



UNZA, CBU HALT OPERATIONS

Govt must pay salaries first, no pay no work - lecturers

Story page 5

Sinda MP showers UPND chairlady with insults after Women's Day

By Thomas Mulenga
Sinda constituency UPND chairlady Veronica Phiri says Independent area member of parliament Masauso Tembo on Saturday insulted her and threatened to demolish her house for allegedly visiting some traditional leaders and delivering 'campaign related messages'. *To page 4*

CK discontinues Roan petition, settles for judicial review

By Zondiwe Mbewe
NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has discontinued his petition in the Constitutional Court in which he had asked for a declaration that his Roan parliamentary seat did not fall vacant as ruled by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Patrick Matibini. Kambwili has however applied for leave for judicial review in the Lusaka High Court regarding the Speaker's decision

to declare his seat vacant on account of his alleged 'floor crossing' from being a member of PF to NDC. He wants the Lusaka High Court to declare that the purported decision by Dr Matibini to declare his seat vacant, does not conform with the provision of Article 72 920 (a) to (i) of the Laws of Zambia and as such, is not only undemocratic but illegal, unreasonable, procedurally improper and unconstitutional. *To page 4*

Lungu doesn't have HH phobia - Lubinda

Story page 3



Former ZAF commander Lt Gen Eric Chimese with wife Sharon after pleading "not guilty" in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala. Story page 5



PF cadres jive in celebrating Women's Day in Lusaka - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Zambia's external debt swells to US\$10.05bn

Story page 4

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Felix Mutati's MMD chairperson for agriculture Chishala Chilufya has accused the other faction leader, Nevers Mumba, of secretly soliciting to meet President Edgar Lungu over issues surrounding the party. But Mumba's MMD spokesperson, Peter Phiri, says Mutati should not use desperation to drag Mumba into his failed relationship with PF. In a statement, Chilufya stated

Mutati's MMD accuses Mumba of soliciting meeting with Lungu

that Mumba had been sending messages to President Lungu's handlers soliciting for a meeting with the hope of convincing him to interfere with the MMD leadership impasse. "Nevers Mumba has been sending messages to President

Lungu's aides to make an appointment for him. But President Lungu's aides have refused if they are not availed the agenda. And they have replied to Nevers Mumba that if the agenda is MMD, President Lungu has made his position

clear on MMD and who he is working with, a position which is widely informed by many considerations from where the Presidency stands. The President has made his position clear that he will only deal with the legally recognised MMD and in this case Felix Mutati is legitimate and he has publicly refused to be drawn into MMD issues," stated Chilufya. "Nevers Mumba long sacrificed his integrity and morality on the altar of political expediency and survival and what he does going forward is merely playing to the gallery. Nevers Mumba was willing to sink the party with him so long as it resisted to be small holder enterprise at his mercy. He didn't care about anything, look at where he is now, on the wrong side of history! Nevers Mumba has remained alone, he is lonely and this can be seen at court grounds, while our people come in numbers to offer solidarity our former president comes with family members and two women he appointed to

NEC. And that's what happens to all dictators. 99percent of the MMD membership is with Felix Mutati and that the public knows too well."

But Phiri rubbished Chilufya's accusations. "As the MMD, we have noted the various lies and fake propaganda that Mr Felix Mutati through his hungry agents have been spreading. As a Party, we have been quite because we respect due process. Mr. Mutati is before the Court to provide answers on who gave him the authority to organize the illegal MMD Convention of 2016. We would like to inform the Nation that through our very clear Witnesses we have place a well coordinated testimony before the High Court. Mr. Mutati remains in no doubt that as an expelled member of MMD he had no authority to organise, attend or even participate in a convention of the Party, late alone be elected as President," Phiri stated. Phiri stated that Mumba as

MMD leader would meet any other political party leaders including President Lungu if he so wished. "We as the MMD would like to trash the hallucinations by Mr. Mutati that Dr. Mumba has been trying to meet Republican President Mr. Edgar Lungu to prevail over the MMD leadership impasse. For the record, Dr Mumba is leader of the MMD and will meet with other political leaders including President Lungu. But such a meeting would never be about the court case. It would be about other national matters. We are completely confident of our chances before the court and we cannot and will never try to fix cases in Court another way. It is an insult by Mutati to both the Republican President and the Judicial Bench to insinuate that they fix cases in such a way," stated Phiri. And Phiri warned the Mutati faction that lawyers and bailiffs would soon pounce on their leader and his three other co-accused for payment of costs awarded to Mumba's faction. He advised Mumba to prepare for Bailiffs instead of wasting his little resources travelling to and from in the country hoping that his meetings will give him legitimacy.



Diplomats accredited to Zambia at this year's International Women's Day celebrations held at Lusaka Showgrounds on March 8, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Thomas Mulenga

Canadian High Commissioner to Zambia Pamela O'Donnell says promoting gender equality also advances sustainable development. Speaking at a public discussion forum organised by NGOCC, Thursday, High Commissioner O'Donnell, through a representative, Mark Haynes, highlighted the benefits of promoting gender equality. "Canada strongly believes that by advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as an effective way to foster prosperity, create lasting peace, achieve sustainable development and promote human rights. It is only when all our people, regardless of their gender, can fully benefit from and participate in economic, political, social and cultural life, that we build safer more prosperous and more sustainable communities and countries," High Commissioner O'Donnell said. "This is why Canada is moving forward decisively on a feminist agenda at home and abroad. In our work on trade, security, diplomacy or international assistance, Canada wants to ensure that our efforts support gender equality and women's empowerment. As

Canada reiterates commitment to fostering gender equality in Zambia

a result, Canada's Feminist Foreign policy integrates a gender responsive perspective in everything we do." High Commissioner O'Donnell said Zambia and Canada were working on increasing women participation in the United Nations peacekeeping missions. "Canada and Zambia are partners at the United Nations where we champion gender equality and the human rights of women and girls through our joint leadership of the UN General Assembly resolution on Child, early and forced marriage. Together we have made significant strides in deepening the international community's understanding of the various aspects and consequences of this harmful practice, and its commitment to end it and ensure that every girl can fulfil her potential. The consensus adoption by the General Assembly of a strong resolution again in 2018 is a great source of pride

for both our countries," High Commissioner O'Donnell said. "Canada and Zambia have recently forged a new partnership under a program called the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations. Our two countries are working together to increase uniformed women's meaningful participation in UN peace operations in policing roles, specifically. As a significant troop and police contributing

country, Zambia has already demonstrated leadership in this area. Both Canada and Zambia firmly believe that peace operations that are more representative of the populations they are tasked to protect are better situated to build trust between peacekeepers and local communities. Canada is pleased to be working with Zambia to find ways of overcoming barriers that prevent women from playing their rightful role."

She pledged her country's commitment to promoting gender equality. "We are so pleased that promoting gender equality has truly become a cornerstone of our bilateral relationship with Zambia. We will continue to seek ways to cooperate on advancing the areas just mentioned as well jointly addressing other important issues such women's economic empowerment; women in

political leadership and sexual and reproductive health rights. On behalf of the High Commissioner of Canada to Zambia, Her Excellency Pamela O'Donnell, and the Head of Office for the Canadian High Commission in Lusaka, Ms. Megan Foster, I would like that NGOCC for this opportunity to support this event and wish all the participants very fruitful discussions," said High Commissioner O'Donnell.

Job Offer

GBV In Schools Specialists needed

Requirements: University educated GBV specialists with strong hands-on experience in monitoring/tacking GBVs in schools.

Women preferred.

Send CV only to tanslamanagement@gmail.com.

Job Offer

Education Sector M&E Specialists Wanted

Requirements: Degree specialists in education sector with a strong bias in M&E of education systems, projects & programmes in zambia.

Send CV only to tanslamanagement@gmail.com by 10 March 2019.

Let Us Advertise Your Job Vacancy For Free!



Are you a SMALL SCALE entrepreneur looking for suitable employees to run your daily business operations?

Finding a job is hard, offering one should be easy!

Send your job vacancy description under 50 words, including location and contact details to:

Email: elias@diggers.news or WhatsApp: 0977708285

Your job vacancy will be published for free in the print edition of News Diggers - a platform where employers, employees and the jobless meet!



Roan poll will proceed unless court says otherwise - ECZ

By Thomas Mulenga

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says it will go ahead to facilitate a by-election in Roan parliamentary constituency despite Chishimba Kambwili's case in which he is challenging Speaker of National Assembly Patrick Matibini's decision to declare his seat vacant. In an interview, Monday, ECZ Public Relations Manager Margaret Chimese said the commission would only postpone the by-election if the court directed it to do so. And Chimese disclosed that nominations for the Roan, Bahati and local government by-elections slated for April 11, 2019, would take place on Thursday this week.



"At the moment, we are not part to the process that is going on with him (Kambwili) and the Court. We would need to get communication from the court,

that's when we would stop our proceeding regarding direction in terms of how the court would find fit. We have a statutory obligation to undertake these

elections and we are bound by time," Chimese said. "So if the situation changes, we can only be triggered by the court to stop what we are doing

or to continue. We are going ahead, unless otherwise. So if those papers can be saved, that would then give us direction as to how we would proceed." Chimese said nominations for the Roan, Bahati and local government by-elections slated for April 11, 2019, would take place on Thursday. "We are ready, we have all our logistics in place. Nominations are taking place on Thursday (this week), so everything being equal, we will be able to undertake those by elections. And it's not only those areas, Roan and Bahati, there are other areas where by-elections are taking place, there are

ward and council chairperson by-elections in various parts of the country," said Chimese. And when contacted to comment on why he decided to petition Speaker Matibini's decision to declare his seat vacant, Kambwili said he could not discuss the issue as it was active in court. "We are in court, I cannot comment on that issue until the court makes a decision. This is why I have not issued any statement or communicated to anyone about this issue because it is in court. I will communicate to the nation at the appropriate time when the matter is out of court," said Kambwili.

