THE United Party for National Development (UPND) has retained the Council chairperson seat for Itezhi-Tezhi District with a landslide victory after beating its closest rival, the Patriotic Front (PF) with a margin of 5,027.

But it is the ruling party that has scooped the majority of local government seats.

 Meanwhile, President Lungu says the country will continue borrowing only for economically viable projects.

Speaking when he officially opened Parliament under the theme "Moving towards a prosperous smart Zambia in peace and tranquillity without leaving anyone behind", President Lungu called for unity among citizens.

He also condemned hate speech on social media.

"Mr Speaker, we may disagree and quarrel but we will remain one. The factors that unite us are greater than those that seek to divide us. And that is fundamental. Therefore Mr Speaker, the acts of arson and sabotage, hate speech on social media and other injurious acts against each other are an assault on ourselves. No iota of an explanation Mr Speaker can justify what we have experienced in the recent past," President Lungu said.

President Lungu urged those who sought public office to show love to the people.
We may quarrel but we are still one, Lungu

By Miriam Chabala

Canadian based lawyer Elias Munsya said Chief Justice阁Lungu’s duty to discipline lawyers.

In a letter dated September 12, 2017 addressed to Justice Mambilima, Mr. Munsya said it was illegal for the Judiciary to suspend lawyers appearing before courts in all matters.

“Zambia is bigger than us and there are those of us that seek public office should advance much higher moral morals and including respecting our people. Sustainable development is for all, differently affected as well as who are all able bodied,” he said.

And President Lungu said poverty levels remained unacceptably high.

"Mr Speaker, poverty levels in the country remain unacceptably high with 54.4 percent of our people living below the poverty line. Poverty in our country is overwhelmingly a rural phenomenon with a rate almost three times the level observed in urban areas. As a whole, rural population at 55% is affected by poverty while in urban areas, extreme poverty is at 13%. I want you to know what we are doing to reduce poverty and vulnerability in our country,” President Lungu said.

“Our vulnerable people, Mr Speaker, include orphans, females and child headed households, different abled persons, the crippled, order persons. Our interventions therefore should give them hope for a better life and that of their children, and children’s children. Climate change remains an obstacle to poverty and vulnerability reduction and has a potential to increase vulnerability and strives to diversify the economy and attainment of sustainable development,” President Lungu said.

Meanwhile, President Lungu said government would contract loans only for realistic viable projects adding that Parliament would continue providing oversight on public debt contraction.

“Government will continue to put in place measures to ensure that our national debt remains within sustainable levels. Government will therefore contract loans only for realistic viable projects. Further, in accordance with the constitution, this August House will continue providing oversight on public debt contraction as debt sustainability in pivotal in rebalancing the economy. Mr Speaker, the Ministry responsible for Finance will soon present the 2018 national budget to this august house for consideration and approval. The budget is going to outline many revenue reforms aimed at increasing revenue collection to fund planned expenditures;” he said.

He also said that there was need to diversify sources of energy from hydro, wind, biomas and nuclear so as to meet the demands of power supply to the people.

“Government is implementing a gradual migration towards a reflective tariff regime, to this effect a 75% tariff adjustment has since been implemented. This I must say must appear as a hash decision on the part of government in the short term. However in the long term, the country will benefit from increased investment in the sector which will generate the much needed resources for industrialization and diversification of our economy. Government will be able to create more jobs and improve the well being of our people,” President Lungu said.

On the recently introduced HIV testing policy, President Lungu insisted that there was no room for controversy on the subject because it was a matter of life and death. The functions of the food reserve agency legislation is expected to be completed before the end of the year in readiness for consideration by this august house.

It is for this reason that my government has launched the test and treat towards ending HIV/AIDS policy. We are testing and treating HIV testing and treatment in Zambia is now being done on a universal basis. If you go there, they will examine you, they will test you with that.

“Government is also developing a comprehensive policy that will address alcohol and other substance abuse to ensure wholesome development of our people especially the youth. In addition, rehabilitation programs have commenced at Chama Hills College in Luansika and will be rolled out to all provinces. Special emphasis is being placed on rehabilitation and reintegration into society of those affected with various substance abuse including alcohol and tobacco,” President Lungu said.

“Government was streamlining the functions of the Zambia Law Society (ZLS) and the Bar Council of Zambia (BCZ) to make it effectively perform its original mandate of procuring strategic lawyers, the management of the food reserve agency legislation is expected to be completed before the end of the year in readiness for consideration by this august house.

Lungu said government had continued to review the food reserve agency legislation is expected to be completed before the end of the year in readiness for consideration by this august house.

“Zambians must be happy to know that the house that so far, 80 public workers have so far accessed agro-equipment under the Public Workers to actively engage in agricultural activities while we want they are tired and retired. It is my hope however, that I do not hear from you reasonably, “ he wrote.

