



By Mirriam Chabala
Representatives from various workers' unions yesterday besieged Cabinet office demanding answers over their unpaid February salaries. And Zambia Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) General Secretary Fray Michelo has written to Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of administration, demanding

Broke govt angers unpaid civil servants, unions storm Cabinet

a prompt explanation from government on why the nurses and midwives have not yet been paid their February salaries. Meanwhile, Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union (CSAWUZ) president Davies Chiyobe feared that further delays to pay civil servants their salaries would frustrate their efforts to serve efficiently. Only civil servants from the teaching fraternity had received their February salaries as of March 5, much to the annoyance of the rest of public sector workers and their unions. **To page 7**

GOVT SUPPLIES TOXIC CHINESE DRUG ...as patients suffer devastating effects

By Mirriam Chabala
The Ministry of Health is in panic mode, making frantic efforts to withdraw a Chinese manufactured drug which has turned out to be toxic on patients in various hospitals across the country. Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya confirmed the case to News Diggers! but declined to take any questions, saying a full statement would be issued once the technocrats carry out a thorough investigation on the supply. **To page 6**

US Dollar hits K12 again
Story page 3

IBA's punishment too stiff, laments Shawa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Prime TV managing director Gerald Shawa says the decision by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to suspend its operating licence for a 30 days is too stiff. **To page 7**

Lusaka man in court for stealing sugarcane

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
A 23-year-old man of Lusaka has been dragged to court for allegedly stealing sugarcane worth over K500 from Malcolm Kafue Sugar. This is a matter in which Daniel Malambo is facing one count of theft contrary to section 272 of the penal code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. **To page 5**

11 apply for adoption on PF ticket in Roan

Story page 5



Right to left: President Edgar Lungu, Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Christopher Yaluma, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) Vice-president Prof. Pinalo Chifwanakeni and Board Member Laurian Haangala during a meeting at State House in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Eddie Mwanaleza

By Mirriam Chabala
Governance activist Brebner Changala says President Edgar Lungu should stop playing with people's faith by claiming that he is a bonafide Christian when he does not even lead a Christ-like lifestyle. Commenting on President Lungu's remarks when he attended a Church Service at Healing Word Ministries International in Lusaka, Sunday, that

Lungu shouldn't pretend to be Christian when his ways are contrary - Brebner

some politicians attended church services with sinister motives, Changala said the Head of State was himself such a politician. He charged that President Lungu could pontificate himself as a Christian in whatever way he wanted,

but that it would not change the fact that he remained a perpetual sinner, who continued to lie and oppress innocent Zambians. "It's very difficult to judge one's faith. But it's very easy to see one's faith

through his works and deeds. The message from the President is correct and well understood. But the challenge with this is, does he lead a Christian life? Does he have bad feelings or hurt for some people? Does he live the life of Christ? He should be one of those many Christians who prophesy they're Christians by day and unbelievers by night or in the dark! It's what we do that makes us Christians. How we relate to other people, to our friends, those in need and that's the life of Christ. The President could have been a Christian, but has he conducted himself in a manner that befits a Christian? It's for President Lungu to pontificate on his own that he's a bonafide Christian. We can all pretend to be Christians, as he put it, there are other politicians who pretend

to be Christians when they go to church and, indeed, I must confess here, President Lungu could be one of those politicians who have been using the Church for personal benefits! But does President Lungu lead a Christian life? Has he got the heart of Christ so that other people can copy the way he is?" Changala asked. He also wondered if President Lungu belonged to any denomination where he drew his holy communion, and insisted that the Head of State should not force Zambians to accept his Christian beliefs. "I cannot judge President Lungu by his faith, but I can judge him by his actions, his behaviour and his conduct. So, my message to President Lungu is that he must live a Christian life. He cannot beg for other people to

agree with him that he has a been a Christian his whole life. We all have been Christians in the manner we were born and brought up because of our parents who are Christians. Some of us were baptised at childhood, but are we living the life of Christ? So, President Lungu can say whatever he wants about Christ, but if he's living a life of sin, lying and oppression, then he's not living a life of Christ. He's a perpetual sinner like myself. He's a sinner just like me, even me I can go to any radio station or any TV and tell everybody that I have been a Christian since childhood, but has Brebner Changala lived a life of Christ? The answer is no!" said Changala. "I think there was something the President wanted from that Church where he wanted to look holier than thou. Which Church does he even go to? Is President Lungu a Catholic, is he a Baptist or UCZ? Where does he draw his communion from? All these are questions he must answer, so let him not play to the gallery! What he's doing is very dangerous and Zambians must know that we have a President who has been playing with our lives and now he wants to play with our faith. Let him stay away from our faith, it's enough that he's already playing with our lives and our freedoms in a very dangerous way!"



A police officer demonstrates how vicious a security dog behaves when it comes across a drug dealer during the Zambia Police Day celebrations at Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on Monday - Photo by Tenson Mkhala

By Zindikilani Banda in Sinda
The contradicting statements of PF Secretary General Davies Mwila and Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale have exposed the PF's disunity and lack of coordination, says Eastern Province Rainbow Party youth chairperson Emmanuel Nyau. Commenting on Mwila's pronouncement last week where he appealed to the Lusaka City Council (LCC) to stop harassing street vendors in the Capital city, while Mwale maintained that street vending was illegal, Nyau bemoaned the lack of co-ordination between the party and government on the matter. He, however, endorsed Mwila's view on leaving street vendors alone because harassing them jeopardised their incomes. "When we say PF is disorganized, people don't believe us. When in a home, the husband and wife speak different statements to the children, just know that house is on fire, and the fire you can see in that family is what we have seen in the PF government! You heard that PF SG Mr Mwila said street vendors should not be chased, but we also saw and hear Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale and their mayors

East Rainbow backs Mwila on street vending

disregarding the cry and echoes of Mwila! This is a sign of disunity and disorganisation in the PF government," Nyau told News Diggers! in an interview. He, however, lamented that government's maintenance of street vending being illegal would have an adverse impact on people's incomes. "Where does Vincent and his mayors think people will survive from? Where are they going to find incomes to educate their children? Does he know that most of those women are widows whose husbands died and they are the bread winners through that street selling? Why is PF doing this to innocent people?" Nyau asked. He said Mwila knew late president Sata's plans on street vendors, insisting that vendors could only be removed if government gave them jobs and offered other progressive life skills.

"When Sata was still alive, together with our leader Wynter Kabimba, they promised street vendors not to be removed from the streets until government finds them jobs. Now, PF has not allocated jobs to them and want to chase them! In fact, not wanting to chase them, but chasing them! The cry of these people; the suffering that the families of these chased

families will undergo, will reach the ears of God and at the right time, when God takes a step then the PF government will cry," cautioned Nyau, who also agreed with Mwila that chasing street vendors de-campaigned the ruling party. "Mwila oversees the PF strength and weakness has seen the truth that the step taken (removing street vendors)

is against the party. Surely, nizoona ugoni kwao tabena tizezerepo mwai my 2021. Lekani apilitize zomwe alikucita kuti kwa ife tikati mwaziona zomwe adalonjeza (truly their sleepiness some of us will find lack out of it in 2021. Let them continue so that to us we go and say have you seen what they promised you?")

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PF remains steadfast in improving Zambia's lives - Mwila

By Zondiwe Mbewe
 Patriotic Front Secretary General Davies Mwila says the PF stands firm in its endeavour to improve the lives of ordinary citizens even in the face of "bitter critics" who want to paint a distorted image of Zambia to the international community. In the PF's weekly newsletter to News Diggers! Mwila stated that the PF government was committed to bringing about more development in the nation in line with the PF manifesto. "The PF government has remained steadfast in bringing about and galvanising exponential development in our nation in line with the PF manifesto through the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). We stand unwavering in our endeavour to improve the lives of ordinary citizens even in the face of the ill will and malevolence of our heckling detractors, who are consumed with painting a distorted image of our nation to the international community," Mwila stated. "The PF government is consumed with 'accelerating development

efforts towards Vision 2030 without leaving any one behind.' We will leave no one behind; not even those that have made an unholy vocation of disparaging us through their orchestrated slander, innuendo and fake news." Mwila stated that while some people were deliberately pretending not to see and benefit from PF's efforts, the majority of Zambians, stakeholders and the international community had noticed the country's progress and achievements in the seven years the party had been in power. "Zambia under the PF government of President Edgar Chagwa Lungu continues to grow in stature as a business destination of choice, attracting over US \$2.5 billion of Foreign Direct Investment per year on average as compared to a meagre US \$100 million per year a decade ago, thanks to the implementation of positive growth-oriented policies of the PF government," Mwila stated. He added that it was not just international partners that had recognised the positive performance of the country over the last

seven years, but also the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ), which had recently re-affirmed that Zambia had one of the most stable economies in the region. "It is not just international partners that have recognised the positive performance of the country over the last seven years. The EAZ, a non-partisan body, respectable economists and financial

specialists. Just like the Director General of the UK Development agency DFID and the World Bank, the EAZ recently re-affirmed that Zambia has one of the most stable economies in the region," he narrated. "President of EAZ, Dr Lubinda Haabazoka confirmed that the analysis was based on key macroeconomic indicators and he

reaffirmed that despite some challenges in the economy, the country always comes out strong in its goal to reaching national economic development." And Mwila stated that government looked forward to the EAZ-facilitated National Economic Summit this July, scheduled to be graced by President Lungu. "The government further

looks forward to the EAZ-facilitated National Economic Summit in Livingstone this July under a theme that is close to President Lungu's heart: "The Future Economic Diplomacy, Supporting Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Africa." The Summit which is the first of its kind to be hosted by Zambia will be graced by President Edgar Lungu," stated Mwila.