Wina implores C/Belt authorities to pass by-laws that'll attract investments

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Vice-President Inonge Wina says local authorities and their stakeholders on the Copperbelt Province should pass by-laws which will promote local economic development and attract investment in the region. In a speech read on her behalf by National Development Planning Minister Alexander Chiteme, Vice-President Wina also expressed confidence

that the investment expo would expose and open up relatively new and unknown districts in the province. "I am delighted to see how you have aligned your Investment Expo to the Seventh National Development Plan. This has been clearly spelt out in the way you have framed the theme for the Expo which is 'Broadening the Copperbelt economy through diversified Investment. Your areas of focus for investment also marries well with the sectors of focus at national level. This also includes your expected outcome of the Expo that is diversification, job creation and poverty reduction," Vice-President Wina said. She said urged investors in the province to feel free to engage government on any policies which they felt could affect businesses. Vice-President Wina advised Local Authorities in the province to pass by-laws that promote local economic development and attract investment. "I call upon the local authorities, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, our Royal Highnesses and all other service providers to be well prepared to offer the necessary support to our would-be investors. Let not bureaucracy and red-tape make us lose out on investment from our investors. Where appropriate, strategize and make it easy for the investors to set camp," said Vice-President Wina. Vice-President Wina also said the Copperbelt Investment Expo was expected to spread development to Lufwanyama, Mpongwe and Masaiti districts as well as enhance partnerships and linkages with local entrepreneurs through joint ventures and Private Public Partners.



President Edgar Lungu flashes the MMD symbol as the party women march past him during this year's International Women's Day celebrations held at Lusaka Showgrounds on March 8, 2019 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Constitution amendment not aimed at blocking HH - Lubinda

By Thomas Mulenga

Minister of Justice Given Lubinda says the Constitution amendment process is not aimed at blocking UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema from contesting the 2021 presidential election as alleged by some people. Speaking when he featured on Muvi TV's 'The Assignment' Program, Sunday, Lubinda said President Edgar Lungu had no fear of losing an election to the opposition leader for him to use the constitutional amendment process to block Hichilema. "Let me be very clear that the Constitution is not aimed at any particular individual, had that been the case, the PF would not have developed the road map that we have developed. Now we have developed the road map where we are saying can all political parties, all stakeholders make submissions and after they make the submissions all political players and stakeholders will attend the validation workshop where they will see their submissions. You can see that there is mischief in this whole insinuation that there is a plan to block a particular individual.

Let me also say that this phobia that people think that we have about Hakainde Hichilema, as for President Edgar Lungu, he spends his nights very well as he says to us in Cabinet, he has no qualms about that. If he (Hakainde) has that fear, we have given him a platform, let him come and check," Lubinda said. Lubinda said the PF had fared very well on constitutional reforms compared to previous administrations. "You cannot judge us based on the performance of our predecessors, you can't, and it's very unfair. Our predecessors did not have the road map such as the one that we have. They did not say we are going to have a validation meeting where you come and see your submissions. For us we have said make your submissions and come to the symposium to come and see your submissions. Had we told them that we are going to use the same formula that others used before us, but we are departing from what they did," he said. And Lubinda said the people would blame UPND MPs if they frustrated the Constitution

amendment process like they did with the Bill of Rights in 2016. "If they are going to use the arrogance of the minority to deny the Zambian people, the opportunity to refine the constitution, we will go and recount to the people equally. I have said before, had the Zambians not been discouraged from voting for the bill of rights, today no pregnant woman would be incarcerated in prison. Will use the same argument, the people will judge. We are politicians who give ourselves to serve the people. If they went on again and frustrated the constitution amendment process, there will be no winner, there will only be losers and that will be all of us as the people of Zambia," Lubinda said. Lubinda insisted that PF was not to blame for the faulty Constitution that President Lungu assented to in 2016 as it was a collective product of stakeholders. "You know who you should bring to answer that question? Bring all the 150 MPs who were in the house at that time. You can't hold one MP accountable, you can't hold government accountable, you hold

all the 150 MPs accountable, so bring them and ask them. That is collective responsibility, a blame cannot be apportioned to government or to the opposition. I have said this many times in Parliament, I have said we are where we are together, we have brought ourselves where we are and it's not time for us to be apportioning blame," said Lubinda. "If I want I could also remind you that there were times in that Parliament when there was almost mayhem, opposition MPs were refusing to be controlled even by the speaker, even by the sergeant at arms. They were taking to center of the House and saying 'business will not proceed until the constitution is brought.' That's why I am saying we are where we are together as a country. The decisions that are made by MPs have a bearing on the lives of every Zambian. And in a representative democracy such as this, when I go to Parliament and speak, I must bear in mind 'what is the thinking of the people of Kabwata on this issue?' So when I make a mistake, I will make that mistake on behalf of the people of Kabwata."

Kambwili discontinues Roan petition in ConCourt, begins fresh proceedings in High Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili has discontinued his petition in the Constitutional Court in which he had asked for a declaration that his Roan parliamentary seat did not fall vacant as ruled by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Patrick Matibini. Kambwili has however applied for leave for judicial review in the Lusaka High Court regarding the Speaker's decision to declare his seat vacant on account of his alleged 'floor crossing' from being a member of PF to NDC. He wants the Lusaka High Court to declare that the purported decision by Dr Matibini to declare his seat vacant, does not conform with the provision of Article 72 920 (a) to (i) of the Laws of Zambia and as such, is not only undemocratic but illegal, unreasonable, procedurally improper and unconstitutional. Kambwili further wants the Court to quash the Speaker's decision to declare his parliamentary seat vacant, as well as, the decision by ECZ of setting April 11, 2019 as the date for the Roan Constituency by-election. Last week, Kambwili

petitioned the Constitutional Court for a declaration that his Roan parliamentary seat did not fall vacant as ruled by the Speaker of the National Assembly because the latter violated various provisions of the Constitution. Kambwili who had cited the Attorney General as the respondent in the matter, was further seeking a declaration and order that the Speaker's ruling was null and void. He has however discontinued the matter and filed a fresh motion in the Lusaka High Court. According to an affidavit verifying facts filed in the Lusaka High Court, Monday, Kambwili has cited the Attorney General as first respondent and the Electoral Commission of Zambia as second respondent. Kambwili stated that he had come to learn of the by-election to elect a new member of parliament for Roan Constituency scheduled for April 11, 2019 through ECZ. He added that ECZ had further appointed and prescribed March 14, 2019 as the date to lodge complete and attested statutory declaration and nomination papers filing by all aspiring candidates. Kambwili stated that he was

fully aware that the notion of being a Consultant engaged by the NDC, was at all material times the subject of active litigation before judge Mopani Kawimbe by way of counterclaim, a matter which had to date allegedly not been presided over by the court and awaits a hearing date. He stated that believed that Dr Matibini in his ruling deliberately chose to disregard the fact that he was making pronouncements on a matter that was subjudice

and was yet to be determined by the High Court. Kambwili stated that he was equally aware that even if he had joined the NDC at the material time, a fact denied, Dr Matibini acted on provisions in any event that do not provide for alleged floor crossing as provided for the law in 2016 amendment of the Constitution. He stated that he believed his case was a fit and proper case for the High Court to grant him leave for judicial review.

Kambwili wants, if the High Court granted him leave to apply for judicial leave, for it to order and direct that Dr Matibini's decision of declaring his seat vacant be stayed pending the determination of the matter. He further wants the Court to declare that the purported decision by Dr Matibini to declare his seat vacant, does not conform with the provisions of Article 72 920 (a) to (i) of the Laws of Zambia and as such,

is not only undemocratic but illegal, unreasonable, procedurally improper and unconstitutional. Kambwili wants the Court to quash the Speaker's decision to declare his parliamentary seat vacant, as well as, the decision by ECZ of appointing April 11, 2019 as the date for the Roan Constituency by-election. He wants the Court to further prohibit ECZ from accepting the nomination papers from the aspiring candidates.

UPND constituency chairlady reports Sinda MP to police for insulting her

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Sinda constituency UPND chairlady Veronica Phiri says Independent area member of parliament Masauso Tembo on Saturday insulted her and threatened to demolish her house for visiting some traditional leaders and delivering campaign related messages. Phiri narrated to News Diggers in an interview that Tembo used F-words on her among other unprintables after he accused her of 'talking to

chiefs in Chidwale area. "It was on Saturday and it is disappointing that a member of parliament whom we elected to represent us in Parliament is now insulting us. Honorable Masauso Tembo phoned me on Saturday. So when he phoned me, I answered and said 'hello' and he said 'is this madam Veronica?' and I said 'yes'. Then he asked to say 'what did you say in Chidwale when you met the chiefs?' I told him I wasn't aware of what he was talking

about. Then he started insulting me saying 'Amai a Vero pa*yo panu 'amai a Vero chi*ni chanu, amai a Vero mukwatilana na Levy Ngoma chyo chanu ch**ni chanu.' He then told me that 'right now I am with my youths, we are coming to demolish your house and to beat you right at your house around 21:00 hours,' Phiri narrated. She wondered how an honourable lawmaker could insult his electorates. "Just after he finished insulting me, I went to report

at the police station. So he was insulting me saying that I was speaking to the chiefs. After reporting to the police, I followed him at the bar where he was drinking from to tell him that there was no need for him to hire people to beat me because even him alone could manage to kill me. So when I reached at the bar, I was told that he was drunk and sleeping in his car and his men had run away from him," said Phiri. But when contacted, Tembo denied the allegations saying he could not remember the last time he met her. "She is just lying. I don't communicate and I don't even remember the last time I met her and I don't even know her. She is just lying," said Tembo. In February 2018, Tembo unleashed a myriad of insults on his constituents after one of them, George Malonje Mwanza, posted a satirical joke on Facebook which was misunderstood and ended up angering the Honourable. But when contacted, Tembo claimed someone was playing with his Facebook account and that he had notified ZICTA to look into it.