“Addressing the National Assembly, President Lungu gave his Cabinet Ministers and then proceeded to greet the Head of State through the Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) Act, the Legal Practitioners Act and regulations.

Our common law does not suspend a lawyer from appearing before judges is illegal. Tolerating this letter will interfere with the independence of the state. “It is not Mambilima’s duty to suspend a lawyer from appearing before judges is illegal. Tolerating this letter will interfere with the independence of the state,” Mr Munsya said.

President Lungu also urged the Ministry of Parliament to interrogate, debate, and eventually support the soon to be presented 2018 national budget.

“Government is also developing a comprehensive policy that will address alcohol and other substance abuse to ensure wholesome development of our people especially the youth,” he said.

“While HIV and AIDS still remain a challenge in the country, we have made significant progress in combating the pandemic. This is evidenced in the reduction of the HIV incidence rate from 19% in 2005 to 6% in 2015 and 13% in 2016. It is for this reason that my government has launched the test and treat towards ending HIV/AIDS policy. We are testing and treating HIV testing and treatment in Zambia is now being done on a universal basis.

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It is my hope however, that I do not hear from you reasonably, “ he wrote.
He also said that the country's economic growth would rise above the initial projection due to stability in the electricity supply and the significant rise in Copper prices on the international market.

“The budget cycle has changed from end of March to beginning of January each year and that is why towards the end of the actual fiscal year, which used to be October and this year it will be in September. This shows that we don't actually know how we shall change the year. But indications are that we might end positively on most of those indicators and I am very positive that economic growth will be above the planned repose for many reasons because firstly, we have had stability in electricity supply the whole of this year starting from March, we think significant stability has been made in that area. We have also seen Copper prices going beyond what was projected initially, you may remember that most international organizations like the IMF and World Bank had actually projected much demand of Copper from China,” said Kanyama. And Moono observed that government seemed reluctant about signing an IMF bailout package.

“For me I would like to see that there is a continuity of economic stabilization and growth programme, this is just the first year of the programme and we have seen positive results for the programme to succeed. So we would like to see that the programme continues next year and the subsequent years as well. And then we also want to see that government sticks to its policy programme. For example, this year they projected that they wouldn't go beyond two per cent of the GDP from the local market but as of June they already borrowed over K6 billion. So there is an issue of adhering to the target that they set. We want to see to it that they adhere to the target that they set. However, I am quite skeptical about the IMF deal right now and this because government thinks they are out of the coma and no longer need the fund. Of course that's just my assumption and I could be wrong but I am able to read the signs and how the statements are being structured. But I still ask government to consider going for a standby facility under IMF if they can't go for a full programme because you may never know,” said Moono.

Meanwhile, business consultant Dennis Wood he expected finance minister Felix Mutati to give a clear roadmap on debt repayment.

“I think for me the most important thing is to look at fiscal sustainability and credibility measures, those are very key things and if that is not done, then we will have a very big problem in our hands because we will actually be carrying over the 2017 financial deficit to 2018. Then the other thing that I think we need to look at is the public debt, we need to dismantle it as soon as we can. Whatever happens once we dismantle it then we will generate some form of enthusiasm in the economy. So those are the two things that I want to see from the Minister’s budget next week,” said Wood.
Kambwili is bitter, other officials donate to Presidential fund - Kabwe

By Martha Chilufya

 Presidential Empowerment Fund patron Chanda Kabwe says Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili is just a bitter man who is trying to nurse his expulsion by painting the Head of State black.

Recently, Kambwili questioned President Lungu’s Presidential Empowerment Fund saying he did not want marketeers to be handling dirty money. “So Mr President, we love handling clean money and clean money can only be money that is explained, and clean money can only be handling clean money, we want our marketeers to handle dirty money, we don’t want our marketeers to be handling dirty money, we want our marketeers to be handling clean money and clean money can only be money that is explained, the source is explained correctly to the people of Zambia,” said Kambwili.

But in an interview with News Diggers’ yesterday, Kabwe said the fund was sustained by other well wishers and members of the PF. “Kambwili is now a bitter person who is all over planting seeds of bitterness and evil but his accusation that the presidential empowerment fund is dirty, I will wait for him to come back to his senses then I will find time to respond to him as I don’t want to find myself exchanging words with a bitter man. Honorable Kambwili is aware that his accusations are untrue and baseless and he’s just acting out of frustration as his soul is deeply troubled by the spirit of bitterness from the shock of his expulsion from the party,” Kabwe said.

