

## PF picked the worst candidate to succeed Sata, says Laura Miti

*Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Alliance for Community Action executive director Laura Miti says President Edgar Lungu was the worst candidate out of those who wanted to succeed Michael Sata.

And Zambia Council for Social Development Executive Director Lewis Mwape says it is illogical for President Lungu to demand corruption evidence from citizens when he is in a better position to access it.

Speaking when the duo featured on Radio Phoenix' Let the People Talk programme today, Miti said President Lungu was the worst candidate because he wasn't ready to be Head of State

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## IMF has proved Mutati a liar - Nevers Mumba

*By Mirriam Chabala*

MMD president Nevers Mumba says the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s position on Zambia's actual external debt stock has vindicated him and proved finance minister Felix Mutati a liar.

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## Over 60,000 refugees enter Zambia

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President Edgar Lungu welcomes his South African counterpart Jacob Zuma at KK International Airport in Lusaka yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry/ State House. Story page 6

## UNZA hikes accommodation, tuition fees

*By Mukosha Funga*

The University of Zambia has hiked tuition fees by between K3,000 and K5,000 across all programmes.

And UNZA has hiked accommodation fees from K1,200 to K3,900 per year. When called to explain the hike, UNZA public relations officer Damaseke Chibale couldn't give a position, but invited this reporter to his office on Monday. Chibale however told a

university platform called UNZA Network that the hike in accommodation fees was as a result of increments in electricity and water bills. He justified the decision, saying UNZA was one of the public institutions where accommodation fees remained low in spite of other increments.

"Honestly I don't think that K3,900 is a lot of money considering the fact that this fee is paid only once a year," said

Chibale.

However, UNZA students complained about the hiked

fees, accusing the institution of being inconsiderate.

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## There was nothing wrong in Lungu going to watch half naked women in Swazi - Religion minister

*Zondiwe Mbewe*

Religious affairs minister Rev Godfridah Sumaili says

there was nothing wrong with President Edgar Lungu's decision to go and watch half naked women in Swaziland because Zambia appreciates diverse culture.

Meanwhile, Rev Sumaili says this year's national prayers will be held in Kitwe.

Rev Sumaili was responding to a question from Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili in Parliament on Thursday, who wanted to know if it was a good example for a Head of State from a Christian nation to go and watch 'naked' women.

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## RTSA considering Benz Sprinter as replacement for Hiace commuter bus

*Zondiwe Mbewe*

RTSA chief executive officer Zindaba Soko says the agency is considering a Mercedes Benz Sprinter model and the Toyota Quantum, as among the safer vehicles to replace Hiace commuter buses which are being phased out. At a media briefing today, Soko however, said the agency would engage stakeholders to discuss what model of buses was acceptable.

"For us to see how we can make the transport system safer, we are looking at the period of three to five years. When we talk of a specific model of a bus, we are looking at a model that will have seat belts, enough leg room, enough head room and ventilation so that the severity when there is a crash is reduced on the commuter," Soko said.

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## D/Speaker demands ministerial statement on Chengelo bullying

*Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Catherine Namugala has asked general education minister Dr Dennis Wanchinga to issue a ministerial statement on the graphic bullying involving pupils at Chengelo Christian Boarding School.

Namugala said this in Parliament

yesterday when she gave a ruling on a point of order raised by Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Garry Nkombo, who asked Wanchinga why he had not informed the house about government's position on the Chengelo school bullying case.

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# CHURCH MUST FORGIVE LUNGU

## ...but the President should meet those he offended in person to say sorry - Pukuta

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# Chikwanda echoes IMF findings on Zambia's debt

