

Zimbabwe, S/Africa opposition jet in to hear UPND treason trial

WE'RE HERE TO GIVE HH SOLIDARITY - BITI

We find recent events in Zambia very retrogressive - DA

By Tenson Mkhala
Zimbabwe's opposition leader Tendai Biti says recent political events in Zambia are retrogressive. And South Africa's Democratic Alliance representative Stevens Mokgalapa says his party is concerned with President Edgar Lungu's autocratic style of governance. Biti, the president of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and current chairman of the coalition for democrats in Zimbabwe, said he was in Zambia to stand in solidarity with HH.

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We have a pathetic justice system - Obvious Mwaliteta

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Former Lusaka Province Minister Obvious Mwaliteta says the Zambian justice system is pathetic because people are detained for too long without their cases being heard.

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ZRA pays K4bn to mines in VAT refunds

Story on page 2

Lungu pushes HIV prevention agenda

His Excellency, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, will be launching the 2017 HIV Testing, Counselling and Treatment Day tomorrow, Tuesday 15th August 2017 at Olympic Youth Development Centre at 07:30 hrs.



DA's Stevens Mokgalapa, Zimbabwe's Tendai Biti, UPND's Stephen Katuka, Mulondwe Muzungu and other officials at Lusaka's Pamodzi Hotel during a press briefing today - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

I strongly deny committing treason - HH

By Mukosha Funga
UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema and his five co-accused have

pleaded not guilty to the charge of treason. The opposition leader who has

been in detention for four months appeared in the High Court in Lusaka to take plea before Ndola based judge Charles Chanda. He said he understood the charge, but was not guilty. "I strongly deny the charge", said Hichilema as his co-accused followed suit. The court then set Wednesday

August 16, 2017 as date of commencement of trial, while the accused persons remain in custody. The Director of Public Prosecutions applied to amend the information on the indictment from "in Lusaka Province and Mongu" to "Lusaka Province and Western Province", and the court granted it as there was no objection from the defence.

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A Mopani Copper Mines manager addresses employees today

Story on P7

Mining operations at Mopani remain halted after electricity cut

Court U-turns decision to prevent oil exploration

By Mukosha Funga

The Lusaka High Court has dismissed a restraining order it granted to RAE Zambia Limited preventing Tullow

Zambia from conducting oil exploration works. Yesterday, information emerged that President Edgar Lungu launched the Tullow

Zambia Block 31 Oil and Gas Exploration in Kasama, against a court order restraining the British investor from doing so.

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Tutwa Ngulube vents anger at Kabwe council officers selling land illegally, warns of arrests

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Kabwe central Member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube confront Kabwe Municipal Council Planner Francis Mawite for illegally

demarcating land for sale. And Ngulube has warned Kabwe Municipal Council officers that they will be arrested if they continue conniving with some

councillors and other officials in the sale of plots when the suspension of the land agency is still in effect. On June 8th 2017, Lands Minister Jean Kapata

suspended the land agencies for the Kabwe Municipal Council and the Ndola City Council for failing to adhere to the guidelines and procedures in the

administration of land.

But Ngulube said the practice had continued in Kabwe despite the suspension of the agency, as heard in this conversation.

"You are the people that have demolished houses in Katondo, you are demolishing houses in Kaputula, you are demolishing some houses in Magandanyama. I am not going to sit idle and sleep while you people start attacking my people. And I have actually spoken to you like this because I want you to understand but if I start hitting back! We will have a lot of casualties there at the council and I will bruise somebody because you people your land agency was suspended but you have continued harassing people, putting beacons," Ngulube said when he called a Mawite on phone.

"Has your suspension been lifted? You answer me! I have written to the office of the town clerk but there has been no response. So

I am warning you that you should desist from this, and if you continue doing that! I am going to take it that you guys are trespassers, am going to take it that you guys are doing criminal activities because if your land agency has been suspended! You are supposed to wait. If you have a problem with my people, you come to the office of the MP. That councillor of yours Humphrey Mukuka whom you are sharing plots with, I know the plots you have sold that side and people have shown me that this plot was sold by Humphrey Mukuka with the help of this and that, busy putting beacons, under whose authority? Are you surveyors? As a planner are you allowed to put beacons when the suspension of your land agency is still in effect?" And in response, Mawite said he was only a planner operating under orders from his bosses.

"On that one we have the bosses who are giving us work. There is Director of Planning, Director of Public Health, Director of legal," Mawite said.

But Ngulube also threatened to take action against all the council officials behind the illegal practice.

"So if I tell my people to catch you and take you to the police! Are you going to still going to point at Director planning? Because you are a planner and you are not supposed to be putting beacons, thats a crime and you know the law very well, you are not surveyors. Can you stop selling land, can you stop putting beacons, can you stop demolishing houses, can you stop harassing my people, okay! And you should tell your bosses that I called you and told you to desist from demolishing houses without court orders, to desist from harassing my people without my office involvement, and also to stop putting new beacons because you are not surveyors," said Ngulube.

"You have continued disobeying the directive meaning now we are going to bruise you personally as individuals. We are not going to wait for you Mr Mawite, Bwalya, Mwamba and that private surveyor called Chewe you are all over. You are in Katondo, you are in Side, you are in Wire, do you want me to start harassing you personally. So we are going to start taking you to the police for malicious damage of the property and you will be locked up for doing criminal activities in the name of the council whether you are council employ or not."



Kabwe central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube

I strongly deny committing treason - HH

From front page

Chairman for the coalition of democracy in Zimbabwe, South Africa's member of parliament and Democratic Alliance shadow minister for International relations, Steven Mokgalapa and several other regional politicians attended the treason hearing and expressed solidarity for Hichilema.

Also in attendance were several UPND members of parliament, party vice-president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba, Paramount Chief Mukuni and other traditional leaders as well as family members of the accused persons.

Prosecution team: Lillian Siyuni - Director of Public Prosecutions R. N Kuzwayo - Chief State Advocate C.M Hambayi - Deputy Chief State Advocate M. M B Matandala - Deputy Chief State Advocate C.K Sakata - State Advocate Paul Muwembe - State Advocate M. Akasenk - State Advocate P. Nyangu - State Advocate

Defense team: Vincent Malambo SC - Malambo and Company Mulambo Haimbe - Malambo and Company John Sangwa SC - Simeza Sangwa and Associates Nelly Mutty - Lukona Chambers Kashimba Mutty - Lukona Chambers Dr Henry Mbushi - HBM Advocates Chad Muleza - Muleza Mwiimbu and

Associates Jack Mwiimbu - Muleza Mwiimbu and Associates Zevyanji Sinkala - Muleza Mwiimbu and Associates Nchimunya Mwangwe - Muleza Mwiimbu and Associates Nathaniel Inambao - ICM Legal

Practitioners Martha Mushipe - Mushipe and Associates Laston Mwanabo - LMK Paul Katupisha - Milner and Paul Advocates Keith Mweemba - Keith Mweemba Advocates Mitelo

Mwiinga - Keith Mweemba Advocates Natasha Hadunka - Keith Mweemba Advocates Christopher Mundia Junior - CIM Mundia and Company Marshall Muchende UPND

supporters chanted "we want change" after the court session ended.

And HH was taken back to Lusaka Central Prison amidst tight security leaving journalists no chance of filming him.

ZRA pays K4bn to mines in VAT refunds

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) says it has paid over K4 billion to mining firms in VAT refunds.

And the Authority says it has collected a total of K719 Million from the Amnesty Programme as of July 31, 2017.

Speaking at a press briefing in Lusaka today, ZRA Commissioner General Kingsley Chanda said the Authority had refunded mining companies a total of K4.068 billion in Value Added Tax (VAT) under the period between January and July 2017.

He said out of the total refunds made, 76 percent was made to the mining firms while the remainder was paid to other companies.

"I wish to take this opportunity to inform the general public that ZRA has refunded a total of K4, 068.4 million in VAT refunds in the period January to July 2017. Out of the total of K4, 068.4 million that has been refunded, K329 million relates to long outstanding VAT Rule 18 refund arrears while K3,739.9 million relates to the current period. Of the total amount refunded, 76 percent was made to the mining companies while the remainder was made to other sectors of the economy."

Chanda further revealed that the Authority's audit teams have discovered some fraudulent VAT refund claims.

"I wish to inform the nation that our vigilant audit teams have discovered some fraudulent refund claims. This discovery has prompted us to take a more cautious approach when paying refunds. In fact, all taxpayers who could have been refunded on fake documents are earmarked for a forensic audit which we shall be launching soon after verifying such records," Chanda said.

"It is important to note that so far, ZRA has collected K1,961.73 million from the tax debt out of which, as I earlier said, K719.22 million is directly attributed to the tax Amnesty and has been largely paid by micro, small and medium

enterprises," Chanda said.

