been] justified [by] their win, but I sympathise with them, they are bad losers! You don't behave the way

they have behaved. Yes, police were heavy-handed, but the particular incident they are complaining about was not one where you can accuse the police of heavy-handedness where their own cadres were found with pangas and pistols. What made police officers to react was that the cadres started taunting police officers, firing pistols in the air! Waving the pangas and accusing the commanding officer, Shapa Wakunguma, that he was working with the UPND, 'twalaipaya lelo' (We shall kill them today)," Mweetwa said. "How can you have cadres threatening police officers? And the people who actually beat the hell out of them were not even those officers who have been illogically retired. The people who dealt with PF cadres were the mobile officers who were camped right behind the police station. The officers said, 'we are not those senior officers who may be looking for promotions, we are here for work, stop

insulting us!' It is the junior officers who said 'let's teach these people a lesson!' Mweetwa said police officers were in order to beat up PF cadres because they were armed and threatening. "I don't think the police had abused their powers, even if the police had done that to UPND cadres who they could have been found with pangas and pistols, I would not say that they did something beyond reasonable force. If the cadres are armed with pangas and pistols, what do you want the police to do other than using the force they used? They actually managed to get those pangas and those guns. I am a very sad person to note that the police who acted in that manner to restore order; you see a Republican President and ministers, retiring such officers," Mweetwa said. And Mweetwa charged that President Lungu's Special Advisor for Politics Kaizer Zulu led a team of PF cadres and ordered police

to charge at the UPND team where they allegedly fired live ammunition. "There were only two or three incidents where PF and UPND cadres clashed! One was when UPND cadres were trying to put their flags along the street lights of Sesheke and PF cadres came to attack them with their misguided view that the UPND were removing their flags. This caused a riot because police came and started firing teargas. The second was in a ward called Maondo Ward, the entrance from Mwandu, where the UPND were having a very peaceful rally and the PF, driving a (Toyota) Land Cruiser came and indiscriminately started throwing stones and two very old women above the ages of 70 were badly injured. Those were the two notable incidences of the UPND-PF clashes; the rest were police versus the residents of Sesheke; Police versus PF. A particular incident of police versus UPND was

on a Friday when President Lungu landed in Sesheke and was having a meeting in a place called Katimamulilo Ward, 40Km from where HH and the UPND were having small meetings because the police and us, we entered into an agreement that since President Lungu is in Sesheke, we shall not allow you to enter Sesheke because it's small until President Lungu is done with his activities," Mweetwa said. "We obliged and held back out of Sesheke, but what surprised us was that whilst we were having a small meeting at our camp, police and PF cadres came to attack us, police officers were armed with guns, while PF cadres were armed with guns and pangas! The police had been there for a while ensuring that we don't proceed into Sesheke, but under the leadership of Kaizer Zulu and other PF cadres, they came and instructed police to charge at us failure to which those who were leaders of that police team were going to be fired or retired. That's how police charged at us and in the process they beat up people to an extent

that we had to evacuate them around 02:00 hours." Mweetwa said as a trained former senior police officer, he could confirm that police fired live ammunition despite Police Inspector of Police Kakoma Kanganja refuting the claim. "I wouldn't want to engage in a dispute with IG Kanganja. Personally, I was a senior, superior police officer, that's the advantage I have in understanding these issues. There is a difference, which we trained police officers know, even trained military personnel know. When a gun firing blank bullets is compared to a gun which is firing live bullets, there is a difference. There is a thump steam that comes out of a live ammunition. But I can tell you that the situation was so chaotic and for the IG to come out the way he came out, I sympathise with him, I don't even think he has an iota of understanding what actually transpired! But we do have all the video evidence. The police and PF cadres attack were on us, a lot of people were injured and we scamped in all directions," said Mweetwa.

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# Chitotela's sympathisers threaten to petrol-bomb News Diggers offices

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Sympathisers of corruption-accused Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela have threatened to petrol-bomb News Diggers offices in Lusaka if the newspaper continues to write negative stories about him. And News Diggers Editor-In-Chief Joseph Mwenda has reported the matter to Lusaka Central Police where an inquiry file has been opened.

Mwenda explained that since the newspaper published the "Corruption Trail" exposé involving Chitotela on February 7, 2019, some anonymous callers have been warning him to stop 'scandalising' the minister or face serious consequences. "The minister's case is in court now, and we have been guided by the Honourable Magistrate in handling the case to let the prosecution take its course without any prejudice, so we cannot

repeat to the public what we published in that exposé. But what happened is that, after that exposé was published, we got some anonymous individuals, whom we believe are the minister's sympathisers, warning that we must stop scandalising Honourable Chitotela. I couldn't make any follow ups on those threats because the individual was using an unknown number. We did not understand why we would be getting such

threats because as far as we are concerned, the story on Honourable Chitotela was like any other story that we publish every day - factual!" Mwenda said. "We have nothing against him, he is a man that we talk to and he has called us before when he felt we wrote an editorial comment that was harsh on him, and we justified our position to him without any fight at all. After that "Corruption Trail" exposé, he has not called us

to complain and neither has he written us a demand letter claiming defamation. To our surprise, these threats have continued every time we publish editorial comments on corrupt government officials. On Tuesday, I got a call from a well known PF member who, out of good will, alerted us that some PF youths had been funded to petrol-bomb our offices. He went on to give us the names of the youths who were mobilising others for this operation. Within an hour of that alert, I got another call from a police officer, who again out of good will, advised us to clear valuables from our offices because he had very reliable intelligence that our operating premises had been targeted. Obviously, this officer could not help us any further than alerting us for fear of victimisation." Mwenda said he surrendered the names of the suspected PF youths to the police. "The police informant directed us to report the matter to Central Police, which we did yesterday (Tuesday) and we have given those names to the investigators. The police did not take the matter casually, they opened an inquiry file and we are very confident that, even if they fail to act, they will get the facts. Now,

we wonder who is funding these youths to attack us, but we want to assure them that such threats only make us stronger. What is important to us is to make sure that we remain professional; we never abuse the power of the pen through our publication to scandalise innocent citizens or eminent persons. Even if they petrol-bomb News Diggers and eliminate us all, so long the work we are doing is for the greater good of this country, another courageous group of journalists will see the need to rise up and continue from where we would have left," said Mwenda. "It is also important for those who are planning evil against us to know that what we publish is not hearsay. Our ears are on the ground and we hear a lot, but we don't just publish without making sure that we can prove what we report. If a minister demands for an expensive rolex watch, as a gift from a contractor who has won a government tender, we will not just publish that as a scandal, we first try to look around and put all the pieces together, so that we can tell a complete story. Our readers must be assured that we have only just started. The "Corruption Trail" is not the last exposé, there is plenty more to come."



Journalists covering the official launch of the OSISA/News Diggers! media training workshop at PalmWood Lodge in Lusaka on February 19, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Thomas Mulenga

The Copperbelt University Lecturers and Allied Worker's Unions say Minister of Higher Education Professor Nkandu Luo's decision to abolish meal allowances is illegal and can be challenged via a Judicial Review. In a joint statement, Copperbelt University Senior Administrative, Professional and Technical Staff Union (CUSATSU) Secretary General Lukanga Kapeshe, Copperbelt University Academics Union (CUBAU) Secretary General Willie Ngosa and Copperbelt University and Allied Workers Union (CUBAWU) Secretary General Fernando Fulwe, said neither Professor Luo nor the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board, had the power to abolish meal allowances. "Neither a Minister nor the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board has powers to abolish meal allowances for public universities. Meal allowances have their foundation under an Act of Parliament. This is the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Act, 2016 which came into effect on 17th April, 2017. This is an act which establishes the

## Luo's abolishment of meal allowances illegal - CBU lecturers

Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board, establishes the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Fund, Provides for the granting, administration, investment, payment and recovery of loans, provides for the administration and granting of scholarships, facilitates the mobilization of financial resources for loans and scholarships. The Act goes further to make for other related matters. Section 5 of the Act spells out the functions of the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board. Abolishing meal allowances is not among those functions prescribed by the Act," read the statement. "This means the Board has no power to abolish allowances the Act provides for. Any purported exercise of such power can successfully be challenged by way of judicial review on grounds of illegality. Section 24 of the Act makes provisions for allowances to be paid for under a loan

or scholarship. It enacts as follows: "24 (1) Subject to the provision of this Act, a loan or scholarship granted to a student shall not exceed the aggregate of - (a) the fees payable to the higher education institution per academic year, (b) a prescribed sum of money per academic year to assist in defraying the cost of books and other supplies required by the student in the student's faculty or department at the higher education institution, and (c) a living allowance in the prescribed amount per academic year." The unions said the announcement of the abolishment of meal allowances was a pretext for government to further reduce funding to higher learning institutions. "Section 37 (1) of the Act empowers the Minister by statutory instrument, to make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of the Act. The extent to which those regulations may