“Honorable Kambwili was a very senior member of the party and him and me know how much President Lungu as well as many members of the party especially those who feel challenged such as my deputy who are saying that the President 10 percent donation to the fund needs to be complimented.” Kabwe claimed that Kambwili had refused to contribute to the fund before he was expelled from the ruling party. “It is very sad that my big bother once upon a time saw the creation of the fund and how his colleagues from the party contributed to the fund by putting across insulting accusations against the President so as to gain himself some political mileage, but I would like to remind my big bother that the truth sets people free and no one has ever achieved victory through painting others black. Honorable Kambwili should be very careful in the way he is nursing his expulsion shock with a bitter heart and he should stop issuing baseless accusations against the President of the nation,” said Kabwe.

Lungu must regularly meet opposition and CSOs - YALI

By Enesi Kaoma

YALI says President Lungu must consider holding talks with opposition political parties and various stake holders regularly in order to get honest views on governance issues.

And YALI says UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema must drop the election petition and focus on dialogue. In a statement availed to News Diggers! today, Young African Leaders Initiative Governance Advisor Isaac Mwanza said there was need for the President to hold bi-annual and quarterly meetings with different stake holders in order to exchange ideas and resolve the economic and governance challenges that the country was facing.

“We believe time has come for the Head of State to begin holding meetings with stake holders who include opposition political parties, civil society organisations, the church as a way of getting honest views on matters of national governance,” Mwanza said.

Mwanza said he was sure that stakeholders would be willing to hold such talks. “We don’t think everyone must be in government for them to contribute to the governance of this country or to reforming systems, for instance the media contributes a country’s governance in a way of providing timely and balanced information which enables decision-makers to make right decisions” he said.

He said stake holders who might not be willing to attend talks with the Head of State would have no one to blame when things went wrong in the country. Mwanza said YALI appreciated mediation offered by the Commonwealth but noted that the resolution of differences laid on President Lungu’s commitment to the dialogue process.

“We want to reiterate that YALI welcomes Professor Gambart as the Commonwealth representative to talk ahead of 2021 elections but we believe President Lungu must take up his rightful place in providing leadership,” Mwanza said.

And Mwanza asked HH to drop the petition and focus on the upcoming dialogue. “Our destiny as a country will however depend on our collective resolve to move beyond the 2016 election that divided us and focus on the future. We thus appeal to the UPND leader to let go of the petition and begin to focus on this dialogue, 2021 and beyond,” stated Mwanza.
Judiciary applying law selectively, says US-based founder

Singer CO turns actor

From front page

There is more to explore there and it is easier to get recognised when you work with big and famous actors like Jim Iyke who is already well established on the international market. My vision is to become an international actor and musician, CQ whose real names are Chansa Chisenga, told News Diggers in an interview.

"Pipo is simply a life transformation movie because it shows all the challenges that the public have to know that artists undergo not only when they are doing but also well all those who are struggling," he said.

"I am aiming to releasing more movies in the years to come, and ultimately, my dream is to one day feature in a Hollywood movie. It is still to come, and ultimately, my vision is to become an international actor and musician."

The launch of the movie is coming up very soon, most likely around November. But I won't stop the music business. I will continue making as much music as possible because the movie industry even if you are old you can still act and make it unlike music which limits you when you reach a certain age."
President Lungu's motorcade arrives at Parliament for the official opening on September 15, 2017 picture by Tenson Mkhala

Parties with more MPs will get more govt campaign funds - Lubinda

By Mituam Chabala

Justice Minister Given Lubinda said under the current Constitution, government will give more campaign funds to political parties with more members of parliament.

Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot Seat programme, Lubinda said that political parties needed to be controlled on the amount of money to use during campaigns as they would have to account for every bit of it.

"The Political Parties Bill intends to create mechanisms for political parties that receive funding from government to be held accountable for the funds they receive from government. However, it goes further in that it also attempts to introduce mechanisms that make political parties accountable for all the funds that they receive from government. The bill can disclose their sources of funding. Political parties must be controlled on the amount of money they use during campaigns. So the bill is not only concerned about the funding they receive from government, it is concerned about the total management of political parties," Lubinda said.

"Funding a political party is not a problem and I am not saying it's a problem but the drafters of the bill have looked at various countries which have similar legislation and they have found that in those jurisdictions, political parties are bound by law to disclose the sources of funding. The reason for this is because you don't want to have people who are aspiring to government leadership whose funding is suspicious. Imagine if a political party was to be funded by terrorist groups, when that political party ascends to government, then you are in trouble because those terrorist groups will start to govern through the people who they sponsored to those positions," Lubinda noted that the Bank of Zambia recorded an unprecedented amounts of strange transactions of money believed to have been brought in the country to finance political campaigns in 2016. You may also want to take a look at the financial intelligence report of 2016 which was published early this year. In there you will see that unlike the years before, in 2016 just after elections, the financial intelligence unit of the Bank of Zambia recorded an unprecedented amounts of strange transactions. Money was moving from one account to another and a lot of it was coming into Zambia from outside during that period and obviously that gives you questions on the motive of the money coming into the country at that time, for me it was obviously for financing campaigns. I am not saying this is for a particular political party, I am just speaking generally. So it is in the interest of the state that such transactions are monitored so that political parties can, through the state explain to the people their sources of funding," Lubinda said.

