



US Ambassador to Zambia Eric Schultz - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

US may cut aid to Zambia - Schultz

By Mirriam Chabala
No aid package lasts forever, says United States Ambassador to Zambia Eric Schultz. Speaking to journalists after handing over the Kalewa Garrison Hospital maternity, pharmacy and laboratory departments in Ndola yesterday, Ambassador Schultz said there might be budget cuts to the aid package in Zambia. *...continues on P2*

AG REPORT EXPOSES RDA FRAUD

By Mukosha Funga

The latest Auditor General's Report has revealed that the Road Development Agency awarded contracts to 32 companies worth over K11 billion without supervising con-

sultants, leading to shoddy works. And the report further revealed that RDA over procured works by over K4 billion against the approved parliamentary budget provision. *...continues on P3*



Saviour unsettles ZRA with corruption exposé ^{P3}

Mosho places Post assets on auction ^{P3}

DEC arrests Lusaka bus conductor for trafficking heroin

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

A 22 year old bus conductor of Lusaka's Mtendere East compound has been arrested by the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) for trafficking in 21 sachets of heroin.

DEC Public Relations Officer Theresa Katongo named the suspect as Gibson Nyirenda.

Meanwhile DEC has also arrested 20 people for unlawful cultivation and trafficking in of cannabis from other parts of the country.

"Those arrested and jointly charged include Ken Sakala, 35, a businessman of Tembe village in Nyimba District and Dina Tembo, 35, a small scale farmer of the same village for unlawful cultivation of fresh cannabis plants weighing 102.3kg and trafficking in loose cannabis weighing 7.1kg," Katongo said.

"Others arrested include Charles Casto Machewu, 53, a small scale farmer of Imbunda-Lunga area in Mwinilunga District for trafficking in 10.5kg of cannabis, Constantino Mumba, 24, of Zambia compound in Serenje District for trafficking in 5.28kg of cannabis and Albert Kasuba, 34, a small scale farmer of Chabukwa village in Nchelenge District for trafficking in 3.93kg of cannabis." She said all suspects would appear in Court soon.



Dr Kenneth Kaunda at his house in Lusaka-Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Kaunda repeats, 'love one another'

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Founding president Dr Kenneth Kaunda yesterday preached his, now all common, traditional speech of

'love one another with your mind body and soul'.

This was when he graced the David Kaunda fundraising luncheon organised

by the school's alumni.

"One Zambia, One Nation. You should love one another with all your souls, heart, and strength. 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself, I thank you,' he said when called to address the pupils and former pupils.

Dr Kaunda was also honoured for his exemplary vision and commitment to educating the nation during his tenure as well as for his lifetime achievements.

And ex-DK chairman Emmanuel Banda said it was time for former beneficia-

ries of the school to plough back.

Banda said his team would raise funds to modernize the school library which was lagging behind.

"I left DK in 1994. For those who do not know, our intake was the last one for boys only. It is time for those who benefited from the school to pay back to the school. That is why we have come together to raise funds for the library so that our young ones who are still in school can also benefit," said Banda.

FDD promotes Antonio

By Diggers Reporter

Antonio Mwanza has been appointed FDD Deputy National Secretary.

In a letter of appointment signed by party National Secretary Nathan Mulonga on March 27, Mwanza had been co-opted into the party's National Policy Committee.

"Co-option into National Policy Committee as Deputy National Secretary. I write to inform you of the national policy committee's decision to co-opt you into the National Policy Committee as Deputy

National Secretary. Your appointment is subject to conditions of service and terms applicable to members of the secretariat.

it is expected of you to acquaint yourself with our party documents such as the Constitution, manifesto, disciplinary, financial and electoral regulations," read the letter.

"Your immediate attention is drawn to Articles 22, 44 and 48 of our party constitution. may I take this opportunity to congratulate you on this appointment. I trust and hope that you

shall give the best of your ability in ensuring that the party receives maximum guidance from yourself and the committee as regard to policy direction

and operation of the secretariat."

Mwanza will now double as party spokesperson until the convention later this year.

From front page

"No assistance programme lasts forever. The programme has been going on since 2004 as you heard me say. It's been over three billion dollars. The programme this year is continuing, it is actually going up so our budget went up about \$60 million from last year, it will be

US may cut aid to Zambia - Schultz

four or three million plus, so it is a lot of money. Our hope frankly is that the programme continues because we are close actually to getting epidemiological control in Zambia," said Ambassador Schultz.

"And to do that we hope

that the programme continues, now it is possible that there may be some cuts, I mean \$400 million is a lot of money but if it is cut by 25%, that's still a lot of money and we can still do a lot together with \$300 million. I have no

idea what the budget will be like for 2018, Congress will determine that ultimately."