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo awards a medal to assistant commissioner Dr Musonda Mwenya for his long service during the Zambia Police Day celebrations at Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Stuart Lisulo
 The kwacha has depreciated against major currency convertibles to breach the K12 per dollar psychological barrier for the second time in three months. According to financial market players, the kwacha breached the K12 psychological barrier per dollar to trade above K12.00 on account of a continued imbalance of demand and supply of dollars on the local market, with correspondingly limited supply of the greenback. The local unit was seen trading at a market average of K11.99 and K12.04 by close of business, Monday, for bid and offer respectively, according to the Bank of Zambia, compared to trading below K11.90 per dollar one month ago. The last time the kwacha depreciated to hit the K12 per dollar barrier was on December 3 last year, where it traded at an average K11.77 and K12.00 for bid and offer respectively ahead of the Festive season. "Friday's trading session saw the USD/ZMW currency pair open the day trading at K12.03/K12.08 similar from the previous day. However, by noon, the currency pair was seen being quoted K11.97/K12.02. Despite the movement, most buyers were cautious as they were hoping for a rebound in the local unit. Most corporates on the buy side are still trading the currency pair

Kwacha hits K12 per dollar again

cautiously as they hope the local unit will rebound below the \$1/12.00 psychological barrier," Cavmont stated in a market report issued, Monday. "Current trends seem to indicate market activity is likely to remain on the low side should demand and supply

levels remain insignificant." And FNB Zambia stated in its daily treasury newsletter released, Monday, that the local unit's performance is likely to remain weak as the first quarter comes to a close. "The local unit last weak traded on a bearish note. This trend is

expected to continue, owing to an imbalance between the demand and supply of dollars. With Zambia being a net importer, demand for the greenback exceeds supply. We have not seen dollar flows coming from foreign investors, which has also contributed to

the weak kwacha. We are of the view that the local unit will trade on the back foot today (Monday), most likely in the range of K12.00/12.05. There is very little event risk at the moment to drive the market in either direction," stated FNB. A check around some

bureaus in Lusaka found the kwacha had breached the K12 per dollar mark by close of business. The local currency traded at K12.09 and K12.15 per dollar for bid and offer respectively at Ace-FX Bureau, while Golden Coin Bureau, Cairo Road branch, quoted the local unit at K11.92 and K12.15 for bid and offer respectively.

Lungu shouldn't pretend to be Christian when his ways are contrary - Brebner

By Mirriam Chabala
 Governance activist Brebner Changala says President Edgar Lungu should stop playing with people's faith by claiming that he is a bonafide Christian when he does not even lead a Christ-like lifestyle. Commenting on President Lungu's remarks when he attended a Church Service at Healing Word Ministries International in Lusaka, Sunday, that some politicians attended church services with sinister motives, Changala said the Head of State was himself such a politician. He charged that President Lungu could pontificate himself as a Christian in whatever way he wanted, but that it would not change the fact that he remained a perpetual sinner, who continued to lie and oppress innocent Zambians. "It's very difficult to judge one's faith. But it's very easy to see one's faith through his works and deeds. The message from the President is correct

and well understood. But the challenge with this is, does he lead a Christian life? Does he have bad feelings or hurt for some people? Does he live the life of Christ? He should be one of those many Christians who prophesy they're Christians by day and unbelievers by night or in the dark! It's what we do that makes us Christians. How we relate to other people, to our friends, those in need and that's the life of Christ. The President could have been a Christian, but has he conducted himself in a manner that befits a Christian? It's for President Lungu to pontificate on his own that he's a bonafide Christian. We can all pretend to be Christians, as he put it, there are other politicians who pretend to be Christians when they go to church and, indeed, I must confess here, President Lungu could be one of those politicians who have been using the Church for personal benefits! But does President Lungu

lead a Christian life? Has he got the heart of Christ so that other people can copy the way he is?" Changala asked. He also wondered if President Lungu belonged to any denomination where he drew his holy communion, and insisted that the Head of State should not force Zambians to accept his Christian beliefs. "I cannot judge President Lungu by his faith, but I can judge him by his actions, his behaviour and his conduct. So, my message to President Lungu is that he must live a Christian life. He cannot beg for other people to agree with him that he has been a Christian his whole life. We all have been Christians in the manner we were born and brought up because of our parents who are Christians. Some of us were baptised at childhood, but are we living the life of Christ? So, President Lungu can say whatever he wants about Christ, but if he's living a life of sin, lying and oppression, then he's not living a life

of Christ. He's a perpetual sinner like myself. He's a sinner just like me, even me I can go to any radio station or any TV and tell everybody that I have been a Christian since childhood, but has Brebner Changala lived a life of Christ? The answer is no!" said Changala. "I think there was something the President wanted from that Church where he wanted to look holier than thou. Which Church does he even go to? Is President Lungu a Catholic, is he a Baptist or UCZ? Where does he draw his communion from? All these are questions he must answer, so let him not play to the gallery! What he's doing is very dangerous and Zambians must know that we have a President who has been playing with our lives and now he wants to play with our faith. Let him stay away from our faith, it's enough that he's already playing with our lives and our freedoms in a very dangerous way!"

By Stuart Lisulo

Mealie meal prices may still not reduce if the cost of maize from the private sector remains high, says the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ). But the Association has welcomed government's move to lift the ban on mealie meal exports and have expressed willingness to work on ensuring the initiative is well-regulated to help the country tackle rampant smuggling of the commodity. On Sunday, Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo announced the

Mealie meal prices may not go down - Millers

lifting on the ban of mealie meal exports following consultations with key stakeholders on the maize availability situation in the country. Katambo said that the move

equally reflected that government was convinced Zambia was food secure and that mealie meal prices would remain fairly stable. And asked if the new policy

pronouncement, coupled with the reduction in fuel prices last week, would eventually lead to lowering mealie meal prices, MAZ president Andrew Chintala explained that prices of the commodity may still not reduce if the cost of maize from the private sector remains high. The national average prices of the staple commodity have been stable, but have steadily increased to a one-year high, with a 25Kg breakfast bag now costing an average K93.36 per 25Kg breakfast bag by last month from K69.72 for the same quantity one year prior, according to Central Statistical Office (CSO) data. "Obviously, we are trying, as millers, to cushion that impact on the consumer. And we hope that if we can maximize the exports, we will be able to stabilize the local prices so that our consumers can pay affordable prices for the produce; we will monitor the trading activity and ensure that we keep checking and strike a balance where possible. For now, I can only say that if maize

prices will remain where they are, we can predict stable prices going forward," Chintala told News Diggers! in an interview. "But if there will be a movement in terms of maize pricing, it's a chain reaction. But for now, we can predict stable prices going forward." When asked if the enhanced accessibility of maize from grain traders, in addition to subsidized Food Reserve Agency (FRA) maize, would impact on mealie meal prices, he pointed out that maize prices from the private sector remained costly. "Yes, that is the case. But it's a very delicate and interesting transaction. You can't shy away from the fact that the price that is being offered in terms of the maize that is being offloaded from the private sector is on a higher price as compared to the maize from FRA. We are saying, there has to be some kind of leverage whereby you take the local market as a priority and then the export market is just secondary," he explained. "There was a concern and we had

to facilitate for maize to be released to millers on the Copperbelt, but a situation has moved in, even to Lusaka, some of the millers are having difficulties; this will improve the supply of the commodity, but you can't run away from the fact that there's also a price implication." But Chintala, who is also Mpongwe Milling corporate affairs manager, hailed government's lifting of the ban on mealie meal exports as a progressive measure that would help millers capitalize on the export market, especially the DRC. "In terms of the appetite to be able to participate, I must say all the millers will be well positioned to be able to participate in the export market. But what would vary is the margins in terms of what you are able to buy and export. We (Mpongwe Milling) have the muscle, but there are others who would not be able to be able to do it at a larger scale," said Chintala. "We will definitely take advantage of this. The market there and is the appetite is so huge across (the Kasumbalesa Border) and we just need to scale-up. So, we are quite keen and more than ready to work with government and ensure that the export is managed properly to ensure that trade is encouraged in a rightful manner; there's been rampant exports of the commodity illegally. Now that this announcement has come, it's going to curb the illegal trade of the commodity."