By Stuart Lisulo

Zambia's external debt has leaped to over US\$10 billion for the first time in the country's history, as debt servicing commitments equally increased to unprecedented levels of nearly US\$760 million last year. And government missed its 2018 fiscal deficit target threshold of not exceeding more than 6.4 per cent relative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year by recording 7.6 per cent. In a budget and Treasury brief released by the Ministry of Finance, Monday, Zambia's external debt has increased to an unprecedented US \$10.05 billion as at December 31, 2018, compared to US \$8.74 billion by the end of 2017. Data also reveals that the country's domestic debt also climbed to over K58 billion by the end of last year, up from K48.4 billion in 2017. "As at end December, 2018, external debt was US \$10.05 billion compared to US \$8.74 billion at the end of 2017. The rise is attributed to INCREASED DISBURSEMENTS ON PREVIOUSLY CONTRACTED LOANS for on-going economic infrastructure programmes aimed at supporting economic diversification and structural transformation," the statement read. "Domestic debt stood at K58.3 billion at the end of 2018 compared to K48.4 billion in 2017. The increase was partly due to the government's effort to realign the composition of Zambia's public debt in line with the Medium-Term-Debt-Strategy. Domestic debt service in 2018 was

Zambia's external debt swells to US\$10.05bn

K8.20 billion compared to K5.5 billion in 2017." Data showed that government's external debt interest payments continued rising last year to hit nearly US \$760 million. "External debt service during the period was US \$759.9 million and government guaranteed debt stood at US \$1.3 billion. Interest payment on total debt was K13.6 billion of which K6.2 billion was on external debt. The high interest payment on external debt is partly explained by the depreciation of the kwacha against the United States dollar. This notwithstanding, other expenditure lines were constrained in line with government's objective to minimise expenditure on minimal priority programmes and projects," it stated. Government's domestic arrears owed to contractors and suppliers also continued rising to unprecedented levels of K15.1 billion by the end of last year, up from K14.7 billion by the end of the third quarter of 2018. "At the close of 2018, total domestic arrears stood at K15.1 billion. In an effort to dismantle the arrears, a total of K4.5 billion was paid out in 2018 against

the budget target of K1.3 billion budget," it read. And government missed its 2018 fiscal deficit target threshold of not exceeding more than 6.1 per cent relative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year by recording 7.6 per cent. In one of the PF government's macroeconomic objectives, the Ministry of Finance projected to limit the overall fiscal deficit to 6.1 per cent of GDP on a cash basis. "The fiscal balance [deficit] for the year remained elevated at 7.6 per cent. This is slightly lower than the 2017 deficit of 7.9 per cent," read the statement. Government's spending on serving external debt has drastically leaped to nearly K15 billion in this year's budget, more than double the amount of K7.26 billion allocated in the 2018 budget. Zambia's cost of external debt servicing has drastically risen since 2013. According to World Bank data, Zambia's external debt servicing in 2013 was around US \$63 million, but has since jumped to hit US\$759.9 million last year, up from around US \$706 million in 2017. In January alone, government splashed K2.5 billion in debt

servicing repayments out of a total of K5.7 billion that was released by the Ministry of Finance to fund various government operations, representing nearly 50 per cent of the total budgetary allocation. Stakeholders have broadly

criticized the PF's fiscal consolidation agenda in this year's budget as an illusion as government is expected to borrow even more and increase taxes to service the mounting public debt.

Former MoH assistant accountant gets 2 years for corruption

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Chipata Subordinate Court has convicted a former Assistant Accountant in the Ministry of Health for corruption and sentenced him to two years imprisonment with hard labour. Fred Halwiindi, a former accountant in Eastern Province was found guilty of 18 counts of theft by public servant, one count of possessing property suspected to be proceeds of crime and one count of Forgery. And Chipata Magistrate Honourable Pauline Mulenga has sentenced Halwiindi to two years with hard labour. According to a statement issued by Anti-Corruption Commission Corporate Affairs Officer Christopher

Chibanku, particulars of the case are that on dates unknown but between 1st September 2011 and 30th September 2011 in Chipata District being an Assistant Accountant in the Ministry of Health, Halwiindi did steal a cumulative total sum of over K600,000 the property of the Government of the Republic of Zambia which came into his possession by virtue of his employment. In another count of Possession Property Suspected to be Proceeds of Crime, particulars are that on dates unknown but between 1st June 2011 and 31st December 2011 in Chipata District, Halwiindi had in possession of a house on property number 2852 Little Bombay in Chipata,

a property suspected of being proceeds of crime. The house valued at K850,000 and other items such as laptops, computers, printers, air conditioners have since been forfeited to the State. "In the other count, Particulars are that on dates unknown but between 1st June 2011 and 31st December 2011 in Chipata District, Halwiindi, with intent to defraud or deceive, did forge 24 Finance Bank Cheques contrary to section 342 and 347 of the Penal Code Chapter 87 of the Laws of Zambia. Halwiindi purported that the said cheques were genuinely authorized and signed by Dr. Davie Simwaba, the then Chipata District Medical Officer, when in fact not," read the statement.

PF will need private media when it's in opposition - CiSCA

By Thomas Mulenga

The Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) has joined calls by other stakeholders for the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to lift the 30-day suspension slapped on Prime TV.

In a statement, Monday, CiSCA Chairperson Bishop John Mambo said the suspension had deprived Zambians of the right to a variety source of news.

"Civil Society Constitution Agenda (CiSCA) joins the many voices that have so far voiced out on the inconsiderate suspension of the Prime TV by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) on the allegation of unprofessional reporting by the station. CiSCA calls for an immediate lifting of this suspension as it is detrimental to the existence and growth of independent and free media in Zambia," Bishop Mambo stated.

"The suspension has deprived many Zambians the right to comparable information sources resulting in them being left behind due to information distortions and gaps which consequently has undermined the National Development Plan' motto of 'leaving no one behind."

"We further call for the IBA and government authorities to explore other civilised options of enforcing adherence to media ethics and professionalism and in resolving other teething problems facing all media houses in Zambia than rushing into suspensions, revocation and application of other punitive measures. CiSCA wish to remind the authorities that this same private media they

are persecuting, harassing and intimidating now, would be dear to them when they are no longer in authority and therefore, better for them mature instead of destroying it," stated Bishop Mambo.



If govt cannot pay our salaries, let them close UNZA - striking lecturers

By Milimo Namangala in Lusaka and Daniel Chansa in Kitwe

UNZALARU president Dr Evans Lampi says if government has failed to run higher learning institutions, it should close them down and allow people to go and seek employment elsewhere.

And Copperbelt University Academics Union General Secretary Willie Ngosa says since lecturers can't put water in their vehicles when going to conduct classes, they will stay away.

Meanwhile, UNZA Vice-Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba has appealed for patience saying government has promised to issue the grant on Friday.

Monday, workers at both UNZA and CBU downed tools over non payment of February salaries.

At UNZA, workers represented by all the three labour unions; University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers' Union (UNZALARU), University of Zambia Professional Staff Union (UNZAPROSU), and

University of Zambia Allied Workers' Union (UNZAAWU) converged at the graduation square around 10:00 hours demanding payment of their February dues.

Prof Mumba then went to address them, saying he was equally unhappy about what was going on.

"I just thought that before your major meeting, I should update you on where we are on this all important issue of salaries. In fact, it is not right to say 'it is just money', you are trivialising, this is a matter of life and death. A hungry person is an angry person so nobody takes kindly to what is going on. Yes, Mwine Mushi (village owner) is here but he is a very sad Mwine Mushi," Prof Mumba said.

Prof Mumba said the grant was only expected on Friday.

"Your management has been doing everything possible to obtain the grant from our ministry. The whole of last week, when we were having graduation we've been doing that. The bursar and his team have literally been camping at Ministry of Finance to follow

up on the grant. As early as this morning, around 7, I was on the phone with the PS to get the latest update on the issue. And the information I've been given is that today is a bit complicated, we should not expect to be paid today but the assurance or the information he has given me. Is that he's working very closely with the Ministry of Finance to ensure the grant is released by Friday this week," Mumba said as UNZA workers mourned in protest.

"As I was coming, I called bursar to say 'can you give me the latest information' and he said 'sir, today is definitely out'. I think the message really from the PS is that the ministry is still collecting money but he is very sure that by Friday this week, the grant will be with us. On our part we're doing everything possible and the PS also, our PS in the Ministry of Higher Education is constantly in touch with his counterpart at Ministry of Finance. So am appealing to you to exercise some patience," said Prof Mumba as some lecturers were heard saying they would only return to the

institution on Friday."

He said what was happening at UNZA was not peculiar to the institution.

"You may wish to know that this situation is not peculiar to UNZA. It is happening to several other institutions including the mainframe civil service. There are still some line ministries that have not yet been paid their salaries. I am appealing to you all to exercise some patience, it is not easy but that's where we are, this is the gravity of the situation on the ground," said Prof Mumba. But in an interview, Dr Lampi said the workers would not resume their duties until they were paid, adding that if government had failed to run higher learning institutions, it was better to close them.

"All the three workers' unions at the University of Zambia, what they are getting is that salaries are not ready because government has failed to fund the institution for last months' salary. This is the 11th, last month we got paid on the 10th, and there doesn't seem to be any sign that this salary is going to be paid any time soon. The Vice Chancellor, speaking on behalf of government said that by Friday, maybe the salary will be paid but our members have flatly refused to accept that explanation and have vowed that they will only attend to duties relating to the university when their salaries are paid. And as labour leaders, we have talked to our members and since they have said they are not going to work, we are with that, there is nothing we can do at this point. The ball is in the government's court," Dr Lampi said.