Zambia is one of the largest recipients of aid from the US; since 2004, PEPFAR has received over \$4 billion.



Street vendors selling textile



UTH spends K1.8 million on electricity annually

By Charles Mafa

The University Teaching Hospital (UTH) spends about K1.8 million annually on electricity bills, and this far more than the institution can afford to pay. Chief Hospital Administrator Isaac Kakumbi said this during a work-

shop on 'Energy Efficiency Quick-Win Actions' initiative funded by the European Union (EU) at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka on Tuesday. He revealed that the hospital is currently "consuming more power than it is able to pay for". Kakumbi said the hospital con-

sumes a lot of energy on heating water for patients, kitchen activities and air conditioning. "At the moment we are consuming more than what we are able to pay for and to prudently utilise the limited resources that the hospital has, we are trying to see how best

we can diversify so that we are able to live within our means," said Kakumbi.

"We feel with abundant sunshine in our country, we can diversify and be able to utilise the sun as the first line of energy supply then ZESCO and generators as second

and third."

Kakumbi said the hospital has embarked on a programme to install LED lighting.

"These are cheaper. They consume less energy and lasts long," said Kakumbi.

"We're also trying to install energy

solar pumps for the water reticulation system."

UTH sits on an area of close to 120 hectares and employs about 3,640 members of staff.

It is the country's largest referral health institution providing health services for the entire country.

The workshop was attended by both local and regional stakeholders who exchanged ideas and experiences on how to reduce demand for energy.

The energy efficiency quick-win action project is aimed at cutting electricity supply deficit by encouraging use of other sources of energy. It is also meant to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for energy efficiency investments in both public and private sectors.

UTH is one of the institutions that were covered under the EU-funded energy efficiency feasibility studies whose results were launched yesterday.

Saviour unsettles ZRA with corruption exposé

By Stella Goma

UPP leader Saviour Chishimba has given ZRA a seven day ultimatum to cancel a K140 million tender it awarded to Chinese companies for an Invoicing Management System. In a statement issued today, Chishimba said he has undeniable evidence that the tender was dubiously awarded and that the contract price was inflated.

"The latest corrupt practice on the K140 million (US\$14 million) fiscalisation project under the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) is another clear case of how public officers are conniving with bogus Chinese investors to plunder public resources. We in the UPP have indisputable evidence on how the Chinese have been dubiously awarded the tender for the design, supply, delivery, installation, supervision, configuration, testing and commissioning of an Invoicing Management System (Electronic Fiscal Devices)," Chishimba said. Chishimba asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to monitor the whole process.

"While the proposed contract price by the Chinese company called Righlux Services and Inspur Group (Joint Venture) is K84, 017, 576.10, the total funding for the project is K140 million. Therefore, this whole amount would end up being committed to the project in line with the practice, under the PF-

MMD regime, of inflating contract prices during final negotiations with contractors," he said.

Chishimba said the Chinese company in question was not credible because it was associated with corrupt practices in Zimbabwe last year.

"The UPP Intelligence Unit has done due diligence, which reveals that the chosen Chinese company failed to deliver under the fiscalisation project of the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZIMRA). ZIMRA suspended its senior officials in December 2016 over the corrupt practices associated with Inspur," Chishimba disclosed.

"Worse enough, the prices that Inspur sold the Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) to business houses in Zimbabwe was more than triple the normal market price. The EFDs were as high as US\$1, 700. In addition to the high cost of EFDs, the whole project was tardy and associated with numerous technical bottlenecks which resulted in high revenue leakages in Zimbabwe... We give ZRA a seven day ultimatum to cancel the tender and re-evaluate the bids."

He said he would not allow Zambians to be put at the mercy of Chinese companies.

"With this overwhelming evidence before us, it is insane and foolish on the part of ZRA to pay a blind

eye to the rot driven by Inspur in Zimbabwe and decide to recycle corruption in Zambia. Enough is enough! The Zambia Revenue Authority must take note that it occupies a sacred position of collecting taxes on behalf of the people of Zambia. Simply put, ZRA is the financial soul of the nation and we in the UPP do not expect acts of plunder by the authority," said Chishimba.

"Zambian businesses are already

facing liquidity problems because of the high cost of doing business and corruption. All public contracts have now become a special preserve of the Chinese, Ministers and the Presidency. UPP shall not allow Zambian businesses to be subjected to the fiscalisation project which will put them at the mercy of the corrupt Chinese who would certainly supply defective EFDs at a very high cost as evidenced by the Zimbabwe case."

The UPP leader recently launched a UPP #BringBackOurMoney! campaign which has so far covered: solicitation for the appointment of a tribunal to probe Agriculture Minister Dora Siliya over the K345 million maize gate scandal and K1.23 billion financial scandals NAPSA among other issues.