He disclosed that 617,435 out of a total 848,788 tax amnesty applications had already been approved for waiver.

"I am pleased to announce that the Zambia Revenue Authority has received tremendous response to the amnesty programme that was launched on 24 April, 2017. In the first 100 days since the programme was launched, we have received a total of 848,788 tax amnesty applications out of which 617,435 cases have so far been processed and approved for waiver, while the remainder is still work in progress," Chanda said.

"However, 96,107 applications have been rejected on account of not meeting the amnesty conditions. The total revenue collected on account of the amnesty as at 31 July, 2017 was K719.22 million with Income Tax and Value Added Tax (VAT) accounting for 72 percent of the total amount received. We expect additional revenue from the over 2,000 Time to Pay Agreements (TPAs) that have so far been signed by various taxpayers worth K 2,549.19 million of which K934.11 million is expected to be fully settled by 31 December, 2017."

He warned that the Authority would invoke enforcement on all taxpayers who would choose to ignore the amnesty period. "Our intention at the end of the amnesty is to invoke enforcement on all those taxpayers who have chosen to remain delinquent. It is not a secret that we have devised and resourced a vicious and uncompromising strategy to be implemented soon after the amnesty period. We have procured equipment and recruited more tax inspectors to ensure the success of the strategy. We shall follow, without fear or favour, small, medium, large, parastatals and even Government ministries that will be owing tax and have chosen not to participate in the ongoing Amnesty programme. My message to all is it is not too late; please step forward and put your tax matters in order," said Chanda.

We have a pathetic justice system - Obvious Mwaliteta

From front page

And Mwaliteta says he has lost everything he worked for whilst in government. Speaking on Muvi TV's 'The Assignment' programme yesterday, Mwaliteta, who was last week acquitted by the High Court of aggravated robbery, revealed that some inmates had stayed in detention for eight years without being tried. "I think the justice system in Zambia is very pathetic. There are colleagues that I have left in prison, they have been there for eight years waiting for trial. Some of them are still on trial, eight years! There is another colleague who stayed for ten years waiting for judgment but when the judgment came, he was only sentenced to one year. And who was going to pay him for the nine years he stayed in prison? It is pathetic. We need a lot of reforms. If you can go to Chimbokaila and find out from the inmates how long they have been to court, and this really got me scared, I asked one of the inmates when he last went to court, he said 2013. How many witnesses have you dealt with? He said only one! There are inmates I have left there; on vandalism [allegation]; they have been there for 14 years and they are still on trial. They are on standby waiting to be found guilty or not guilty. Imagine! They haven't been sentenced-Chimbokaila is a mixture of remandees and inmates. If someone is called that today he is going to court, you'll be shocked to see how he is going to celebrate because he hasn't been going to court for years. It's sad that in a new era like this, we still have a justice system like that and even when they were telling us that they have changed to correctional facility, whatever they call it, they just changed the names on the wall - they have not changed anything inside," Mwaliteta said.

"There are very small cells [and] the maximum [number of inmates and remandees] would be 117 or 120. At one point when

we used to have a lot of PIs (Prohibited Immigrants), we used to go to about 120. But now the average is 99, 100, 110 [and] there is no sleeping arrangement in that room; there is only sitting arrangement until the following day. There is no space for you to lie down. You can't stretch your legs, by the way."

Mwaliteta said President Lungu's visit to Chimbokaila last year fell short of the anticipations of many inmates.

"If I undress, you'll be shocked to see how I look here (his back). We had sores because of sleeping on a mattress which [Frederick] Chiluba bought! There is no turning and so, I started developing sores. [There are] bed bugs, lice and stuff like that; cockroaches - you can't believe it! [But] you have to endure, you have to stay there...Surprisingly, the President came twice [to Chimbokaila] and we met with the President. We greeted each other and we had a lot of expectations from him because of course, he knew [that] I worked under him as a minister. I had never stolen anything (as a minister); not even imprest, not even a ngwee, not even [an] audit query in all these provinces I worked. I realised that when he came there, he wanted to see how I was doing and probably make a decision to take me out. I'm sorry to mention this to you; he (President Lungu) is not reliable! You can say this now [but] tomorrow he will do something else," Mwaliteta said.

"The President was the one who was in the forefront saying ndefwaya ukumona ifyo balala abantu (I want to see how inmates sleep). He went cell by cell to see how we were seated. The only thing he told us was that 'I have seen how you are sleeping; the next thing I'm doing [is that] I'm bringing you big pots so that they can be cooking you nshima. Moreover, you shouldn't worry too much because I'm building more prisons in Mwembeshi. So, I'll take



Obvious Mwaliteta at Lusaka's Central prison shortly after being released picture by Tenson Mkhala

you to Mwembeshi where you'll be sleeping very comfortably; for now, you can endure but I'll at least bring some pots for you to eat nshima. Nobody complained about those pots! When he came, he didn't come specifically for the pots but he did a tour; he went to the kitchen. The expectation of the inmates there, the 1,000 plus inmates, [that] was when the President comes, he is going to release a lot of people to de-congest the prison. [But] then he talked about the pots and they were all disappointed!"

He also disclosed that it was normal for inmates to die as a result of stress.

"There is a hole which they call a toilet [but] there is no space even to go to that hole if you want to use it. There is no space for you to walk, anyway. So, when you are locked in by 16:00 hours, where you are is where you are going to be until tomorrow morning. You'll find that they will wake you up around 04:00 hours because there are people who die because of stress. You wake up and you just find that he is dead; he is among you [but] you won't even notice that he is dead. But when they tell you [to] stand up at 04:00 hours, you'll find that he is not standing and then you'll notice that this

one is dead. It's pathetic," Mwaliteta said.

Asked how frequent deaths of inmates were, Mwaliteta, said they were "routine".

"Apparently, that's the routine; we noticed so many deaths there and that made us so worried - are we going to manage to go through what other people are going through? But you know, with hardcore criminals, for them it's alright. But for people like us who went there for politically-motivated charges, it became a bit difficult. One, we could not accept that we were in prison, two, we did not believe that we were detained over a handbag and a K350! I could not believe that I could go in for K350! In fact, this issue of the elections material... the original charges they had charged us [with] was [theft of] a K350, handbag and a cell phone. Those were the main charges [but] they came to make an application at the High Court because they got embarrassed and that's when they brought issues of ECZ (Electoral Commission of Zambia) materials. They had to amend the indictment whilst the case had started!" he said.

And Mwaliteta lamented that he lost everything he worked for whilst in

detention.

"I lost everything that I worked for, my family was not the same anymore. My friends were even scared to come and see me because they thought when they come and visit, maybe they might be picked (up). It was a terrible situation but my family just gathered the strength and picked up the pieces and encouraged me to move on. We realized that we had the sixth person arrested with us, because we were the five of us in that case but then we realized God was with us," Mwaliteta said.

"That acquittal, because I already served a sentence. I served a year for a handbag, theft for a handbag. I served 365 days or twelve months just to be acquitted. Then what came to my mind was why did I have to go through this? What kind of hatred is in this country? Of course we knew that we could be acquitted but we thought that we could be acquitted at an earlier stage. But we came to know that it was politically motivated, people wanted to break us down. And this is the first time from the time of Kaunda when a lot of politicians are being arrested."

Mwaliteta said that even if he was acquitted, his heart remained in prison

because his president was still incarcerated.

"Even if I was acquitted, my heart remained in prison because my president is still in prison. And I knew he was being detained as innocent as I am. When HH was brought into Chimbokaila, the welcome was so good that the inmates were very happy and shouting 'you are the one we want' and that brought a problem with the officers, they thought maybe the officers engineered that kind of welcome. There was a big celebration in prison, the inmates almost lifted him up. Even me when I joined UPND, I was not very close to HH, I only became too close in prison. It gave me chance to talk to him in confidence," Mwaliteta said.

Mwaliteta also urged President Edgar Lungu to release a lot of people on October 24th, 2017 under the Presidential parole.

"If he is listening now, on 24th October, he should at least increase the number of those he will pardon to 4,000 because it is going to help him decongest the prison. And the mistake the police made was to bring HH in Chimbokaila because that turned the whole entire prison against them," said Mwaliteta.

PF media director responds to News Diggers! Opinion



Zimbabwe's Tendai Biti, UPND's Stephen Katuka, DA's Stevens Mokgalapa, Charles Kakoma and Mulondwe Muzungu - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We're here to give HH solidarity - Biti

From front page

"I have arrived here this morning with a team of officials from the PDP to express our solidarity with president HH (Hakainde Hichilema) who is a personal friend of mine and also the democratic and peace-loving Zambians in what we consider a very difficult and trying time for Zambia. We've always considered Zambia as a country that has gone through its own transitions and those transitions have been successful," Biti, who served as Zimbabwe's Minister of Finance from February 2009 to September 2013, told journalists at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka today.