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo inspects a police parade during the Zambia Police Day celebrations at Heroes Stadium in Lusaka on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The damages that Chishimba Kambwili has caused on my character cannot be adequately compensated through an award or any monetary compensation, PF Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri told the Lusaka High Court. And Mumbi says unless the Court restrains Kambwili from uttering further defamatory remarks against her, she will continue to suffer injuries to her reputation. This is the matter in which Mumbi sued Kambwili demanding K100 million as special damages for defamation of character for alleging that she's corrupt and built her house using bribes from the Chinese and Lebanese that get contracts from government. Kambwili, however, denied defaming Mumbi and demanded K100 million as exemplary damages in his counterclaim for libel against the latter. He had also strongly objected to Mumbi's application for

Damages Kambwili caused me can't match any monetary compensation - Mumbi

interlocutory injunction against him, saying it was not necessary to restrain him from further issuing statements in relation to the matter because Mumbi would not suffer any irreparable damage or injury. Kambwili further said it was not necessary for the Court to restrain him because Mumbi also defamed him. He said the words Mumbi complained of were not false and, therefore, a fair comment. But in her reply filed on February 28, Mumbi opposed to Kambwili's defence on the premise that the words complained of could not be said to be a fair comment regarding her character in the eyes of right-thinking members of society.

She stated that the damages that Kambwili had caused on her character could not match any monetary compensation. "The assassination of my character through the issuance of defamatory statements by the defendant against me cannot be adequately compensated through an award of damages. If anything, the value of my character cannot match any monetary compensation that I may receive in this case and I am advised by counsel that it is widely accepted by the Court that good reputation should always be protected through injunctive relief," argued Mumbi. Mumbi stated that she was entitled to injunctive reliefs because Kambwili had already admitted

publishing the alleged defamatory statements against her and had shown the propensity to continue with the publications based on his

assumption that he was making a fair comment against her character. She added that it was in the best interest of justice for her to be

granted injunctive relief in the matter, otherwise she would suffer irreparable injury to her good reputation.

Zambeef appoints Roodt to succeed Grogan as new CEO

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambeef Plc has appointed Walter Roodt as the company's chief executive director with immediate effect. In a statement availed by sponsoring broker, Pangaea Securities Limited, Roodt has been installed as the agro-processing giant's new executive director with immediate effect. According to the statement, it is envisaged that he will subsequently take over outgoing joint-chief executive officer Francis Grogan's position when the latter retires by the end of this year. "Zambeef, the fully integrated food producer with operations in Zambia, Nigeria and Ghana, announces the appointment of Walter Roodt to its Board as an Executive Director with immediate effect. Walter currently serves as the Group's Deputy Managing Director, reporting to and understudying the CEO, Francis Grogan. As part of the Group's succession plan, which has been previously announced, Walter will be

appointed CEO when Mr Grogan retires at the end of this year," the statement read. "Walter joined Zambeef in July, 2008 in the role of Nutritionist for the stock feed division, trading as Novatek. A year later, he was appointed as the General Manager of the division, a position he held until he was appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of the Group. Under his leadership, the stock feed division grew into the Group's best performing division and became Zambia's leading stock feed manufacturer." And Zambeef Plc board chairperson Dr Jacob Mwanza hailed Roodt's appointment "Walter's appointment as an Executive Director is in line with the Group's well-considered succession plan and is validation of his hard work and commitment to the Group over the past 11 years. The Board looks forward to working closely with Walter in his new role," stated Dr Mwanza, who is also a former Bank of Zambia governor.

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News Diggers! reporter Thomas Mulenga among the graduates at the University of Zambia's 48th Graduation Ceremony at the main Campus yesterday - Photo by Tenson Mkhala

11 apply for adoption on PF ticket in Roan

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Eleven candidates have so far applied for adoption on the Patriotic Front ticket for the Roan parliamentary by-election. Last week, PF Secretary General Davies Mwila invited applications for the Roan parliamentary seat following Dr Patrick Matibini's declaration of Chishimba Kambwili's seat as vacant. "Applications for adoption as parliamentary candidates for Roan constituency: Applications are hereby invited from bonafide registered members of the Patriotic Front wishing to contest the Roan constituency by-election whose polling date shall be announced by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ). Applications should be submitted to the respective Constituency Committee with copies to the district and provincial committees and the secretary general. Applications should be accompanied by application fees

that should be paid to the party organs as stated below: (i) Constituency Committee K500; (ii) District Committee K500; (iii) Provincial Committee K500; and Secretariat K500," stated Mwila in the advert placed on one of the daily newspapers. Mwila had further advised the provincial committee to conduct interviews of the applicants by Tuesday and report to the Secretariat by Wednesday (today). "All applicants for Roan constituency should reach the constituency and district committee by Saturday 2nd March, 2019. The Constituency Committee shall meet to interview the candidates on Sunday 3rd March 2019 in Luanshya. The Luanshya District committee shall interview the candidates on Monday 4th March 2019 and the Copperbelt Provincial committees shall conduct interviews on Tuesday 5th March 2019 in Ndola District. The

Provincial Committee report should reach the Secretariat on Wednesday 6th March 2019," stated Mwila. And according to information obtained from the PF provincial structures, 11 people, among them 10 men and one woman, had so far applied for adoption as of Monday. Those that applied include: Chenjelani Maunda, a miner at CLM Baluba, who is also PF Lumumba ward chairman in Roan constituency; Mwape Musonda; and Mumba Desire Mulewa, a councillor of Roan. Others are Potrice Chanda, a PF resident of Mpatamato in Luanshya; Patrick Maipambe; Lengwe Cornelius Bwalya; Happyson Kaunda, a former mayor of Luanshya; Rev Jevan Kamanga of Luanshya; Justus Charles Bwalya, a serving councillor in Roan constituency; Mathias Katongo Bwalya, and the only female in the race, Eleni Eusebia Grigoraki a PF youth treasurer in Luanshya.

I insulted Lungu because govt didn't employ me - Teacher

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka magistrate Sylvia Munyinya has sentenced a 27-year-old teacher of Samfya district in Luapula Province to two years imprisonment with hard labour for defaming President Edgar Lungu. The Court has further fined the 27-year-old K4,500, in default four months simple imprisonment, for being in possession of obscene materials. In this matter, Enockson Banda was facing four counts of defamation of the President and being in possession of obscene materials. Particulars of the offence were that between April 1 and June 30 last year, Banda, with intent to bring the name of the President into ridicule, published defamatory statements. Further on the same dates, Banda had in his possession obscene materials, including pictures tending to corrupt morals. Banda had initially denied all the charges in the matter last year and trial had commenced but he had, however, changed his plea on Friday last week when he admitted all charges. The matter came up, Monday, for facts and sentencing.

Facts in this matter were that on 18 April, last year, Chanoda Ngwira, a PF sympathiser, opened his Facebook account and came across a page called 'ZNBC Top Stories' where a picture of the Republican President was attached to another picture with a skull which had faecal matter with words saying 'this is the only thing that occupies his head'. Ngwira further saw a picture of dogs and chickens having sex and words saying 'so even Edgar Chagwa Lungu f**ks dogs style'. It was at this point that Ngwira decided to report the matter to the police and Banda was later arrested. When his phone was searched, a lot of obscene materials were found. When he was asked on the insults, Banda said he was annoyed because he was not employed by government as a teacher. The accused was formally arrested for the offence and the matter taken to court but in the process of trial the accused turned his plea and admitted the charges. When the court asked him whether the facts were true and correct, Banda responded in the affirmative. In mitigation through his lawyer, Banda asked for maximum

leniency saying he was of a youthful age and also a family man with a two-year-old child. He said had used the time he was in custody from June last year until November 2018 when he was granted bail, to reflect on his actions. Banda added that he had realised that what he did was wrong and promised to be a law abiding citizen. He said he was a frustrated youth who had been affected by the harsh economic times because he graduated in 2015 but had not been employed in government whereas some of his colleagues who had completed in 2017 had been employed. "To today, I'm haunted by my actions and I have imprisoned myself psychologically. I promise that I will be a law abiding citizen and will be an ambassador of peace and will respect each and every citizen," he said. However, magistrate Munyinya sentenced him to two years in imprisonment with hard labour for Defamation of the President and fined him K4,500 for being in possession of obscene materials. "I have considered the mitigation. In count one, I hereby sentence you to two years imprisonment

with hard labour. In count two, I sentence you to two years with hard labour. In count three, I sentence you to a fine of K4,500 in default, four months simple imprisonment and the sentences will run concurrently," she ruled. Meanwhile, magistrate Munyinya has given Chilufya Tayali a benefit of doubt in the matter where he's facing seven counts of contempt of court and publishing defamatory statements against a Lusaka citizen, Edward Sichali, warning that in the next sitting she will proceed to hear the matter with or without the defence.

Tayali is alleged to have accused Sichali of being sponsored by UPND president Hakainde Hichilema to hold a protest at the University of Zambia which saw the death of a fourth year Education Student Vespers Shimuzhila last year. Tayali had pleaded not guilty to the charges in November last year but trial has not yet commenced. And when the matter came up for possible commencement of trial before magistrate Munyinya, Monday, the complainant's lawyer Mulambo Haimbe informed the court that the defence counsel

had an application to make. The defence then applied for adjournment on the premises that the lawyer who would handle the matter, Jonas Zimba, was indisposed. Magistrate Munyinya then adjourned the matter to April 1 at 12 hours, warning them that at the next sitting she would hear the matter with or without the defence. "For today I will give the defence a benefit of doubt. This is the last adjournment. Next time with or without the defence I will proceed to hear this matter," said magistrate Munyinya.