And Lubinda said arguing whether the constituency money will be realised to political parties based on the number of seats a particular party had.

"To the extent that political funding is concerned yes they are right, for this sitting of Parliament, the 12th session yes it will only benefit those political parties that have got seats in Parliament and it's not a matter of argument. The political parties that have the largest number of seats in Parliament will benefit the largest because the law says that the funds should go to those political parties that have seats in Parliament. The money will be realised to political parties based on the number of seats that they have, so those parties that have no seats in Parliament will benefit nothing because that's what the law says. So yes I understand the complaints of the political parties that have no seats in Parliament but look at this from a bigger picture," Lubinda said.

Meanwhile, Lubinda asked stakeholders who were unhappy that the President was the appointing authority of members to seat on the political parties board, to include their complaints in their submissions.

"You may have noticed that all the time I have been interviewed about the political parties bill, I have resisted to myself to the principles that are provided in the Constitution. When it comes to the bill itself, I have resisted debating it because that is a draft. The Ministry of Justice wrote a draft and gave it to the people and it is now entirely up to the people of Zambia to say okay this we like and this we don't like. So what we will present to Parliament is the outcome of the consultative process. I have heard people who have said they don't like the idea of the President being the appointing authority, fine! Please send your submission by all means and argue your case and if all the participants agree, we will amend it," said Lubinda.

DEC nabs Lusaka woman for money laundering

By Zondive Mbewe

The Drug Enforcement Commission has arrested a 28-year-old female office in Lusaka for obtaining over K400,000 under false pretences and money laundering.

District Prosecution Officer Theresa Katongo said that the female administration officer identified as Mwansa Carol Musaba, while acting with other unknown people, attached already paid invoices to delivery notes claiming payments to a known Mining Company claiming payments amounting to K402,000. The payments were made to her company account which were later withdrawn.

Katongo further said Musaba, who is currently on police bond, engaged in money laundering activities by procuring a motor vehicle using proceeds of crime and later sold it. And Katongo stated that two people had been nabbed for being in possession of counterfeit notes.

"And still in Lusaka, the Commission has arrested and jointly charged two (02) people for being in possession of $10,000 United States Dollar counterfeit notes. The two arrested and jointly charged include Doreen Wabulha, 40, of Maters East and Dixon Mukisi, 56, of Luka South for being in possession of $10,000 United States Dollar counterfeit notes," stated Katongo.

She said all the suspects will appear in court soon.
By Mirriam Chabala
The Center for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) has observed that Zambia's national debt has continued to swell as it is carried forward from one budget circle to another.

In an interview with News Diggers! CTPD executive director Isaac Mwapepo expressed concern over the amount of debt that the country had accrued overtime which he said would likely to graduate by 2024 if government did not stop borrowing.

He added that members of parliament were responsible for tightening the screws and avoid approving unnecessary loans.

In terms of debt management, CTPD is concerned at the growing debt levels, we are aware that currently, we have loans that we are still financing, some of which will graduate by 2022, others by 2024. We need to fully pay the principle amount on the loan that we have accumulated as a country. Now the concern is that we have continued to borrow more funds and even as we are borrowing these funds, we are wondering if at all our key institutions like Parliament who are supposed to play an oversight role in ensuring that before acquisition of these loans, they actually give an approval. It will be important that Parliament steps up its role and helps to ensure that there is actually a proper channel in the acquisition of loans," said Mwapepo.

"CTPD welcomes the publication of the 2018-2020 Green Paper which is aimed at linking government medium term development goals as tabulated in the 7th National Development Plan... If you look at the documents, you will realise that as a country we struggled to meet the first half of the year to raise resources domestically, actually one of the things that you will notice in the document that has been shared is that expenditure outstripped revenue collection in terms of the resources that we were able to mobilise domestically. So what that means is that as a country we have continued to rely on grants and other options such as borrowing to finance development."

Mwapepo added that the government would need to expand it's revenue generation base.

"CTPD has a number of expectations that boarder on revenue generation and one of them is around the way our key sector like the exportation of scrap metals have been handled. The nation has to benefit revenue generation from some of these strategic sectors instead of just having a low per cent in some of these export duties that we gain from the export of scrap metals. Government can consider increasing the percentage so as to discourage the exportation of the commodity. As we do that it will be also important to consider some of the accompanying measures such as ensuring that the local market is in place to process the scrap metals, " said Mwapepo.