"The most important transition that Zambia went through was the transition from the liberation movement of UNIP led by president Kenneth Kaunda into the era of MMD under president Chiluba, later on president Mwanawasa, later on president Banda and very importantly the power transfer between the MMD to president Sata."

Biti said it was regrettable that Zambia was now known for the wrong reasons.

"So recent events, we find them very retrogressive, we find them as a reversal of the progressive gains that Zambia has made over the years. We find it regrettable that suddenly Zambia is now known for the wrong reasons; the banning of 'political' newspapers, the incarceration of opposition political leaders, the imposition of a [threatened] state of emergency, the ejection of African leaders and visitors in your country. We think that is unacceptable and we pray that Zambians go back to their natural DNA which is a DNA of love, a DNA of solidarity," he said.

He also said the southern

African region had become intolerant.

"We think that the southern African region has become very intolerant, we think that the southern African region has become very poisoned, very vulnerable, very fragile. So, we are concerned with the threat to democracy that we find in South Africa, in Mozambique, in Zimbabwe, in Malawi, in Zambia [and] in the Democratic Republic of Congo," Biti noted.

"We find this unacceptable and we find the growth of these little big men, people like President [Robert] Mugabe and others, as an anathema to our region. As democrats, we pray that we can stand up to protect constitutionalism and rule of law in our region, and most importantly, we pray that there is constitutionalism and rule of law in Zambia."

Biti urged the courts to execute meticulousness in handling the treason trial against HH.

"We pray that courts shall stand up to bullying tactics and to justice...as we witness the further remand of president HH. Most importantly, we pray for peace. We would like to see the old Zambia back, which doesn't ban newspapers, which doesn't incarcerate members of the opposition for what are clearly frivolous and vexatious charges. Zambia at one stage housed six liberation movements [and] that's the Zambia we know and that's the Zambia we would like to see reproduced. Dzikomo kwambiri (thank you very much)," said Biti.

And Mokgalapa, who is also a member of parliament, said he was in the Zambia to deliver a solidarity message to incarcerated Hichilema on behalf of his party president Mmusi Maimane who was prevented by Zambian authorities from

disembarking a chartered plane at Lusaka's Kenneth Kaunda International Airport on May 25.

"We have observed with quite keen disdain the reversal of the gains of the Zambian people with undemocratic, autocratic government that has been instilled by President Lungu and we are quite concerned with the arbitrary arrest of opposition party members and alleged killing of those members. We are concerned about the gagging of the media; we feel that part of democracy is to ensure that the media is independent and there's media freedom. So, we are quite concerned about that as well. I'm here to pledge solidarity with our sister party (UPND) [and] so, I bring an official message from president Mmusi Maimane who is the leader of the official opposition. I'm continuing his job that he couldn't do because of the Zambian authorities. So, I am here to deliver his message to his dear friend and colleague (Hichilema) and most importantly, our sister party and pledge our solidarity. Secondly, I wear the hat as Africa Liberal president; a network that UPND and Democratic Alliance are members of. It's a group of Liberal parties from Africa; it has 45 political parties from over 35 African countries, North, South, East, West and Central Africa," Mokgalapa said.

"So, it is a strong, powerful message that I am bringing here and the solidarity that I am coming to pledge here also being a member of liberal international which is a global body of liberal political parties. So, our message is very clear; we are here to observe the court proceedings of our dear sister party leader, the official opposition of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, we hope

that the proceedings go according to plan and as being pronounced. We are here to call definitely for his immediate release as we feel that the charges that have been brought against him are just frivolous charges that do not hold."

He observed that the threatened state of emergency was instilling fear in Zambians.

"As you are aware, we all shouted with joy when Zambia had a transfer of power in a democratic way [when] President Sata was inaugurated as the new President of Zambia. So, in the SADC region, Zambia is seen as the beacon of hope, of democracy and we would [not] like to see that change. Most importantly, we were concerned about the 90 days [threatened] state of emergency that has been installed in Zambia; it is instilling fear and instilling a lot of uncertainties among the Zambians. So, we would like to see Zambia return to its core values and principles of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights and that is why we are here to come and observe your jurisprudence and to observe whether your courts are as independent and robust as they should be as prescribed by the Zambian Constitution," said Mokgalapa.

"The main reason that we are here is to pledge our solidarity to our sister party, UPND that we are with you, we understand and acknowledge that no country is an Island; we are cut from the same cloth in the SADC region and we know this can happen to any one of us. We have got to ensure that we stand together when times are hard and rough and this is just one of those times when we pledge solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Zambia."

PF RESPONSE TO NEWS DIGGERS! OPINION: WHY IS HE SCARED?

August 11th, 2017

The Opinions by News Diggers have continued to amaze us with their choice of recycled news sources and the dismissive and angry tone taken.

We do not want to believe there is a bitter agenda they want to drive in the minds of Zambians. The sustained tone in the News Diggers editorial can easily fit that of someone whose Hobbyhorse stopped galloping under circumstances wrongfully blamed on the PF and President Edgar Lungu. It is such a person or organization who will pull all stops to recycle anything and anyone to make their wake attack case on President Lungu.

Why else would News Diggers always pick up the phone and call the same sources? It is not President Lungu who is a self-confessed mandrax dealer Vernon Mwaanga. It is not even illegal for President Lungu stating for the record that he will contest the 2021 polls, unless someone believes that it is?

The law does not bar President Lungu from contesting, unless there is a court judgement providing a bar to that effect, so we wonder why old man Mwaanga would even wonder why a government that has just re-entered office is campaigning?

Old man VJ, any good strategist—which clearly you are not or maybe you have ceased to be one – otherwise you would know when to keep quite—knows no end to campaigns. You don't stop to campaign if you want to win. Plain and simple!

This is the only reason why the soft drink giant Coca Cola spends billions of dollars every year on advertising despite being on top of the game since God knows when.

According to a report on South Korea's Yonhap News, Samsung spent a total of \$10.2 billion (11.5 trillion won) on marketing last year alone.

That included \$3.9 billion (4.4 trillion won) toward advertisements, a 15% increase from 2015.

They do this because they want to remain on top and President Lungu and his PF campaign none-stop because they know how important it is to keep the eyes on the ball and not lose sight. The works PF Government is doing in all parts of the country speak volumes about why we must be trusted by Zambians and unless petty minds want us to stop rolling out the massive development since it is part of marketing ourselves more to the people – as in SONTAPO!

PF does not go to court; PF takes the campaign to the people but then a man like old man VJ who has unfortunately walked the "Hall of Shame" for half his political life pretends not to know that.

It is not President Lungu who used diplomatic privilege to run drugs and neither is it President Lungu's company that went down under the weight of its own toxic debt.

Our word of advice to our senior citizen VJ and including the News Diggers' Opinion writers is that they must stop what former White House Communication Director Anthony Scaramouch would term as auto felatio.

We are not allergic to criticism as PF and neither is the Party President but certainly we do not deserve the sloppy and surface criticisms. Let criticisms be informed by a duty to hold accountable and not bitterness and contempt. PF has made it clear that President Lungu is a man of the people and as he has indicated his intention to stand in 2021; like everyone else interested in standing must do so, including VJ if he qualifies.

The race is not for the weak though we can proudly state that President Lungu has shown twice that he can give as much as he can take in a brutal presidential race and win. If I were old man VJ, I would minimise the damage and retire from issuing these reckless statements every time media calls me up because every time he opens his mouth, he seems to put his foot in it. While we maintain utmost respect for senior citizens such as VJ, he can be assured that whenever he issues malicious statements intended to mislead and unnecessarily demean President Lungu; we shall respond to him because he has dragged himself into the "firing range".

Its indeed painful to that we should be responding to a Freedom Fighter who seeks to play the role like that of a hired anti-Zambia publicist. We hope he can take the heat on account his age but we shall not pay a price over his refusal to retire from politics. He wants to play ball and we are more than ready for his political innuendos, including exposing his political schemes.