*By Mukosha Funga and Mirriam Chabala*

Former Minister of Finance Alexander Chikwanda says the International Monetary Fund's concerns on Zambia's debt are not far-fetched. And Chikwanda says it does not make sense for a country like Zambia to have a GDP of \$26 billion. Meanwhile, Chikwanda says inflation figures are unrealistic because they do not take into account factors like rentals or transport but only basic food items. On Tuesday, IMF observed that Zambia's ballooning external debt put the country at high risk of debt distress. The IMF said although the near-term outlook for the Zambian economy has improved in recent months, the country's fiscal imbalance has remained very high. When asked for his interpretation of the IMF statement at a PF Interactive Forum today, Chikwanda, who also chairs the PF Committee on Finance, admitted that Zambia needed to slow down on borrowing. "The IMF has expressed worries about Zambia's debt profile, those concerns are not far-fetched but anyway, somehow our debt profile is high and going in future, going forward we should be a bit more prudent especially those loans which are not for projects which are single sourced, where there is no tender and so on and so we have to be careful and I think government is doing just that," Chikwanda said. Chikwanda however said that government had never defaulted on repaying debt, adding that there was a possibility that when the bonds were due, there was a possibility that they could be rolled over. "But you know, even in government there are some skills which some citizens may not be aware so the guys in the treasury, they have been very good at managing the debt, there's not a single day we have faulted on debt repayment which will mean that we can use that track record going forward for instance when the next bond is due, and I think officials from the Ministry of Finance have already made reference to that, it can be rolled over because the people who have invested in these bonds are making a lot of money," Chikwanda said. "Just look at the bond yields in the other developing countries, in the US, the yield is between 2 and 2.4. In Germany, the 10 year bond is .46 as of this morning so investing bonds in developing or emerging countries like Zambia, even at 6 or 7 per cent, you are making a healing so the people who have invested in our bonds are actually long term investors, they are a pension fund, they are not in a hurry to get paid like yesterday so there is a possibility." He said going forward, there was need for the country

to be more prudent with resources. "But going forward, we must really be a bit more reticent, a bit more prudent and the consolation is that okay, all the money has been borrowed to take the country forward. If there was no borrowing, the country would have stood still and Zambia needs to grow at higher rates, not five per cent, we need growth rates in double digits and some of the borrowing will facilitate that," he said. He observed that the people who benefited the most from infrastructure projects were contractors who operated on inflated prices. "But as I said, some of the big infrastructure investments, they don't create employment in the immediate because they are very capital intensive. In fact, the people who get rich are the suppliers of earth-moving equipment and contractors who do the job at exceedingly inflated prices and a lot of margin which they take out of our country," Chikwanda said. He explained that if the IMF approved the \$1.3 billion for Zambia, it would be for balance of payments and not project support. "What the IMF are saying justifiable but you know, they will make available the \$1.3 billion. Now there are even some of the educated Zambians joining in misleading people, that money is not for project support, that money is for balance of payment support. Support our balance of payments for the imports and so and reserves that the Bank of Zambia will increase by that amount and that's the purpose of that. It is not for project support, the IMF don't lend you for project support, you will go to the World Bank, you will go to the other institutions, Indian Investment Bank and so on and so forth," Chikwanda said. "So that loan we get from the IMF, I don't know, maybe it is paid over 10 years, may be paid in six months installments which means if it is paid in six months, every six months we have got to find \$60 million to pay. That whole cost increases the country's debt service burden and so when the IMF express concern, it is partly they are worried about whether we will be able to service the debt we get from them and my inclination is that we will be," he said. Chikwanda said it was unfortunate the 60 per cent of the budget was spent on emoluments. "But what is happening now, between emoluments, emoluments account for an excessive proportion of the budget, more than 50 per cent of our revenue goes on emoluments for the bloated civil service and then debt servicing, between debt servicing and emoluments, you are talking in terms of about 80 per cent of the budget, of the revenue, which

means 20 per cent is what is left to run the government including the armies and the police so there is a strain in service provision but government is doing the best and I think that the officials we have entrusted to manage our economy, they could be a little more resourceful but they do manage," he said. And Chikwanda said it does not make sense to have a GDP of \$26 billion in a country like Zambia. "Zambia's Gross Domestic Product is about 26 billion according to our officials who refuse to think, and the World Bank economic indicators of 2015 puts Zambia's GDP at 26 billion using the atlas route and at 55 billion using the purchasing power. But my own considered view is that Zambia can't be less than 60 billion GDP, this would