go is also spelt out under section 37 (2) of the Act. The minister cannot by virtue of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Act purport to abolish a loan, allowance or scholarship prescribed by the Act. The statutory instrument the minister is empowered to make is for purposes of enhancing the provisions of the Act and not to abolish anything the parent Act has already made provision for. It is therefore illegal for the minister of Higher Education to abolish the meal allowance," read the statement. "By implication, the announcement to remove meal allowances is a pretext for government to further reduce funding higher education in Zambia. The tuition, accommodation, project and book fees paid to the universities and students are loans that will be recovered. So why limit the extent of the loans if at all they will be paid back? How will the country

develop with a government that is not willing to pay for higher education? Prof Luo should come out in the open and explain to the nation the real reasons for this unfortunate pronouncement rather than lying to the nation and media houses that government had no intention of abolishing meal allowances even when she knew that this was what she actually wanted. Why deny in the first place if the intentions were clean. Prof Luo has abrogated the law and she must rescind the decision. Only Parliament can abolish the meal allowances. Prof Luo must respect the Law. Abolishment of meal allowances can only be legally done if the Minister repeals the current act and replaces it with a new one and this require approval from Parliament and participation of key stakeholders. As it stands what the minister said is a mere pronouncement without the backing of the law which can

be successfully challenged in the courts of law." They stated that UNZA and CBU were embroiled in huge debt due to poor provision of funding by government, adding that the removal of meal allowances would worsen the situation as vulnerable students would not be able to pay other fees. "The University of Zambia and CBU are technically insolvent with a staggering debt of about K6billion because of poor funding by government. Abolishing of meal allowances will further affect the running of the universities since most students and their families will not be able to support their school. The income will further reduce such that those universities will not be run effectively. As much as the inclusion of other Universities on the loan scheme is welcome, Prof Luo's main intention is to remove the only benefit that a poor student is entitled to. The extension of the loan to other universities is just a ploy to win public approval. It is the unions' view that the extension as reported will not even be possible as government has lamentably failed to fund the existing public universities," read the statement.



**By Thomas Mulenga**  
Zitukule Consortium executive director Nicholas Phiri says it was shocking that four Sesheke police officers were retired "in national interest" when the authorities had failed to act in the public interest in past cases involving police brutality. In a statement, Phiri stated that there were more unanswered questions regarding the selective manner in which government was dealing with cases of police brutality, citing the failure to take action against police officers who fired teargas canisters in late UNZA student Vespers Shimuzhila's room last year. Phiri argued that President Edgar Lungu had betrayed the trust given to him as Head of State in pursuit of a political agenda. "Zitukule Consortium is deeply dismayed at the dismissal of the four Sesheke Police officers barely 5 days after the alleged brutal treatment of the PF cadres. According to the reports from Sesheke, the PF cadres were not only terrorizing Sesheke residents during the by-election but also charging at police officers using all sorts of offensive weapons. For the record, Zitukule Consortium does not support any form of police brutality whether

## Zitukule condemns firing of 4 Sesheke cops

such brutality is directed at PF, opposition supporters or indeed members of civil society. Political violence and police brutality are not only unlawful and a violation to citizens' constitutional and human rights, but also represent the most uncivilized way of dealing with divergent views, particularly in the political arena," Phiri stated. "As a Consortium, we are deeply disturbed by the message that the Republican President is sending to the police service, PF cadres, opposition supporters and the nation at large. It is difficult to reconcile how President Lungu and the police command can fire four police officers in public interest when they have failed to take the same action in the recent past on cases similar to or worse than the Sesheke incident. The action by the President and the police command is a betrayal of their Oath of Office to protect and defend the Constitution and the Zambian citizens." He insisted that there were more unanswered questions regarding the selective manner in which government was dealing with cases of police brutality. "Painful questions

remain unanswered: what has happened to the officers who fired teargas into the room of Vespers Shimuzhila, claiming her life? What happened to officer who killed Mapenzi Chibulo, a UPND supporter in cold blood in 2016? What happened to a police who publicly displayed partisan inclination by wearing a PF T-shirt and publicly flashing a PF symbol? Why is Mr Kakoma Kanganja at the helm of the police service, even when it is clear that he has failed

to run a professional police service? What is so peculiar about PF cadres to constitute public interest, which other citizens who have been brutalised by police officers don't have?" Phiri wondered. He said that President Lungu had betrayed the trust given to him as Head of State in his pursuit of a political agenda "It is a pity that President Lungu has betrayed the trust bestowed on him as President of Zambia by openly pursuing a political agenda to the detriment

of national unity and state-building. The firing of Sesheke police officers sends a message that PF members can break the law at will and no one would dare touch them! Meanwhile, the message to those in opposition and civil society is that unless they support PF, they should not expect any protection from the police service. Meanwhile, the President and the police command have effectively taken away the little remaining professionalism in the police service as

it would be practically impossible for them to act against PF's lawlessness using their professional judgement," stated Phiri. "As Zitukule Consortium, we call upon the President to take a deep reflection on his Oath of Office to protect and defend the sanctity of the Constitution. We cannot have 'one Zambia one nation' when the application of the law is selective. As things stand now, the success or failure in maintaining public order largely depend on the Presidency."



Journalists covering the official launch of the OSISA/News Diggers! media training workshop at Palmwood Lodge in Lusaka on February 19, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

# Lungu's stance on corruption confirms he is running a govt of thieves - Telesphore

**By Mukosha Funga**  
Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu says President Edgar Lungu's refusal to fire corruption-accused Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela gives credence to the assertion that he is running a government of thieves, by thieves, for thieves. And Archbishop Mpundu has condemned the firing of four Sesheke police officers over allegations that they beat up PF cadres saying the law should be applied fairly, regardless of the political party which law breakers belong to. In this verbatim interview, Archbishop Mpundu insists that corruption has become endemic in Zambia and vows that he will not stop talking because he is not scared of anyone. Q. One of the challenges which we have faced in this country is corruption. Recently, the minister of Infrastructure Development Ronald Chitotela was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Commission but the President said he could not fire or suspend him because he was innocent until proven guilty, what are your views on that? A. In the second statement that we made as church mother bodies, we tackled the issues of corruption. And my part of the statement tackled the issue of corruption which has become endemic in this country. It is there and it is endemic. When we had the ceremony of putting [Archbishop Alick] Banda, my successor, I mentioned the issue of corruption again in my homily. I said 'democracy is

supposed to be known as a government of the people, for the people, by the people but if we leaders, and I began with us Catholic priests, and leaders that if we stop serving people, then we become parasites. We become cannibals. Our governments here in Africa are governments of thieves, by thieves for thieves, and the President was seated there. Every single year, we have the report from the Auditor General listing horrendous abuse of public funds but how many heads roll? Very few. People who are caught, literally caught in government, what happens to them? They are dismissed and they go to use the ill-begotten money, they are just dismissed instead of being prosecuted, found guilty and put behind bars. If the President fails to discipline that person, what kind of message is he sending there? A government of thieves, for thieves, by thieves. Period! And I am not going to apologise to anybody because this is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I won't even say help me God, I will say support me God. That's it. We have never failed to raise a strong word about endemic corruption. This country has just gone haywire when it comes to corruption. So I will say it again and again. And that's where we should have seen the leadership of the President. One is caught, [fire immediately], zero tolerance for corruption. Now what do we have? 'No, I won't dismiss him'. No, no way! In any country in the world, people will be on the streets, the whole country

will be on the streets if that happened but for us, we are peaceful people, Zambians are peace loving. Jesus did not say blessed are the peace lovers or blessed are the peace keepers...you can't keep peace if there is no peace. It is blessed are the peace makers. Meaning people who are angry enough against what is going on to do something in a peaceful way to stop it. As Christians, we should be in the fore front of getting angry enough about unjust situations including theft of public funds when so many people are suffering from hunger. We need to change this peacefully and bring about peace. And we are passionate about it as Catholic Christians, no two ways about it, no one will frighten us from talking. They are just wasting their time. Q. In the just recently held by-election, we witnessed gruesome images of political violence. After the election, the PF, through its secretary general Davies Mwila complained to the Inspector General of Police that their cadres were brutalised by some officers. The police command has responded by firing senior Sesheke officers. What are your views on this, given that police officers in the past have gotten away with other serious atrocities? A. First of all, violence is not a way of doing politics. I have said it again and again that it is primitive. This didn't start yesterday, even in the one party state, there was no political dissent allowed within one party...We should be going the way of selling ideas, let

the ideas fight, not physical fighting. It is primitive, it is not even stone age, it is the age of the Broken Hill man. For us, we are short of ideas so what do we do? We beat the opposition into submission. Worse, there is institutional violence, this is when a government of the day, using government institutions to frighten people. This time around, their people were on the receiving end and what happens? They say 'you didn't protect the government properly so police are fired'. But previously, the police have failed to stop violence coming from the ruling party, not just this one, before that it was the MMD, before that it was UNIP. There should be a level playing field. Whoever makes a mistake, whatever political party they come from, they should face the law, not to be discriminatory in the administration of justice, it is a shame. Q. Do you feel young people today are politically awake and willing to participate in the country's governance like it was when you were growing up? A. Young people have a future, but they are also in a hurry to live that future. You can't keep telling them 'you are the leaders of tomorrow', no they are leaders today so whatever development you are bringing, you have to look at the young people, are they getting their fair share of development benefits? This must be translated into job creation and also a policy that ensures quality education for tomorrow's leaders. But this is not coming because of poverty. Right now, as I am talking, the University of Zambia