Issued by:

Sunday Chanda

Director for Media, Patriotic Front Headquarters

I would have overshadowed the president, says Kambwili

By Mirriam Chabala
Chishimba Kambwili says the Patriotic Front will not manage to block his political aspirations because even the cadres they sent to harass him ended up cheering for him. This morning, police blocked the expelled Roan PF member of parliament former Copperbelt Province Minister Mwenya Musenge from attending the 2017 Ukusefya Pa Ng'wena traditional ceremony. Around 09:00 hours, police blocked the duo at a barricade they mounted near Lukashya Bridge. Police also blocked Kambwili and Musenge from appearing on Radio

Mano for a paid phone in program. But in an interview with News Diggers!, Kambwili revealed that Paramount Chief Chitimukulu warned him to leave the province to avoid bloodshed. "Nabatukanya ba police [police have blocked us]... twafika pa road block, twamonafye imwyotoka shabapolic shiletukonka. Lilya twaiminina baisa abati iyoho nabatweba akwebati bemingisha. [when we reached the road block and when we stopped, they came and told us that they have been instructed not to allow us in]. Naine njebele awe imwe tei munkanye ukuya ku traditional ceremony [so

I told them to say you can't stop me from attending this traditional ceremony], a traditional ceremony of my own land because I am from the Royal family. Then they said no, so I said give me the number for Chief Chitimukulu then I spoke to my grandfather then he told me 'no I am surprised that it's the police who stopping to enter there [because] me they have told me that the PF youths have mounted a road block not to allow you to come in the district but I said we are haven't seen any youth it's the police who are telling us that we are not supposed to enter then the Chitimukulu said 'look, I don't want what happened in Mongu

to happen to you because they can just end up locking you up so to avoid this just don't come here because we don't want bloodshed.' That's how I said thank you very much my grandfather and I turned off and started coming back," Kambwili said. "We went to Mano, Radio Mano so that we can issue a statement about what happened [but] we found the police have blocked the studio that didn't want us to go in. The owners of studio called us to say no what you can do is that you can find somewhere where we can come and record you and play it but the situation was hostile by the police to the extent that they can

come up with trumped up charges to arrest us for no reason so we said that let's just leave. So right now as I am speaking to you we are in Luwingu." Kambwili said the PF youths who were sent to harass him instead told him that the ruling party would cry in 2021. "I am extremely disappointed with the behaviour of our President Edgar Lungu, they are saying I am not a factor politically but why are they behaving like this towards me? They sent PF youths while we at the station, they came with two vehicles labeled 'PF Kasama youths' and the youths when they came they said we were

sent to harass you but for us you have not committed any offence you are our man and these people will cry in 2021 and the youths just started celebrating me and they jumped in their vehicles and left. So I can't imagine why they are behaving like this towards me because they have said I am a political mosquito but why are they scared? But I know the consequences, I mean I know the reason they have reacted like this because I was going to be received with a thunderous welcome and it was going to overshadow them that's why they avoided me going there," he said. He said the PF would not manage to block his political aspirations. "But let me tell them that they will not manage to block my political aspirations, they will not. That was why Mwila [PF secretary General] was warning yesterday that I will regret and I will not do my politics in peace, this is what he was talking about but let me warn Mwila, they don't own this country. This country is not in the lawlessness of the PF cadres and their Secretary General. So tell Mwila that if MMD was behaving hostile to us like, PF could not have formed government, this is a democracy and they must allow people freedom of association and movement. This is unfortunate, we are in the hands of scared people, people are scared of their own shadow but they will not manage. I feel sorry for them, I don't want to cause problems, I don't want to play in their hands so that they can find trumped up charges and lock me up. I am an innocent and law abiding citizen and I will not play in their hands," said Kambwili.

Resign, Mulongoti tells "biased" DPP

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
People's Party president Mike Mulongoti Director of Public Prosecution Lillian Siyunyi must resign because she is worryingly biased. In a statement yesterday, Mulongoti said Siyunyi was deliberately siding with those who blatantly violated and suppressed the rights of innocent Zambians. "The office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) is worryingly biased and operating like an extended wing of State House as evidenced by the manner in which they have handled cases involving opposition political leaders. We strongly agree with ADD President, Charles Milupi, that the current DPP needs to resign from this highly respected office due to the glaring lack of professionalism being exhibited under her watch," Mulongoti said. "It's important that the nation realizes that the DPP is doing a disservice to the general citizenry by allowing such a noble office to be used as a conduit to incarcerate innocent people merely because they support the opposition party. The current DPP, has elected to be on the wrong side of history by deliberately siding with those who blatantly violate and suppress the rights of innocent Zambians." Mulongoti wondered why Siyunyi did not appeal Agriculture Minister Dora Siliya's acquittal. "When former republican president Rupiah Banda was acquitted by the courts, the DPP didn't appeal the judgment. This is despite the obvious evidence of

malpractices under his reign. It's not a hidden secret that Rupiah Banda was very instrumental in Edgar Lungu's re-election bid. As a matter of fact, the State entered a consent Judgement in the Rupiah Banda case. The question is who gave the directive that the state enters a consent Judgment so as to set Rupiah Banda free?" asked Mulongoti. "Further still, the DPP didn't appeal Dora Siliya's foggy acquittal. They played a blind eye to this case without fully exhausting the available channels. Dora Siliya consequently is now a full cabinet minister in the Patriotic Front (PF) government. There is no prize for guessing why the DPP didn't appeal her acquittal." He also said a day would come when someone would have to tell the nation who ordered Rupiah's acquittal. "Rupiah Banda canvassed the country with Edgar Lungu during the campaign period. It wouldn't be strange for one to conclude that Banda's questionable Consent Judgment was a token of appreciation from the powers that be for the role he played in ensuring that Lungu went to State House in 2015. I should make mention here that one day someone will have to tell the nation where that directive came from because such a directive can only come from the President or the National Assembly Speaker. More still, this consent Judgment was presided over by just a single Judge; Anne Sitali. This is the same Judge who

was at the epicenter of the controversy that surrounded the Constitutional Court presidential petition hearing," Mulongoti stated. He said that the levels of patronage and politicization witnessed under the current DPP were unprecedented. "The levels of patronage and politicization we are witnessing under the current DPP are unprecedented. It's evidently clear that she's failing to withstand pressure from the authorities and lacks professional judgment. There is need to call a spade a spade. This DPP is

overly biased towards the PF and Edgar Lungu. Even Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) questioned this action through a strong statement released to the media. The DPP is clearly not acting in the public interest but in the quest to wrongly appease those that roam the corridors of power. The case of former Lusaka Province Minister and now UPND member, Obvious Mwaliteta, is heart wrenching," said Mulongoti. "UPND member and former Tourism Minister, Sylvia Masebo, was recently

acquitted on charges of abuse of office by the Lusaka magistrate courts. Before Masebo could even pop a bottle of champagne to celebrate her victory, the DPP filed in documents to appeal her acquittal. This action has surprised many Zambians leading them to believe that there was an invisible political hand pulling strings in the DPP's office. Very few Zambians have faith in this once very respectful office because its clearly not independent and is being driven by political interest."



Police officers keeping vigil at the Supreme Court during HH's treason case on August 14, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

From front page

President Lungu's spokesperson Amos Chanda then said there was something fishy about the injunction, as neither the Attorney General nor State House were served with the court order before the launch was carried out.

However, according to a new court order obtained by Attorney General Likando Kalaluka this morning, the injunction has been withdrawn.

"Upon hearing Counsel for the Respondent and upon reading the affidavit of Francis Kondwelani Mwale filed into court in support of the application, it is hereby ordered and directed that the ex-parte order of interim injunction granted to the appellant herein on 8th August, 2017 be and is hereby discharged. Costs for this application are for the respondent," read the court order.

According to an earlier ex-parte court order made available to News Diggers! the inter partes hearing was set for August 25.

"It is hereby ordered that Tullow Zambia BV by itself, servants, employee, agents, contractors or workmen, subsidiary or associated entity or otherwise is hereby strictly enjoined and restrained from undertaking or engaging in any petroleum exploration activities of whatever nature and description with respect to the area particularly and known as block 31 located in the Northern Province in the republic of Zambia," read the court order, stamped August 8, 2017 and signed on August 10, 2017.

Court U-turns decision to prevent Tullow Oil Exploration



President Edgar Lungu with Tullow Zambia Management Team at the Launch of Tullow Zambia Block 31 oil and Gas Exploration in Northern and Luapula Province in Kasama on Friday 11-08-2017- Picture By Eddie Mwanaleza/State House

"Tullow Zambia BV is restrained from interfering with the appellant's right to enjoy the benefits conferred on it under the Petroleum Exploration Licence number PEL/007 pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act No. 10 of 2008; and that Tullow Zambia BV complies with this order

forthwith. It is further ordered that this matter is heard inter-partes on the 25th day of August 2017 at 09:00 hours." And Chanda expressed surprise at the order which was granted to Tullow Zambia.

"The Attorney General has not been served with this order neither has Tullow [Zambia BV]. Tullow was informed by phone after the launch that a court order had been issued on 11 TH August," said Chanda.

"In any event the restraining order is against Tullow but served on AG who has nothing to do with exploration work! This one is a classic case of something fish, anyway we wait until 25. Under

the State Proceedings Act the state can never be restrained from carrying out executive functions later on (sic) the president. In this case that order was not served on anyone before the launch."

Accused killer flees from detention

By Mukosha Funga

Police in Lusaka are trying to hunt down a manslaughter accused Lusaka woman who escaped from detention. When the matter came up for plea before judge Sitole Mwenda today, the prosecution applied to remove Nelia Phiri from an indictment in which she was jointly charged with Monica Phiri for two counts of manslaughter.