Lusaka man in court for stealing sugarcane

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 23-year-old man of Lusaka has been dragged to court for allegedly stealing sugarcane worth over K500 from Malcolm Kafue Sugar. This is a matter in which Daniel Malambo is facing one count of theft contrary to section 272 of the penal code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. Particulars of the offence allege that on February 14, 2019, in Lusaka, Malambo stole sugarcane valued at K560, property of Malcom Kafue Sugar. When the matter came up for allocation, Tuesday, Chief Resident Magistrate Kennedy Mulife allocated the matter to Magistrate Rachel Mwansa in the absence of the accused. And a 16-year-old juvenile has appeared in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court for stealing curtains, bed sheets, among other items. In this matter, the juvenile is charged with one count of house breaking and theft, contrary to Section 301 (a) and 272 of the Penal Code chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. It is alleged that on February 16, this year in Lusaka, the juvenile broke into the dwelling house of Charity Mulenga and stole a laptop bag, a bucket, three curtains, bed sheets, three identity cards and K500 cash, all valued at K2,100 from the said Charity Mulenga. The matter has been allocated to Magistrate Mwaba and the accused is expected to take plea soon.

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27 X 5	K 3,375.00	K 540.00	K 3,915.00
18 X 6	K 2,700.00	K 432.00	K 3,132.00
18 X 3	K 1,350.00	K 216.00	K 1,566.00
15 X 3	K 1,125.00	K 180.00	K 1,305.00
10 X 3	K 750.00	K 120.00	K 870.00
10 X 2	K 500.00	K 80.00	K 580.00
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27 X 5	K 2,700.00	K 432.00	K 3,132.00
18 X 6	K 2,160.00	K 345.60	K 2,505.60
18 X 3	K 1,080.00	K 172.80	K 1,252.80
15 X 3	K 900.00	K 144.00	K 1,044.00
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Govt in panic after supplying toxic Chinese drug to hospitals

By Mirriam Chabala

The Ministry of Health is in panic mode, making frantic efforts to withdraw a Chinese manufactured drug which has turned out to be toxic on patients in various hospitals across the country. Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya confirmed the case to News Diggers but said a full statement would be issued once the technocrats carry out a thorough investigation on the supply. His Permanent Secretary Dr Kennedy Malama has issued a circular, advising all health facilities, provincial medical administrations and district health directors to quarantine a drug called "Gentamycin Sulphate BP injection" manufactured by CSPC Ouyi Pharmaceutical Company Limited in China, after receiving reports of its devastating side effects on patients from the Zambia Medicines Regulatory

Authority (ZAMRA). ZAMRA reported that the Gentamed injection batch no. S MD180107 and 180108 led to severe headaches and vomiting in patients who were administered the drug from various health facilities across the country. "Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority has received reports of adverse reactions [such as] severe headache and vomiting from various health facilities across the country following the administration of the above stated product. In this regard, the ministry directs all institutions to quarantine the stated batches with immediate effect, in order to allow the Authority to carry out further investigations. Institutions will be guided on the next steps after the investigations are concluded," stated Dr Malama in his letter dated March 1, 2019. Dr Chilufya declined to

take further questions from this reporter, apart from confirming that the ministry was aware of the situation and a statement would be issued. "A statement will be issued on that subject. I am not saying anything else, a statement will be issued. But for now I would rather technocrats do their work then a statement will be issued," said Dr Chilufya before hanging up the phone conversation. Meanwhile, Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia president Jerome Kanyika accused the supplier of delivering drugs which did not match with the samples presented when bidding for the supply tender. "What happens when someone is bringing their samples to be registered in this country, they bring the best of their samples. But in the long run as they win tenders or contracts, you find that they change in the way they do things.

Like where someone says 'in this tablet, there is this amount of drugs', but then as they win the tenders, they bring a tablet that does not consist the amount of drugs that they talked about when registering. So what happens once those people bring their products in the country and they are allowed to be in the Health institutions, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority is mandated now to do what is called Pharmacovigilance checking. Meaning they are checking how the medicines are working, and if those medicines are giving people any side effects or not," Kanyika explained. Further, Kanyika hailed ZAMRA and the Ministry of Health for taking quick action after identifying the problem with the affected drug. "So in that process that's when ZAMRA now tells what exactly the drugs contain and that problems truly lies with the supplier of a particular drug. So in this case, the one who is liable to whatever may happen is the supplier of that medicine. And we need to

appreciate ZAMRA for being proactive in this matter and notifying everyone. As I am speaking to you right now, all our members in these government institutions have already quarantined that medicine, they are not using it on people. They are using alternative drugs because this particular one is still under investigations," said Kanyika. "ZAMRA should continue to be proactive the way they have shown to be proactive in this matter. And to the suppliers, let's make sure that they supply the drugs that they bring for testing unlike them trying to alter what they bring in when registering the medicines. As for pharmacists who are accessing this medicine, please let's quarantine everything so that we protect the general public, as our basic role is to protect the general public and every person that comes in the public health institutions. So it's kudos to ZAMRA and the Permanent Secretary for being proactive in notifying the general public within a short period of time. We need to appreciate

ourselves for that good work that has been done." In December 2019, the Zambia Pharmaceuticals Business Forum (ZPBF) raised a red flag against the Ministry of Health for exclusively awarding tenders for the supply of drugs to companies of personal interests, against the public procurement guidelines. ZPBF wrote to Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, demanding the cancellation of tender number MoH/SP/016/17, among others, which was not subjected to open and inclusive bidding. ZPBF listed some of the questionable tenders as: "Tender for the supply of essential medicines, tender No MoH/SP/O16/17 with an estimated value of more than US\$80 million. Tender for the supply of cancer drugs, tender No MoH/SP/009/17 with an estimated value of more than US\$40 million and the award of a 2-year framework for Orthopedic Implants." Full story: <https://diggers.news/local/2017/12/27/zpbf-exposes-drug-scandal-at-ministry-of-health/>



This photo of Lusaka, Mayor Miles Sampa, buying food from a street vendor went viral on social media, as critics questioned his hypocrisy.

However, Sampa explained: "Statutory Instrument(SI 12) that prohibits buying merchandise or goods from street vendors was passed in February 2018. This picture was taken in 2013 when I was much bigger in size and on the belly. Current pictures will show that I am now slimmer due to both work pressure and periodic visits to the gym. I also have a relatively bigger beard on my chin than I did in 2013.

So that picture is old. I did not break any law then in 2013. Now in 2019, I would never buy from a street vendor as it has since become illegal to do so. I do not wish to break any law and if found guilty, go to jail or pay a fine. I am a law abiding citizen."

Wina demands girl-child education impact report, as she seeks World Bank support

By Mirriam Chabala

Vice-President Inonge Wina has urged the Ministry of Gender to conduct an impact evaluation exercise to determine the effectiveness of the Girls Education, Women Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project in the country. GEWEL is a US\$65 million project supported by the World Bank from 2016 to 2021 as an inter-ministerial initiative designed to empower women through improved livelihoods of 75,000 rural women and provide secondary school bursaries to 14,000 girls who are currently not in school due to poverty; covering 51 districts through out the country. The two target groups are drawn from extremely poor households using the single registry database managed by Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare. Under this project, the Ministry of Gender is expected to develop capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation at a cost of US\$1 million while the Ministry of General Education is expected to use about US\$28 million for keeping 14,000 girls in secondary schools. On Monday, a team of World Bank staff paid a courtesy call on Vice-President Wina over possible additional financing

towards the GEWEL Project, as the current agreement comes to an end in September, 2020. The team included World Bank Country Manager Ina-Marlene Ruthenberg, Task Team Leader for GEWEL Project Sarah Coll Black and Emma Hobson who is also working on under GEWEL. And in a statement, Permanent Secretary in the office of the Vice-President for administration Stephen Mwansa disclosed that Vice-President Wina was delighted with the World Bank's support to the country in various key sectors of the economy. "Vice President Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina has indicated willingness to support the idea of providing more finances for the continuation of the GEWEL programme so that more vulnerable women and girls could have access for livelihood support and secondary school education, respectively. She was delighted with the World Bank's support to the country in various key sectors of the economy and she urged the Ministry of Gender to conduct an impact evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the GEWEL Project. Under the current GEWEL agreement worth US\$65 million, the project is on track to achieve its project development objectives; progress towards

the PDO and implementation progress has been rated as Satisfactory for the last year. Component one of the project is support to women's livelihoods whose target is to support 75,000 women with training, a productive grant, savings and mentoring. To date, 12,748 beneficiaries have received full SWL package and 21,375 beneficiaries await the grant. An additional 45,000 women will be selected from Social Cash Transfer (SCT) households in mid-2019," stated Mwansa. "Component two of the project is Keeping Girls in School (KGS) whose target is to pay school fees for 14,000 vulnerable girls from SCT households. To date school fees have been paid for 16,239 female secondary school students in 16 districts across 10 provinces. KGS is expanding to an additional 11 new districts to support 9,000 more girls. A total of 25,239 girls are expected to benefit under the project surpassing the initial project target of 14,000 girls. Further, investments have been made in payment systems, management information systems, and financial management. The GEWEL project is contributing towards Government's aim of substantially scaling up poor-spending to combat poverty and inequality as set out in the 7NDP."