"We will be meeting here every day until they pay us our salaries. We are not optimistic about what government is saying because we have heard these stories before. This is normal for government, giving promises which they cannot keep, every month it is the same story. As far as we are concerned, it seems the government is broke. Can they tell the nation that 'we are broke, we cannot run our institutions' instead of making everybody guess. How can something as simple as salaries; people work you pay them their salaries, become a mystery? As we have been told right now by the Vice Chancellor, the Ministry of Finance is saying 'they are still collecting money'. Collecting money from where? ZRA? So you are going to run a country like the way you run

a house? 'Let me go find some money, I'll come and we'll buy mealie meal', no! This is a very big institution, you don't run a university in this manner. Government, if they have failed, they should just tell us, close the institutions and people go find jobs somewhere else."

Dr Lampi said government needed to apply some seriousness in dealing with the affairs of higher learning institutions.

"If the institution is not funded, it is the problem of government, government is failing to run these institutions. It is not just salaries, they owe pensioners eight years back. People are on their third contracts. You finish a contract they don't pay you your gratuity, you finish another contract, they don't pay, you are on your third contract and they haven't paid you your gratuities. So what we are saying is that it seems they don't have the ability or they are not willing. Maybe they are using the money for something else," said Dr Lampi.

"We appeal that institutions such as the university and other institutions like health institutions be looked at with urgency. These are the bloodline of the nation. If you do not have institutions such as the University of Zambia, many professionals out there will not be there. We are the ones who train the doctors, economists... so I think there has to be a little more seriousness in the way these institutions are looked at. There is always a rush, when there are problems here they say 'oh no, universities are just unruly'. You provoke situations and then you say 'they are unruly?' Look at the problems before they start, not reacting after they have gone out of hand."

Meanwhile, CBU lecturers also downed tools, saying they could not put water in their cars.

"Our members are stuck and don't know what to do. The only information we are getting is that management is still waiting for government to fund, which for us is strange because these people have been employed to source for funding and not just sit in their offices and waiting for funding. So we wrote to them and told them that our members won't be available because they don't have means of coming to work. We can't put water in our vehicles, others come from far places like Ndola, Kalulushi and it is just impossible for them to move. So the situation remains the same no classes," said Ngosa.

Chimese, wife, Chita Lodge owner plead not guilty to money laundering

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Former Zambia Air Force (ZAF) Commander Lt Gen Eric Chimese and two others have pleaded not guilty to seven counts of abuse of authority and money laundering.

In this matter, Chimese, 50, is jointly charged with his wife Sharon Gray Chimese, 45 and Chita Lodge Limited managing director James Chungu, who is otherwise nicknamed "Jimmy Fingers".

Chimese is charged with four counts of abuse of authority and three counts of money laundering.

Sharon and Chungu are charged with one count of money laundering each, and are jointly charged with Chimese.

In count one, it is alleged that between June 2015 and June 2018 in Lusaka, Chimese being a public officer at the time, namely ZAF Commander, did engage Jack Mwape, a Casual Daily employee of ZAF, to install tiles on his private property situated on plot number 2303/Q in Ibex Hill, an arbitrary act which was prejudicial to the interests of the government of Zambia.

In count two, it is alleged that Chimese on the same dates in Chilanga district, did engage the same Jack Mwape, to install tiles on his private property situated on Farm number 4301/31 in Eureka Area.

In count three and four, Chimese on the same dates being a public officer at the time namely, ZAF Commander, engaged Katema Chuulu, a Casual Daily Employee of ZAF, to install tiles on the said properties in Ibex Hill and in Eureka Area.

In count five, it is alleged that Chimese and Chungu on dates unknown but between January 2012 and February 2019 in Lusaka, jointly and whilst acting together, concealed and disguised the rights with respect to ownership of nine flats, a single storey building, one Guest Wing and one semi detached cottage situated on Farm number 2303/Q in Ibex Hill, knowing or having reason to believe that the said property were proceeds of crime.

In the sixth count, Chimese on the same dates in Lusaka, possessed nine flats, one single storey building, one guest wing and one semi detached cottage situated on the

said farm, knowing that the said properties were proceeds of crime.

And in the seventh count, it is alleged that Chimese and his wife Sharon between January 2012 and February 2019, in Chilanga district, jointly and whilst acting together, did possess two houses situated on Farm number 4301 in Eureka Area, knowing or having reason that the said properties were proceeds of crime.

The trio are being represented by Kelvin Bwalya Fube, Mark Haimbe and Kebby Wishimanga.

And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Monday, Deputy Chief State Advocate at National Prosecutions Authority Gamaliel Zimba, informed the court that consent to prosecute the matter was ready.

And when the magistrate read out the charges to accused persons, the trio pleaded not guilty in all counts.

The court then adjourned the matter to April 12 for mention and May 3, 6 and 8 for trial.

All three accused persons are on bond.



CHIPATEPANTE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

By Patricia Mwashingwele

Soon we will have the best Universities in the world in our country. The intelligence and competence of our children will be equal to or greater than that of the greater powers, and our country, Rwanda will be a new door of opportunity, knowledge, technology and innovation for all African children and the world who want to learn from us or bring us their knowledge. Rwanda will not only be the rendezvous of civilizations, but also of science and technology. Although we are now far from our past, let us make good use of the present to hit the future. Because the most difficult is no longer where we come from, but rather where we want and dream to go. In Rwanda, we desire and dream to go far, thanks to this people and to this now conscious youth (President Paul Kagame, Rwanda).

The above quote demonstrates a fundamental commitment to changing society for the good of all Rwandese people. Other African states can do well to emulate the role model that Rwanda has become. We wish such references would be from our beloved Zambia; unfortunately, our current conditions and especially the state of higher education is nothing to write home about.

The whole country is aware of the financial and operational woes besetting our institutions of higher learning. The principal reason for the non-ending problems at our Universities is basically that Government is not adequately funding the institutions, which struggle with shoe-string budgets, year in year out. A common question that people often ask is why new Private Universities seem to be running better than UNZA and CBU.

This comparison is as misplaced and patently wrong! Both the CBU and UNZA are public universities, meaning they are supposed to be funded 100 percent by the Government, as indeed is the practice with other Universities in the region. While private Universities charge fees that reflect costs, the Government dictates what fees UNZA and CBU can charge.

The nation should know that the Universities actually raise the bulk of money used for operational costs, with Government supplementing. Unfortunately, almost the whole budget is spent on operational

costs and hardly any remains for capital costs, which explain the dilapidated state of infrastructure on the public Universities. The Universities would have actually been generating more resources, if it was granted more autonomy for setting tuition fees. Numerous proposals have repeatedly been turned down by Government. This leads to a paradox where the Government expects the Universities to generate own resources, but also strangely will not allow them to adjust tuition fees. How then are the public Universities expected to adequately meet their costs?

The PF Government has lamentably failed to adequately fund the two public Universities, and hence the perennial financial problems that have affected the two institutions. Although the difficulties facing our Institutions of higher learning precede the current Government, the PF chipantepante way of doing things has compounded the situation. When they assumed power, the PF Government woke up one day and, against all logic, proclaimed a strange policy of constructing Universities in all the provinces. Construction works for two Universities were commenced in the northern region of the country. In Lusaka, construction of Chalimbana and Palabana, which are literally within walking distance of each other, was also commenced. The PF had inherited a fairly healthy treasury, which allowed them to go on a thoughtless construction expedition. With time, however, they ran out of money before these projects could be completed. The contractors who were engaged to construct Chalimbana and Palabana Universities abandoned the construction works, owing to non/delayed payments. A lot of money was wasted on these uncompleted projects, money which would have been utilized for more pressing needs in the country.

Not only have they failed to complete these projects, the Chipantepante Government also did not think through how and where they were going to get Lecturers for the new Universities. Lecturers are not manufactured through "abradabra" tricks, neither are they manufactured on the streets, like political carders! You need a minimum of six years to develop a Junior Lecturer, and a minimum of twelve years to develop an Associate Professor! How the PF planned to develop

such human resources with a short space of time for their one-University-per-province madness is not only mind-boggling, but also reflects a patently delusional Government. Being used to short cuts, and afraid of deep thought, the Chipantepante group simply damped the running of new Universities on already overstretched UNZA and CBU!! One would think it was a joke, but this is the cold reality of Government made simple in today's Zambia.

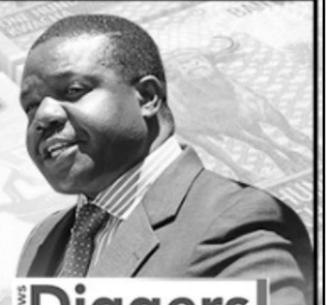
It is clear that higher education has been mismanaged in the country, and at this rate, the country risks becoming even more uncompetitive, at the very time when other countries, such as Rwanda are radically changing their countries through quality higher education. While our neighbors... desire and dream to go far..., we seem to be content with mediocrity. While our neighbors are investing in the education of their youth, we seem to be content with maintaining our youth's helplessness and just use them as political tools! This is not right and this must be stopped! A better Zambia is possible and UPND will deliver that better Zambia. A UPND Government will radically change the manner in which higher education is managed. Like we have consistently observed, education is the best equalizer in life and we pledge to ensure that it continues to play this important role through:

- Resumption of adequate and timely funding for our Public Universities and ensuring greater operational autonomy, so that our Universities concentrate on their core business.
- Reintroducing full bursaries for all needy students in all public institutions of higher learning; no talented young person should be denied access to higher education because of financial difficulties.
- While acknowledging the importance of University education, we shall revamp and modernize vocational and trades training institutions, which will produce the needed skills for industry.
- Ensure prudent implementation of projects, including Universities and vocational and trades skill centers through project appraisal.