"Before the charge is explained, we have an application to make. We would like to amend the

indictment to remove Nelia Phiri because she escaped from detention and police are still looking for her," said a state prosecutor.

Judge Mwenda granted the application as there was no objection from the defence. The court then explained to Monica that she was accused of causing the deaths of Angel Matomola and Cletus Matomola through negligence in November 2016.

Monica pleaded not guilty and the court set August 17 has been set for commencement of trial.



UPND supporters at Lusaka High Court during HH's treason case August 14, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

By Mukosha Funga

Energy minister David Mabumba says in the next 60 days, fuel prices may reduce further or increase again, depending on the exchange rate and other economic indicators.

Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Kwacha Good Morning Zambia programme yesterday, Mabumba said the prices would continue to be reviewed periodically to ensure that the benefits of increased copper prices on the international market, the appreciation of the kwacha and other incentives are passed on to the end consumer.

"The wholesale and pump price of fuel is determined by two key fundamentals, one of

Fuel prices may reduce further, or increase again depending exchange rate - Mabumba

them is the international oil marketing prices and the other one is the exchange rate because when you look between April and July, both these factors have marginally reduced on the international market. And then when you look at the exchange rate over a few months, I think the kwacha vis a vis the dollar has been performing very well so the two factors brought together collectively has contributed to the reduction of pump price in this country. We wanted to demonstrate to the Zambian people that as government,

when we make certain pronouncements we need to keep them and I think in keeping with what we had said that fuel prices would be reduced within 60 days, and this time around as Zambia we are lucky that within that 60 days, the international prices and the performance of the kwacha to the dollar has been very significant, the kwacha to the dollar has been very significant," Mabumba said.

"The kwacha has been appreciating, the international oil marketing prices have marginally reduced we've been paying

between \$45 to \$55 per barrel so I think we have demonstrated to the Zambian people that we are a very honest government and in the next 60 days, ERB will be reviewing the pump price as well as the wholesale price of our petroleum products and my hope is that working together as Zambians, we need to sustain these indicators and I am grateful to our colleagues in the Bank of Zambia as well as our colleagues at the Ministry of Finance in terms of all the austerity measures that government has taken because you see, without

these austerity measures, I am sure the kwacha wouldn't be where it is. When you talk about removing subsidies, these are tough decisions but in terms of the benefits, it goes to the Zambian people. You and I today are able to go to a fuel station and buy fuel which is reasonable...If in the next 60 days the kwacha goes down to maybe K7, you should expect fuel to go down."

He said government would soon engage business owners to make them understand that all reductions were significant no matter how minimal they could be.

"If you look at the cost of living, the cost of living, you have to look at a number of factors collectively, the decision that the Bank of Zambia made a few days ago in terms of reviewing the reserve ratio and monetary rate, those are also very fundamental decisions because the cost of living in this country will (not) only be able to go down because you have reduced one parameter in the economy, you have to look at other parameters but as you are aware again, the fuel price plays an important role in the price of fuel in this county and I think for me, I want to appeal to the business community that with this reduction, although it is not much, but if you were buying bread yesterday at K10 and you go into a supermarket today and you buy bread at K8.50, I think that, cumulative over a period of time, maybe over a month, it is going to give you some significant savings at household level and I think if every businessman in this country, our colleagues running the supermarkets, shopping malls were to pass this benefit to the Zambian people, we would see that in a few months from now, the cost of living would go down because fuel plays an important role in the transportation of goods and services in this country," Mabumba said.

"If you compare the way the market performs in the western countries compared to here, in England, they can even give you a one percent increase in your salary because your employer knows that it will go a long way in meeting your expenses, paying little things like bus fares and do fourth but we have a situation in this country, I think we have a market imperfection where our business community are not interested to pass the benefit to the customers and it is not a matter that we can resolve in true short term. We need addressing the minds of our colleagues who are running businesses in this country because in Zambia I've found that people want 100 per cent margins which you can't get in the western world. And the market imperfection largely probably is because we don't have significant completion as it is in Europe but going forward, we need to work together especially honorable (Margaret) Mwanakatwe to try and address the mindset of the people who are running businesses in this county that even with a one per cent reduction in terms of bread, in terms of a bus fare, that will go a long way in allowing a person who goes from Kalingalinga into Soweto to buy things on a daily basis, they can save a K2 over a period of two weeks or a month and it would go a long way to help them meet other expenses."

And Mabumba explained that power cuts which some areas were experiencing were as a result of either planned or unplanned maintenance systems and not load shedding. "Load shedding is not back. In any electricity marketing system all over the world, there is no system that is perfect... so every electricity system goes through a planned maintenance system and t also goes through unplanned maintenance system. So the planned maintenance system is where you see Zesco putting in the newspapers. So what is happening is not load shedding but planned maintenance systems or unplanned maintenance systems," said Mabumba.

Mining operations at Mopani remain halted after electricity cut



By Mukosha Funga

Operations at Mopani Copper Mine are still suspended due to limited power supply resulting from a dispute with Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) over tariffs.

Mining Manager Brian Herbert held another meeting with workers this

morning to explain the situation and ask miners to remain calm.

He said the case will come up in court on Thursday and a clearer way forward would be given.

CEC confirmed that it had restricted the amount of electricity it supplied to Glencore unit

Mopani Copper Mines saying the institution had failed to adhere to new tariffs proposed by government; a flat tariff of 9.30 U.S. cents/kilowatt hour (kWh) backdated to January for mining companies, instead of individually negotiated rates that have averaged 6

U.S. cents/kWh, but mining companies opposed the plan.

"To date, MCM has rejected the industry-wide tariff increment and sought to continue to pay for the electricity they consume at the old tariff," said CEC spokesperson Chama Nsabika-Kalima.

On August 13, 2017, Police arrested UPP leader Saviour Chishimba and charged him with defamation of the President. He was denied police bond and detained at Woodlands Police Station for seven days. However, the police command made the decision to not only release the opposition political party leader, but also to drop the charge of defamation of the President.

We asked the Police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo to explain why Mr Chishimba's charges had been dropped, but she had no proper explanation apart from, "Just know that we have released him and we have discontinued the case."

Well, whatever might have happened, our opinion is that it was a wise move. We salute the police command and Mr Kakoma Kanganja in particular, for making an unusual, but right decision. The same way we blame the Inspector General of Police when he takes dirty instructions from the President and ministers is the same way we must commend him for releasing Saviour Chishimba, and the same way we call him names when police take illegal actions, is the same way we must salute him for dropping the "defamation of the President" charge against the opposition leader. Let him take the credit for this professional decision.

Of course we know that there was politics at play. It could be that the arrest and subsequent detention of Saviour Chishimba and the expulsion of Chishimba Kambwili and Mwenya Musenge from the ruling party were sending a wrong political signal to Bemba - and the President didn't want to have so much to explain when officiating at the Ukusefya Pang'wena traditional ceremony last weekend. Or maybe the timing

Bravo bwana IG for releasing Saviour!

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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for keeping another political leader in detention was not correct, considering the negative public opinion surrounding the UPND treason case. But it really doesn't matter - induced or not, the IG's decision was wise.

It may appear like the police had a good case against Saviour for asking President Lungu "Bushe chalo chakwa wiso?" But that only looks that way because we have created a society in Zambia where the law is what the police officer says it is, not what is in the Constitution. We have been arrested before for various offences, among them defamation of the President and we know how easy it is in Zambia to get that charge, especially under President Edgar Lungu. Even just pointing at the President can land you in prison. Depending on how tilted your finger gets when pointing at him, you can go in for treason. That is why

after Chishimba's arrest, some political figureheads judged that he went too far with his criticism of President Lungu. But with this wise decision from the police command, we can confidently agree with the Inspector General that Chishimba did not break the law.

Yes, it is embarrassing for the police to arrest a citizen, a political rival to the Head of State, charge him with defamation of the President and then release him without taking him to court. But a commander at war who doesn't know when to retreat loses both the battle and his troops. We believe the police looked at the law and realised that Chishimba committed no offence when he made the following statement against President Lungu over the declaration of the Threatened State of Emergency:

"...This is what the international community has been saying, that

the President is a dictator, but he has been refusing. But he said it himself, that 'now you are going to bear with me, I am going to be a dictator'. Kwati nichalo chakwa wishu 'I am going to become a dictator'. Chalo chakwa wiso? Is this your country? There are many Zambians and this country does not belong to the President alone, no!

You can't just stand and say 'I am going to be a dictator, bear with me', bear with you over what? How can you ask people to bear with your foolishness? This is utter foolishness. You can't think like that, you are the President; you need to deal with facts. Don't speculate like those who are on the street. The rights of citizens that are protected under international law are taken away from people in the name of public emergency, bupumbu bupumbu you take away... 'No public emergency', emergency yakwani? yakwa wiso? Yakwa

noko? People must see the emergency, not just you.