By Mirriam Chabala

Representatives from various workers' unions yesterday besieged Cabinet office demanding answers over their unpaid February salaries.

And Zambia Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) General Secretary Fray Michelo has written to Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of administration, demanded a prompt explanation from government on why the nurses and midwives had not yet been paid their February salaries.

Meanwhile, Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union (CSAWUZ) president Davies Chiyobe feared that further delays to pay civil servants their salaries would frustrate their efforts to serve efficiently.

Only civil servants from the teaching fraternity had received their February salaries as of March 5, much to the annoyance of the rest of public sector workers.

BUZ president Daniel Mwimbe, called News Diggers to express his displeasure, adding that he had sent his union Secretary General to join other union leaders who went to demand answers from the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) at Cabinet Office yesterday.

He said it was senseless for government to only pay teachers out of the numerous civil servants in the country. "Government still hasn't paid health workers! They pay a teacher and then they forget the most critical area which is health, who does that? Nurses and other civil servants have not yet been paid. We are very much concerned as trade unions, especially under health. So, I have sent my general secretary to Cabinet at PSMD to attend meeting with other secretary generals from other trade unions to find out the position of government because they are not giving their position up to now. We want to know what is happening. We can't stay in suspense like this, people have been calling us to know when their salaries will be paid. The silence is just uncalled for!" Mwimbe said.

"We engaged Cabinet on Friday and all we were told was 'everyone will be paid'

Broke govt angers unpaid civil servants, as unions storm Cabinet

and we didn't even know that they were going to start paying in phases like what they have done now. When we followed up on Monday they told us that they paid the teachers because they are the majority. But you cannot start paying people on majority basis, no, that is uncalled for and it doesn't even make sense!"

And Zambia Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) General Secretary Fray Michelo has written to Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary in charge of administration, demanded a prompt explanation from government on why the nurses and midwives had not yet been paid their February salaries.

The Zambia Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) has received huge concerns over the delayed salaries for the month of February

2019, especially that other public service workers like teachers have been paid. Nurses and midwives being among the essential service workers deserve a prompt explanation so as not to interfere with health service provision in the country, but to serve and maintain harmony among nurses and midwives," said Michelo in a statement, Tuesday.

"In view of the above, development, ZUNO demands that the Ministry of Health through your office should give an official statement on the delayed salaries as this is causing a lot of anxiety and panic among our members.

Meanwhile, speaking in a separate interview Chiyobe said the Servants and Allied Workers Union was concerned that the delayed salaries may affect service delivery among workers.

"We are making frantic

efforts as unions and after these salaries have been paid, we are not going to sit idle, but keep engaging the government to see how the salaries of civil servants should be put as a priority. It's very important to pay salaries on time. Civil servants are the engine of government and you should expect frustrations and demotivation and anger whenever their salaries are not paid on time! So, my appeal to government is to consider, as business number one, the payment of salaries to the public workers because they are the ones who are the engines of government. Let them not vent their anger on their clients because an unpaid worker is frustrated and annoyed and they may not see anyone from government to vent their anger on, except their clients," Chiyobe warned.

He, however, disclosed that

unions had been assured that civil servants' salaries would be settled by Wednesday, March 6, following a meeting with technocrats from Cabinet office.

"From our consultations, we have assurance that all civil servants will be paid tomorrow. Otherwise, payment of the teachers is just something that was done to see how best the salaries can be paid by way of managing on the monies coming in. It's not necessarily by the one who is important, but it's just a way of managing with limited resources. Even in the past you may have seen that health workers are paid first and teachers are not paid or police would be paid when others have not been paid. So, it's just looking at the figure, which would have come and then government decides on which sector the figure could apply. Let's say, for example, if a smaller

figure had come and it could have accommodated a smaller cluster of the sector, then it could have paid. So, this is just the approach, which is being managed according to the figure that is available," narrated Chiyobe. "But otherwise, all of them by tomorrow (Wednesday) they will be paid so that this anxiety may not go on. But if by tomorrow they are not paid, we will still come back and be able to see and inform workers that maybe there are challenges here and there and this is why they are not able to pay, because we have assurances that they are going to pay everybody by tomorrow and if not early, maybe by the close of business today. We had meeting with Cabinet and we were assured that salaries will be paid tomorrow, but if it doesn't happen tomorrow, then we will decide on the next course of action."

IBA's punishment too stiff, laments Shawa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Prime TV managing director Gerald Shawa says the decision by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to suspend its operating licence for a month is too stiff.

And Amnesty International Regional Director for Southern Africa Deprose Muchena says the suspension of Prime TV's license is a ploy to muzzle independent voices in Zambia.

Meanwhile, NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale has demanded the immediate lift of the ban so that Prime TV can be left to operate freely.

In an interview, Shawa lamented that he would have to refund clients who had paid for advertisement upfront; aside from paying employees.

"Of course we are not happy and we feel they didn't follow their right procedure. What they should have done was to give us some guidelines.

Unless we had failed to follow those guidelines then now they should have warned us. That is what we think they should have done. But I think we would have been punished in other ways. There are other remedies for us to be punished. They should have given us some guidelines in which to operate unlike the way they have taken this move," said Shawa, adding that he would conduct an in-house training on basic journalism ethics, as advised by IBA.

"It is a must we are affected. So now we have to find money to refund those clients who paid upfront and also we need to find ways of paying back because we haven't honoured our obligation... and also of course you know the workers also they need to be paid. We have to find a way of paying them. So those are the consequences that come with this decision. But yes we will do what they are saying."

And according to a statement issued by Amnesty International Media Manager Robert Shivambu, Muchena said suspending independent media news stations was a ploy to muzzle autonomous voices.

"The suspension of Prime TV is a ploy to muzzle independent voices in Zambia and to undermine the right to freedom of expression and media freedom. It is clearly intended to send a chilling message that journalists need to self-censor or face dire consequences. This unlawful suspension must be immediately lifted to allow Prime TV to continue telling the Zambian story as it unfolds. Zambia can only benefit from the plurality of media voices," Muchena said. Muchena observed that the media freedom in Zambia had been under so much attack since the closure of The Post in 2016.

"Media freedom has been

under attack in Zambia in recent years. In 2016, authorities sanctioned the closure of the The Post newspaper, one of the country's longest serving independent newspapers. Its owner, Fred Membe, and news editor, Joseph Mwenda, had been previously brutalized by the police for the newspaper's critical reporting," said Muchena.

And Mwale, in a separate statement, said it was saddening that IBA could suspend an institution's license following Mwila's complaint against the TV station, asking the authority to immediately lift the suspension.

"The Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) has learnt with sadness the decision by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to suspend the Broadcasting License for Prime Television following a complaint by the Secretary-General of the ruling Patriotic Front (PF) Mr. Davis Mwila. The Republican Constitution guarantees the freedom of expression and subsequently freedom of the press. The decision by the IBA is not only ultra vires the Republican Constitution, but is also draconian and reminiscent of totalitarian regimes. It is NGOCC's considered view that the suspension appears to be intended to intimidate and muzzle the media to instil fear in terms of independent and unbiased reporting," stated Mwale, Monday.

"NGOCC wishes to reiterate

our position that the role of the media in any democracy is an important aspect of governance. Apart from entertaining and informing, the media plays a critical role in educating the masses. We therefore find the suspension of Prime Television as a serious affront against the masses that depend on this station. We demand that the IBA should immediately lift the ban and allow Prime Television to operate freely. Even the Patriotic Front (PF) Party manifesto agrees with our position on the need for greater press freedom for the greater good of the country." ActionAid Zambia's Nalucha Ziba, echoed Mwale's call in a separate statement; "Even if the provisions of the law in Section 36 of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act dictate punishment against an erring broadcast house, for the sake of upholding key tenets of democracy, the IBA should have used other channels to address whatever grievances they, or other stakeholders, may have had against Prime TV than resorting to extreme measures that only serve to worsen the country's standing on the global scene. Action Aid Zambia believes the IBA is more than capable to handle complaints against a media house in a manner that does not stifle the much-needed freedoms of the press. The IBA must make itself relevant by playing the role of promoting pluralism and professionalism in media than acting as a body that acts to victimise the institutions that it should protect."

Ghirardi Milling sues Chibuku manufacturer over K328,615 debt

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Ghirardi Milling has dragged Nkhosi Milling Limited, a company engaged in manufacturing Chibuku Shake Shake, to court for failing to pay a balance of over K300,000.

In this matter, Ghirardi Milling (2002) Limited is demanding payment of K328,615 plus interest as well as costs and any other relief the court may deem fit.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Monday, Ghirardi Milling

stated that it was a company engaged in the manufacture and sale of maize meal, among other businesses.

It added that the defendant, Nkhosi Milling, was engaged in the manufacture of opaque beer and had for a period in excess of two years been procuring maize meal from the Ghirardi Milling as a raw material for the production of the beer.

Ghirardi Milling stated that Nkhosi Milling now had an outstanding balance on account amounting to K328,615 owing to its failure

to service its account with the plaintiff.

It added that the defendant had failed to settle the said balance despite numerous reminders.