Chishimba said the dossiers before his party showed that unless Zambians united to fight corruption, the future was bleak.

Auditor General exposes RDA fraud

From front page

Meanwhile, contrary to the Attorney General's recommendation, there were excessive project variations of between 50 and 400 per cent against the acceptable 25 per cent threshold of the contractual sum.

The Auditor General reported that most contractors carried out works without supervision as engineering consultants were only engaged as late as 22 months in some cases.

"During the period under review, 32 contractors with a contract sum of K11,675,882,234 were engaged and commenced work prior to the engagement of supervising consultants. In some cases, supervising consultants were engaged as late as 22 months after the commencement of works. In this respect, contractors executed works without supervision," read the report in part.

The Auditor General also noted that 29 projects with initial contract sums of K8 billion were procured and commenced without detailed designs, leading to faults in the projects.

"The purpose of designs is to comprehensively identify the scope and cost of the project and eliminate inappropriateness, inefficiency, error, omission, fault or other defects during implementation and in use. The designs are also a major input in the tendering process. In order for the contractors to be able to execute works correctly, RDA is required

to provide them with detailed engineering road designs," the Auditor General reported.

"However, contrary to this requirement, 29 projects with initial contract sums of K8,011,422,391 were procured and commenced without detailed designs. The absence of detailed road engineering designs led to preparation of inaccurate BoQs which in turn led to variations in the contracts, re-scoping of works and extension of time thereby delaying the completion of projects."

The Auditor General also reported that RDA had over procured projects thereby incurring interests and standing time claims.

"A comparison of the approved annual budget and the unconstrained budget for the period under review revealed that although the Agency received actual funds equivalent to 92 per cent of the annual work plan budget, the budget was significantly small compared to the unconstrained budget," the report read in part.

"For example in 2015, the unconstrained budget was K10,956,976,000 while the approved budget was K6,624,938,774. The actual funding was K6,318,438,922 which was 95 percent of the approved budget, but only 58 percent of the unconstrained budget. It was however observed that roads were procured at unconstrained levels thereby resulting in cash flow problems which in turn resulted in interest and standing time claims."

The Auditor General also discovered that there were excessive project variations of between 50 and 400 per cent

"Guidance from the Attorney General provided that as per best practice, all variations shall not exceed 25 percent of the contractual price. However there were excessive variations on certain contracts ranging from 50 percent to 400 percent," the Auditor General reported.

And the report revealed that RDA owes contractors almost K2 billion as of December 2016.

"Once a contractor's claim for payment is certified by the supervising consultant, RDA is obliged to settle the claim within 28 to 56 days failure to which the contractor is entitled to charge interest on the outstanding claim. An amount of K3,572,567,083 relating to a sample of 52 projects had been certified out of which K2,262,026,893 had been paid leaving a balance of K 1,777,790,549 outstanding for periods ranging from 28 to more than 400 days resulting in contractors and consultants charging interest amounting to K141,590,074 as of December 2016," the report read in part.

And the Auditor General also revealed that most subcontractors had been single sourced, without meeting the requirements.

"There was no evidence that the selection and recommendation for award of tenders to subcontractors on all the contracts followed a competitive and transparent process," read the report in part.

Mosho places Post assets on auction

By Stella Goma

Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho says Post Newspaper assets which were seized by the Zambia Revenue Authority are now going on sale.

Earlier today, News Diggers published a story, quoting an advert which originated from social media, detailing the assets which had been placed on auction sale, but readers expressed concern that the advert was fake.

When contacted to clarify, Mosho of Lewis Nathan and Advocates, who is provisional liquidator of Post Newspaper Ltd assets, said the information was true although the official advert had not yet been released.

"The advert is not officially out. It is true that an advert will start running soon for the sale of those assets but that advert is not officially published. So if you have seen an advert... what I mean is if I were you I wouldn't refer to it because it is not official. But it is true that ZRA will be going ahead to sale all the assets that it seized last year in July because assets were seized before the company was put on liquidation; you get the point, and they do have the power to go ahead and sale anyway so they are selling those assets but before that they will be an advert which will start running in the next few days. So that's the position," Mosho said.

Take a listen.

When asked why assets were going on auction when The Post shareholders were challenging the liquidation in court, Mosho said the auction sale had nothing to do with any court case.

"The sale that you called me earlier on has nothing to do with the court case. You see, the court case you are talking about started on 1st November last year, when the things that were seized by ZRA were seized earlier which was in July, so the things that were seized in July are the ones that will be sold, so it has nothing to do with the court case."