Great East Road campus is trying to find some kind of arbitration between them and the government because as you know, they have scrapped the meal allowances. But why were we not told years ago so that those coming this year can come armed with whatever it is maybe pumpkins or whatever it is. So you cannot convince them that government is concerned about the youth. Now you can talk about political awareness but that can be translated into fruits of political leadership and fruits of political leadership is development. If nothing is coming like that, you can talk till kingdom come but if those things are not happening, young people will just look at you and walk away. So you have to bring the youth on board with concrete programmes to benefit them. It is very difficult for young people to believe that government doesn't have enough if the other day we were told millions are disappearing. We are not going to accept that. It is simply those in leadership enriching themselves at the expense of the youth. Meanwhile, Archbishop Mpundu reacted to Dr Canisius Banda's attacks that he was making the work of his successor, Archbishop Alick Banda difficult because he did not want to give up power, saying the former UPND vice-president was spreading falsehoods and crazy imaginations. Look out for this and Archbishop Mpundu's views on the stalled dialogue process in tomorrow's edition.



# Zambia's gross reserves drop to near 10-year low

**By Stuart Lisulo**  
Zambia's gross international reserves have fallen below US\$1.6 billion for the first time in nearly 10 years, triggered by the need to finance the country's massive external debt servicing commitments, Bank of Zambia data reveals. But Bank of Zambia (BoZ) governor Dr Denny Kalyalya says the central bank is not sitting idle in trying to contain the country's dwindling reserves as various initiatives are underway to bolster the position. Meanwhile, the BoZ has again maintained the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 9.75 per cent in a bid to induce lower interest rates and

continue supporting economic growth. According to BoZ data, Zambia's gross international reserves by the end of the fourth quarter of last year have plummeted to US \$1.57 billion, the lowest in the last nine years. International reserves are any kind of reserve funds, which central banks can pass among themselves, internationally, and they remain an acceptable form of payment among these banks. Reserves themselves can either be gold or a specific currency, such as the dollar or euro. BoZ data shows that Zambia's reserves by the end of the fourth quarter of last year hit a near

10-year low of US \$1.57 billion, representing just 1.8 months of import cover, compared to US \$1.63 billion as at September 30, 2018, representing 1.9 months of import cover. The last time the country's international gross reserves were at this decade-low was in 2009 when BoZ data revealed that reserves held were at US \$1.9 billion in December of that year. According to the BoZ, the sharp decline in the country's reserves was triggered by the need to finance Zambia's huge external debt servicing commitments. "Gross international reserves declined to US \$1.57 billion (representing 1.8 months of import cover)

from US \$1.63 billion (1.9 months of import cover) recorded at end-September 2018. External debt service payments were the primary drivers of the drawdown in international reserves," BoZ data disclosed, as contained in the latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement availed, Wednesday. The decline in reserves were, however, arrested by the central bank's net purchases of foreign exchange, among key interventions. "The decline was moderated by net purchases of foreign exchange by the Bank of Zambia and Mineral Royalty Tax receipts amounting to US \$109.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Net foreign exchange purchases from the market for 2018 amounted to US \$346.0 million compared to US \$402.6 million in 2017," it stated. But reacting to questions from journalists, Dr Kalyalya explained that the central bank was concerned with the rapid deterioration in the country's reserves, hence some bold initiatives currently being undertaken. "Obviously, it does concern us when it is going down. We can't just remain at being concerned; you have to do something to try to augment the reserves. But also, we urge those who are drawing on it to look at their profile to see that... is it really necessary to draw reserves at this point? So, this is the issue of how do we rationalize the debt service that we have; does everything need to come through that window or it can be met from other sources? That's on the demand side," Dr Kalyalya said. "...But on the supply side, we are also looking at how do we augment this (reserves). We started last year in September to collect Mineral Royalties directly; it's not a whole lot. This year, we expect to do better on that particular line. We are looking at how to step up our augmentation of reserve purchases; we did buy quite a lot of resources - in excess of US \$300 million. We are equally looking at how we can add to our portfolio of assets in reserves in gold so we are in conversation with those

who produce gold so that we can add to our list of items. So, we are not sitting idle." Meanwhile, Dr Kalyalya announced that the central bank had decided to maintain the MPR at 9.75 per cent, while also keeping the Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR) at five per cent, for the fourth successive time since last February in a bid to induce lower interest rates and continue supporting economic growth. This means that the MPR and SRR have remained at the same level for the last one year. The MPR is the benchmark lending rate the central bank sets on commercial banks to either increase or decrease interest rates on credit facilities, while the SRR is the proportion of deposits a commercial bank, by law, must keep in cash or place with the central bank. Dr Kalyalya explained that the central bank decided to maintain the MPR and SRR to continue supporting the country's economic growth, while also induce the lowering of high interest rates obtaining on the local market that increased to around 23.6 per cent in the fourth quarter last year, from 23.0 per cent by September 30. "So, we see that interest rates have remained elevated, in fact, they edged up from 23 per cent to 23.6 per cent. So, high lending rates continue to constrain the private sector's access to credit," said Dr Kalyalya in front of journalists, as he explained that private sector credit growth remained slow.

## Lusaka woman sues Chingola colleague for calling her prostitute

**By Zondiwe Mbewe**  
A businesswoman of Lusaka's Kamwala South has dragged another woman of Chingola to court for allegedly calling her a prostitute and other unprintables after she refused to give the defendant money in exchange for information on her husband's infidelity. Victoria Sichone, who has sued Astridah Mukutu, is seeking compensation for defamation of character, as well as, exemplary damages for emotional turmoil. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, February 14, Victoria stated that sometime in 2017, Astridah called her with a view to extort money from her by making up a story that her (Victoria's) husband was in Chingola with another woman. Victoria stated that Astridah told her that if she wanted to hear more, she was to pay for the information. She added that when she refused to pay, Astridah published an oral statement, charging that Victoria was a fool, prostitute among other unpalatable things. "The said words were understood to mean that; the plaintiff has poor judgement or intelligence, she is fond of having sexual intercourse with other men in exchange for money and that she can't be trusted," read the statement of claim. Victoria lamented that the said words had injured her character and had caused her to be ridiculed, scorned and had further diminished the esteem, respect and goodwill with some members of the family. She stated that despite her insisting that Astridah issued an unreserved apology, the latter had blatantly refused to do so. "By reason of the publication of the said words, Victoria has been injured in her professional standing character, reputation and has suffered distress, embarrassment and has been brought into public scandal, odium, ridicule and contempt," read the statement of claim. Victoria is now claiming compensation for defamation of character, aggravated and general damages for slander, exemplary damages for emotional turmoil suffered, interest, costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

**By Mirriam Chabala**  
Bowman Lusambo should start making arrangements to join UPND since he doesn't like being outside the system because UPND is forming government in 2021, says Getrude Imenda. Commenting on the Lusaka Province Minister's threats that he would "crush and send into extinction UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema if the opposition leader did not stop politics of provocation", Imenda said Lusambo was just a thug who never understood anything about democracy. Imenda charged that Lusambo was just a money digger who always wanted to side with and join the ruling party. "First of all, what does he mean by 'if HH does not stop provocative politics'? What provocation has HH done? The problem is that when you have people who haven't even been to school in politics, they don't understand democracy. Hakainde is talking about things that are happening in our country; things like corruption, theft, not following the rule of law and constitutionalism. He's talking about poverty, illiteracy, all those things. When you look at all these things it's true they are happening. Right now I am in Mongu, coming from Sesheke, people