"The defendant has despite numerous and repeated reminders failed and neglected to settle the outstanding amount. The defendant had on its own made several proposals on settlement, but had honoured none. As a result of the defendant's failure to pay [the balance] the plaintiff has suffered loss," read the statement of claim.

Prime TV closure is about 2021 elections

Many people have expressed shock that government has gone ahead to suspend the broadcasting licence for Lusaka-based *Prime Television*, but we saw it coming. In fact, we heard about plans to shut down *Prime TV* station about a year ago, and we remember sharing our fears with the proprietor of the media house.

So, what the Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary, Chanda Kasolo, said on Monday that they initially wanted to completely revoke the TV station licence is very true. But it is not for the “unprofessional” reasons that he gave. It is about the 2021 general elections and the PF government’s fear of what that television station is capable of doing, through its coverage of opposition political parties.

From our knowledge, gained from well-placed government sources, the long-conceived PF agenda to shut down *Prime TV* got State House’s blessings around April, 2018, when the station provided a platform for Mr Fresher Siwale and his opposition colleagues to bring President Lungu’s nationality into public discourse.

The accusations which aired on *Prime TV* that President Lungu is a Malawian and that his actual name is Jonathan Mataware did not sit well with State House. When that Dorcas woman was saying on *Prime TV* news

that “Zambia needs an intelligent president, not a drunkard”, plans were already underway to sort out the media house.

Aware that it was a target, *Prime TV* did not cow down, but continued to provide a platform for political discourse to President Lungu’s rivals who are not covered by the State broadcaster, ZNBC. The owners of *Prime TV* explored media freedom without fear. Unfortunately, that determination to be a truly independent and fearless media house earned *Prime TV* the hate and disgust that PF Secretary General Davies Mwila demonstrated a month ago.

The PF learnt recently that *Prime TV* was acquiring outside broadcasting equipment that would enable it to televise live news events, including campaign activities, just like ZNBC does for the Patriotic

Front. The fear for the PF has been that, if a private TV station with such resolved courage can have this nationwide ability to compete with ZNBC, then 2021 was not going to be plain sailing.

This is the environment under which private media is operating in Zambia. *Prime TV* is not alone in this struggle, what is happening to *Prime TV* today will happen to News Diggers! tomorrow, it will happen to any other media organization that gives the opposition a platform to provide checks and balances.

Today, PF’s plans to shut down *Prime TV* have been openly hatched for all citizens to see. The operation is in full swing and the end game is to kill it before it becomes too big. The ruling party doesn’t want *Prime TV* to be in operation by the time

Zambians will be voting for new government leaders in 2021.

Like Mr Kasolo stated, their initial plan was to completely shut it down, but for now, they have settled for a suspension so that they see if this television station can develop enough fear to stop covering the opposition in the manner it has been doing. It’s an intimidation tactic that is aimed at assessing the ‘stubbornness’ of the *Prime TV* editorial team. If, after the one-month suspension, the station continues to cover the opposition with the same boldness, they will kill it completely!

That is the fate of *Prime TV*. But shamelessly, the Independent Broadcasting Authority wants to fool people into believing that the station was operating without professionally trained staff. The IBA and its directors should be

ashamed of themselves! How can someone who lives in Zambia accuse *Prime TV* of being a “biased media house” and call ZNBC professional? What kind of a joke is that?

Everyone in Zambia pays TV levy to ZNBC, including the opposition and its leaders, but does the national broadcaster give fair coverage to its taxpayers? Where is the Independent Broadcasting Authority to caution ZNBC when it is airing those State House insults against members of the opposition? Please, don’t take people for granted! The owners of *Prime TV* don’t get any money from government or the Patriotic Front for the ruling party to demand increased coverage for their activities.

Mr Kasolo even had the boldness to lie that the IBA consulted members of the public

on what they should do to *Prime TV*. Come on, sir, people are not that foolish! Mr Davies Mwila cannot be referred to as the public! Zambians know that the IBA is an attack dog for the PF. That is why the institution was offering itself to sue *Prime TV* on behalf of Mr Mwila if the media house does not apologise to him. Apologise for what? It is the IBA which should be apologizing to Zambians!

And by the way, why is it even called the “Independent Broadcasting Authority”? What is the IBA independent from if the Permanent Secretary in the PF government is the overall boss there? We heard at the press briefing, Mr Kasolo was saying “we” would have completely withdrawn the licence for *Prime TV*...Who is he referring to as “we”? The government? Which government? It is the PF government where Mr Davies Mwila ranks ‘third’ from the President. So Mr Kasolo was speaking on behalf of his boss, Mr Mwila. How, then, can we call the IBA independent? What is independent about their operations?

It is really sad for Zambia that every time the country is heading towards a campaign year, journalism becomes an endangered profession. This is a shame and the PF must not complain when its regime gets all the bad international headlines. Their dictatorial methods can no longer be hidden!

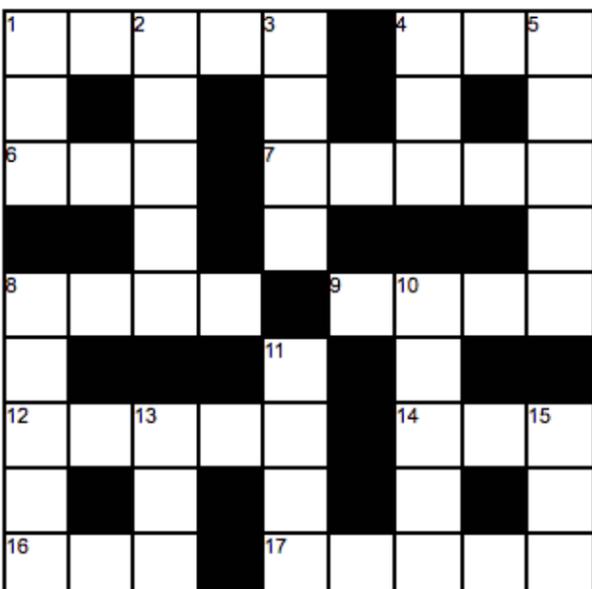
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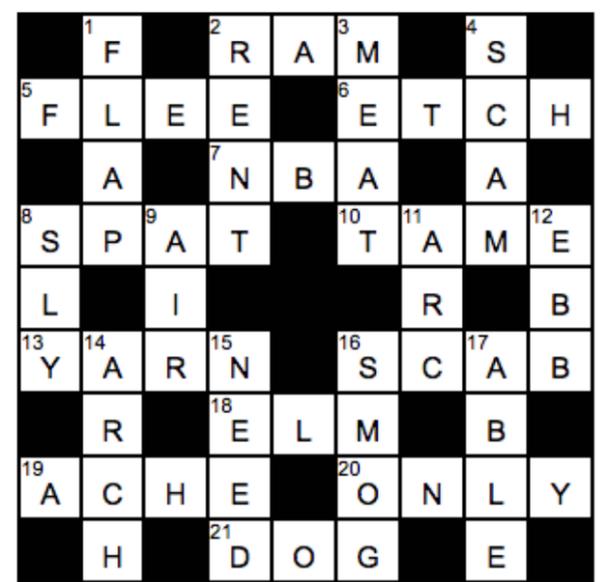
Crossword puzzle 307



“You can keep pondering on which thing to do first or which path to take or by simply taking action now of most any kind, you may just find yourself on the way to where you most needed to go.” - April Bryan

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carpentry tool 4. A hot drink 6. Half of hex- 7. Assemblage of people 8. Return to the ground 9. Complimentary 12. Used up 14. Sharer's pronoun 16. Highway hauler 17. Despised | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lg. seed in cherry 2. Foreigner 3. To give advantage 4. As well 5. More than enough 8. Sci-fi weapon 10. Pigeon's perch 11. Allergic reaction 13. Silly Putty container 15. Crimson or ruby |
|--|--|

Solutions to puzzle 306



Reader's feedback

Amos Chanda's insistence on continuing to tell off opposition leaders

Editor,

"It's amazing to see what power can do to mankind! Amos Chanda of all the people? I remember Amos as a young and humble journalist from the Daily Mail coming to church at UCZ Trinity Church congregation. I doubt very much if he still goes there. I'm failing to believe that this is the same Amos that has turned into a beast! I have always known that power corrupts, but what I didn't know is to what extent." - Brian Ponde Mukoba

"No, ba Amos. First and foremost, you are a civil servant. Secondly, you risk bringing State House into disrepute and public odium. Thirdly, there's no need to use unpalatable language when you respond. Fourthly, don't take things so personal. Fifthly, Have etiquette and diplomacy." - Mike Phiri

"Mr Chanda, there is life after State House. Your statements will one day haunt you." - Geoffrey Samusungwa

"One day, he will be ashamed of his words and wish he had not said them! Wisdom calls, there is wisdom in remaining quiet and ponder issues before you even respond." - Phillimon Mfula



Health Minister on GMOs safe for consumption

Editor,

"He is not an expert in molecular biology and genetics! Let Prof Luke Mumba, the Vice Chancellor of UNZA, speak on such

matters." - Maybin Mulando

"Safe for human consumption, but not safe for their children." - King Wisdom Sinkala

"So, he has been paid to say that! Everywhere else in the world, people are advocating for non-GMO food and there goes a Minister of Health trying to speak from his stomach and not the head!" - Mundia Joshua Namunji