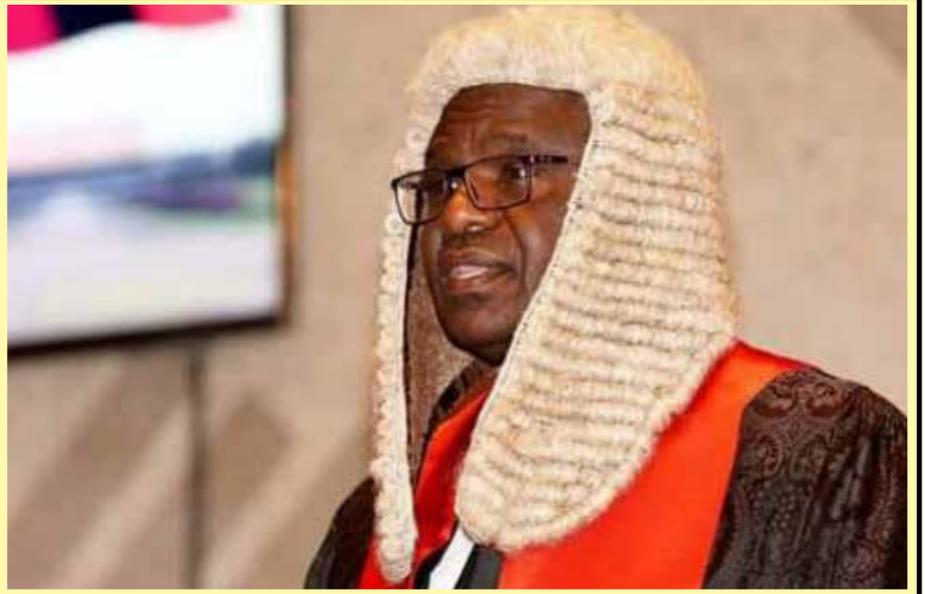
Speaker defends decision to punish UPND MPs over boycott

By Elias Banda

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Patrick Matibini has contended that there is nothing irrational about his decision to reprimand 54 UPND members of parliament for boycotting the official opening of Parliament last September. In a High-Court filed affidavit signed by deputy clerk- Administration of the National Assembly of

Zambia Cecilia Nsenduluka Mbewe, the Speaker opposed the application for judicial review saying he is guided by law in making such decisions and that he acted in accordance with the Law. Mbewe contended that the matter was not fit for investigation because the Speaker or an officer of the National Assembly had exclusive cognizance and

jurisdiction in the exercise of any power vested in them by the Constitution. The MPs are expected to file their reply on May 3 and hearing would resume on May 12 before judge Susan Wanjelani. The UPND members of parliament in this case applied for leave to commence judicial review proceedings against Speaker Matibini's decision.



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Patrick Matibini

Ex-Post employee accuses LAZ of protecting M'membe

By Elias Banda

Former Post employee Abel Mboози says allowing the Law Association of Zambia to join the liquidation case will embarrass the court and derail court proceedings as the association's interest is to protect and defend Fred

M'membe. Mboози is one of the five former Post employees who colluded with state agents to cause the liquidation of The Post Newspaper on grounds that they were owed salary and other arrears.



Former Post employee Abel Mboози

Last week, LAZ applied to join proceedings stating that the case had gained enough public interest compelling the association to join. But in an Affidavit in opposition to LAZ president Linda Kasonde's application to join proceedings filed in court on Tuesday, Mboози stated that it was pretentious for LAZ to join the case as amicus curiae (friend of the court). "That further to my paragraph 13, herein the Linda Kasonde Affidavit aforesaid is thus contemptuous is meant to demean and undermine the dispensation of justice herein and LAZ should therefore have applied to join as a subjective party rather than pretend to join as Amicus Curiae. To join these proceedings as amicus curie is merely intended to embarrass the court and derail the court proceedings as LAZ's main interest is to protect, support and defend Fred M'membe at the expense of the petitioners and first respondent herein liquidation," Mboози swore. He also submitted that LAZ's decision to appoint a lawyer to represent State Counsel Nchima Nchito in a criminal matter showed how subjective the association was. Mboози further told judge Sunday Nkonde, who is presiding over the matter, that LAZ had been quiet amidst attacks on him by The Mast Newspaper. Mboози also submitted that LAZ had not provided any evidence to its claims that judge Sunday Nkonde would not be objective and independent in handling the matter. Mboози further stated that LAZ's mandate did not allow it to interfere in private commercial matters. "That the allegation of the Linda Kasonde Affidavit in support to the effect that LAZ is a bonafide interested party is outmost misleading and untrue because the mandate, as clearly stated in Act Cap 31 does not in any way extend to interfere or collude in purely private commercial matters as the case in the liquidation of The Post Newspapers Limited (in Liquidation) proceedings," swore Mboози. "I am advised by the counsel that the application by LAZ for joinder is frivolous, vexatious and lacks merit and is intended to disrupt the smooth flow of the winding up process before this court."