# Bowman should prepare to join UPND in 2021 - Imenda

are coming to me complaining about lack of money. Yet here is a government which is dishing out money openly to corrupt voters. But if Hakainde condemns that then he's provoking, but what do they expect him to do as an opposition leader? The opposition party is responsible for offering checks and balances to the system, this PF government should be brought to account," Imenda, who is UPND deputy secretary general for administration, said. "But the likes of Lusambo, I feel sorry for him because he doesn't understand. He's a person who was just picked from the streets and then given a ministerial position which he doesn't even understand and a lot of people have been picked like that but they don't understand their roles because they have not been to school. As such, they only understand violence. There

they are, they went to Sesheke, and they wanted to assassinate Hakainde Hichilema. I am not even surprised that Lusambo can say that, they wanted to kill HH because he's an inconvenience to them. They want to be stealing openly and no one should raise his voice. But that's terrible, these people were dishing out money, even Lungu, he went into the market in Sesheke giving out money. But really when we had the rule of law, you would know it's not allowed during campaigns to start dishing out money like that. But these PF people are doing it openly." Imenda also mocked the PF for losing the Sesheke by-elections even after bribing people in the constituency to vote for their candidate. "People in Sesheke are different from the people in Mangango, they understand issues. They

may not have been very much to school but they have the wisdom in their own right. But the likes of Lusambo do not understand, that's why they make threats. Let me tell you what they did in Mangango, when HH wanted to go and campaign in Mangango, they gave him a call out in Ndola. So this time, when he was going to campaign in Sesheke and Lungu was there, there is nothing wrong with them going at the same time. The constituency is big, if Lungu is going to the Boma, what stops Hakainde from going Imushu, to Lusu? Why should it, just because Lungu is in Sesheke central then Hakainde should not step foot there, says who?" Imenda wondered. "We used to do this even in the MMD government but what we have seen in this government, I don't think they are human beings. Look at what happened

at Parliament on Friday... Kang'ombe has been voted for by the people of Sesheke central constituency, so who are those PF thugs going to dance at Parliament saying they will not allow him to go into Parliament? Is it their Parliament? What about the people of Sesheke who have put him there? So who are those thugs and who are they representing when they say they won't allow him to go inside?" Imenda explained that she had never seen the kind of lawlessness being witnessed under PF. "I have never seen a regime like this one. It's like we are not being governed by human beings, they have no leadership qualities, they are just thugs, they are just criminals, they are just corrupt. But the people of Sesheke rejected the PF violence, so who is PF to say 'we don't want Kang'ombe to go to Parliament'? so they

don't want Sesheke people to be represented in Parliament? Now if Sesheke comes and turns on them, what are they going to say? That is unacceptable and the like of Lusambo saying what they are saying... you have seen, those are reminiscent of the thuggery, the criminality, corruption and violence. But let me warn that Lusambo guy, Hakainde is here and he's going to be President in 2021, whether Lusambo likes it or not. In fact, since Lusambo is a money digger who wants to be with the ruling party, let him start making arrangements to join UPND if he still wants to be in the system because he does not want to stay outside the system. He was in MMD and now he has joined PF, let him make arrangements to join UPND because UPND is forming government and instead of fighting Hakainde, let him just cooperate," said Imenda.



**NDC**  
**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS**  
*The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom*  
 Why we deserve your vote



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

As NDC we are passionate about youth entrepreneurship. Therefore, our party shall endeavor to create an environment conducive for youth entrepreneur activities; provide a credit scheme for empowerment and entrepreneurial development; link secondary and post-secondary education to industrial and agricultural experiences and encourage youth participation in clubs and self-help initiatives. Our manifesto has proposed to undertake the following;

We shall ensure that youth cooperatives are formed and shall have access to loans from the agricultural and development bank for purposes of converting agricultural produce to finished products.

We shall facilitate the development of agro processing industries in all the districts for purposes of value addition and job creation, especially for the youth and women.

We shall introduce an Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund for fish production for small and medium scale sector, especially for youth and women. This shall multiply fish production from aquaculture; especially by small and medium business hence creating employment and reducing

poverty amongst the youth and women

As NDC we shall motivate the youth SMEs and the cooperatives sector and focus on developing them into large companies that can create jobs and effectively participate in stock exchange markets.

Zambia has many unskilled youths and this has resulted into unemployed youths and lack of skills for self-empowerment. We shall radically improve our skills base through a variety of measures such as content specialization at early stages of education as outlined in the educational sector of this manifesto, to have better educational outputs. The current skills short ages hampers economic growth.

Revamp Trade Schools that have been neglected for a long time. These trade schools teach and train the youth in various crafts such as carpentry, boiler making, artisanship, construction, electrical, farming, tailoring and many other fields which directly contribute to manufacturing. These youth shall be directly employed by Zambia National Service (ZNS) to produce goods and services that shall be supplied to the public and government departments and ministries.

We shall ensure that Waste Rock Dumps become

the property of the people of Zambia. This is what is mined out as waste. Given the technology, this can be mined as is the case in Nchanga where we have the leach Plants. We shall encourage youth from all political parties and other backgrounds leaving around the waste rock dumps form co-operatives and benefit from them

The NDC government shall pass legislation that shall ensure that all government departments and all public institutions spend at least 40% of their procurement budget on SMEs and youth-owned businesses.

The NDC government shall ensure that all local government authorities have a Youth Information and Advisory Centre which shall inform, educate and guide young people on possible career paths and educational opportunities available in South Africa.

The NDC government shall integrate and institutionalise youth development at local government level.

We shall ensure that Patents and Company registration Authority (PACRA) is decentralised to district level with offices in all district for youths to register their companies in their respective district councils.

By Mukosha Funga

The Opposition Alliance says it has decided to report President Edgar Lungu, some high ranking PF officials and four PF cadres to the International Criminal Court for various crimes against humanity. At a press briefing in Lusaka, Wednesday, chairperson of the Opposition Alliance Milupi said the alliance's investigations had revealed that the ruling party had assembled a group of youths whose sole purpose was to perpetrate violence. "As Opposition Alliance, our preliminary investigations have revealed that the PF party and its government have assembled a group of youths whose sole purpose is to perpetuate political violence on the opposition. This group of youths, which for current purposes we have decided to refer to as a PF militia, is mainly stationed at Inter-city bus terminus in Lusaka, and Kanyama township. Some of the members of this PF militia include Francis Muchemwa (aka America 2), Mpange Kachingwe, Abel Mwale, Eddie Gowa (aka America 1) who is a Malawian citizen that was imported to Zambia for the sole purpose of executing political violence, etc," Milupi charged. "As evidenced by the various photos attached hereto, these individuals that form the PF militia are close acquaintances of the republican president, his Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the PF militias

## Opposition Alliance resolves to report Lungu to ICC

are close acquaintances of the Minister of Home Affairs, honourable Stephen Kampyongo, close associates to the PF secretary general Hon Davis Mwila, these PF thugs are close associates to the special assistant for politics to the republican president, Mr Kaizer Zulu, these PF thugs are close associates to the Special Assistant to the Republican President for Press and Public Relations, Mr Amos Chanda, these PF thugs are also close associates to the Inspector General of Police Mr Kakoma Kanganja." Milupi charged that the PF militia was on the Lusaka City Council and Zesco payroll. He insisted that the state, through State House police, tried to assassinate Hichilema in Sesheke. "At about 14:30hrs on that fateful Friday afternoon, Zambia Police Service officers from State House division, appeared from nowhere and, without warning, opened fire on the crowd of Maondo ward residents whom the UPND president was addressing as part of his campaign itinerary for that day. Note attached footage and photographs. The UPND president together with his entourage and supporters were forced to scamper in

all directions in fear of their lives as the State House police officers continued to open fire with automatic weapons on the unarmed and defenceless UPND entourage and Maondo ward residents. Note attached photographs of several live ammunition cartridges recovered from the scene," he said. "Even after the UPND president and his entourage had dashed into the nearby bush and abandoned their vehicles at the village, the State House police officers continued to pursue them further into the bush, were they continued to fire their automatic weapons. In total, an estimated 1,000 rounds of ammunition were fired on that afternoon, against the unarmed and defenseless UPND president and his supporters. Note footage and photographs attached hereto. The UPND president and his entourage had to spend more than 8 hours holed up in the bush waiting for nightfall, before they finally made their way back to the village, at which time the state house police officers had left the scene after tear-gassing and vandalizing the entire Maondo village." He noted that to date, police had not explained why they opened fire on Hichilema.

"Given the circumstances of what happened in Maondo village on that fateful Friday, 8th February 2019, we in the Opposition Alliance are left with no option but to conclude that the operation that was conducted by State House police was aimed at assassinating the UPND president, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, with the aim of eliminating him from the 2021 presidential race." Milupi said failure by police to arrest PF cadres who went to protest at Parliament last Thursday was proof that the PF had created two classes of citizens. "The pf and its government have essentially created two classes of citizens. Everyone that is affiliated to the PF is considered a first class citizen who is not subjected to the laws of the land, as witnessed by the failure of the Zambia Police Service to arrest PF cadres who staged an unlawful protest at Parliament, which they the police acknowledged was an unlawful protest. Any law enforcement official who dares to enforce the law on PF cadres who have been designated as first class citizens by the PF government, is quickly fired by the Republican President, as the case is

with the Sesheke police officers recently," he said. Milupi said the firing of Sesheke officers had given courage to PF cadres to break the law with "additional" impunity. He said since it was very difficult to get justice locally, the Opposition Alliance had decided to report President Lungu and other PF officials to the ICC. "We in the Opposition Alliance cannot, shall not and will not sit idle as our citizens are being maimed and killed in the name of politics by the PF and its government in general and President Edgar Chagwa Lungu in particular. We are also cognizant of the fact that it is very difficult for us in the opposition to get justice from the local judicial system, given the high levels of infiltration of the PF party among judicial officers, where they have personal-to-holder judges and magistrates who can never issue a judgement against the PF and its government, no matter the mountain of evidence available. In our quest for true justice, we in the opposition alliance have taken the decision to report specific individuals to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, for orchestrating, perpetrating,

facilitating, funding and executing a well planned wave of political violence across the country, which violence risks the peace and security of this nation," he said. Milupi listed President Lungu, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo, PF secretary general Davies Mwila, Special Assistant to the President for Politics Kaizer Zulu, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda and four PF cadres namely; Francis Muchemwa, Mpange Kachingwe, Abel Mwale and Eddie Gowa as those to be reported to the ICC. "As opposition alliance, we have complete trust in the competence, independence and integrity of the ICC and their prosecutors. On this basis, we strongly believe that we if the above listed individuals are not guilty of the crimes that we accuse them of, they shall be acquitted accordingly by the international criminal court in the Hague. It must further be noted that the above list may be increased depending on additional evidence that may come into our possession in due course," said Milupi. Meanwhile, Opposition Alliance member Elias Chipimo of NAREP said it was high time citizens stood together to fight state sponsored terrorism. "I make no regrets about using that term, that is what we are witnessing today," said Chipimo. "This must come to an end."