"I had faith in you, ba Minister, but from now on, you lost direction! You are supporting wrong things! I have distanced myself from your knowledge of GMOs." - Siven Rowland Bwembya

"Even some learned people don't know what they went to school for, this is letting us down." - Honesty Simulwi

"Please, this matter should not be confused with politics. The safety of GMO foods has not been thoroughly established. Even in the EU, there is a strong societal debate about the safety of these products. To-date, the EU citizens are still very sceptical about this technology innovation in the food systems and have not wholly accepted GMO foods. The societal upheaval towards these foods is still very strong at the moment." - Vincent Nyau

'IBA's closure of Prime TV a dark day for Zambia'

Dear Editor,

"They want to cut the wings of media! But remember, journalists should not be seen as blind servants; their loyalty is bona publico or for the good of the public. Simply a dark day!" - Given Chikeu

"IBA will only be taken seriously when they act on the national broadcaster ZNBC! These people don't love ECL because this move will further frustrate many viewers!" - Shilota Kapimpa

"I think Zambians should for once react and stop this nonsense!" - Howard Kalinda

"We are really under siege! I thought ZNBC was the worst culprit in unbalanced reporting." - Lastone Richarayobe

'NDC should move on from the Kambwili-Musenge confusion and contest Roan

Editor,

"Let's hope these jokers can put their jokes aside and put Kambwili as the Roan candidate on the NDC ticket so that he can return his seat." - Steve Lenx

Parliament that is when he comes for reconciliation?" - Freddie M Kat
 "Hope Musenge was clever enough to demand a set of new tyres as part of the reconciliation..." - Edward Mulenga

"Pick a candidate now to contest in Roan! Time is not with you, gentlemen, as your party is expected to impact positively politically." - Wachila Kazundulu

"NDC, you need a mature SG. Never wash your dirty linen in public. See, PF did a 'don't kubeba' on you and Kambwili loses his parliamentary seat!" - Richard Kunda

"This party is suffering from infiltration!" - Elias Chipeta

"After being used to oust Kambwili out of

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.

Ethiopian Emperor Tewodros II's stolen hair to be returned by UK

A British museum is to return a lock of hair that the Ethiopian government considers a national treasure.

It was cut from the head of Emperor Tewodros II, who killed himself rather than be taken prisoner by the British during their 1868 invasion of Ethiopia.

His seven-year-old son Prince Alemayehu was taken to the UK along with looted treasures. He became a favourite of Queen Victoria before dying aged 18.

His remains are kept in Windsor Castle despite campaigns for their return.

Strands of Emperor Tewodros II's hair were given to the National Army Museum in London 60 years ago.

The museum told the BBC it had decided not to make photographs of the hair public out of respect, because the matter was "too sensitive". The remains are described as two pieces "no bigger than the size of a two-pence coin".

The National Army Museum has

now agreed to return the artefact, but says it is not returning any other items of African origin.

"It's definitely not a precedent," a spokesperson for the museum told the BBC.

"That's the only one that's been requested. They have to be formal, written requests to the director with a case".

The BBC's Emmanuel Igunza in Addis Ababa says talks about the process of repatriation with the Ethiopian government are set to begin within the next few days.

The move has reignited demands for the UK to return all the looted artefacts on display in British museums.

Historians say 15 elephants and 200 mules were needed to cart away all the loot from Maqdala, the emperor's northern citadel capital.

Ethiopia lodged a formal request in 2008 at various British institutions for the return of the treasures worth millions of dollars taken from the site.

The announcement comes at the end of a year-long

commemorations marking 150 years since the Battle of Maqdala.

The so-called Napier expedition, often described as the largest military offensive by the British empire in Africa, saw thousands of soldiers deployed to face Emperor Tewodros II.

In the mid-19th Century Emperor Tewodros II decided to modernise his empire, Abyssinia, by opening up relations with the UK

But things deteriorated after requests for military assistance were ignored

In protest the emperor detained the British consul and other foreigners

Britain reacted by sending an army to the emperor's fortress in Maqdala in 1868

Rather than become a prisoner, Emperor Tewodros II took his own life

British forces left with manuscripts, crowns, crosses, chalices, religious icons, royal and ecclesiastic vestments, shields and arms

The emperor's seven-year-old



son was also taken to Britain and then educated at Rugby School: He died of pleurisy at 18 and is buried at Windsor Castle

Several African countries have requested the return of artefacts taken by European powers.

Some years after Benin first

made its official request, France has agreed to return 26 thrones and statues taken in the colonial era.

A recent report commissioned by French President Emmanuel Macron recommended that African treasures in French museums be returned to their countries of origin. It states most of the Africa collection in the Quai Branly museum in Paris - approximately 46,000 pieces - was acquired with some degree of duress.

"We've read it and we consider it's a positive report - it's legitimate and follows the course of history", Senegal's Culture Minister Abdou Latif Coulibaly told the BBC in November.

Senegal said it had asked France to return more than 100 artefacts. **BBC**

Bird extinctions 'driven' by global food trade

About 100 bird species are predicted to go extinct based on current farming and forestry practices, according to a new global analysis.

This number has increased by 7% over the first ten years of this century alone, say scientists.

They say the biggest factor is cattle farming, but the impact of oil seed crops like palm and soy is growing fast.

By comparison, an estimated 140 birds have been lost over the past 400 years.

International researchers used bird extinction as a measure of the loss of biodiversity - the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat - linked with international trade in food and timber.

The research, published in the journal, *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, shows that international trade can drive threats to animal species far

from the countries where the goods are consumed.

In 2011, about a third of biodiversity impacts in Central and South America, and a quarter in Africa were driven by the consumption of goods in other parts of the world, says the team.

The issue of biodiversity loss cannot be addressed without adding remote responsibility, i.e. people taking responsibility for the goods they buy at the supermarket, said co-researcher, Prof Henrique Pereira of the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig, Germany.

"We have to provide more information for consumers on that - so that they know what they are buying," he told BBC News.

Co-researcher Alexandra Marques added: "We must address unsustainable patterns of consumption driven by

economic growth. Our choices here will have consequences elsewhere."

The researchers estimated the number of bird species at risk of extinction due to the conversion of natural habitat to land for agriculture and forestry between 2000 and 2011.

They came up with a figure of as many as 121 bird species predicted to go extinct in the future if there is no change to current land use.

(By comparison, an estimated 140 bird species have been lost globally since the beginning of the 16th century).

Ariel Brunner of conservation group, BirdLife Europe, said the study adds to a growing body of evidence showing that unsustainable food and farming system is "at the very heart of the ecological crisis - both in terms of driving the collapse of biodiversity and contributing to climate change".

BBC



UK man 'free' of HIV with new stem cells

A UK patient's HIV has become "undetectable" following a stem cell transplant - in only the second case of its kind,

doctors report in *Nature*.

The London patient, who was being treated for cancer, has now been in remission from HIV for 18 months and is no longer taking HIV drugs.

The researchers say it's too early to say the patient is "cured" of HIV.

Experts say the approach is not practical for healthy people with HIV but it may ultimately help find a cure.

The male London patient, who has not been named, was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 and advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2012.

He had chemotherapy to treat the Hodgkin's cancer and, in addition, stem cells were implanted into the patient from a donor resistant to HIV, leading to both his cancer and HIV going into remission.

Researchers from University College London, Imperial College London, Cambridge and Oxford Universities were all involved in the case.

'Not an anomaly'

This is the second time a patient treated this way has ended up in remission from HIV.

Ten years ago, another patient in Berlin received a bone-marrow transplant from a donor with natural immunity to the virus.

Timothy Brown, said to be the first person to "beat" HIV/Aids, was given two transplants and total body irradiation (radiotherapy) for leukaemia - a much more aggressive treatment.

"By achieving remission in a second patient using a similar approach, we have shown that the Berlin patient was not an anomaly and that it really was the treatment approaches that eliminated HIV in these two people," said lead study author Prof Ravindra Gupta, from UCL.

Prof Eduardo Olavarria, also involved in the research, from Imperial College London, said the success of stem cell transplantation offered "hope in the search for a long-awaited cure for HIV/Aids". **BBC**

Mozambique coffins abandoned at SA border

Mozambique's consulate staff have moved three coffins, containing the

bodies of Mozambican nationals, to a nearby morgue after they were

left on the road on the South African side of the Ressano Garcia border

crossing.

The coffins, containing the bodies of two men and one woman, were abandoned after South African border authorities said the transporters did not produce the right documents, daily newspaper, *O Pais* reports.

Some of the deceased's relatives returned to get the required documentation while others were offered accommodation by a nun on the Mozambique side of the border.