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Nevers outlines Africa's survival without the West



Nevers Mumba at the GBR world congress

By Mirriam Chabala
MMD president Nevers Mumba says African natural resources must benefit Africans.

In a speech he made at the

ongoing Global Business Roundtable World Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mumba said Africa needed to take charge of the management

of its natural resources if it was to achieve prosperity. He also said African countries needed to stay in the International Criminal Court to insure

accountability amongst its leaders. "Africa needs to take charge of the management of its resources if she is to achieve sustainable prosperity, and Africa must accept

that for many decades, she has been shunted to the sidelines while Western nations exploited its vast resources," Mumba said.

"While the resources of land, minerals, water and wildlife are depleted in most of the Western World, Africa remains as the 'go to' place for these most critical resources. It's in Africa that you find gold, diamonds, copper and a host of other precious metals." Mumba, the former vice-president and High Commissioner to Canada in the MMD government, said time for Africa to depend on other countries for its survival had come to an end.

"Zambia, my own country prides herself as a world leader in copper production and has great deposits of other minerals and emeralds. The "Sabbath" for Africa is now coming to an end. The Brexit and Trump phenomenon have signaled the "coming out" of Africa. The World is changing. Europe is about to change drastically by the coming of Brexit and America is also about to drastically change by the coming in of the new U.S. President Donald Trump. It is therefore imperative that Africa considers its limited options as a result of this changing World order," Mumba said.

"Africa has been weaned off the breast of the Western World.

Africa should smell the coffee and accept that both Americans and Europeans owe it to themselves to advance their causes. We have no moral ground to complain about their democratic choices. I hope that this re-alignment of the World order is as clear to many African leaders as it is to me. For me and many other Africans, this is a good thing. It will accelerate our growth in all sectors. It will force us to place premiums on the choice of our leaders. It will also allow us to appreciate the riches that Africa is endowed with. We are off the breast and we must look elsewhere. Not China, but within the borders of our great continent," he said.

And Mumba further noted that there was need for African countries to stay at the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability amongst leaders.

"African nations must remain in ICC, but must unite to push for reforms. All heads of states must be subjected to the same rules. African governments must remain in the ICC for accountability purposes. We must however insure that the international court reforms itself. If we seek respect in the ICC we must pay our fair share," said Mumba.

KCM embarks on ambitious bio-diesel project

By Charles Mafa
Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), the country's largest integrated copper producer has launched the first bio-diesel production project in Zambia.

The project aims to cultivate elite Pongamia Pinnata trees for bio-diesel production at a mining waste site. At an event held in Chingola yesterday, Minister of Works and Supply Matthew Nkhuwa planted elite Pongamia trees on a four-hectare site at a tailings dump, as part of a pilot programme to determine the viability of producing bio-diesel from the trees.

The project has the potential to create at least 500 jobs in agro-forestry, farming, bio-energy processing and energy service delivery. The full, commercial project is targeted for 650 hectares of land with 400,000 trees to be planted at an estimated cost of US\$7 million.

Nkhuwa observed that "the government is spending huge amounts of money to import fuel into the country every month. With projects such as this, the burden on the government will be lighter and resources may be channelled to other areas for holistic development."

KCM Chief Executive Officer Steven Din said during the event that the project attested to his company's commitment to invest in clean energy and best-in-breed environmental practices, as an integral part of the KCM's vision for sustainable development.

"The trees we have planted here will re-vegetate a disused dump site, suck-up impurities and fix back nitrogen to the soil, improving its fertility. In addition to all this, employment will be created for the local people," Din said.

The mining industry in Zambia is one of the largest consumers of energy. With Zambia anticipating

growth from multiple sectors, there is forecast to be an increase in demand for energy.

KCM is working in partnership with Better World Energy to deliver the project, which is designed to fertilise the bare land

which KCM currently cannot use for agriculture purposes. In addition, the project will provide a cheap and environmental-friendly source of energy for the mining company.

Mulungushi University making losses – AG

By Mukosha Funga

THE Auditor General says Mulungushi University has been operating on losses since 2013.

And Mulungushi University owes ZRA and NAPSA over K20 million in PAYE and other contributions.

According to the Auditor General's report on parastatal bodies and other statutory institutions for the year ended December 31, 2015, the institution had recorded operation deficits for the past three years due to rising staff costs.

"As can be seen from the financial statements, the University recorded operating deficits of K2,705,508 in 2013, K4,817,800 in 2014 and K4, 076,215 in 2015. The deficits were mostly due to rising staff cost," the Auditor General stated.

The report also indicated that there had been a sharp increase in part time allowances from K61,640 in 2014 to K1,644,638 in 2015.

The Report further revealed that Mulungushi University recorded an increase in its administrative costs per student ratio.