# PF on track to realizing vision 2030 - Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe

PF Secretary General Davies Mwila says government has been in discussions with JICA and the African Development Bank (ADB) to provide US\$350 million for the implementation of the Lusaka City Water Supply Improvement project. And Mwila says PF government is further implementing the Lusaka Sanitation Programme which will involve among other things, construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and provision of sanitation facilities in public

institutions.

In PF's weekly news letter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that the PF government attached strategic importance to the water and sanitation sector as a tool of economic diversification. He cited an example of the increased national budget allocation to the sector from 1.2 percent in 2015 to 2.3 percent this year. "In line with the 7NDP, the PF government increased national budget allocation to water and sanitation from 1.2 percent absolute share of the National Budget in 2015, to

2.3 percent 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," Mwila stated. He stated that the PF government was implementing numerous projects and programmes which would facilitate the achievement of the 7NDP strategic objectives; and ultimately the Vision 2030 objective.

Mwila listed some of the projects implemented by government under the water and sanitation sector. "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 involves the improvement of water supply, sanitation and drainage systems in selected townships of Lusaka city and strengthening the institutional capacity of Water

Utility companies. The project will benefit more than 1.2 million people," he stated. "Also, government is 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\$150 Million – with government counterpart funding and a US\$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 the areas. This Programme shall improve the livelihoods and health of over 930,000 people in the targeted districts."

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," Mwila stated. He further stated that the PF government was also implementing the Lusaka Sanitation Programme having mobilized funds amounting to US\$300 Million from the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and kfW. Mwila stated that the programme would involve: construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks, pump stations and treatment plants; provision of sanitation facilities in public institutions; among other things. "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," stated Mwila.



L-r: News Diggers! Board Chairperson Dr Sangwani Ng'ambi, UN representative Mark Maseko, Director of press and media development at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Modern Mayembe and US embassy Director of Public Affairs Sean MacIntosh and British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane - Dyet during the OSISA/News Diggers! media training workshop at Palmwood Lodge in Lusaka on February 19, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Yle (Finland's public broadcaster)

Finland's aid to Zambia has dropped steadily since 2013, when the country received more than 30 million euros - funding will stop completely by 2023. Finland has begun to rapidly wind down its development aid cooperation with Zambia after 45 years. The decision was made during the early phases of the current Juha Sipilä administration. The Finnish Foreign Ministry cited Zambia's then-poor economic outlook and the shrinking importance of development aid in the country as the reason for the decision to gradually discontinue the development programme. According to a statement from the ministry, the situation in Zambia has deteriorated since the government decided to drop the curtain on the aid programme. Six years ago, Zambia was still one of the top destinations for Finnish development aid. In 2013 Zambia received the second-highest amount in Finland's development aid programme, more than 30 million euros. However, the amount of aid funnelled to Zambia

# Zambia's political climate has been toxic – Finland

has declined dramatically since then. In 2018, Finland allocated just 4.3 million euros to bilateral aid for Zambia and this year the amount will be even less, at 3.5 million. Next year, it will be an estimated two million, eventually drying up by 2023. Austerity sees development aid cuts "You could say that Zambia has been a disappointment during the last few years. The country has lagged behind in a number of metrics and the political climate has been particularly toxic. Zambia is becoming indebted at a rapid rate – you could say unsustainably – and relations with the International Monetary Fund are poor," noted Juha Savolainen, head of the ministry's Southern and West African unit. Last September the IMF

announced that it would no longer extend additional credit to Zambia. "Corruption scandals have become more widespread. Leading politicians have either been sacked or they have left the government because of these suspicions," Savolainen added "We are following the situation with some concern and are in active dialogue with Zambia," he continued. The ministry official admitted however, that the decision to terminate development aid was made in rather different circumstances. From 2010, the Zambian economy posted growth of up to 10 percent annually, slowing to about three percent per annum in recent years. When the Sipilä administration took office in 2015, it

implemented an austerity programme that included deep cuts to development assistance, starting in 2016. In addition, recent revelations of misuse of development funds in Zambia have resulted in projects being frozen or wrapped up and only served to accelerate Finland's move to wind down the programme. 20 cases of suspected wrongdoing Yle's A-studio discussion programme requested reports on suspected abuse of all development aid spending between 2015 and 2018. The foreign ministry handed over information about 20 suspected cases of development aid misuse, 11 of which involved Zambia and seven of which involved calls to repay funds contributed. Four other cases involved

miscellaneous suspicions: in one of them no effort was made to reclaim development funds since the organisation in question had disbanded. Another foreign ministry report saw officials decide to shut down a project over delays and administrative issues. Yet another case was settled after a payment plan to reimburse development funds was agreed with the new management of the NGO in question. Support for human rights groups In a fourth case an audit of the organisation's accounts revealed several instances of over-spending, but a review determined that the funds had been used for the agreed purposes. The majority of cases involved instances where the

Finnish embassy provided direct assistance small local organisations. In these cases, the recovered sums ranged from a few thousand euros to nearly 70,000 euros. According to Savolainen, the number of cases has been affected by the fact that the Finnish embassy in the Zambian capital Lusaka had access to funding allocations to provide direct support to small local NGOs. For example it provided financial backing to local NGOs campaigning for human rights, which tried to get local leaders to address wrongdoing. Savolainen described this form of direct backing as one example of Finland's success in Zambia, in spite of several instances of development aid misuse.



Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo says the entire Police Service is unhappy with the dismissal of four Sesheke-based officers namely, Commanding Officer, Shaapa Wakunguma, second Commanding Officer Chilongo Felming, Officer in Charge Boniface Lengwe and Constable Fridric Mukela. According to her, police officers are concerned that what has happened to the four could happen to anyone of them.

ESTHER Katongo: "No one would want to see a fellow police officer being fired because what happens to my fellow officer today, may happen to me tomorrow. Speaking in my personal capacity as Esther Katongo, two of the four officers who were retired, are my personal friends whom I have worked closely and I feel bad. To see that they have been retired is not something that has made us happy, as a service we are not happy that our friends have gone like that.

The problems is that, there are situations where cadres want to go and cause a fight at the police station, meaning that they do not respect the police. Maybe in the past when we were a Police 'Force', people had so much respect and fear for us. But now, as a Police 'Service', when you handle someone, the Human Rights people will come in, crying out loud against the police."

In our view, madam

# PF has hijacked Police, it's total State capture

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

Esther Katongo's message is a sugarcoated understatement. Even though she released a statement yesterday claiming that we misquoted her because police officers are not crying foul, she knows that her heart is not agreeing with her mouth. Let's face it, the Police Command is finished. Our men and women in uniform, including madam Esther Katongo, have been reduced to nonentities. They are even worse than G4 security officers with no power, no job security and no direction. Their zeal to work has completely been shuttered.

Nothing is nice about working in the police today, because their operating manual has been replaced with the PF's panga doctrine. This is the situation with all the officers, regardless of their ranks. Police officers

report for work already terrified, wondering whether they will make it through the day without offending the PF leadership. It is no longer about law enforcement; it is about pleasing the PF to stay in the job.

But this has got nothing to do with the fact that police cannot use force in their policing methods, as madam Esther Katongo is putting it. If anything, the opposite is true, and it is the same force which they used to sort out provocative PF thugs that has led to the retirement of the "Sesheke Four".

The real problem here is that the ruling party has hijacked the Police Command and usurped all the power that comes with it. Those in the police are not allowed to use their brains, they have to consult on every little decision and wait for instructions from their bosses, who also have to

consult the PF leadership.

The Police is now a security wing of the Patriotic Front and it cannot perform its duties without express permission from the ruling party. So, it is not expected that police officers can discipline PF cadres. The Service is now a tool for those in power to brutalise and oppress opposition parties.

Today, when a PF cadre wearing green regalia slaps a police officer, that officer must not only turn the other cheek, but also salute and say "thank you sir!" But if a UPND cadre points a finger at an officer, and that officer walks away without a 'fight', they will be accused of supporting the opposition and a retirement in national interest follows, instantly.