Two of the bodies are destined for the southern Maputo province and the third for neighbouring Gaza province. **BBC**



By Abraham Kalito

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has instituted investigations aimed at confirming whether the world soccer governing body, FIFA was correct when it found former Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) vice-president Boniface Mwamelo guilty of corruption. FIFA recently banned Mwamelo for life from all soccer related activities after it was discovered that he received bribes and colluded with international match fixers to manipulate the results of the U23 Zambian National Soccer team at the 2010 Cairo Olympics tournament. FIFA revealed how Mwamelo single-handedly selected U23 players and instructed them to lose games at the tournament in order to win bets worth thousands of US Dollars. The revelations caused public

ACC to probe Mwamelo

outrage among Zambians, many who questioned whether the ACC was aware that Mwamelo was being investigated. The ACC has however expressed ignorance that Mwamelo was being investigated by FIFA and only mentioned in a statement that investigations had been instituted against him following the revelations. "The Anti-Corruption Commission has commenced investigations into allegations of corruption involving the Former Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Vice President Boniface Mwamelo. This follows revelation made recently by FIFA alleging that Mr Mwamelo received bribes

from a named international match fixer to force the Zambia National Team to lose during the 2010 Cairo Olympics Tournament so that the international match fixer wins football bets," read a statement. The commission also stated that it had arrested and charged Kingsley Muchindu Siasinyanga, Director of Finance at Mongu Municipal Council and others, for one count of Abuse of Authority," read the statement. "Meanwhile, the Commission has charged and arrested Kingsley Muchindu Siasinyanga, the Director of Finance at Mongu Municipal Council, for one count of Abuse of Authority of Office

contrary to Section 21 (1)(a) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of the Laws of Zambia. Details are that on dates unknown but between 1st August, 2013 and 31st October, 2014, Siasinyanga, jointly and whilst acting together with Kabukabu Sikwibele, Choolwe Maunga Lipenga, Benny Chiyesu and other persons unknown, at Livingstone City Council and being a public officer, namely,

Director of Finance then, in the Livingstone City Council, did abuse authority of his office by allocating plots of land to themselves on property number LIV/22251. A matter or transaction concerning the Livingstone City Council, a public body," read the statement. "Mr. Siasinyanga has since been released on Bond and will appear in court on 3rd

April, 2019. The arrest of Mr Siasinyanga comes in the wake of the arrest of 14 former Livingstone City Councillors including the current Livingstone Member of Parliament Mr Jere on an allegation of corruption. So far, the Commission has also arrested three named former Livingstone Council Officials in connection with the same matter."



Eric Bledsoe #6 of the Milwaukee Bucks attempts a shot against Deandre Ayton #22 of the Phoenix Suns during the second half of the NBA game at Talking Stick Resort Arena on March 04, 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Boateng, Hummels, Muller axed by Germany as Low makes incredible announcement

Joachim Low has confirmed that Mats Hummels, Jerome Boateng and Thomas Muller will no longer be considered for international selection. The three starred as Germany won the World Cup for the first time in 24 years in Brazil in 2014. But Low has confirmed that, in spite of their service, the Bayern Munich trio would not be considered for selection, with their international careers now appearing to be over. "2019 is the year of the new start for the German national football team," Low told Bild. "We want to continue the upheaval that we initiated at the end of last year. "Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Thomas Muller will no longer be in the squad of the national team. It was important to me personally to explain to the players and managers of FC Bayern my thoughts and plans today." *Goal.com*

Janny Sikazwe to officiate in CAF Champions match

By Abraham Kalito

Confederation of African Football (CAF) has to appointed Zambian referee Janny Sikazwe to officiate the match between Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Lobi Stars of Nigeria. It is the first time that the 2018 Africa's referee of the year will officiate at the international scene after he was acquitted of allegedly biased officiating. Sikazwe was suspended by CAF pending

investigations for allegedly biased officiating during the Champions League semi-final match between Tunisian side Esperance and Premeiro Agosto of Angola. Investigations however found him innocent of biased officiating and he has been officiating in Zambia's Super division league since acquittal. The match between Mamelodi Sundowns and Lobi Start is scheduled to take place at on Saturday 9th March in South Africa.

FAZ employees unpaid in 3 months, as Kamanga suspends contracts

By Abraham Kalito

Under-fire FAZ president Andrew Kamanga has ordered the cancellation of employees' contracts after failing to pay them for three months. And the Zambia under-23 national team was last week threatened with eviction from the camp house in Lusaka. Sources at selected financial institution through which FAZ has a relationship have disclosed that their clients from Football House have an erratic salary schedule. The information obtained shows that FAZ employees have not been paid the October 2018 salaries, and January and February pays. "It's a strange way of doing things... we saw no salaries for October, but it looks like there were salaries for November and December. From January to early this week, these guys [FAZ employees] have not been paid," a source at a named financial institution who spoke on condition of anonymity said. The erratic and poor salary structure is believed to have contributed to high profile exits from Football House. Although some employees have left in frustration of the ma-administration,

those that are gone are still yet to get their entitlements from FAZ. The list of resignations in the last 12 months stands at six with more expected to jump ship. Ministry of Sport and National Sports Council of Zambia officials have expressed concern at the pay culture at Football House but hold back because the heavy-handed nature with which FIFA frowns at what it sees as interference. Among those that have left Football House are Technical Director Moses Sichone, Licencing Manager Erick Mwanza, Referees Manager Kenneth Chichenga, Registrar Elton Thawe, Communications Manager Desmond Katongo. Another employee operating in the Registrar's Office recently left in frustration. Pressure has been piling on FAZ to pay dues to the officials that resigned but nothing has been forthcoming. A Ministry of Sport official says information reaching the government office suggests that Kamanga has ordered that employees contracts be suspended. "We don't know the contract for employees are being suspended but

those complaints have reached us. And apparently it has been done without the consent of the employees. It looks like salaries are being paid at the mercy of someone at Football House," the official added. The Ministry source wondered how FAZ was struggling to meet administrative costs when its president recently announced that FIFA had allocated funds which they were even willing to apportion to development of infrastructure in the country. "FIFA has allocated some good amounts like the president announced but we don't know what is happening in that respect. Remember this was announced by the FAZ president himself," added the official. On February 4, 2019, FAZ announced that FIFA had allocated \$1 million, double the grant it received in 2018, operational and football development expenditure and an additional \$2 million for infrastructure development. Meanwhile, the under-23 camp at Eastern Moon Lodge behind Kafue Road Shoprite was issued an ultimatum to pay or face eviction. Management at the lodge sent a

demand letter asking FAZ to pay a bill for boarding and lodging amounting to over K50,000 or be evicted. "FAZ has been given up to Friday to pay all the arrears which will be for four weeks or be evicted," an employee at Eastern Moon said. But when contacted, FAZ Communications Manager Mwazipeza Chanda refuted all the claims saying the association does not owe any employee monthly remunerations adding that FAZ has instead endeavoured to ensure that members of staff are paid on time. She however confirmed that the association owed a named lodge some lodging fees but denied claims that the U23 national side was given an eviction notice or an ultimatum to pay the money. "Its unfortunate that there are those kinds of reports. I have been in the office for just under five months and I know that there are some institutional debts that are there so when it comes to matters regarding probably emoluments and retirement packages, previously there have been issues regarding that, I am aware. But when it comes to the month-to-month payment of salaries, I think

this administration has endeavoured to ensure that staff are paid monthly. So I think if you probably give me details as to where those claims are coming from, but I know that in the past probably like most semi-funded government institutions, sometimes there are lapses in the receipt of money," Chanda said. "So yes of course there have been occasions where salaries have been delayed, but to say that people have gone more than three months without a salary I don't think that is true. Its false. As far as I am aware, if there are probably lapses in the payments its probably in allowances and overtime, issues like that, otherwise people are paid. That's not correct, I think at the time they were leaving camp, that story had started. But it's not correct. It's not all wrong it might have some inaccurate facts. You know we do have a situation like I have mentioned where funding does not come through on time but I don't think it's a situation where they were being evicted from the camp house where they were lodging. I'm saying there might be a legitimate claim that the lodge was owed money but no one was evicted," she said.



FAZ employees unpaid in 3 months as...

KAMANGA SUSPENDS CONTRACTS

By Abraham Kalito

Under-fire FAZ president Andrew Kamanga has ordered the cancellation of employees' contracts after failing to pay them for three months.

And the Zambia under-23 national team was last week threatened with eviction from the camp house in Lusaka.

Continues on page 11



I don't have an expiry date - Alves eyes 2022 World Cup

Injury deprived him of what looked like a last chance at World Cup glory last year, but Dani Alves is now spurred on by the dream of lifting the trophy with Brazil in Qatar in 2022.

"I don't have an expiry date. My body is my answer -- when I see that I can no longer compete, when my head is not in it anymore, it will be the time to stop," Alves said in an exclusive interview with AFP.

"What I do know is that I am going to try to get to the World Cup in 2022. My objective is to fight to get there -- I don't hold the key, but I will try."

Alves suffered a serious

knee injury playing for Paris Saint-Germain in last season's French Cup final, barely a month before the World Cup in Russia. He had just turned 35 and it would take him six months to return to action.

Since then, he has become an integral part of Thomas Tuchel's PSG side and has just been recalled to the Brazil squad.

He is also set to feature when the French club face Manchester United in their Champions League last 16 return leg on Wednesday leading 2-0 from the first leg.

Last season's French Cup was the 38th trophy won by

Alves in a remarkable career that has included being part of three Champions League victories at Barcelona. *AFP*



Australia batsman Marcus Stoinis plays a shot during the second one-day international (ODI) cricket match between India and Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday

Boateng, Hummels, Muller axed by Germany as coach makes incredible announcement

Story page 11