Talking Business with Chibamba Kanyama

Chibamba Kanyama is founding partner of Bridges Limited; Corporate Leader; public speaker; communication specialist and strategist



...Only in **Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

CHANGE IS AN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS CULTURE

Any kind of change calls for real action. The key predicament (for ZSIC Limited around 2003) was that the corporate culture was not suitable for the market that wanted efficiency, speed and results. To achieve the change we desired, the business needed to change the culture by first putting the house in order. By internally assessing our weaknesses, we affirmed the fact that the potential existed to make our business accepted by the entire market, including the most difficult clients. It took a lot of patience and determination to perform the right restructuring tasks. For example, we had to analyse all the processes of the business, from the capturing of new business to the moment we delivered on the transaction. Wherever we identified weaknesses, steps were immediately taken to look at ways of improving the process. Part of this required re-training all the employees involved in the process. Given that our competitors had a culture of efficiency and quality, we identified opportunities for automation or computerisation. The implications were obvious. Some members of staff had to lose jobs or be redeployed. We also considered opportunities to optimize the business structure and staffing levels. We were, therefore, prompted to break the company into subsidiary companies through which we could obtain the new business culture. We further hired an external company to carry out a skills audit so as to help management determine any gaps in competences. It was likely the company was not performing to expected competitive standards because we lacked the relevant skills. Management meticulously implemented a two year recruitment and selection process with the hope that the changes would support the vision of repositioning the company in a changing market. All employees were oriented in performance and change management. Since

I was the team leader for this exercise for a period of four years, I concluded that it takes a lot of commitment to change the values of a business. Many colleagues were afraid of the change, but change is an essential business

value chain and supplier networks initially monopolised by international capital. Most of them prefer dealing with their own affiliates while local players only see money fly over their heads. Local entrepreneurs will

“In business, you always have to identify with those with the money”

culture.

This highly costly exercise was not only aimed at managing the costs. The change was essential towards aligning the business towards the expectations of the market. We desperately needed to build new alliances with critical players in the market. In business, you always have to identify with those with the money. If you are not aligned with such businesses, you will be playing with pappies.

Additionally, in modern markets, we are dealing with fragmented but well knitted business networks. We also have the international businesses exerting a lot of pressure on local businesses through performance benchmarks. Money is moving away from the government and their agents such as parastatal companies to the private sector. In large sectors dominated by international players such as mining and oil extraction companies, money is circulating among the same international players.

It is a motley of alliances that will support the vision of any business. This is because large companies investing in foreign countries have brought with them their own

generally have to develop networks to break into this circle.

In short, one has to be very astute and dynamic to know where the money is. Entrepreneurs constantly need to embrace strategic alliances with all the investors and entrepreneurs in their country by moving away from the backseat mentality towards developing networks that support the business. We have to demolish the walls of fear by getting close to those that have the money. In developing these strategic alliances, businesses will need to position themselves properly by making hard decisions centred on change.

While positioning through large business networks remains an effective business tradition, we must carry out this strategy with diligence. The primary strategy of any business in the new global economy is to develop effective and efficient business networks but these must be relevant. Most entrepreneurs are spending too much energy and time courting companies that only have the brand name but without money. At the end of it, you would have sold your products and services but without meaningful financial return.

By Chisoni Mumba, PhD

Dear Editor,
On this particular day, I write to emphasise the role that women play in the development of small ruminants (goat and sheep) value chains in Zambia. This year's International Women's Day theme is, "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change". The theme focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure (UN WOMEN 2018). The theme resonates very well with the current government efforts of commercialising the small ruminant value chain in anticipation for the much talked about Saudi Arabian goat and sheep export market. It is worth noting that the small ruminant commercialisation agenda is championed by among others, two women who are so passionate about it. These are none other than, the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Honourable Kampamba Mulenga-Chewe,

Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate For Change: The Role of Women in Commercialising Small Ruminant Value Chains



and the Chairperson of the Zambia Goats and Sheep Task Force, Mrs Veronica Sampa-Pepala. I have previously written on the significance of commercialising the small ruminant value in Zambia in the article accessible on this link (<https://diggers.news/guest-diggers/2018/12/14/>)

commercialising-the-small-ruminants-value-chain-will-have-broad-and-significant-socioeconomic-impact-on-rural-livelihoods-in-zambia/). One of the significant benefits of developing small ruminant value chains, which I highlighted in the article, was, “gender and social

inclusiveness in national economic activities. In most cultures in Zambia, men own cattle and only a son inherit when the male household head passes on. However, women mostly own small livestock such as goats and chickens. Commercialising the small ruminant value chain will involve

more women and other marginalised communities in livestock production. A joint involvement of male and female in goat rearing regardless of social strata is a catalyst for national socioeconomic development”. This statement is in line with this year's theme. As we are developing small ruminant value chains, let us think equal by ensuring that women are not left behind. Women can efficiently be organised in cooperatives that can drive the small ruminants value chains development agenda. Let us make deliberate efforts to build or develop small ruminant market models, services and infrastructure that will not exclude the needs of women. Similarly, innovations and technologies in the development of the small ruminant value chains must be gender responsive in order to achieve transformative gains to the

Zambian economy. This means that women's ideas and experiences must equally influence the design and implementation of market innovations that will improve small ruminants production and productivity. I believe that the stakeholders involved in the small ruminant value chain development agenda will consider this theme as they are commercialising value chains. Indeed time is now, let us think equal, build smart and innovate for the transformation of the small ruminants value chains. Let me end by calling on all women to take interest and be involved in the small ruminants value chains development. I wish all women a happy women's day. **The author is a Senior Lecturer of Livestock/Animal Health Economics at the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine. Email: cmumba@unza.zm, Mobile: +26097717258**

We love PS Kasolo's honesty

Honourable Dora Siliya must be the happiest minister in Cabinet, having been given such a talkative Permanent Secretary like Mr Chanda Kasolo who is, no doubt, doing all the dirty work for her and the Ministry of Information.

And truth be told, we love Mr Kasolo because he is a very honest man. In fact, he is so brutally honest that sometimes we fear that he may soon get in trouble for saying the truth about the state of affairs in Zambia, vis-à-vis media freedom and the general political situation.

There are five very critical things that Mr Kasolo has pointed out in the past few days. We don't see how any right thinking Zambian can disagree with the observations that this Permanent Secretary has made; and this is why we can't thank President Lungu enough for exhuming him from Chipata and bringing him to the chief government spokesperson's ministry. Finally, we have a government official who sees things as they are.

Without further ado, let's look at the five brutal truths that Mr Kasolo has unveiled about the state of governance and the media in Zambia.

ONE: "ZNBC needs to show a little bit of balance. This is something that we can achieve over time. It is difficult in our society because democracy does not come easy. We are a naturally dictatorial society and so to bring in this foreign system of democracy is a real challenge."

Who can disagree with Mr Kasolo that we are living under a dictatorial society? He is on point.

TWO: "Journalists at ZNBC fear bringing

opposition leaders to interviews because they fear that if they do so, the politicians in the ruling party will jump on them, that's a fact, they fear for their jobs."

This is exactly what Zambians have been saying, but those in government have been denying this simple fact. Who can disagree with this brutal truth from Mr Kasolo?

THREE: "As IBA we can't go to ZNBC and say 'come on, we are monitoring you and we don't like what you said here and you are biased on this' we can't because they are not in the Act. That is a fact... in fact, IBA is absolutely toothless when it comes to ZNBC."

What more does anyone want to hear from an honest government official? IBA is an attack dog for private media, nothing less. And there is no simpler way of putting it than Mr Kasolo has done.

FOUR: "We need to make ZNBC a trusted news source, at the moment everyone is suspicious of their news, and they are looking at them saying 'no these are biased.'"

Indeed there is no need for anyone to sugarcoat

this fact, very few people watch ZNBC lately because of its misleading propaganda. Even ZNBC themselves watch private media because their news is boring.

FIVE: "We expected to see the church mother bodies to comment on the Lusaka Hustle show because it's a morality issue, it's a religious issue but they didn't say anything! But on this Prime TV case, which is fairly a political issue, they have come out."

Once again, Frank Kasolo is very right. Like we pointed out in our previous opinion, the Prime TV case is neither a legal issue, nor is it an ethical issue. Rather, it is a "political issue" and that "political issue" is a 2021 election agenda.

This is the highest degree of honesty that citizens will ever get from a government leader. Kasolo has been able to say out what other government leaders have been failing to admit. Of course there are areas where Mr Kasolo is offside, and we can't blame him because, just like ZNBC employees, he also has to say certain unreasonable things in order to protect his job.

For example, Mr Kasolo says Zambia is the freest country in Africa where press freedom is concerned. The latest World Press Freedom Index puts Ghana at number one, followed by Namibia and South Africa. Zambia is not even in the top 20, it comes somewhere around number 30, even worse than Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania. So we can only assume that Mr Kasolo's Google stopped working.

Then Mr Kasolo also says his ministry is not pushing Prime TV to start supporting the PF but they want the station to be fair and factual in its reporting.

He adds that: "We will regulate journalists because they have failed to regulate themselves. We need an association' just like LAZ for the lawyers, just like CIMA, ACCA, etc. So, we have written a draft which will give guidelines as to who can be called a journalist. It will give guidelines to the minimum qualifications of a journalist."

Maybe before we talk about qualifications of a journalists; Zambians would like to know, what are

the minimum qualifications for one to be appointed Permanent Secretary in this government? Is it a form five certificate? Is it a forged PhD from Oxford University?