mean that our combined internal and external debt as a proportion of GDP is less than 20 which raises our bank ability in the global financial market place. And I thought I heard in the budget speech that the combined debt ratio [both] external and internal was 47 per cent, this is because we are using the figure which is our diligent civil servants maintain but we need to complete Zambia's GDP and institutions like the IMF are all prepared to help," he said. "Otherwise ordinary people including here in Lusaka if you go round, you will see the massive construction that is going on, people have not borrowed from banks, they have no mortgages so there must be money in the economy. We can't have a GDP of K27 billion it just

doesn't make any sense but we are officials who take pride in putting a caveat in thinking that GDP is 27 billion." Meanwhile, Chikwanda says inflation figures are unrealistic because they do not take into account factors like rentals or transport but only basic food items. "What government should be worrying about now is how we get the economy to a higher level and how we relieve the hardships. You know people are really feeling the squeeze, the cost of living is high and although we are told inflation is only six per cent, but the way inflation is computed in every country, there is a basket, items which you put in that basket, you will put in food items but you have not included transport, rent, which are costly and so

on. So all inflation figures, whether in Zambia or in America or England or in Russia or China, they have an aura of unreality because they only put few items in the basket," said Chikwanda. "It doesn't mean that all the prices in the economy are kept at bay. The prices of food, kapenta and so on, maybe the prices have only gone up by six per cent but other things, have gone up, even charges by people working in the informal sector. So it is not a measure of everything." Chikwanda also said job creation had to be elevated to a serious crusade because the population was growing rapidly. Chikwanda further observed that those who had appointed themselves anti-corruption crusaders were the high priests of corruption.

## IMF has proved Felix Mutati a liar - Nevers



*From front page*

Mumba told News Diggers! in an interview that the IMF's remarks that Zambia's external debt was likely to put the country at high risk of debt distress if borrowing was not slowed down, proved that Mutati was not honest when he told Parliament that the country's debt stood at \$7.2 billion earlier this year. "I am very grateful that the IMF has echoed the concerns that we raised a couple of months ago. I did mention to the nation that Mr Mutati had lied to Parliament and to the nation about the true debt stock of our country. I hope that Mr Mutati did receive the numbers which we got from his officers at the Ministry of Finance that brought the actual debt to about \$23 billion. I asked him to prove us wrong by giving us the tentative figure, and show us how they arrived at the \$7.2 billion, he never replied to that," Mumba observed. "A month later, I wrote another letter reminding him (Mutati) that it was my right as a citizen to receive a response from the minister of finance, but again he disregarded that letter. He has not

replied. So we are very encouraged and vindicated by the IMF when they raised the same concerns that we have raised earlier on about the country's correct debt. This [IMF] reports proves Mutati a liar" And Mumba said it was wrong for Mutati to use the pettiness of politics and escape questions from the MMD on pretext that he was the rightful president of the former ruling party. "I think that this minister (Mutati) must learn that that Ministry is a public office and it has nothing to do with emotional concerns of him fakely being called president of MMD. It cannot be that because I am also president of MMD then he is not going to answer the letters I write to him, I think it has nothing to do with that petty belief. So we demand that he tells us the truth about Zambia's debt position," Mumba said. "So what we are going to do now is that we are going to go back to his office when he comes back from Washington DC and sit with him with our numbers so that he can help us understand what our debt stock is. Then we are also going to write to the IMF again, asking them

not to honour their programme with Zambia at the moment until the debt stock is revealed. Until the governance record is improved. He urged Zambians to mount pressure on the government to reveal the true debt position. "We have to put pressure on this government. All they are going to say like Mr Chikwanda (former finance minister) has rightly put it, is that 'the country's economy is under stress'. This means that the numbers of debt are not accurate and the budget that was just given is a distorted budget. There is no proof in terms of the numbers given in that budget," said Mumba. "I want to warn this government that they can do all the politics they want They can stop us from having our freedoms and liberties of meeting as opposition political parties. They can keep imprisoning us for challenging their corruption. But I want to assure them that numbers don't lie. they can manipulate all of us but numbers don't lie. Soon the truth will come out to embarrass and their legacy will be totally distorted."