"A comparison of the average administrative cost per student computed by dividing the total administration cost by the number of students registered in each academic year revealed that although the number of registered students was increasing, the administrative cost per student was also increasing," read the report in part.

"The average administration cost per student increased from K23, 026 in 2013 to K27, 880 in 2015 representing a percentage increase of 21 per cent. In this regard, despite the increase in the number of students from 3,255 in 2013 to 3,714 in 2015 representing a percentage increase in 14 per cent the University did not manage to cover administration costs per student efficiently."

And the Auditor General revealed that the university had not paid some of its statutory obligations.

"During the period under review, amounts totaling K21,388,918 were deducted as Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and NAPSA contributions from its employees' emoluments. However, as of September 2016, the amounts had not been remitted to the respective institutions; ZRA, K16,956,161 and NAPSA, K4,432,757," read the audit report.

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Since we launched the News Diggers! website on March 2, 2017, we have been overwhelmed by the support and numerous messages of encouragement from citizens of this country including those living in the diaspora. Interestingly, the major political rivals, UPND and the PF have also welcomed our birth and they have both warned us to remain exceptionally balanced and away from practicing "Cadre Journalism".

From the messages that we continue to receive, we can conclude that there are so many people serving in this government, doing business with the PF administration, who are thirsty for more independent journalism in Zambia. They are clearly happy that we are not wallowing in self-pity or defeat; and just like those who can't wait for the PF's tenure of office to expire, those who are enjoying government protection believe that Zambia would be a safer place if an investigative media organisation was allowed to thrive – especially one run by a young team of news reporters. Indeed the new generation of Zambians today face a daunting task of rescuing the freedom of expression and private media liberties from the jaws of state sponsored injustice.

An independent press is the lifeblood of any functioning democracy and the challenge of reclaiming Zambia's true democratic accolade cannot continue to rest upon the founding fathers of this nation. We, the young generation at News Diggers! realise that the future of this country's media freedoms lie in our hands. We realise that the future of a free press lies in the hands of the young generation at Prime TV, the young generation at Radio Phoenix, the young generation

What cause are we fighting for?

at QFM radio and those at Muvi TV. The survival of independent journalism is in the hands of the young people at Radio Mano, Diamond TV, Breeze FM and Sky Radio. We cannot continue to rely on Vernon Mwaanga's voice in the fight for press freedom in Zambia; we must instead learn from his experience and take over the mantle of leadership.

When Fred M'membe, a world press freedom hero, is being smoked out of his own country for being critical in his reporting, that should not only raise a red flag, but also accelerate efforts by the younger generation to step in. Fred M'membe is not the sole beneficiary of independent journalism in Zambia, it is the general public and of course us, the budding news reporters employed at various private media houses across the country. What the Zambian people are asking for is professional, ethical and balanced news reporting, and therefore, we young journalists must stand up and give the Zambian masses what they yearn for. Let us not passively wait for Honourable Tutwa Ngulube or Honourable Garry Nkombo to stand on the floor of the National Assembly and speak on our behalf.

It must not come to you as a surprise that our politicians no longer depend on Grey Zulu, James Mapoma or Dr Kenneth Kaunda for their political

survival. Those holding political office today are instead spending millions of kwacha for youth mobilisation in all their activities, and they are willing to spend more because they appreciate the power that lies in the youth. Unfortunately, our youths in politics are not exchanging ideas, but punches, even on special occasions like Youth Day, oblivious to the reality that tomorrow; this country will be theirs to govern.

This is what we young members of the Fourth Estate must say no to. This is what should force us to come out of our hiding and face the oppressors. We must wean ourselves off and defend what our founding fathers started, using our youthful valour.

In the same vein, it should irk young lawyers in Zambia when injustice is being perpetrated right in their faces. Our lawyers should not wait for Professor Patrick Mvunga to speak for them. They should not shun participation when justice Mathew Ngulube or justice Annel Silungwe is determining the rules and the future of their profession. It should annoy the young learned counsels even more at various law firms when their youthful leader, Linda Kasonde, is being forcefully hounded out of office the Mutembo Nchito way, and abused in the most shameful way possible. Linda Kasonde should not only be revered for being

the first female president of the Law Association of Zambia, but because she is young and cares deeply for this country for sake of her children and her children's children.

If Linda Kasonde has breached her ethical code of conduct, which we the outsiders are not aware of, it should be the LAZ Council to institute investigations against her. It should be lawyers going to protest at her office, not a bunch of sponsored weapon-wielding thugs. Linda Kasonde is mandated to uphold the Zambian Constitution for the benefit of everyone, including President Edgar Lungu's grandchildren and their children's children. Therefore, young Linda Kasonde is owed the duty of protection by not only young female learned counsels in this country, but all the visionaries, including law students in Universities and Colleges.

When Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo announces to Parliament that those political

cadres who besieged the LAZ secretariat, broke the law, he should not be left without explaining why the police have not arrested anyone of them. Surely, our young lawyers can move in and pursue the hooligans, not for Linda Kasonde but for LAZ and for their profession.

Similarly, young doctors in our country should not only be concerned about the availability of drugs in the hospitals they serve. They should worry about the credibility of those governing their profession. The young doctors in this country should raise questions and take interest in understanding how Dr Lackson Kasonka was hounded out of the University Teaching Hospital where he diligently served.

The young generation of doctors must ask its union leadership what led to Dr Kasonka's forced transfer and take interest to find out where he has ended up today. Our junior doctors who have chosen to stay in Zambia and save our lives must realise that

the professionalism in all these health institutions is theirs to protect.

If Apex University, a private institution, is using government facilities at the Cancer Diseases Hospital for free, they should not wait for Dr Tackson Lambert to come back and question those abusing their authority – its your profession, and its professional future lies in your professionalism today.

In his book "Dreams of our Country" Cade Chikobo, a young Zambian working in the civil service, wrote: "Are you ready to be part of the greatness that Zambia is destined for?, because more than ever before our country today is in dire need of meticulous thinkers, visionaries and selfless young men and women to join the battalion of great patriots in building and defining a country of our choice."

Chikobo further asks: "What cause is this young generation fighting for?" Our answer at News Diggers is, we are fighting for a just and sane society that respects the laws of our land, an economically viable and politically sober society in which our children and children's children will live and prosper.

What about you young lawyers, doctors, teachers, miners, farmers and cadres of all political parties? What are you fighting for? What is your vision for Zambia?

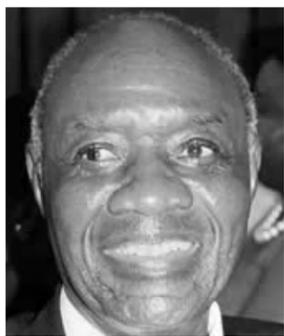
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Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

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The struggle for gender equality is far from won and more needs to be done to make it a reality. Even in many of the most advanced countries, one just has to look at how long it took women to gain the right to vote, let alone enter parliament. The fight for equal work for equal pay is still ongoing particularly the corporate world where



Dr. Vernon J Mwaanga is an accomplished diplomat who served as Ambassador of Zambia to Russia and as Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He served twice as Foreign Affairs minister and four times as Information and Broadcasting Minister under various regimes.

New Era: Women a danger to themselves

prejudice against women at the workplace is still rampant.

In Zambia, representation of women in Parliament and local councils is still a far cry and the numbers have been heading in the wrong direction. Both SADC and the African Union through their various protocols have been prodding governments to move towards gender parity in decision making positions, real power and influence, but yet very little progress has been made. In terms of appointed positions, progress has been made in that we have a female Vice-President, a Chief Justice, Supreme, Constitutional and High Court judges, permanent secretaries, magistrates, a Clerk of the National Assembly, directors and deputy directors in ministries, heads of parastatals, university professors, town clerks, to mention only some. There are also a few female chief

executive officers in the private sector, which has been more resistant to senior women appointments to high offices, no matter how highly qualified they may be. What about elected political offices? One does not have to look further than our Parliament and local councils to see how poorly represented our women are. During the National Constitutional Conference process started by the President Levy Mwanawasa and continued by President Rupiah Banda, there was a recognition that something drastic had to be done to redress this under-representation by introducing a mix-member election system to parliament and local councils to increase the percentage of women to these elective political positions.

It was therefore decided to have a separate number of seats where women would compete among themselves using proportional

representation, in addition to the existing system. There were also supposed to be a few seats where people living with disabilities and youths would compete among themselves. Sadly these clauses were dropped by the PF government from the final draft constitution which went to Parliament. What I found most disappointing is that, there were very few female voices heard in protest against this retrogressive development.

The last time I counted women members in our Parliament, there were 29 out of a House of 164 members, some of them sitting on a knife edge as a result of election petitions, which were before courts of law. This is unacceptable. If you look at Rwanda which leads the whole world in gender representation, there are just over 50% women in Parliament and in South Africa, out of 400 members of Parliament, 45% of them

are women.

In the Scandinavian countries, they have more women parliamentarians than in the United States of America or Britain. Yes we have female Cabinet ministers appointed by the President. In a way, this has to do with the way political parties select their candidates for parliamentary and local government seats. A quick survey revealed that many political parties adopt female candidates in parliamentary constituencies or local government wards where they have no realistic chances of winning.

There are also still societal attitude issues which hinge on prejudice and in some cases, blatant discrimination against women. For women to earn promotion in certain professions, they have to be two or three times better than men. Constitutions, laws and men must be more supportive of women in their careers and business

endeavours. Conversely, women must also support each other more.