This may sound too exaggerated, but it is a reality in the Police Service. Officers, with

all the ranks on their shoulders, are nothing more than school cadets in the eyes of the Patriotic Front. Ruling party youths can even commandeer a police vehicle if they so wish; and at the rate we are going, soon they will be at liberty to borrow police guns in order to fight their battles with UPND.

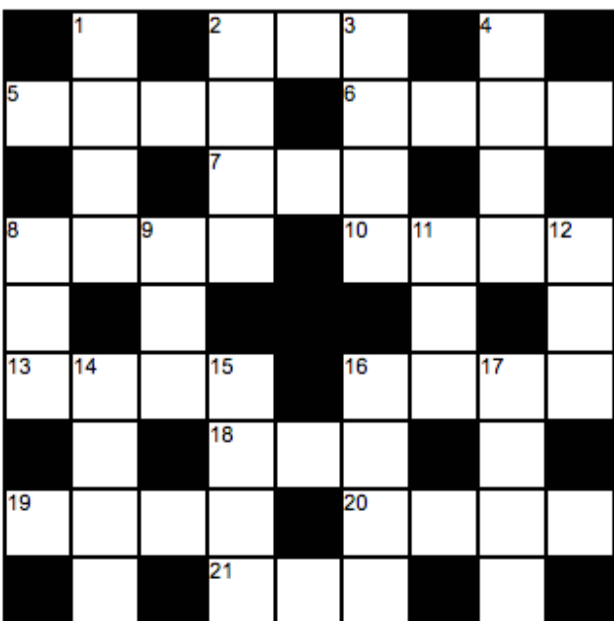
How can this be happening in a normal country with a President who is a lawyer? Surely, those who say Mr Edgar Lungu is not in charge of the State have a point. This is what happens under State Capture. When a President is asleep, bad elements wake up to steal his ballpoint pen and authorize all sorts of atrocities. A President, especially one who understands law, justice and order, cannot fire police officers at will in this manner, without paying any consideration

to facts. This is a State capture and nothing else. Criminals are controlling and abusing our very critical security wings using the name of the President.

Clearly, apart from the Inspector General, his deputy and Commissioners of Police who are enjoying their gratuities with the PF in power, the rest of the police officers are not happy. They can't wait for this regime to go because they have suffered enough. Their hands are stained with human blood against their will. As if that was not enough, they have to live in fear of being discharged from employment, as if they are serving in a terrorist group that makes arbitrary decisions without due consideration of the law.

But we want to warn the PF leadership that their animosity towards the police will surely haunt them. This treatment which the PF are giving the men and women in uniform, shall be given back to them in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. It is just a matter of time, and unless G4 security or anyone else is hired to guard the ballot papers for 2021 elections other than the police, the PF's reign in power may end sooner than they anticipate. These police officers who are being abused like this will have the last laugh.

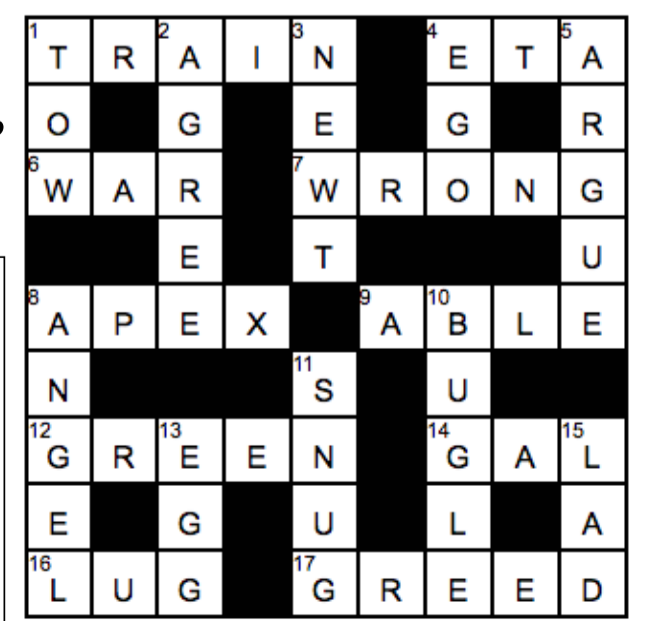
## Crossword puzzle 298



*"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."  
- Mahatma Gandhi*

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| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Night flier</li> <li>5. Grows on the head</li> <li>6. Monster like Shrek</li> <li>7. Yankovic and Pacino</li> <li>8. Below the mouth</li> <li>10. Sharply pierce</li> <li>13. Holler</li> <li>16. Manhattan neighborhood</li> <li>18. Egyptian cobra</li> <li>19. Make a digital image of a photo</li> <li>20. Strongly encourage</li> <li>21. Hearing organ</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School subj.</li> <li>2. Cereal grain</li> <li>3. Eject</li> <li>4. Neighborhood</li> <li>8. Bawl</li> <li>9. Out of sorts</li> <li>11. Overly</li> <li>12. Scare word</li> <li>14. Engrave</li> <li>15. Bowling alley</li> <li>16. Cowboy boot attachment</li> <li>17. Immense</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## Solutions to puzzle 297





# Reader's feedback

## Sampa on closing down 'churches' causing noise pollution in compounds

Editor,  
 "Mr Mayor, in Barlastone, we have a bar that is near Eden University; they make a lot of noise more than churches! Please attend to bars first come and see for yourself on Friday." - Jon Sonta

"It is not about bars and churches, but noise either from church or bar is not good, let's avoid use of bigger speakers, especially when praying. Do you really need speakers to talk to God? People let us be reasonable, the Mayor is right and this should be extended to all parts of the country." - Belz K Freeman

"On this one, you have my support, ba Mayor!" - Joseph Simenda Maopu

"You are failing to clamp cadres who are disturbing real peace in Komboni!" - Vincent Kyamasengo

"Isn't it from the same noise churches that he got that Mayoral seat? Isn't it

from the same noise churches that he got the anointing oil, which made him sacrifice his five months' salary? Don't be hypocritical, ba Sampa! Just bring our Wi-Fi." - Franco Mudekwa

"Ba Sampa, read the Bible, no man has fought with God and won! Your pride will take you nowhere! Ask Nebuchadnezzar." - Jackson Banda

## Kalaba on Lungu is not being in charge of the State

Editor,  
 "Thank you, Mr Kalaba of stating what many said way back, and you brushed them aside! You have been tried and tested with authority and leadership before, and sadly, you have been found wanting.

It's good you are bringing out these issues to remind yourself of what is already known. We will keep praying for the President and also for you, Elias Chipimo, HH and others that the best of this country may be realised." - David Phiri

"This guy even had the audacity to go to Zimbabwe without permission from Dr Guy Scott! And today, he wants us to believe in him?" - Glawel Sham

"PF cadres are becoming unruly and now untouchable!" - Chanda Emmanuel

"I think most of us have known for a long time that he is not in charge, brother Kalaba." - Mwimanenwa Kamona



"That's the legacy Mr Lungu will leave. His time as President will be known for violence, unlawful arrests, corruption, over-borrowing, boot-licking, police brutality, toll gates, high taxes, unemployment, and confusion! People will forget that Mr Lungu constructed roads and hospitals. The fact that cadres can do anything without a police permit while the Home Affairs Minister was just seated watching is a sign of a failed State! Zambia is slowly passing in the footsteps of DR Congo, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, etc. Kalaba is 1000% correct!" - McElvis Sims

## ND Opinion: Good leaders know they are not the best

Dear Editor,  
 "Beautiful editorial opinion." - Tobias Caesar Michelo  
 "This is well thought out. We need national positive energy!" - Muraad Mulenga  
 "Good article." - Brainerd Him  
 "Let UPND go for party elections! This type of dictatorship is not working for them. Let them go to a convention and elect those who can stand on their ticket. Let democracy prevail and these useless appointments by HH should end! He should be subjected to elections!" - Mateyo Banda  
 "So, do you think they have the capacity to change things? These are power hungry politicians!" - John Langfords

## Sesheke cops' firing

Lamentations on the ZP officers retired in national interest in Sesheke.

Thinking about the ZP officers who were retired in national interest is passing me each moment. Why retire men on duty rather than reward them for maintaining order? On this one, I think our BOMA has messed up, and this is costly.

Wait, first, they challenge the unlawful dismissal in the courts of law. We shall be embarrassed. Can we bring back order to the system, evidently, cadres are ruling the country and we have no regards to the rule of law. Let's not forget what happens when the people say enough is enough! As we go towards 2021, I foresee more fracas! Retiring hard working men in uniform is not the solution, just

like retiring over 20 highly trained medical doctors. We have serious problems which are developing into a "cancer" because there is nothing being done to address them. This is not good. My heart bleeds.  
 Concerned Zambian.

### 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.

"Kalaba is right!! We have a fraud for a President!" - Hector Ndlovu



Two prominent Roman Catholic Church cardinals have urged an end of what they call "the plague of the homosexual agenda", telling bishops to break their complicity over cases of sexual abuse.

In an open letter, Cardinals Burke and Brandmüller say the Church has wrongly blamed the abuse of power by clergy as the main cause of the scandals.