By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Visiting South African President Jacob Zuma today gave a moving tribute of late African National Congress (ANC) leader Oliver Reginald Tambo when he joined his Zambian counterpart Edgar Lungu in unveiling the “O.R Tambo Heritage site” in Lusaka. Remembering Tambo’s contribution to the liberation struggle, Zuma said if the late ANC leader was involved in the freedom negotiations with the Apartheid regime, South Africa would have gotten a better deal. “OR Tambo was an extra ordinary leader recognised by many. He had already worked, they knew his power, his strength, his capability. And this is what brought such questions to many of us particularly at the point when it was clear that negotiations in south Africa were no longer a far-fetched reality. We needed this man, we needed this leader to be part of that process. Yes the process went on very well but to many who knew him, there could have been elements that he would have put to be at another level,” President Zuma said.

President Zuma said Tambo supported a campaign for the release of political prisoner in South Africa. “I thought I should say this because it is indeed an emotional moment that takes us back to our struggle to its different levels and contribution made by our leaders. But amongst them, OR Tambo, implementing the decision of the national executive committee, he traveled the world and mobilized the world to support the Africa National Congress, to support a campaign to release the political prisoners which included a big potion of the leadership. He finally convinced many and the world began to move in one direction leading to the United Nation declaring apartheid as a crime against humanity,” he recalled. “One foreign secretary in the United Kingdom who met him for the first time towards the end of her struggle confessed that ‘I should have met you president Tambo earlier than now because you have changed me today’. He was a debater, he was a mathematician, a scientist. You could not argue with him. I often tell young people that one time in Angola in the meeting of the national executive committee, we were arguing all of us against him, he defeated us in the argument.”

“I said to him during the break that president you were today using your mathematics, your English, your law to defeat us. At the end, he compromised and explained why he had to compromise. He carried the ANC united under most difficult conditions. ANC is a big organization complex, he understood it inside out. And therefore honoring this man

# Zuma relives emotional memories of O.R Tambo



South African President Jacob Zuma at a wreath laying ceremony at Embassy Park in Lusaka on October 12, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

and having site that we touch his name is one of the most important contribution to the freedom fighters of south Africa.” President Zuma said he would

never forget the role Zambia played in helping South Africa liberate itself. “Let me thank you Mr President and the people of Zambia for this

wonderful opportunity to jointly launch the OR Tambo heritage site today in the presence of the first and former president of the Zambian Republic our

father Kenneth Kaunda and indeed the two delegations from both countries and the personalities form Zambia. It is an act that speaks volumes for

our relationship, we will never forget Zambia and its role that it played. And I also want to thank our father president Kaunda because by being here, you have blessed us and blessed this occasion. This occasion today your Excellency the President Mr Lungu is a bond of the powerful symbol between our two countries and people,” said President Zuma. Meanwhile President Edgar Lungu said the honouring of late president Tambo marked the celebration of South Africa and Zambia’s own heritage. “Dr Kaunda allocated this house to Oliver Tambo and African National Congress as a safe house for south Africa’s liberation struggle. This occasion signals our long journey of tracing our legacies that speaks the history of the Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) and Pan Africanism. We have for a long time been reading history written by others as you have already heard and the heritage recognised by colonialists. Time has come for us to celebrate our own heritage,” said President Lungu

## Forgive Lungu, Pukuta asks church

By Mirriam Chabala

Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ) executive director Rev Pukuta Mwanza has asked members of the clergy to accept President Edgar Lungu’s apology, and to forgive the Head of State for accusing the church of being political. Reverend Mwanza has however asked President Lungu to meet the church leaders whom he offended by challenging them to join politics, so that he could render his apology and receive forgiveness. Earlier this year when the State incarcerated opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema, church leaders, especially from the Catholic diocese described President Lungu as a dictator whose unwillingness to dialogue with his political competitors had caused a national crisis. But the Head of State reacted angrily and challenged the bishops to join politics. He said the church leaders had become political in order to justify their pay masters’

expenditure. “What crisis are they talking about? This crisis exists in their heads because they want to justify what they are getting from their pay masters. If they want issues to be discussed between me and whosoever, let them table the issues by way of explaining the issues to be discussed,” President Lungu demanded. “I have got too many things to do, I am a busy person. I cannot waste time because some civil societies want to justify their pay masters expenditure, I am too busy. So if you have nothing to do, let them find something better to do... Let them join politics, I am ready to face them” But when he met the clergy in Lundazi this week, President Lungu said he was wrong to accuse the church of being political. “When you tell us this is wrong, we shouldn’t say ‘the church has become political’. Obviously, I was one of those, in those days, who used to