I think time has come to start examining these men, to go to that psychiatric hospital to be examined. I don't think that someone who is in their right frame of mind can do such a thing. President Lungu and his colleagues are totally on the wrong side of history. What you are doing, these acts are like these are men and women who belong to the land of the dead. Let people who belong to the land of the living do things that are sensible, because it is those people who belong to the land of the living who fulfill destiny. If you men have no destiny to care about, we ask you to quietly go back to the land of the dead where you belong.

Zambia continued with the same authoritarian decree, and this is what President Edgar Chagwa Lungu is now shamelessly taking us back to,

umuntu (someone) who is even a lawyer. He has studied these things I am talking about. What kind of a lawyer are you? Because as a lawyer, you must be a champion to respect human rights, you must show us how your degree is working as a lawyer, as counsel. Unless you are telling us that there is something questionable about yourself, about your credentials, because as a lawyer, you must care about the working society.

We demand that you revoke the proclamation that 'there exists a situation which may lead to public emergency'. The government should focus on strengthening the security surveillance system as opposed to placing Zambia on the list of unsafe destinations. Some of the States in the Middle East have State of Emergencies, but terrorism and acts of violence and civil disobedience continue to escalate in their countries. So there is no guarantee that when you declare a State of Emergency, then suddenly, security will return to the nation. There is no guarantee at all. That's not the way to think, that's what we call thinking in reverse syndrome. You are thinking upside down, you can't do things like that. Revoke that proclamation if you care about yourself, if you care about your family, if you care about the people of Zambia..."

When police went to conduct a search at Saviour Chishimba's office, they demanded for a print-out of this statement from last month's press briefing. The statement was surrendered to the police and after days of consulting the law, the police command indeed, found that there was no offence committed and decided to drop their charge against the innocent politician. This is how it ought to be. We salute you Bwana IG, Mwami Bazungu!!

An Effective Education system is the Key to Sustainable Development

It goes without saying that education is an enabler, especially in a world entrenched in poverty, unemployment and inequality; it is a reviver of dreams and aspirations; education gives hope to the hopeless, that one day, I too can own a bicycle, a motorbike or even a vehicle. It is indeed true what they say, that, only through education would a child of an indigent in Sioma district dream of a day when s/he will sit and dine with people of influence.

Those that have gone before us even them that are still with us and fought for the liberation of Zambia knew that it is impossible to chant a development path without skilled labor. With just over a hundred graduates at independence, it was clear in their minds that Zambia cannot develop without skilled human capital. They prioritized education and placed it at the center of the development strategy. They raised the standards of the education system in the hope that one day, these young men and women will lead the country to prosperity. They were to be a safety net for the country's transformation agenda into a more prosperous state.

These men and women were very ambitious, and rightly so, because they were hopeful that these graduates will sustain the transformation of Zambia into an industrial hub. Their obsession to building skilled human capital led them to de-commodify education and to start offering free education

across the board - a move that later proved costly - as schools ran out of basic teaching materials and the infrastructure became dilapidated due to lack of maintenance. However, their convictions were pure and devoid of malice!

Driven by their unquestionable convictions and pure patriotism, they set the agenda for an industrialized Zambia into perspective. They set up industries across the country, with each province having some sort of an industrial company ranging from cotton ginneries to car assemblies. Irrespective of the divergent opinions on the economic sense of such a manufacturing ecosystem, Zambia boasted of a flourishing manufacturing sector with more than 70 percent share wholly owned by the state and ordinary Zambians.

They knew that it is impossible to build an industrial state without capacitating the higher education system to produce new knowledge through research and continuous learning. They established technical colleges to close down the skills gap in mining, construction and manufacturing; and built a pool of skilled labour for Zambia's future. Agriculture colleges were established, producing competent and well resourced extension officers to render support to the farmers and assistance in the diffusion of farm technologies. They developed platforms like the Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) and Olympiads

to encourage and nurture science and innovation among youths.

These efforts by our forerunners have never been put into context or built upon and successful governments have never demonstrated - in practical terms - that they appreciate the importance of an effective education system to the economic development of a country. The local manufacturing base has been wiped out by foreign companies that have found favour in our political system. The technical colleges have been transformed into business colleges so that "they can finance themselves" while others have been left to suffocate to extinction by systematically reducing government funding. The Zambia colleges of agriculture in Mpika and Monze are still yet to see the birth of their siblings. Their infrastructure continues to deteriorate as the agriculture sector begs for adaptation in the technological age. And there are still no incubation funds to help patent and commercialize the many innovative JETS projects.

As for our universities, it is now more than fifty years since the university of Zambia was established but we only have a handful of lecturers who are PhD holders, most of the classes are still being taught by masters degree level lecturers -thereby negatively impacting the volume and quality of publications, some science faculties still do not offer PhD programs - which does not

help the country to "catch-up" and advance to the frontiers of technology, the graduate programs are not even valued/appreciated by UNZA itself - for example, they would rather hire a masters degree level lecturer from a low ranked university outside Zambia than their own masters degree graduates. Student protests, go-slows and class boycotts still characterize the running and management of the institution due to lack of funding. We seem to have no plan or maybe we have lost direction of where UNZA must be placed in the broader context of our development priorities. The case is no different with the Copperbelt University (CBU) which is turning thirty years this year.

It has taken us more than twenty years into our democracy to finally have a government (Patriotic Front party) with a political will to invest in higher education infrastructure. The Patriotic Front party has ambitiously dared to construct at least one university in each of the ten provinces and has upgraded several colleges to university status. This is commendable but the conversation should now shift beyond the construction and upgrading of these wonderful infrastructures. There is need to start confronting the difficult conversations around financing and quality of graduates. If the highest learning institution in the country cannot be adequately resourced - both financially

and otherwise - we might find ourselves in a situation where we fail to fully operationalize these new universities or further compromise on the quality of graduates. And the social and economic conditions of the ordinary people should be the overriding theme in the discourse because education should not be a preserve for the privileged few.

The country still has a small working population which can hardly afford to finance post-secondary school studies. The 2014 labour force report estimated that only 5.8 million people of the 14.9 population are employed, and 57.9 percent of them live in rural areas. The agriculture sector accounted for 48.9 percent with the highest level of education for majority of these employed people being grades 1 - 7 (@41.6 percent) followed by grades 8 - 12 (@40.9 percent). This means that only 17.5 percent (or approximately 1.025 million employed persons) have some form of tertiary education. Therefore, majority of the working people in Zambia are in low paying jobs in the agriculture sector. It also shows that the country should begin to find sustainable strategies of addressing the small number of people with tertiary qualifications. And that is why the move by UNZA management to bar 850 students from writing exams is quite retrogressive and UNZA management should reflect on the guidance given by the minister of National Planning on this matter.

It is also not ideal under the circumstances to introduce and implement the Loan Scheme as a mode of financing educational costs for the poor at a time when countries are busy trying to pursue free education at tertiary levels. The conversations around the de-commodification of education are not only happening in developing countries like South Africa and Namibia but also in developed countries like the United States where graduates have been overburdened with student loans. If the student populace is protesting against student loans in developed countries where unemployment figures are still in single digits, what makes us think that such a model will be effective and sustainable in Zambia? However, this is not a call for the implementation of free education in Zambia because it is practically not feasible, but it is a call to explore the available alternatives which can be feasible and economically sustainable. The Loan Scheme will only add misery to the poor graduates as they default on payments leading to the collapse of the whole scheme if government funding was to be cut.



David Kapya is a Senior Consultant and Co-Founder at Tanoconomics

Burkina Faso restaurant attack kills 17

Seventeen people have been killed and eight wounded in a “terrorist attack” in the centre of the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, the government says. Three gunmen opened fire on customers seated outside a restaurant, witnesses were quoted as saying. Security forces killed two attackers, the authorities said, but some people are still reported to be trapped

in the building.

A jihadist attack on a cafe nearby left 30 people dead in January last year.

There are fears that the attack is the work of one of the affiliates of al-Qaeda that are active in the Sahel region, the BBC’s Alex Duval Smith reports.

The shooting began shortly after 21:00 (21:00 GMT) on Sunday on Ouagadougou’s busy Kwame Nkrumah Avenue.



A wounded restaurant customer sits on the ground after the attack

The Aziz Istanbul Restaurant appears to have been at the centre of the attack.

One eyewitness told the

BBC: “I saw there were multiple trucks or jeeps driving through my street, with... local army/police officers with AK47s,

deploying in front of my house.

“I heard a lot of shootings and then I was scared as hell and I went inside. I’ve

been hearing quite a bit of shooting.”