Instead, they say the cases involve priests who have "gone away from the truth of the Gospel".

They also openly criticise the Pope.

Stories of sexual abuse of minors have emerged across the world and the Church has been accused of covering up crimes committed by priests. Their letter comes on the eve of an extraordinary summit of bishops in Rome called by Pope Francis as an effort to deal with the scandals rocking the Church.

What are the cardinals saying about sex abuse?

Cardinals Raymond Burke, from the US, and Walter Brandmüller, from Germany, reject that the cases of abuse are a result of "clericalism" - a group of men abusing their power, and protecting each other.

The cardinals belong to the traditionalist wing of the Church, where many believe homosexuality is a root cause of the clerical abuse, and are both outspoken critics of Pope Francis.

"The plague of the homosexual agenda has been

# Church cardinals urge end of 'homosexual agenda'

spread within the Church, promoted by organized networks and protected by a climate of complicity and a conspiracy of silence," they said.

"Sexual abuse is blamed on clericalism. But the first and primary fault of the clergy does not rest in the abuse of power but in having gone away from the truth of the Gospel.

In the Catholic hierarchy, cardinals are second in importance only to the pontiff, and there are currently 223 of them.

Cardinal Burke has links to former Trump White House adviser Steve Bannon, who will reportedly be in Rome during the summit.

Mr Burke is president of the the advisory board of the right-wing Dignitatis Humanae Institute, which is setting up a leadership course with Mr Bannon's help.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Brandmüller caused controversy last month when he blamed homosexuality for the cases of sexual abuse at the Church.

Why do they criticise the Pope?

The cardinals accuse the Pope of failing to answer questions

related to whether the Church should allow divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Holy Communion - they are currently barred.

The issue, raised in 2016 by four cardinals including Burke and Brandmüller, has caused controversy in the Church, prompting many clerics to question the Pope's leadership.

The mention of this point completely unrelated to

Thursday's summit, and the challenge to the Pope's authority, shows that clerics who are unhappy with Pope Francis are growing more confident, observers say.

What's the summit about?

The summit is to be attended by the heads of all national bishops' conferences from more than 130 countries, who will discuss the most pressing crisis facing the modern Church.



## Climate change-ravaged rodent 'extinct'

It was described in 2016 as the first mammalian extinction caused by human-induced climate change.

Now the eradication of the Bramble Cay melomys has been officially recognised by Australia, its only known home.

The rodent lived solely on a tiny sand island in the Torres Strait, near the coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The species has not been seen since 2009.

Scientists say there is a chance that an identical or similar species could yet be discovered in PNG.

But they're uncertain because PNG's nearby Key River region has been little documented by research.

Australia has one of world's highest rates of animal extinction, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

'Our little brown rat'

The Australian government's decision to list the species as extinct comes after the Queensland state government made an identical determination in 2016.

A state government report said it was almost certainly caused by "ocean inundation of the low-lying cay, very likely on multiple occasions, during the last decade, causing dramatic habitat loss and perhaps also direct mortality of individuals". It added: "Significantly, this probably represents the



first recorded mammalian extinction due to anthropogenic climate change." The loss of an animal that was hardly known in the public mind has generated sadness in Australia and abroad.

"The Bramble Cay melomys was a little brown rat," said Tim Beshara, a spokesman for advocacy group The Wilderness Society.

"But it was our little brown rat and it was our responsibility to make sure it persisted. And we failed."

Conservation efforts

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Australian scientists had found no trace of the animal in recent surveys of Bramble Cay, an island of just five hectares.

A 2008 "recovery plan" had downplayed the risks to its survival, the newspaper

reported.

The current government, in office since 2013, has frequently defended its environmental efforts - citing a A\$425m (£233m; \$300m) investment in threatened species programmes, among other efforts.

But it has also been heavily criticised by conservation groups for not providing greater funding, or additional policies.

Australia is rare among developed countries because it is described as mega-diverse, but experts warn that biodiversity is under threat from environmental upheaval. The nation is not on track to meet its commitment of reducing emissions by 26-28% on 2005 levels by 2030, according to the most recent government data. **BBC**

## The blind climbers of Kilimanjaro

On 20 February 1969, seven blind climbers and their four sighted companions completed the arduous trek to the 5,750m (18,865ft) crater summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

The group took nine hours to climb the last 9,843m (3,000ft), fighting against high winds and freezing temperatures, to where they observed a circling Fokker F27 Friendship aircraft dipping its wings in a salute to their achievement.

The object of the expedition - the brainchild of John Wilson, founder of the charity Sightsavers - was to "help create a new image of blindness in Africa" and demonstrate that "trained blind people have the mental and physical stamina

to achieve exacting goals".

Eight embarked on the journey but on the evening of 19 February, after sleeping in a cave and making a steep and rocky climb that day, one of the climbers had to drop out.

"That day we had sore feet and one or two people started being sick from the altitude," said Geoffrey Salisbury, of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, as Sightsavers was then known.

"By now, we were all suffering from burned faces due to the direct rays of the Sun.

"We came across our first snow. I climbed the rocks and broke off a giant icicle and showed it to John Opio, who was suffering from a headache "He was so startled that I think

he forgot the pain.

"It was at this point that John Kisaka, from Tanzania, asked to drop out.

"He had climbed gallantly but was obviously not fit to go on."

The fittest trekkers were selected from hundreds of volunteers from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and underwent a two-week

training programme, which included rope climbing, night camping and mastering the use of mountaineering equipment.

The trek was covered on front pages of African newspapers and all the trekkers received a hero's welcome. Three pairs of their worn out boots are displayed in the Ugandan National Museum. **BBC**



If a personalised number plate simply isn't enough to express your complex personality, worry not - soon you will be able to add an emoji to the mix.

Ok, you'll have to move to Queensland, Australia - but once that's sorted, you can get your own little smiley starting next month.

The emojis will cost you some extra of course, and are only for decoration.

Oh, and only a few positive faces are allowed, so you'd better be a chirpy driver or else things won't match up.

Your choice will be limited to laughing out loud, a winking face emoji, the cool sunglasses, the heart eyes, and the good old standard smiley face.

## Emoji number plates launched in Queensland



Why emojis mean different things in different cultures

Could an emoji save your life? The symbols won't be part of the sequence to identify your car, though; that will still be down to the letters and numbers on the plate.

According to local media, the Royal Automobile Club of

Queensland (RACQ) has no issue with the new scheme. Spokeswoman Rebecca Michael told 7News Brisbane it was no different from drivers putting the logo of their favourite sports team on a plate.

"For quite some time we've seen that you can support

your favourite team or your favourite town with a symbol on your number plate. And using an emoji is no different," she said.

Social media reactions to the new plates have ranged from enthusiasm to irony and disdain. While some can't wait to get one, others have branded the idea a bit tacky or vain.

And of course, some said they'd be keener if the full spectrum of emojis was available - everything from angry faces to... well, the cartoon poop. Since the plates have a price point of 475AUD (£260, \$340), some commenters pointed out that it's a nifty way for authorities to make yet more money from personalised plates. **BBC**



Maurizio Sarri is set to be replaced by an internal appointment on an interim basis should the under-fire Chelsea manager fail to secure positive results in his next three games, Goal understands.

Former Napoli coach Sarri is under increasing pressure at Stamford Bridge following an inconsistent run of results since the start of 2019.

# Sarri has three games to save his job as Chelsea consider interim appointment

Though Chelsea have set up a Carabao Cup final date with Manchester City at Wembley on Sunday, they have suffered humbling defeats at Bournemouth

and City to drop out of the Premier League's top four, and were beaten 2-0 at home by Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Monday.

Given the scrutiny of Sarri's position in west London, a host of managers have been linked with the post, but Chelsea have not reached out to

any of the names. Instead, Sarri's assistant Gianfranco Zola or loan manager Eddie Newton could take charge on an interim basis, should

Chelsea dispense with the Italian.

Newton has trained the first team before, during the interim period between Antonio Conte leaving and Sarri arriving at Chelsea last summer.

Many Blues fans have turned on Sarri after the loss to United, when the supporters were heard chanting 'F\*\*\* Sarriball'.

Derby County manager Frank Lampard has been linked with the job, but the Chelsea legend has yet to be sounded out, while owner Roman Abramovich's friend Leonid Slutsky has also yet to receive the call.

Chelsea looked at appointing Laurent Blanc in the summer, before opting to go with Sarri, and the former Paris Saint-Germain coach could be considered again. There has yet to have been formal contact with the former Manchester United defender, however.

Zinedine Zidane is expected to be difficult to bring in, given the Blues are looking like a less attractive proposition than years gone by due to problems off the field such as transfer bans and the prospect of losing Eden Hazard to Real Madrid.

It is understood that former Madrid coach Zidane's arrival would not be considered as a major factor in Hazard's upcoming summer decision, despite the Belgium playmaker idolising the France legend as a boy.

With Sarri under intense pressure, Goal understands games against Malmo in the Europa League on Thursday, Manchester City in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday and Tottenham in the Premier League next week will be decisive in deciding the Italian's future in west London.