believe that the church was political when they correct me. I remember responding to one colleague who was talking to us to say ‘join politics’, but I think that was wrong. Politics and religion are the same,” said President Lungu. Reacting to President Lungu’s apology, Rev Mwanza, who has a soft spot for the Head of State, said forgiving was

the natural thing to do. “Somebody has apologised, if this was not solicited and he has realised on his own that those remarks could have hurt other people and he has offered an apology, the natural thing is to accept the apology and to forgive him,” Rev Mwanza said. “But the President can also go further and meet the people he offended by those remarks or actions, to say ‘I am sorry’ and in that case then we can realise the intention of this season of prayer, forgiveness and reconciliation.”

He said President Lungu had taken lead in asking for forgiveness ahead of the National Day of Prayer and Reconciliation, adding that other people should take a leaf. “What I am saying is that everyone else should take a leaf from this and emulate what the President has done by also looking at their own personalities and looking at

the people they have hurt and be able to apologise. Meanwhile, Rev Mwanza invited the UPND leadership to take part in this year’s National Day of Prayer. “I think that there are a number of praying people in the UPND, there are Christians there and I know that they value prayers. That’s why at one time prayers were made in support of the release of the UPND leader (Hakainde Hichilema). So I think that since they value prayer, they can take advantage of this time just to contribute to bringing healing to the nation,” said Mwanza. “Moreover, we are not praying to an individual, we are praying to God. Prayer also heals those who are grieving, if you are hurting, once they forgive and seek the forgiveness of God, they will enjoy the peace of God as well, instead of continuing to have hurt feelings.”

## Residential plots under Zesco poles shock Kapata

By William Chileshe

Zesco spokesperson Henry Kapata says the power utility is worried with the increasing cases of vandalism-related electrocutions recorded on the Copperbelt. And Kapata wondered why tho local authorities were giving residential plots under Zesco poles. Speaking during a workshop for Ndola Councillors today, Kapata expressed concern that the rainy season would bring about more cases of vandalism. “We are here on the Copperbelt to engage the councillors because they

work directly with our people. A lot of vandalism happens during this period of rainy season because areas become dark,” Kapata observed. He said a lot of people on the Copperbelt were getting electrocuted because of doing illegal things on the Zesco poles. “Last year during this period we recorded 14 electrocutions involving people who were tempering with our poles. People cut trees under our lines without engaging us. We don’t want to loss lives. That is why today we engage the councillors to talk to our people,”

Kapata said. He said it was shocking that people had title teeds on plots that were under Zesco jurisdiction. “If people are given plots and title under Zesco poles, then who is doing this? We can’t have structures under the Zesco poles. We are losing K5 million to replace our vandalised poles,” lamented Kapata. “Scrap metal dealers are the ones who buy these products. We are concerned with high rate of vandalism on our cables. So we are also going to engage them.”



# Nothing wrong with Lungu going to watch half naked women in Swazi - Sumaili

From front page

“Minister, certain traditional acts are unbiblical, for instance being half naked, and also witchcraft. Is it a good example or reasonable for the Head of State from a Christian nation to go and watch half naked women in Swaziland?” wondered Kambwili.

But Rev Sumaili defended the President saying he went to appreciate African cultures. “We have different cultures in Africa. Swaziland, Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia, have different cultures. And it is in order for us to appreciate our cultures,” she said.

And Mazabuka Central UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo wanted to know if it was right for the Patriotic Front to continue preaching about prayer and reconciliation when they did not show any practice themselves.

“Honourable minister, it is a fact that prayer without action is nothing. It is also a fact that those who preach one thing and mean the exact opposite are hypocrites... And you want to call us to come and close our eyes at your prayer meeting and yet you stopped us from praying at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross when our leader was released from incarceration. I would like to find out from you madam minister, when your government will start practicing the things they normally say. I’m not coming there until we show steps of reconciling this country,” said Nkombo.

But Rev Sumaili said only prayer could transform Zambia.