Mwapepo also expected government to consider scaling up funding towards key sectors like education and health to secure a healthy country.

"With regard to expenditure, some of the things that we have noted from the 2017 national budget are that there was a considerable consideration towards spending on critical social sectors but if you look at it in terms of percentage, we think it still falls far below. So as we move towards 2018, it will be good for the government to still consider supporting critical social sectors. It will also be important to consider scaling up spending towards the education and health sectors to secure a healthy country," said Mwapepo.

"We would also want to submit that as Parliament opens and begins to sit, we also have expectations that they will consider prioritising the finalisation of the planning and budgeting Act as well as the revised Finance Act so as to strengthen our ability to manage the resources that we have in an efficient manner."

By Diggers Reporter
Singer Mumba Yachi has been granted K5,000 cash bail after obtaining a conditional surety for contempt of court.

Mumba, a Congolese citizen is accused of being in the country without informing the court or risk being cited for unlawful stay. Mumba is charged with unlawful stay in Zambia and giving false information to public officers.

When the matter came up today, magistrate Kapulo finally granted Mumba bail after reviewing ruling on two occasions.

She said she had no objection to granting the accused bail as he had met the condition of obtaining a residence permit. Magistrate Kapulo ordered Mumba to provide two working sureties from reputable organizations bound at K8000 in their own recognizance.

Details in this case are that Mumba, a Congolese national, did enter Zambia through Mokambro border post control and continued to stay unlawfully in the country without a valid permit or authority from the Immigration Department which offence happened between January 1, 2017 and August 28, 2017.

The accused is in the second count between January 1, 2015 and March 6, 2015 alleged to have willfully and with intent to deceive for the purpose of obtaining a Zambian green national registration card no. 40573/10/1, did give false information to a public officer that his father and mother were Zambia citizens when in fact not. He is also alleged to have willfully and with intent to deceive and for the purposes of obtaining a Zambian passport no. ZNS50035 did make a false statement to a passport officer that his father and mother were Zambia citizens when in fact not.

I found a gun hidden in Mukata’s car - Witness

By Diggers Reporter
A detective inspector has told the Lusaka High Court that he discovered a fire arm hidden underneath some plates containing the body of member of parliament Keith Mukata’s car.

In this case, Mukata and his co-accused Charmaine Mwenda are accused of murdering a security guard Namakabwa Kwenda who was manning Mukata law firm AKM legal practitioners.

Marvin Chilufya testified that when he reached the crime scene, he found Kwenda lying unconscious behind the gate of AKM Legal Practitioners. Chilufya said when he walked towards the offices, he noticed an empty cartridge bouncing around near a BMW car which was parked 18 metres away from the deceased.

Chilufya told the court that upon discovering an empty cartridge on the ground he attempted to open the car but it was locked.

He said when he asked for the keys to the BMW, Mukata instead gave him keys for a Land Cruiser that was parked in the premises.

He said he followed some foot prints which he noticed on a pathway and they led him behind the office where he discovered car keys in a flowerbed. The detective inspector narrated that he used the keys to open Mukata’s car and discovered a basket that contained plates and a fire arm hidden underneath.

Chilufya further narrates that among the items that were found in the car was a magazine with five rounds of ammunition and a hand bag that contained passports belonging to Mukata and his lover Charmaine.

Earlier, Vincent Chibesa, a ballistic officer told justice Susan Wanjelani that the distance between Kwenda and his shooter was approximately twenty metres.

Chibesa said according to his findings, Kwenda and shooter faced each other during the incident. Chibesa insisted that the perforation on the gate and Kwenda’s body had similar characteristics.

He said the diameter of the perforation on the gate and Kwenda’s body were caused by a fire of the same calibre 0.4 centimetres.

When the case was stood down for 20 minutes, the murder suspect interacted with his ex wife Getrude. Trial continues on September 18.
We agree with those who are condemning former chief government spokesperson Chisimba Kambwili for waiting until he was forced to start seeing the corruption that is going on in the Patriotic Front government. The Roan PF member of parliament claims that he could not expose the corruption or condemn the bad decisions made while he was in office because his life “needed to abide by the ‘collective responsibility’ rule. But that just shows the kind of politician he is – a leader who has no principles whatever. In order words, by failing to resign in the face of corruption, Mr Kambwili is simply saying that he would not have become a president, he would expect his ministers to brace him for any actions in the name of ‘collective responsibility’. We do not support that criminally minded approach.

But much as we would like to mean this member of parliament and hear nothing more from this Michael Sata wannabe, it is saddening to note that he is coming from the dust he is raising. Mr Kambwili is questioning the authority of the President to re-establishment of a national airline. He is concerned that the move will benefit a few corrupt officials which will make the country’s national airline to remain without the capacity to operate a national airline.