Police captain Guy Ye told Associated Press that the attackers had arrived on motorcycles and had begun shooting randomly.

A government statement quoted by the AFP news agency said: “The attack claimed 17 victims, their nationalities are yet to be confirmed, and eight injured.”

Turkey’s foreign ministry has confirmed that one of the dead was Turkish. Unconfirmed reports say another was French.

The attack is similar to one in January 2016, when gunmen targeted the Splendid Hotel and the Cappuccino restaurant, only 200m further along Kwame Nkrumah Avenue from the scene of the latest attack.

More than 170 people were taken hostage and 30 were killed. The al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) group said it carried out that attack.

Burkina Faso is part of the Sahel region, which includes Mali where Islamist groups have been active since 2012.

A multinational force run by African nations to target jihadist forces in the Sahel region has been established, but it will not be operational until later this year. **BBC News**



Army forces patrol streets as soldiers launch an operation against suspected jihadists in Burkina Faso after

Teen’s death at Chinese internet addiction camp sparks anger

A Chinese teenager has died days after he was sent to an internet addiction treatment centre, reigniting criticism of these controversial institutions.

The 18-year-old had allegedly sustained multiple injuries, and the centre’s director and several staff members have been detained, according to reports.

The incident took place earlier this month in eastern Anhui province.

China has seen a proliferation in so-called “boot camps” aimed at treating internet and gaming addictions.

Some are known for their military-style discipline and have been criticised for overly harsh practices.

‘Completely covered with scars’

In the latest incident in Anhui, the teenager’s mother, surnamed Liu, said her son had developed a

serious internet addiction which she and her husband were unable to help.

The parents then decided to send their son to a centre in Fuyang city which touted to use a combination of “psychological guidance and fitness training” to treat children for their internet addictions, reported the Anhui Shangbao newspaper.

Ms Liu dropped off her son on the night of 3 August. Two days later, the parents were informed that their son had been rushed to the hospital, where he later died.

The exact cause of the teenager’s death is not known.

But the parents said they were told by doctors who examined their son’s body that he had sustained more than 20 external injuries, as well as several internal injuries. They were allowed to see his body in the

mortuary.

“My son’s body was completely covered with scars, from top to toe...

When I sent my son to the centre he was still fine, how

could he have died within 48 hours?” Ms Liu was quoted as saying in Anhui Shangbao.

State broadcaster CCTV said the centre’s director

and four teaching staff have been detained, and authorities have shut down the centre while investigations are ongoing.

BBC News

Australia: Priests ‘must report’ confessions

Catholic clerics should face criminal charges if they do not report sexual abuse disclosed to them during confession, an Australian inquiry has recommended.

It is among 85 new proposals following a four-year landmark inquiry into institutional abuse in the nation.

The inquiry had heard harrowing tales of abuse, which were never passed onto the relevant authorities.

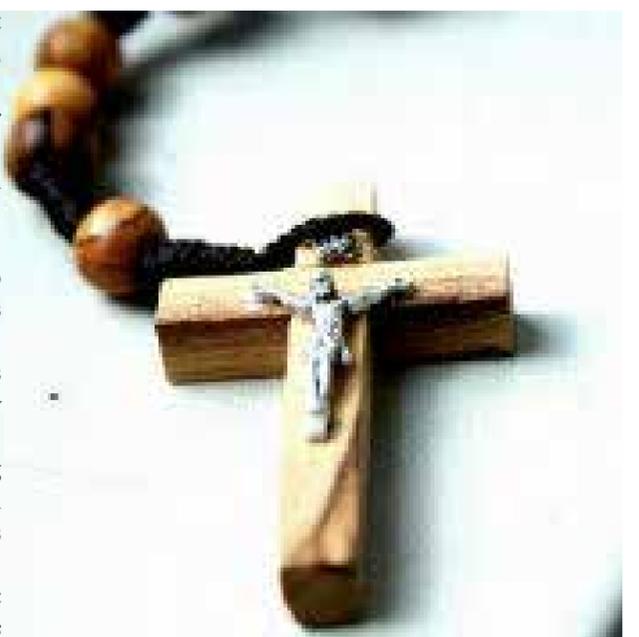
The recommendations will now be put to legislators.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which began in 2013, heard accounts from thousands of victims.

In some cases, paedophile priests had made admissions during Church confession in the knowledge that they would not be relayed to police.

Other proposals include changes to police interviewing techniques, removing a “good character” consideration in sentencing, and methods to make testifying not as traumatising for victims.

The commission heard that 7% of the nation’s Catholic priests abused children between 1950 and 2010. **BBC News**



Tom Cruise injured while filming 'Mission: Impossible 6' stunt

Tom Cruise has been filmed limping and apparently in pain after undertaking a failed stunt while filming *Mission: Impossible 6* in London.

The 55-year-old actor, who is unusual in Hollywood for insisting on doing his own stunts, was jumping between two buildings with the assistance of a harness when he missed the edge of the second roof and appeared to bang into the building.

Footage obtained by TMZ.com shows Cruise landing heavily, using his hands for support, after finishing the jump too early to make the next building.

After hoisting himself onto the building, Cruise limps before collapsing near crew members. He is then returned to the rigging he jumped from and pulled away by crew members to safety.

The extent of Cruise's injuries are not yet known. His rep has not immediately responded to calls.

Cruise was filming the latest in the lucrative action series *Mission: Impossible* in an unknown part of the capital, although some on social media suggest

that the film set is on the northern banks of The Thames.

He has been filming

characteristically dangerous scenes in Paris, where he rode a motorbike into a car before flying through the

air, and Oxfordshire, where Cruise was photographed parachuting at the beginning of the month.

Cruise is no stranger to on-set mishaps. When filming *Edge of Tomorrow* in 2014, he avoided a nasty

accident after co-star Emily Blunt undertook a driving scene at high-speed. **Yahoo News**



Tom Cruise, seconds before he collided with a building

Backstreet Boys celebrate 20th anniversary of U.S debut album

Keep the Backstreet pride alive!

Nick Carter, Howie Dorough, Brian Littrell,

AJ McLean and Kevin Richardson are celebrating 20 years since the U.S. release of their first album,

Backstreet Boys. "What a 20 years it's been! To each and every one of you who's been a part

of this journey, thank you! We love you all. #20YearsBackstreetAlbum," the band wrote on Instagram

on Saturday. BSB released their self-titled album on Aug. 12, 1997. On Saturday, the singers -- who will return to their Vegas residency in November -- were among the opening acts for Florida Georgia Line and performed at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois.

McLean took to Instagram Stories to thank fans for their constant dedication to the group.

"I think it's pretty awesome that today, 20 years ago, our first U.S. album was released and here we are now, 20 years later, selling out Wrigley Field. God bless you guys," he said.

"I want to thank you guys for helping us create this 20th anniversary for Backstreet's first album," Dorough added on Instagram. "You guys are the heart and soul of the group. You guys are the Backstreet army and happy anniversary to you too."

Earlier this year, ET spoke with BSB about their surprising secret to staying in harmony for more than two decades.

"It's like a marriage," Richardson confessed, with his bandmates quickly echoing the sentiment.

"We go to counseling," Carter added, revealing that it was Dorough who came up with the idea. "We talk things out," he explained. **Yahoo News**

Bruno Mars donates \$1M to flint water crisis victims

Bruno Mars is giving back! The 31-year-old singer is donating \$1 million from his Michigan concert to help those affected by the Flint water crisis. Mars made the announcement during his sold-out show in Auburn Hills, Michigan, on Saturday.

"I'm very thankful to the Michigan audience for joining me in supporting this cause," Mars said in a statement. "Ongoing challenges remain years later for Flint residents, and it's important that we don't forget our brothers and sisters affected by this disaster. As people, especially as Americans, we need to stand together to make sure something like this never happens in any community ever again."

Mars and Live Nation will redirect funds from the Detroit show to The Community Foundation of Greater Flint, an organization that addresses the issues brought on by the effects

of the water crisis. The "Versace on the Floor"

singer is currently on his 24K Magic World Tour

and will be honored with the Visionary Award at the

2017 Teen Choice Awards on Sunday. **Yahoo News**



Chelsea treating me like a criminal - Diego Costa



Exiled Chelsea star Diego Costa has given a withering assessment of head coach Antonio Conte and accused the Premier League champions of treating him as if he were a "criminal".

Costa was Chelsea's top

scorer with 20 goals as they secured a second league title in three years last season but Conte has since informed the Spain international he does not feature in his first-team plans.

The manner of this rejection provides a major flash point in the current stand-off, with Costa claiming Conte dumped him via text message when he was away on international duty in June.

Chelsea maintain the 28-year-old forward has been aware of their plans since January, around the time he was heavily linked with a move to Tianjin Quanjian in the Chinese Super League.