We have said this several times that there is no human being who is born with a 'mandatory' Constitutional right to practice law, there is no one who is born with such a Constitutional right to practice medicine. But all the individuals serving in the named professions above are born with the Constitutional right to express themselves, without any qualification. No one should regulate any citizen's freedom of expression, be it a lawyer or a doctor. If that lawyer or doctor defames or maligns another citizen while expressing their views, there are enough laws that protect such a victim of that malice or defamation.

Our point has been that this same freedom of expression is the bedrock of not just journalism, but all other freedoms. Unlike any other profession, press freedom thrives on freedom of expression. That does not mean that we are free to insult anyone

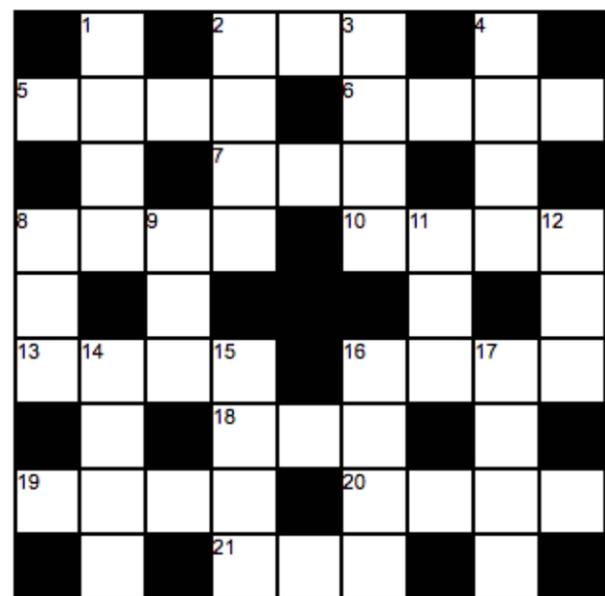
we don't like. Those who break the law must be prosecuted and punished if found wanting.

Our concern is that while the PF is waging a vigorous campaign against Prime TV on grounds that the media house has been televising malicious and defamatory materials against its leadership, none of them is dragging the station to court, instead they are rushing to IBA. Why is that so? Why isn't anyone in PF suing Prime TV for defaming them? The answer is simple, this is not a legal issue. Like Mr Kasolo rightly pointed out, it's a political issue. What is hurting them is that this station is propping up the opposition.

If we may ask, and we need someone in the Patriotic Front to answer this question very honestly: For argument's sake, let's assume that it is true that Prime TV has entered into a partnership with UPND to become the opposition party's media wing, what is wrong with that? If UPND has bought Prime TV, so what? Is it a crime for Prime TV to stop covering the PF and only cover UPND?

If Prime TV is expressing biased opinions on its programmes, the PF has two options. One, they can go to court and sue for damages like we stated; or two, they can open their own TV station and televise their own propaganda. After all, we all know which private TV stations they already own, why are they not satisfied with their propaganda on these TV stations which they have bought?

Crossword puzzle 311



"In science, work (W) is done when force (F) moves a body through a distance (D). It is the same with our every day affairs. When you don't progress, no work is done irrespective of the force (power) you have" - Israelmore Ayivor

- | Across | Down |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2. Over the hill | 1. Region |
| 5. A shellfish | 2. A woodwind |
| 6. Unattractive | 3. Keister |
| 7. Big clumsy man | 4. Level |
| 8. One sheet of paper | 8. Dowel |
| 10. Inescapable outcome | 9. Slang for girl |
| 13. Game with pitching and driving | 11. Aspirin |
| 16. Give a pink slip to | 12. Lodge member |
| 18. Baseball ref | 14. Force a person out |
| 19. Requests | 15. Worry |
| 20. Egg on | 16. Tater |
| 21. Strips of grass | 17. Zoo enclosure |

Solutions to puzzle 310



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Kasolo's remark that Zambia is naturally dictatorial

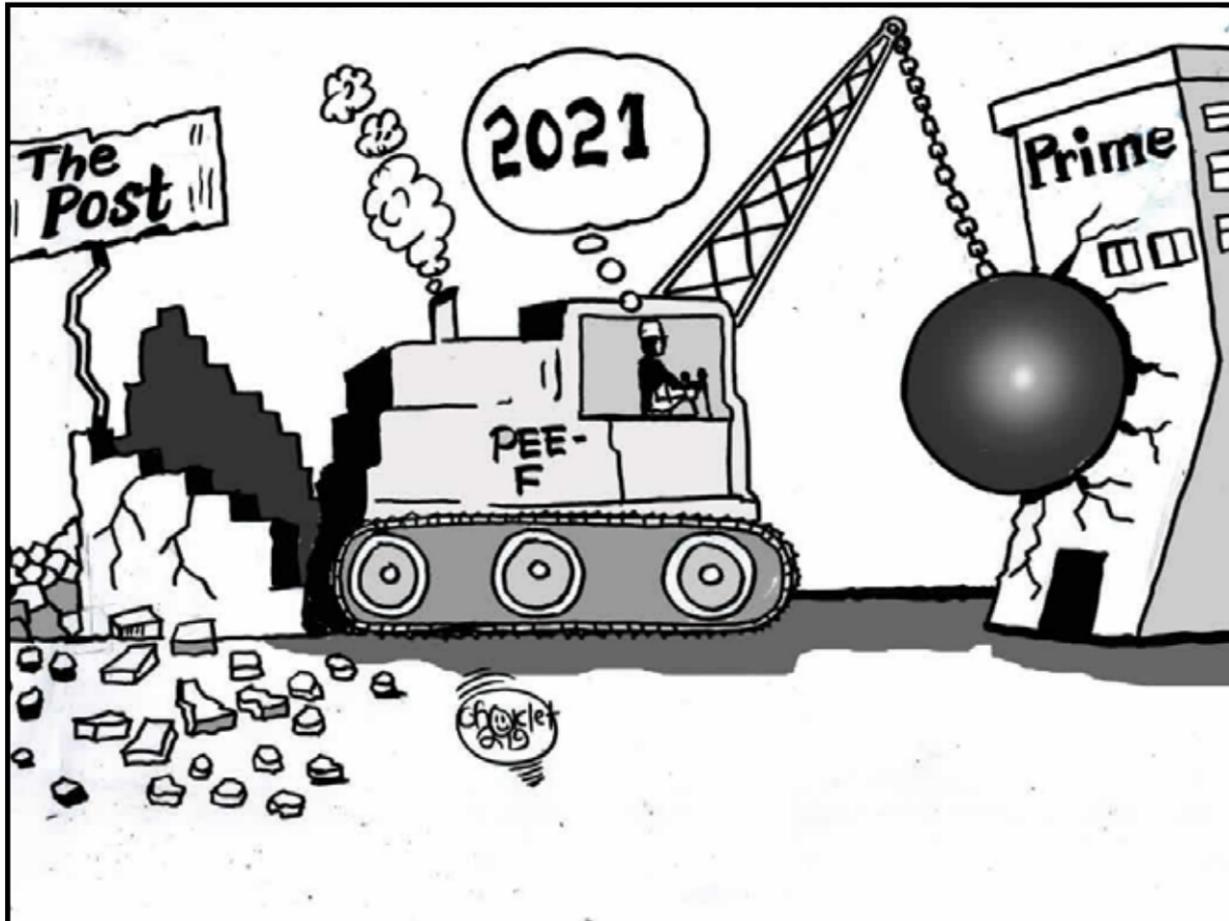
Editor,
"Chanda Kasolo has been very frank on the suspension of the Prime TV licence. Now I see why Dora Siliya was jittery during the Press Briefing. ZNBC has been ORDERED NOT to COVER the opposition. But the Opposition is still mandated by some archaic law to pay TV LEVY so that ZNBC

covers the PF and those who agree with it ONLY. Chanda Kasolo agrees like many normal thinking Zambians that this is DICTATORIAL. So as CEO of the Ministry he will ORDER ZNBC to cover the opposition. But since it is President Edgar C Lungu who INSTRUCTED the IBA through Davies Mwila to Suspend the Prime TV licence it was above him to "lift" it before the elapse of the 30 days. But to say even BBC is biased towards the ruling party is like someone covered in faecal matter accusing another person to have farted. Though he is again correct to say the PF governs this nation in a Village Chief Dictatorial fashion. The Chief and Elders are always "right"? In short Chanda Kasolo is correctly reminding us that despite all these Constitutions we are basically the same BACKWARD society with the Chief flying about in a Gulf Stream Executive jet as his Indunas cruise about in expensive cars. Very little or nothing has come from this PF led government," - Christopher Kalima

"Zambia is naturally a dictatorial, democracy is a challenge', let's read between lines guys," - Innocent Mulumbwe

"The PF has always been inclined to a dictatorial system. Not long from Now, it shall be openly advocating a return to One Party rule. This from Kasolo is no coincidence. The wheels are in motion to take us back to One Party rule with Edgar as Life President. You are warned!" - Chilala Muhyila

"As a people, if we accept such, before we know it Zambia will be a complete dictatorship. Let us not allow those in power to take advantage of their positions and misuse us. Remember, the only power they have is what we have given them. They might humiliate one person for standing up to them, but if we can all stand together and say enough is enough they will yield to our power. Let's stand up for freedom!" - Joe Phiri



US Embassy's observation that private media is viewed as opposition

Editor,

"It's because of 'fear of the unknown'! Any 'Shadow' is an opposition!" - Moses Kabwatha

"It is hard for the champions of freedom of the press and expression to keep quiet when such freedoms are being abused. Thanks to McIntosh and others for adding to our voices," - Nkumbu Msyani Venus

"Excellent reasoning sir instead of embracing divergent views they simply shut. Where are we heading to?" - Emmanuel Fulawulu

"The way ZNBC as a public

broadcaster has been made to black out news which brings out the ills of government and the opposition coverage. Private media fills up that gap which makes the government deem them as opposition media. It's a pity that news is prescribed. This has even led people to despise ZNBC. Media is meant to disseminate information to the public. And ZNBC has low viewership, making the Zambian public misinformed," - Howard Kalinda