"What we said when Mr Sata was alive is that’s let’s fly the flag and give a chance to the whole thing and retain shares. They can bring the alternative people and paint them in Zambian colors as a flag carrier, but creating a national airline will slow the making venture under the current circumstances... The reason government is buying him is because something bad is going on in his business. What want to get commissions in the procurement process,堃 Cramer, it is unusual for the government to be thinking about creating a national airline when airlines such as British Airways and South African Airline, with bigger economies are struggling," said Kambwili.

Hate him if you want, but the truth has its point.

"South Africa’s Treasury is considering a 13 billion rand ($972 million) bailout to keep South African Airways (SAA) going as it battles liquidity issues. South Africa’s Finance Minister, Malusi Gigaba said on Friday, August 4, 2017 – a month after the national airline received state funds to help it recover from an operating loss of R16.9 billion ($460.4 million) in 2015–the government is considering its contribution to the lockdown of a national airline.

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Google sued over ‘sex discrimination’

The complaint is seeking class-action status that would cover women working at the company in California for the last four years. They are looking for unpaid wages, among other remedies.

Google said it would review the lawsuit but disagreed with the “central allegations.” “Job levels and promotions are determined through rigorous hiring and promotion committees, and must pass multiple levels of review, including checks to make sure there is no gender bias in these decisions,” spokeswoman Gina Scigliano said in a statement. Like other companies in Silicon Valley, the company has faced questions about how it treats women before. About 70% of Google’s workforce are men, according to the company. Men represent about 80% of staff in “tech” roles and 75% of leadership positions.

The Department of Labour found systematic pay disparities at the firm during a 2015 audit, and must pass multiple levels of review, including checks to make sure there is no gender bias in these decisions, “job levels and promotions are determined through rigorous hiring and promotion committees, and must pass multiple levels of review, including checks to make sure there is no gender bias in these decisions,” said Scigliano.

Google's CEO Sundar Pichai criticised a memo written by an employee for being sexist

Google’s CEO Sundar Pichai criticised a memo written by an employee for being sexist.

The suit says Google is aware of the situation, but has not moved to fix it. It comes as companies in Silicon Valley face growing scrutiny over gender relations.

Google is also under investigation by the US Department of Labor over its pay practices.

It is time to stop ignoring these issues in tech,” said Kelly Ellis, a former software engineer at Google and one of the women who filed the suit. She posted on Twitter that she hopes the suit will force Google and other companies to change their practices. The lawsuit, filed in a San Francisco court, says Google discriminates against female staff with lower pay, more limited promotion, and fewer advancement opportunities compared to men with comparable qualifications.

Ms Ellis, for example, was hired in 2010 at a level typically assigned to college graduates, although she had four years of experience, according to the lawsuit. A male colleague with similar levels of experience started on a higher rung.

She was also assigned to a less prestigious engineering role, the suit says.

Ms Ellis resigned from Google four years later “because of the sexist culture,” the lawsuit said.

Previous allegations

In January sued Google to get access to more information to see if the patterns held true across a more extensive probe. A spreadsheet with data from 1,200 employees also found disparities, the New York Times recently reported.

Google also made headlines earlier this summer, when a memo written by a senior Google employee that criticised diversity programmes and hiring practices became public.

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Previous allegations
Anwar Hadid, Gigi Hadid, Yolanda Hadid, and Bella Hadid

Former Real Housewives of Beverly Hills star Yolanda had some very special guests at a New York City signing for her new book: her model kids, Anwar, Gigi, and Bella. Her tome, Believe Me: My Battle with the Invisible Disability of Lyme Disease, chronicles her experiences with the disease that has also plagued Anwar and Bella. Yahoo

Corinne and Jamie Foxx

There’s a new Foxx in town! Jamie’s model daughter, former Miss Golden Globe Corinne, worked it on the runway at the Sherri Hill fashion show in NYC, and, of course, her dad was there to wish her luck.

Selena Gomez reveals she had a kidney transplant

Selena Gomez is sharing a big secret. The actress and singer has been super busy the last few weeks — taking in New York Fashion Week, filming with Woody Allen, and stepping out with boyfriend The Weeknd. However, there was a period of time over the summer during which she was lying low, something noticed by her fans, and she now reveals it was because she secretly had a kidney transplant.

In a candid post shared on Instagram Thursday morning, the 25-year-old star we’ve watched grow up since Wizards of Waverly Place shared that she needed the transplant to combat the autoimmune disease she suffers from, lupus. “I’m very aware some of my fans had noticed I was laying low for part of the summer and questioning why I wasn’t promoting my new music, which I was extremely proud of,” she wrote. “So I found out I needed to get a kidney transplant due to my Lupus and was recovering. It was what I needed to do for my overall health.”