In a number of institutions where I have been in charge, whenever we have promoted women to senior positions, the loudest voices of dissent and disapproval have come from fellow women who go so far as to impute unwholesome motive that their fellow women have been promoted for reasons other than merit and merit alone. Until this attitude changes, women will remain a danger to themselves and aid those men who hold the outdated and old fashioned view that women belong to the kitchen. Women must be treated as important and equal partners in development and the road they have travelled to get to where they are today, has been long and tortuous. They still have many obstacles to overcome to achieve gender equality and men must be more supportive

Buffaloes beat Mighty 3-0

By Diggers Reporter | joint leaders at the end of Division season. | Mufulira Wanderers 3-0 at National Heroes Stadium | Green Buffaloes are the Week 1 of the FAZ Super | Buffaloes beat Mighty | to join Napsa Stars at the summit of the table.

CHAN squad heads into training camp

By Diggers Reporter
The domestic-based Zambia team will hold a three-day training camp next week in Lusaka. Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda has summoned 27 players for the camp that commences on Sunday and ends on Wednesday. The team will enter camp to prepare for Zambia's 2018 CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) first round qualifiers against Swaziland this July. CHAN is a second tier AFCON tournament exclusively for home-based players. The team has four debut call-ups namely Nkana goalkeeper Kelvin Malunga, Green Eagles striker Green Lwitika and the Lumwana Radiants midfielder duo of Hillary Bwalya and Eddie Sinyangwe. Team manager Chris Chibuye says the Zesco United players have been excused from the get-together due to their 2017 CAF Confederation Cup obligations against

Enugu Rangers of Nigeria away on April 8 and at home in Ndola on April 15.
Team:
GOALKEEPERS: Allan Chibwe (Power Dynamos), Kelvin Malunga (Nkana), Racha Kola (Zanaco)
DEFENDERS: Billy Mutale (Power Dynamos), George Chilufya, Ziyu Tembo, Taonga Bwembya (all Zanaco), Given Sinyangwe, Donashano Malama (both Nkana), Mumbi Mweene, Adrian Chama (both Green Buffaloes), Isaac Siamujompa (Nchanga Rangers)
MIDFIELDERS: Fwayo Tembo, Kelvin Mubanga (both Power Dynamos), Richard Kasonde, Augustine Mulenga (both Zanaco), Clatous Chama (Lusaka Dynamos), Austin Banda (Napsa Stars), Eddie Sinyangwe, Hilary Bwalya (both Lumwana Radiants), Jacob Ngulube (Nkana)
STRIKERS: Ronald Kampamba (Nkana), Mwila Phiri (Green Eagles), Justin Shonga (Nkwazi), Green Lwitika (Green Eagles), Chitiya Mususu (Napsa Stars)

Napsa took the overnight lead on Saturday after winning by the same margin at home in Lusaka over Nchanga rangers. Wayne Museba turned the ball into his own net in the 14th minute before ex-Mighty striker Mike Katiba added the second in the 35th minute. Diamond Chikwekwe scored the third goal in the 75th top see Buffaloes win their eighth successive league game against Mighty dating back to 2002. Meanwhile, Power Dynamos and Lusaka Dynamos played out to a six-goal thriller in the second kickoff at the same venue. Chris Mugalu and Cletus Chama put Dynamos ahead with strikes in the 34th and 40th minutes respectively to see Power go into the break 2-0. But Power hit back to level matters through Godfrey Ngwenya in the 54th minute and Fwayo Tembo in the 56th minute. Martin Phiri thought he had scored a dramatic winner for Power in the 73rd minute but it was not to be. Deep into stoppage time, Godfrey Chibangu popped-up to head-in the equalizer to ensure the two sides shared the spoils.

By Diggers Reporter
Zanaco coach Numba Mumamba has described Saturday's opening day draw in the 2017 FAZ Super Division as a fair start to the season.

The defending champions came from behind to finish 1-1 at home against Red Arrows at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka.

Bruce Musakanya put Arrows ahead in the 19th minute but Zanaco captain Ziyu Tembo equalized five minutes later to see the two sides share the spoils. However, the result saw Zanaco with just one win and a defeat from their opening six competitive games in 2017 in which they have scored a miserable three goals, something Numba admitted is of great concern.

"We have managed to get to a goal which is good enough for the team but we just have to keep working on our finishing because that is the area we are lagging behind," Numba said.

"Otherwise, we just have to keep pushing this is just the first game and I think a draw is not bad enough for us." Meanwhile, Zanaco travel to Green Eagles in Week 2 on April 15 who opened their 2017 season account

with a 1-0 away victory over promoted City of Lusaka in the lunchtime kickoff at Heroes Stadium.

Mumamba happy with ZANACO draw



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