"The same and worse is happening in US by Trump who chased the CNN from White House," - Boyd Lackson Z

Govt's 4% pay rise offer to civil servants

Editor,

"If you ask me, a 4% reduction from the 37.5% PAYE tax band would be more appreciated by the entire labour force - civil servants and private sector employees alike, than the increment," - Kumoyo T Makai

"But all this mess was caused by the PF who revised civil service wages in 2011....u now have a situation that over 50 percent of revenue collected goes to paying salaries. ...Over 40 percent is now going to debt service leaving less than 10% for everyone else... clearly that is not a sustainable way to run a Treasury," - Musopelo Chilongoshi

"4% pay rise with an annual inflation rate of 8%, that's actually a salary reduction. These unions are weak and compromised. The annual salary structure should be inflation rate plus 4%, so they should demand for 12%," - Musonda Banda

"My comment has been suspended by IBA....till after 30 days if I will comply to using proper grammar, thus when it will appear on FB," - Happy Mcsilz

"They increased their dues by a bigger percentage and backdated to January 2018 but the civil servants are given peanuts. To put it into perspective, a civil servant whose gross salary is K6,000.00 will have an increment of K240.00. With the PAYE, Napsa contribution and other deductions considered, that 4% makes little difference. Shameful," - Mukube Pumulo Kelvin

Anti-depression drug spray approved in US

The US drugs regulator has approved the sale of a new nasal spray to treat depression. Manufacturer Janssen says Esketamine can lift a patient's mood within 24 hours of use. The drug is intended for patients who have not responded to two other, conventional antidepressants which can take weeks to have an effect. But critics argue that the spray - sold as Spravato - may have been approved without adequate testing. The spray was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s advisory panel in February, and can cost up to \$885 (£673) per treatment. In a statement, Janssen said it

offers "a potential therapy for adults living with treatment-resistant depression," including help with tackling suicidal thoughts. Traditional antidepressants like Prozac try to ease depression by making more serotonin available in the brain to pass messages between nerve cells. Serotonin is thought to have a good influence on mood, emotion and sleep. In contrast, esketamine targets glutamate, a chemical linked with learning and memory, and generally considered the most essential for normal brain function. The spray is absorbed through the nose into the blood stream and must be taken along with another, oral, anti-depressant. "I have no doubt in my mind that this is a very useful treatment," Gerard Sanacora, a psychiatrist



and the director of the Yale Depression Research Program, told health news publication Stat. "[But this] has to be balanced with, how do we use this rationally, and in what step in

care do we use this medicine." The drug will come with a "boxed warning" that it may cause suicidal thoughts and dissociation, a sense of detachment from one's memory and sense of identity.

As a result, patients must be monitored for at least two hours every time they take Spravato. Some panel members have publicly raised concerns about these side-effects and a shortage of long-term data on its health

effects. "The threshold has been two adequate and well-controlled trials. In this case, they only got one," Dr Erick Turner, a former FDA reviewer and professor at Oregon Health and Science University, told Stat. Others have raised concerns about the risk of abuse, due to the drug's links with ketamine. Ketamine is used in medicine to numb the body or induce sleep, and sometimes prescribed for depression. But the drug also has a reputation for recreational misuse. About 300 million people suffer from depression worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. The UN body said depression-related suicide was the second-leading cause of death among people aged 15-29 around the world. **BBC**

Turkey's economy slides into recession

Turkey went into recession at the end of last year, according to the country's official statistics office. The Turkish Statistical Institute said the economy shrank by 2.4% in the fourth quarter of 2018, from the previous quarter. It followed a 1.6% drop the previous quarter, making two quarters of falling growth - the definition of recession. A trade war with the US sparked a steep fall in Turkey's currency, making imports far more expensive. The two countries are opposed on a range of issues including how to fight the Islamic State group in Turkey's neighbour Syria, Turkey's plans to buy Russian missile defence systems and how to punish the alleged plotters of a failed coup in Turkey in 2016 which attempted to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkey also wants the extradition of a US pastor who is facing terror and espionage charges in Turkey. **BBC**

At least 19 UN-affiliated personnel killed in Ethiopian crash

At least 19 people affiliated with the United Nations were among those killed in the crash on Sunday of an Ethiopian Airlines jet near Addis Ababa, according to the UN migration agency chief. Authorities said all 157 people on board were killed when the Boeing 737 crashed shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa on a flight to Nairobi, where the UN conference was being held. "Early indications are that 19 staff members of UN-affiliated organizations perished," said International Organization for Migration head Antonio Vitorino. "Numerous other staff members from at least five UN and affiliated organisations are understood to have also perished," he said. Along with the IOM, the World Food Program, UN

Refugee Agency, World Bank, UN Environment Agency and others lost colleagues, he said. Among the IOM staff on the plane was Anne Feigl, who worked for the agency's mission in Sudan. Mission chief Catherine Northing remembered Feigl as "an extremely valued colleague and popular staff member, committed and professional." Meanwhile, World Food Program director David Beasley, who confirmed seven of his staff had died, said: "As we mourn, let us reflect that each of these WFP colleagues were willing to travel and work far from their homes and loved ones to help make the world a better place to live." In a statement, Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, did not confirm the number of



UN Members have a moment of silence for the victims, including 19 UN workers, of Ethiopia Airlines' crash before the 4th UN Environment Assembly at the UN headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

colleagues among the dead -- but said his agency had suffered a "huge loss." A UN source had earlier added

that freelance interpreters travelling to a UN conference on the environment might also be among the dead. Establishing the exact number of UN personnel on the flight was complicated by the fact that some had informed the United Nations of their travel plans while others had not, and not all were using their UN passports to travel, the source said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply saddened at the tragic loss of lives." "He conveys his heartfelt sympathies and solidarity to the victims' families and loved ones, including those of United Nations staff members, as well as sincere condolences to the government and people of Ethiopia," the statement said. "The United Nations is in contact with the Ethiopian authorities and working closely with them to establish the details of United Nations personnel who lost their lives in this tragedy." Meanwhile, Ethiopian Airlines has grounded its Boeing Co 737 MAX 8 fleet until further notice, the airline said on its Twitter account on Monday, a day after a crash killed all 157 people on board one of its

planes of the same type. "Although we don't yet know the cause of the crash, we had to decide to ground the particular fleet as extra safety precaution," the airline said. Ethiopian Airlines has a fleet of four 737 MAX 8 jets, not counting the one that crashed on Sunday, according to flight tracking website FlightRadar24. China on Monday ordered its airlines to suspend operations of their 737 MAX 8 jets by 6pm following the crash in Ethiopia, the second of a Boeing 737 MAX jet since one operated by Indonesia's Lion Air crashed in October. Boeing Co said on Sunday it will postpone the planned ceremonial debut of its 777X widebody aircraft after the crash. A Boeing spokesman said there was no delay to the 777X programme. Boeing said that after the crash of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 it is focused on "supporting" the airline and would not proceed with Wednesday's planned debut of the 777X in Seattle. "We will look for an opportunity to mark the new plane with the world in the near future," the company said. **Reuters/AFP**

Barbie celebrates 60 years of evolution

Barbie, the fashion doll famous around the world, celebrated her 60th anniversary with new collections honouring real-life role models and careers in which women remain under-represented. It is part of Barbie's evolution over the decades since her debut at the New York Toy Fair on March 9, 1959. To mark the milestone, manufacturer Mattel Inc created Barbie versions of 20 inspirational women from Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka to British model and activist Adwoa Aboah. The company also released six dolls representing the careers of astronaut, pilot, athlete, journalist, politician and firefighter, all fields in which Mattel said women are still under-represented. Barbie is a cultural icon celebrated by the likes of Andy Warhol, the Paris Louvre museum and the 1997 satirical song "Barbie Girl" by Scandinavian pop group



Aqua. She was named after the daughter of creator Ruth Handler. Barbie has taken on more than 200 careers from surgeon to video game developer since her debut, when she wore

a black-and-white striped swimsuit. After criticism that Barbie's curvy body promoted an unrealistic image for young girls, Mattel added a wider variety of skin tones, body shapes, hijab-wearing

dolls and science kits to make Barbie more educational. Barbie is also going glamorous for her six-decade milestone. A diamond-anniversary doll wears a sparkly silver ball gown. **Reuter**

Lowly Suns shock Warriors, Lowry shines for Raptors

Phoenix guard Devin Booker scored 37 points as the Suns snapped an 18-game losing streak to the two-time defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors with a 115-111 victory on Sunday.

Golden State had no answer for Booker's late charge as the American scored 13 consecutive points during a key fourth quarter stretch for the Suns.

The win ended the league's longest active losing streak to one team, which dated back to November 2014. It was also the first road victory for the Suns in 20 games against a Western Conference opponent.

"We are getting challenged, we are getting teams' best shots," said Warriors superstar Stephen Curry.

Kevin Durant had 25 points for the mistake-prone Warriors before leaving with a bruised right ankle midway through the fourth quarter.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr said after the game that the injury did not seem serious and that an MRI would likely not be needed.

"I think he's going to be all right," Kerr said. "He had an ankle contusion, but I don't think it's bad."

Booker made all nine of his free throws and had 11 assists while Kelly Oubre scored 22 points for the Suns, who won their fourth game in the last five.

Booker hit a jump shot with five minutes to go in the fourth and then drained a three-pointer to make it 102-98 with 4:45 remaining.

Klay Thompson's two free



throws with 64 seconds to go brought the Warriors within three.

Andre Iguodala grabbed a rebound after two missed Suns

shots but Curry missed on a three with 23 seconds left. Booker then converted two free throws.