The upshot is Costa going AWOL, back to his hometown of Lagarto in Brazil, where UK newspaper the Daily Mail tracked him down at his family home while watching the Blues' shock 3-2 defeat to Burnley. A return to former club Atletico Madrid remains the desired option for Costa, who is presently racking up fines as he refuses to return to Chelsea and train with the reserves.

"I wouldn't be allowed access to the first-team dressing room and I would have no contact at all with the guys," he explained. "I'm not a criminal! I don't think it is fair after all I have done to be treated like that. "They gave me a week extra off [at the start of pre-season training] but since then it's fines all the way.

"They want me training with the reserves. I am not going to do that. I am not a criminal and I am not in the wrong here. So, if they need to fine me, let them fine me."

Atletico's player registration ban would prevent Costa from playing for them until January but the forward is willing to remain out of action for as long as it takes his Chelsea ordeal to play out.

"I am open to being a year in Brazil without playing, even if Chelsea fine me for a year and don't pay me," he said.

"I'll come back stronger. If I was in the wrong, I'd go back now and do as they say.

"My desire is to go to

Atletico. I've spoken to Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia. I said, 'If the manager doesn't want me, I want to go to Atletico Madrid.'

"I have rejected other offers. They want to sell me to China or other teams. If I'm off, I'm going to the club I want to go to - not the club that's paying the most."

Costa claimed to have been on the verge of signing a new contract at Stamford Bridge but accused Conte of "putting the brakes on" and sees no prospect of reconciliation with the Italian, who brought in club-record signing Alvaro Morata as his replacement. Lethal Lukaku & Man Utd send title warning

"His ideas are very fixed and clear," Costa said of Conte. "I have seen the sort of person he is. He has his own opinion and that will not change.

"I respect him as a great coach. He has done a good job and I can see that, but as a person, no. He is not a coach who is very close with his players. He is very distant. He doesn't possess charisma."

As for the infamous text message, that is set to remain on Costa's phone for posterity.

"There are ways of going about it. You don't do it by text message. You should be honest and direct to someone's face," he added.

"I was angry at the time. Now I am more calm. I have not deleted the message. If people accuse me of lying, I can show them." *Goal.com*

Real Madrid beat Barcelona, Ronaldo red carded in Spanish supercopa

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a stunning winner before being sent off for a dive in Real Madrid's Supercopa de Espana first-leg triumph over Barcelona.

The Portugal star came off the bench to blast home Madrid's second goal of the visitors' 3-1 win at Camp Nou but earned a second yellow card for going to ground in the penalty area two minutes later, having earlier been booked for taking his shirt off in celebration.

Zinedine Zidane's side took the lead early in the second half through an own goal by Gerard Pique, but Barca tied the game thanks to Lionel Messi's penalty, which was awarded in controversial fashion by Luis Suarez.

Ronaldo put Madrid back ahead with a spectacular strike but was dismissed within two minutes of that goal and risked further punishment when he pushed the referee in the back before

departing the field.

Barca pushed for a second equalizer late, but was undone by Marco Asensio's brilliant strike on the break, meaning they'll have to make up the deficit at the Santiago Bernabeu next Wednesday in the first Supercopa tie between these sides since 2012.

Barca had the upper hand in the early exchanges, with Suarez testing Kyle Navas from just inside the area, and Dani Carvajal was perhaps fortunate to escape being penalized for a handball when blocking Gerard Deulofeu's cross.

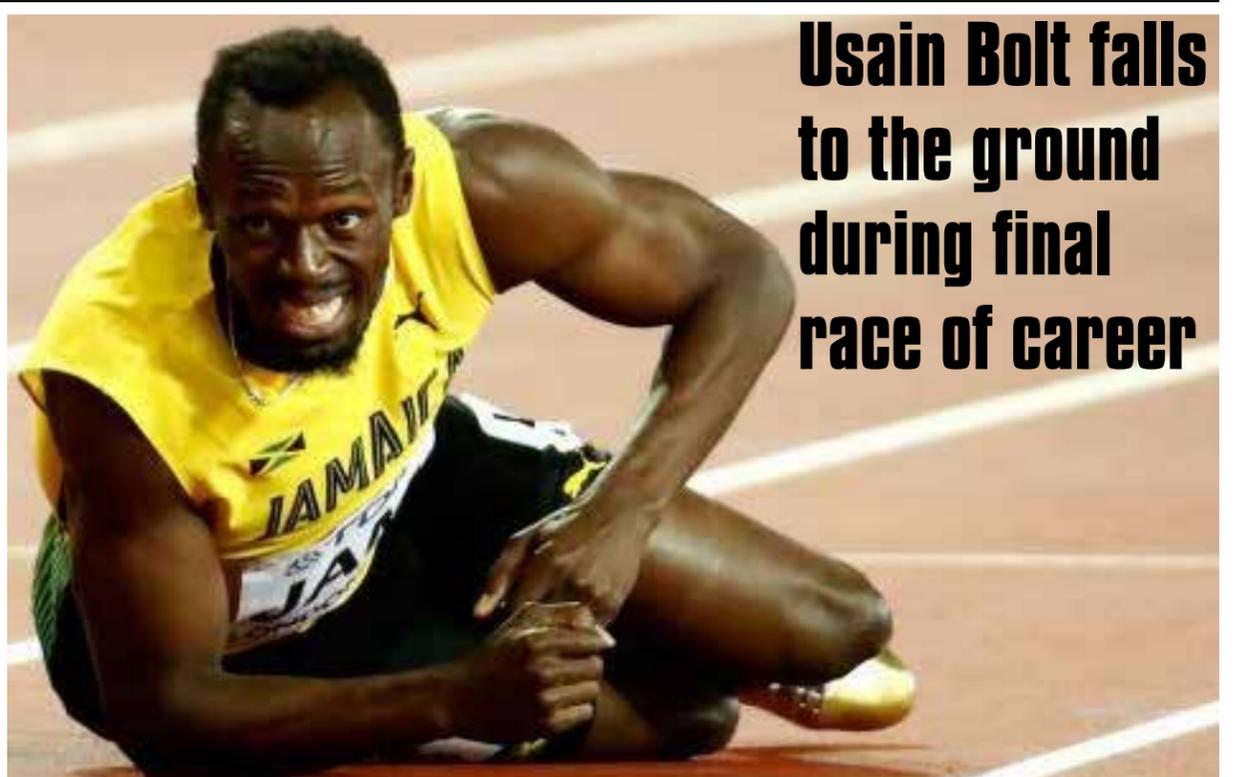
Neither side looked prepared to commit to the attack in a tepid first half, and Gareth Bale saw the clearest chance saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen from inside the penalty area following Isco's jinking run.

Pique - who scored the winner when these teams met in the International

Champions Cup last month - had been booked for attempting to punch the ball towards goal following a corner in the first half, and

it was another moment of ignominy for the center back that gave Madrid the lead five minutes after the break.

Yahoo Sport



Usain Bolt falls to the ground during final race of career



Wedson upbeat despite Bafana Bafana draw

By Diggers Reporter
Chipolopolo Coach Wedson Nyirenda says Saturday's away draw against Bafana Bafana has given his side a great advantage heading into the final leg decider of their 2018 CHAN qualifiers. Zambia rallied from two-down to snatch a 2-2 against Bafana in final round, first leg match played at Buffalo City Stadium in East London. Chipolopolo now need a win in the final leg at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on August 19 to book their ticket to the Kenya

final that will be held from January 11 to February 2. "It (the draw) has given us some more confidence and some impetus to go and finish the job at home. I think the two goals we have scored away will give us a good dimension in the home game," Nyirenda said. "Having said that, I think we are not taking things for granted. "If we can score a goal or two here, then they can score at our home, so we are going to be more cautious in the final leg." Ten-man Bafana were on target through Gift Motupa

in the 31st minute and Mario Booyesen in the 47 minute.

Martin Phiri scored Zambia's first goal in the 61st minute and Augustine

Mulenga equalized in stoppage time. Mulenga's goal came shortly

after Bafana defender Tercious Malepe was sent off for a second booking.

Madrid beat Barca in Supercopa, Ronaldo red carded

P11



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates with Kroos after scoring against Barcelona in the Spanish Supercopa

Zverev stuns Federer to win Montreal Masters

Alexander Zverev shocked second seed Roger Federer in straight sets in the Montreal Masters final to win his fifth title of the season and announce himself as an emerging star for the US Open. The 20-year-old German used his booming serve to overpower Federer 6-3, 6-4 Sunday as the Swiss superstar never got a chance to get into the match. "I tried to be aggressive as I can," said Zverev. "If Roger starts being aggressive with his forehand and backhand then it is not going to be an easy day for me." Zverev avenged a 6-1, 6-3 loss to Federer in the Halle final in June -- his only loss in a final this season. He is now tied with Federer for the most titles this season at five. *Yahoo Sports*

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