Goal.com

# Ibrahimovic on his Man Utd spell and how he ended the bullsh\*t

Zlatan Ibrahimovic says it took just three months for him to turn his "haters" into "fans" and eradicate the "bullsh\*t" talk that he was not good enough for Manchester United.

The Swedish striker spent almost two years with the Premier League side before leaving to join the LA Galaxy last March.

The Red Devils may not have been able to get back on top of the English top flight during Ibrahimovic's time at Old Trafford, but he helped guide them to an EFL Cup win in 2017. He also played a key role in their triumphant Europa League campaign until suffering a serious knee injury in the quarter-final against Anderlecht.

The former Juventus, Inter and Barcelona star scored 29 times in 53 appearances in all competitions for United and he believes he did enough to cement his status as a favourite in England.

"I worked, tried to do my thing, still adapt to the team, adapt to the coach's philosophy and to the club, and I had no issues with those things because I'm professional," he told the club's official website. "I like to work, I take instructions, at the same time I like to do my things that I think - I know - I'm good at, and I try to help the team in the best way.

"Still, everybody was talking, thinking they knew



everything. My challenge was, at the age I was, coming to England, where I had years of everybody was saying I wasn't good enough and all this bullsh\*t.

"I like those things because they trigger me. They give me adrenaline. After three months, all of them were eating their own words. I needed new haters because all the old ones became my new fans!"

And the 37-year-old developed a strong mutual admiration with the club's fans, remembering the great moment fans started to sing his name.

"I don't need to lick ass, but the fans were just amazing,"

he added. "I remember my first game in the Premier League at Bournemouth, I scored and the fans were singing my song for 45 minutes. After 20 minutes I was like: guys, please, my game is not really on top right now. Wait until I'm on top, wait and see!"

"Inside, I was like: f\*ck, this is fantastic! They really appreciated what I did and they were thankful. That is the best credit a player can get because when you do something and you get that response from the fans, it's amazing. They are 50 per cent of everything we do. Imagine if you played in empty stadiums... you

would not play. In Old Trafford it was always full. Always. In every away game they always showed up, always supported."

The ex-Sweden international hitman has been in fine form since moving to MLS, scoring 22 times in 27 matches, but he still remembers his days of conquering United fondly.

"That whole first season at United was fantastic. Everything was. I really enjoyed it. The family was happy, everybody was happy, the club took care of me and made it really easy for me. I just needed to turn up, put on my football boots and perform," he added.

"When I was a boy, I had a vision of what I wanted in my life. You never know what will happen, but I had my dreams, I had my will and my life became what it became. A lot of things have proven that if you want it, you will make it. You will achieve it. It's all up to you. If you don't work for it, you will not reach your objective. It's my mentality. I like that pressure because I like to say before that I'll do it because I really believe in it. I know I can do it.

"When I came to United and I said I would conquer England, people were laughing at me.

"I wasn't joking." Goal.com

# Pacquiao tells son: 'You don't need to box'



Philippine boxing legend Manny Pacquiao said Wednesday he has urged his eldest son to stay out of the ring after the 19-year-old's forays into fighting made the young man's mother cry.

Pacquiao, the only fighter to win world titles in eight different weight divisions, said he and his wife have even made a point not to have gloves and equipment at home.

The boxer, known for his rags-to-riches climb from the street, has tried to push his son Emmanuel Jr, who is known Jimuel, to choose another path.

"It pains me that he is boxing because I know how hard it is. I told him, 'Daddy only went into boxing because of poverty... You, you don't need to box'," Pacquiao said on broadcaster ABS-CBN. "But he said: 'Daddy, like you boxing is my passion also. I want to be a representative

of this country as an athlete'," Pacquiao added.

Pacquiao made the comments after a video of Jimuel sparring during an exhibition match was posted on Facebook.

"His mommy had cried several times telling him, 'Don't go into boxing, son'," Pacquiao said of his wife, Jinkee, who had also urged the 40-year-old boxer to retire. "He really wants to do it," he added.

The younger Pacquiao wouldn't be the first son of a high-profile boxer to follow dad's lead. The sons of British boxers Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank, as well as American slugger Joe Frazier became fighters.

The Facebook footage shows the younger Pacquiao sending his opponent to his knees with aggressive moves reminiscent of his father. Jimuel was wearing gloves

and gear branded "Pacman", his dad's nickname.

The elder Pacquiao was watching the match through a video call and was seen talking to his son before it started.

An aide for Pacquiao told AFP Jimuel took up boxing only in December, a month before his father easily defeated Adrien Broner in Las Vegas.

As for his own career, Pacquiao said he was still eager for a rematch with Floyd Mayweather but had yet to discuss his next fight with adviser Al Haymon.

Pacquiao in October signed with Haymon's Premier Boxing Champions group after being promoted by Top Rank's Bob Arum for the past 14 years.

Pacquiao said he was open to fighting unbeaten US "super champion" Keith Thurman, Errol Spence Jr or Britain's Amir Khan. AFP





**Thiago Alcantara vs Liverpool on Tuesday**

## Jacob Mulenga extends Liaoning Kaixin contract

*By Abraham Kalito*

Zambia's 2018 best performing player Jacob Mulenga has signed a one-year contract extension that will see him at Chinese side Liaoning Kaixin until December 2020.

The 35-year-old Zambian Footballer was also handed the captaincy in October last year after becoming a regular scorer at the club.

By December 2018 Mulenga had scored 13 goals in just 21 appearances in the Chinese Soccer league.

He retired from international football in 2015 after missing out on playing for the national side due to a series of injuries.

His last game for Zambia National Soccer team was against Togo in 2014. Mulenga spent 10 years playing in Europe; firstly campaigning in France for FC Chateauroux in the French Ligue 2 before a short spell with Ligue 1 outfit Strasbourg.

His last European club, Utrecht, denied him a contract extension, a move that forced the former Zambian international to move to China for greener pastures.

His career has long been plagued with injuries which sidelined him for many months at Utrecht and forced him to miss important Zambia fixtures.

*By Abraham Kalito*  
Confederation of African Football (CAF) has unreservedly handed over back all credentials to Zambia's most popular soccer icon Kalusha Bwalya.

A Goal Diggers! check on Africa's soccer governing body website found the 1988 African footballer of the year appearing on the list of executive members. He was stripped of the credentials after FIFA confirmed that he was found guilty of corruption. Bwalya was banned

# KALUSHA GETS BACK CAF CREDENTIALS

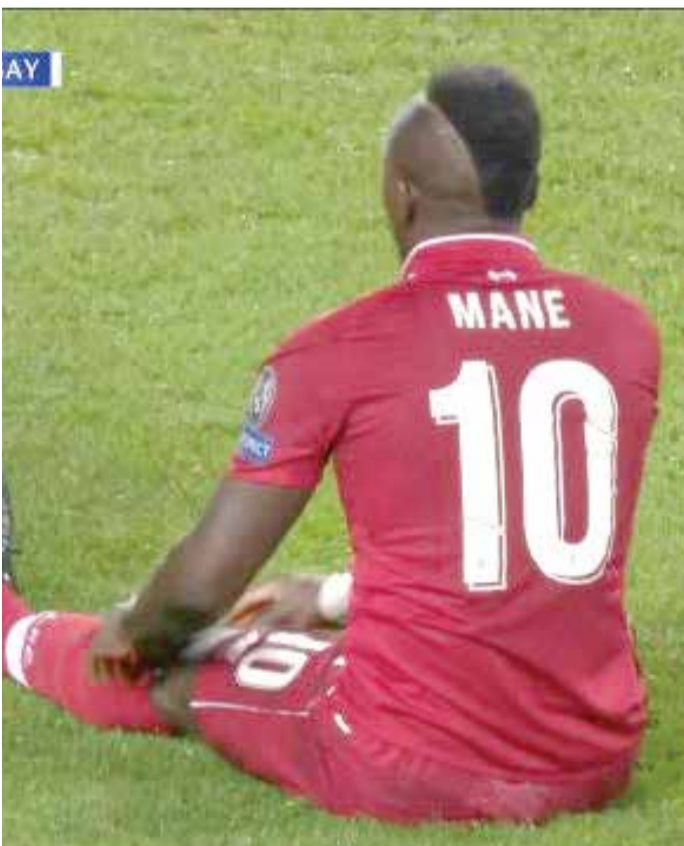
from all football related activities by FIFA in April 2018 but his ban was

reduced earlier this month following an appeal to the world's football governing

body. He was however ordered to pay the initial \$10, 000

USD which was slapped on him for being corrupt. Goal Diggers! understands

that CAF has formally written to Bwalya to inform him about the move.



**Liverpool's Sadio Mane catches his breath during the UEFA Champions League tie against Bayern Munich on Tuesday**



**Lionel Messi is fouled a Lyon defender during Barcelona's away 0-0 draw with Olympique Lyonnais in the 1 leg of the UEFA Champions League last 16 knock-out stage**