While she shared some photos of herself recovering in the hospital alongside her actress pal Francia Raisa, who donated a kidney to her, she noted that when she’s feeling ready, she’ll share more. “I honestly look forward to sharing with you, soon my journey through these past several months as I have always wanted to do with you,” she wrote. “Until then I want to publicly thank my family and incredible team of doctors for everything they have done for me prior to and post-surgery.”

She also included a message about her “beautiful friend Francia Raisa,” writing, “She gave me the ultimate gift and sacrifice by donating her kidney to me. I am incredibly blessed. I love you so much sis.” Selena concluded by writing, “Lupus continues to be very misunderstood but progress is being made. For more information regarding Lupus please go to the Lupus Research Alliance website.”

Gomez went public about having lupus in 2015. At the time, she canceled a tour to receive chemo treatments for the disease. Since then, she has said that lupus has caused her depression, anxiety, and panic attacks and has taken time for treatment. Yahoo
De Bruyne on the road to premier league greatness

By Diggers Reporter

Zesco United coach Zlatko Krmpotic has admitted destiny in the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup is now solely in their hands when they visit South African opponents SuperSport United in Friday’s quarterfinal first leg. SuperSport will host Zesco in a 19:00 hours kickoff at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria in the two sides’ quarterly first leg match.

Krmpotic has demanded that his players show a better quality and character in the knockout round after struggling though the group stages with three wins. One of those victories was a walkover with three wins.Krmpotic was unbeaten at home in this year’s competition with four wins and two draws but that should not be an excuse.

"We are playing with one good team in South Africa who are in the top five in the world. They have never lost away from home," Krmpotic said. "The first game is very important and we have a good chance of making it to the semifinals."

He added that he was also aware that SuperSport was unbeaten at home in the two of them were also combining in a way which provided a new spin on Guardiola’s positional play. The City boss always expected the two of them to control the tempo of play, but what he did envisage was that they would be able to carve the team forward quite so quickly. Something which most impressed the Catalan, and his team last season was that unless teams put 10 men behind the ball, De Bruyne and Silva would waste little time with horizontal passes and would instead drive forward the entire team with direct runs or passes. If it could be difficult to spot during the 2016-17 campaign, as the two got used to their new demands and City struggled in the crucial spring months, it has been obvious so far this term. One of the best and most striking examples is probably City’s first goal of the season, when De Bruyne won the ball in the Brighton half immediately charged towards goal. Though it looked like he may have delayed his pass to Silva on first viewing, he found his team-mate in space on the edge of the opposition area. From there, the Spaniard played the perfect first-time pass to Sergio Aguero, who had what seemed like an age to weigh up and execute his finish. Silva himself opened up the Bournemouh defence with a pinpoint pass a fortnight later, while last weekend De Bruyne registered his first assist of the season with a beautiful defence splitting through-ball against Liverpool. Against Feyenoord on Wednesday, Silva won the corner which led to the first goal by bursting forward himself, De Bruyne-esque. The examples are racking up just five games into the season and, after the game in Rotterdam, Guardiola was effusive in his praise for the Belgian: “Kevin is one of the best players I’ve ever seen in my life. “He can make absolutely everything. Everything. He’s a top, top quality player. We are so proud of him,” he said. As long as De Bruyne be. As long as De Bruyne keeps those levels up, as De Bruyne himself suspects: “I think in one way it is maybe a way to keep me under pressure to try to play at a level that I’m trying to keep but it gives me good pleasure the way we are playing as a team and it makes me better also.” De Bruyne, with a more physical and hard-working approach that is likelier to win him friends in British football, could eventually end up mentioned in the same breath as Roy Keane, Patrick Vieira, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard, the mainstays in any ‘all-time Premier League XI’ debate. For that to happen, City will have to become the dominant European force Guardiola wants them to be. As long as De Bruyne is at the heart of the team, though, they have every chance of doing just that.