Curry finished with 18 points

on six-of-20 shooting and Thompson went 10 of 22 to finish with 28 points. Overall, the Warriors went a lowly 10 of 43 from beyond the arc.

Thompson called the game the "worst loss of the season" and criticized the Warriors' fans, saying they are not cheering hard enough.

"I expect our crowd to go into it, too," he said.

"It's hard to conjure up energy ... so we expect our fans to kind of bring that from the jump. We need energy from them because we feed off it."

- Raptors rout Heat -

Elsewhere, Kyle Lowry finished with 24 points and 10 assists as the Toronto Raptors snapped the Miami Heat's win streak at four games with a 125-104 blowout victory.

Lowry drained six three pointers and Pascal Siakam added 20 points for the Raptors, who have swept all three meetings with the Heat this season.

Raptors star Kawhi Leonard did not play -- the team did not give a specific reason but he is not believed to be hurt.

Danny Green and Norman Powell added 15 points each for Toronto, while OG Anunoby and Jeremy Lin each contributed 11 points.

Bam Adebayo led the Heat with 19 points, six rebounds and five assists. Veteran guard Dwyane Wade and Dion Waiters each had 15 points, while Rodney McGruder added 13. **AFP**

We keep records of players abroad - FAZ

By Alex Chilumbwe

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) does not require dictation from fans or soccer analysts on Zambian players that are making progress in other elite leagues both within

and outside Africa, says FAZ general secretary Adrian Kashala.

And Kashala commended Zambian export to South Africa, Mwape Musonda who plays for Black Leopards, for scoring a hat-

trick that guided the team to a 3-2 victory over Chipita United after being down by two goals.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kashala stressed that the association had keen interest in all Zambian

players that are abroad saying it was cardinal in offering advice to national team coaches and its technical bench.

"We have a media team that helps us keep records of our players that are abroad and

we really don't need to be told what to do. We know they are our players that can also help the national team that's why we have keen interest in all of them," he said.

Kashala further said that it was imperative to remind soccer fans in the country that national team selection was solely the national team coaches' responsibility.

He noted that calls for inclusion of particular Zambian players for the national team were directed to the association whose jurisdiction did not allow it to dictate to the coaches on who should be called.

"Ever since fans and analysts learnt about the hat-trick by Mwape Musonda in the PSL in South Africa, there is social media buzz saying FAZ should consider the player for national team. We can't do that because we are not coaches and our jurisdiction does not allow us to tell the coaches who they should call. They work independently," Kashala said.

"It is however very encouraging to note that Musonda scored a hat-trick and helped his side win. That's good representation and I hope coaches here are watching him. As the association, we are proud of Zambian players abroad because they are making great progress, it is not only Mwape Musonda but others too," said Kashala.

Musonda, a former ZANACO striker added to his goal account after managing a winning hat-trick in the PSL and is currently the top scorer with 12 goals.

Illness ends Serena's Indian Wells bid, Halep advances

Serena Williams's first tournament since the Australian Open came to an abrupt end on Sunday as the ailing 23-time Grand Slam champion retired from her third-round WTA match against Garbine Muguruza at Indian Wells.

Muguruza was leading 6-3, 1-0 when Williams called it a day in the battle of former world number ones because of a viral illness.

"Before the match, I did not feel great, and then it just got worse with every second; extreme dizziness and extreme fatigue," Williams said in comments released via tournament organizers.

The 10th-seeded American, continuing to work her way back up the rankings in the wake of time off to have a baby, had made a strong start, winning the first three games.

But she called for the trainer after dropping six straight.

After a long talk with medical personnel Williams took the court for the second set, but after Muguruza held serve at love Williams called a halt.

"By the score, it might have looked like I started well, but I was not feeling at all well physically," Williams said. "I will focus on getting better and start preparing for Miami."

It was the sixth meeting between Muguruza and Williams, all five prior coming in Grand Slams. The last two of those were in finals, with Williams beating



the Spaniard for the Wimbledon title in 2015 and Muguruza taking the 2016 French Open crown.

It was a tough draw for Williams, who defeated former world number one Victoria Azarenka in her second-round opener. Muguruza was sorry to see it end the way it did.

"We've played many times and it's always super-tough, super-exciting," Muguruza said.

"I wish I'm going to see her soon and feeling better," added the Spaniard, who advanced to a fourth-round clash with seventh-seeded Kiki Bertens of

the Netherlands, a 7-6 (12/10), 6-4 winner over Britain's Johanna Konta.

- Halep holds on -

Serving for the match, Bertens saved one break point and let two match points slide by before she reached the round of 16 for the first time at Indian Wells when Konta sent a forehand wide.

World number two Simona Halep had her hands full with Ukrainian qualifier Kateryna Kozlova but emerged with a 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 victory in her first meeting with the 114th-ranked player.

"It was really difficult against her because I never played against her -- it was a bit difficult to get a rhythm," Halep said.

There were service breaks aplenty as Halep and Kozlova traded four on the way to the first-set tiebreaker and four more to open the second set. Halep's two holds -- sandwiched around another break of Kozlova's serve -- put the Romanian up 5-2 but she was broken serving for the match and needed one last break of Kozlova's serve in the final game to clinch it with a backhand up the line.

"When I was leading the match, she played without fear, I felt like she was playing much better in those games," Halep said.

"It was difficult for me to close those sets, but I'm actually proud that I could do that," added the Romanian.

Halep next faces 61st-ranked Czech Marketa Vondrousova, who followed up her win over 2018 finalist Daria Kasatkina with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over 22nd seed Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia. Sixth-seeded Elina Svitolina also advanced, holding off Australian Daria Gavrilova 7-5, 6-4. **AFP**

MNGAWA IS NEW

CHIPOLOPOLO

MANAGER

By Alex Chilumbwe

The Football Association of Zambia has appointed Desmond Mngawa as senior national team manager.

The former Zanaco defender who is currently a soccer analyst takes over from Hastings Ndovi.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, FAZ Communications manager Mwazipeza Chanda said that Mngawa joins the Chipolopolo technical bench currently in camp in Lusaka.

The national team is preparing for a formality AfCON 2019 qualifying Group K game against Namibia to be played on Saturday March 23 at the Heroes Stadium in

Lusaka.

Meanwhile, 25 players have been called to camp between March 10 - 13 as follows :

Lawrence Mulenga, Justin Munyikwa, Gregory Sanjase, Allan Kamwanga, Jimmy Chisenga, Lawrence Chungu, Stephen Kabamba, Isaac Shamujompa, Luka Banda, Adrian Chama, Munene Nchimunya, Ernest Mbewe, Bruce Musakanya, Austin Muwowo, Lameck Silwamba, Benson Sakala, Jackson Chirwa, Mike Katiba, George Chaloba, Clement Mundia, Spencer Sautu, Tapson Kaseba, Moses Phiri, Alex Ngonga and Rodger Kola.

And FAZ further advised the public that the recruitment process for the positions of technical director was concluded on Friday 9 March

and four candidates were shortlisted.

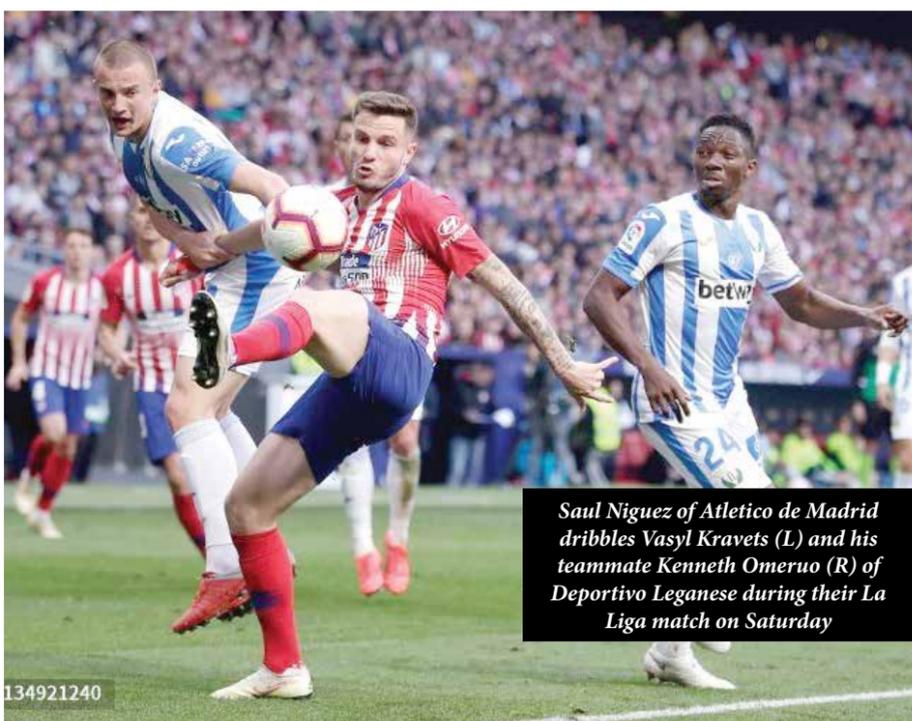
"Local and foreign applications were received and late entries were also considered. The name

of the successful candidate will be announced in due course. Recruitment of the junior national team coaches is still on-going and the association is still receiving applications," read the statement.

The Under 23 team will travel to South Africa on Monday March 11 for camp, with international friendlies lined up ahead of the March 20 game to be played in Malawi's Blantyre.

Illness ends Serena's Indian Wells bid, Halep advances

Story page 11



Saul Niguez of Atletico de Madrid dribbles Vasyl Kravets (L) and his teammate Kenneth Omeruo (R) of Deportivo Leganese during their La Liga match on Saturday



David Silva of Manchester City controls the ball during the Premier League match between Manchester City and Watford FC at Etihad Stadium on Saturday