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something laboured, perhaps weighed down by his new, more industrious role in the Blues’ engine room. He was still putting up the numbers – compared to his debut season at the Etihad, he doubled his Premier League assists and scored one fewer league goal, though largely to an unfortunate knock for hitting the woodwork – but it still seemed to many observers that Guardiola was not getting the best out of him. The former Barcelona playmaker decided to convert a thrilling playmaker into a box-to-box midfielder some say could get involved in almost every aspect of City’s game, to the benefit of the collective but to the detriment of the Belgian’s own freedom on the pitch. But few behind the scenes at the City Football Academy were worried. While fans and pundits (this one included) concerned themselves with this new look De Bruyne and whether he was suited to this largely new-look role, the message from the training ground was that he completely grasped everything, both in theory and in practice. Though Guardiola and his coaching staff noticed a slight dip while he adjusted to his new orders, particularly the amount of running expected – a role he is not suited to do, they were convinced he was the perfect player to carry out their positional demands. Like David Silva, they saw somebody who had tactical intelligence and the requisite technical ability to execute the moves asked of him, though unlike the Spaniard, he would be able to complement that by covering a huge amount of ground. He posted an average distance of 11.66km per game last season, up from 11.28km in 2015-16. The two of them were also combining in a way which provided a new spin on Guardiola’s positional play. The City boss always expected the two of them to control the tempo of play, but what he did envisage was that they would be able to carve the team forward quite so quickly. Something which most impressed the Catalan, and his team last season was that unless teams put 10 men behind the ball, De Bruyne and Silva would waste little time with horizontal passes and would instead drive forward the entire team with direct runs or passes. If it could be difficult to spot during the 2016-17 campaign, as the two got used to their new demands and City struggled in the crucial spring months, it has been obvious so far this term. One of the best and most striking examples is probably City’s first goal of the season, when De Bruyne won the ball in the Brighton half immediately charged towards goal.

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Krmpotic eyes CAF Confederation Cup semi-final

Zesco United coach Zlatko Krmpotic has admitted destiny in the 2017 CAF Confederation Cup is now solely in their hands when they visit South African opponents SuperSport United in Friday’s quarterfinal first leg. SuperSport will host Zesco in a 19:00 hours kickoff at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria in the two sides’ quarterly first leg match.

Krmpotic has demanded that his players show a better quality and character in the knockout round after struggling though the group stages with three wins.

One of those victories was a walkover result against Al Hilal Obeid after the final Group C match in July in Ndola against the latter was cancelled due to Sudan’s ban by FIFA that was announced on the same day they arrived in Zambia for the match. “We must go into these two games with 100 percent. This quarterfinal is a one-off. We play one away game and one at home. We will not have any other chances and we should ensure we give 100 percent to win,” Krmpotic said.

The first game is very important and we have a good chance of making it to the semifinals. “He added that he was also aware that SuperSport was unbeaten at home in this year’s competition with four wins and two draws but that should not be an excuse.

“We are playing with one good team in South Africa who are in the top five of their league and must respect this. But we know our target and we have been successful to reach this far and still we have good chance to continue to the semifinals but we must improve from our form in the league phase,” said Krmpotic.

Zesco have no injury worries but will miss influential midfielder Anthony Akumu who is suspended for the away match after picking up two yellows in their 3-0 away loss against Angolan club CRD Lobito in June.
FIFA RANKS ZAMBIA 18 PLACES BETTER

By Diggers Reporter

Chipolopolo has leapt 18 places on the September, 2017 FIFA World rankings. Wedson Nyirenda’s side rose from 96th to 78th in the world on the latest rankings released on September 14 by FIFA.

The gain follows Zambia’s home and away wins over Algeria this month in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifiers. Zambia beat Algeria 3-1 on September 2 in Lusaka and 1-0 away in Constantine on September 5.

Algeria’s woes have seen them tumbled 14 places following from 48th to 62nd in September.

And this is Zambia’s strongest gain this year after spending most of the year hovering between number 88 and 98. Zambia is now the 16th best ranked in Africa.

In the Cosafa zone, Zambia lead followed by South Africa at 80th in the World while Zimbabwe are 3rd at number 105. Nyirenda’s side are also unbeaten in its last seven matches with five wins.

Meanwhile, Africa’s top 10 sides on the FIFA rankings for September are Egypt (30), Tunisia (31), Senegal (33), DR Congo (42), Nigeria (44), Cameroon (45), Burkina Faso (49), Ghana (52), Côte d’Ivoire (54) and Morocco (56).

Courtois would be a good signing for PSG - Meunier

The Belgium defender says his international team-mate has the profile to play for the Ligue 1 leaders but backs the keepers already on their books. Paris Saint-Germain right-back Thomas Meunier would back any move the club made for Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

There has been debate over whether Kevin Trapp or Alphonse Areola should be between the sticks for the Ligue 1 leaders, particularly after a blunder from the latter in Metz last week should have cost his side a goal. Despite an assured performance from the former France Under-21 keeper in the 5-0 win at Celtic Park on Tuesday, it is an issue that is liable to rumble on, with Courtois, 25, one of the names touted as a potential replacement. Meunier would be supportive of such a move. “He’s very strong, Courtois. He wouldn’t be bad at PSG,” the Belgium international told Le Parisien. “We’ve already got two good goalkeepers but Thibaut also has the profile, I think. He’s very big - nearly two metres tall.” Goal.com