“Prayer changes things. What will transform this nation is prayer. I agree with you that prayer without action does not avail much unless mixed with action. If we want this country to be united and for you to be an effective leader, you have to love the people. People are looking at us and seeing our actions. Zambians love God and when they don’t see their leader to the



Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs Rev Godfridah Sumaili during an interview at her office in Lusaka-Picture by Tenson Mkhala

place of God, they will start questioning that ‘is our leader serious about bringing a reconciliation?’ Those who aspire to rule this country must show that they love God,” she said. Rev Sumaili also said that borrowing was productive for the country because even the bible allows it. She was responding to Katombora UPND member

of parliament Derick Livune who said: “The Bible is against debts. Now that the national day of prayer has been called, I want to find out how well the prayers will be received by the Lord if the country is going there with debts that have continued to accumulate?” In her response, Rev Sumaili said debts were productive. “I don’t know where that

is, were debt is forbidden. Because in the same Bible there is an account of a widow whose husband had died and needed to be helped. She was advised by a prophet to go and borrow containers as much as she could and use them. Madam Speaker, if debt is borrowed, it will bring productivity to improve the welfare and lift the living standards of the

people and to strengthen the economy,” she said. Rev Sumaili said prayers on October 18 would prepare grounds for dialogue. She was responding to Chitambo PF member of parliament Chanda Mutale who wanted to know if alarmists peddling lies in the country would also be invited for prayers. “There are alarmists in this

nation who are peddling lies. Is there a special invitation to invite these particular individuals to the prayers? Because if we pray as the nation these people will repent and change their behavior,” said Mutale. In response, Sumaili said prayers would help prepare the grounds for the dialogue process. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us as the nation to come together in unity and pray to our God. They are talking about dialogue, the people demand that their leaders come together and move together. These prayers are so critical to prepare the grounds for those talks that we have been preparing for. As leaders we have a responsibility because we are presiding over people who want us to be together. I encourage all the members of this house to go for prayers on 18th October,” she said. Meanwhile, Rev Sumaili announced in a ministerial statement yesterday that national prayers would be held in Kitwe. “It will be held under the theme ‘repentance, promoting peace and reconciliation, consoling national unity in diversity’. Madam Speaker, the national prayers will be held in Kitwe at Nkana Stadium. I encourage all members of parliament in their respective constituencies to come out in numbers and to pray together on this special day,” said Rev Sumaili.

# RTSA considering Benz Sprinter as replacement for Hiace commuter bus

From front page

We have the Mercedes Benz Sprinter buses and Toyota Quantum buses as part of models that we are looking at. But that will be after members of the public, owners and the major stakeholders have agreed to and strike a balance that

this is a better model to go for. After that is done, incentives are given after a period of time to sensitize you to give in your Hiace bus at a cost, so that we use it as a way of moving them out of market. It can’t be something that is immediate or sudden. A transition takes

a lot of time but we need to start from somewhere and this is where we are starting,” Soko said. “We want to do a lot of consultation firstly with the general members of public and then work out models with the Ministry of Finance on how

the public can be sensitized to be able to purchase a more reasonable, comfortable and safer bus at the same cost that they are purchasing the Hiace buses.” He said those who owned Hiace busses had up to January 2019 to ensure that they had seat belts and proper seats. “There is no issue with those who have already purchased buses which have seats and seat belts. But those buses which were panel runs and have been made into Hiace buses to transport commuters, should have seat belts by January 2019. The option of Hiace minibuses which is here is that they must have correct seats and seat belts. You will find that a bus can come with eight seats [when bought], but then they will remove the eight seats so that the bus can carry 16 people hence causing a safety challenge,” Soko said. He said that it was unfortunate that the issue of phasing out the Hiace buses was being politicized when it was for the safety of the general public. “You will agree with me that with the nature of the Hiace minibus once you sit in it, the

risk of you dying out of the crash is very high because all the commuters in the bus are squeezed. There is no leg room or head room and the injury rate gets enhanced because of the way that bus is engineered. What has been happening in all these crashes is that even when a crash has happened at a lower speed, you discover that because the passengers are so close to the body of the bus, they will get crashed or injured. So as RTSA we want a model that commuters will enjoy to ride without any problem. It is unfortunate that people have politicized this move when the idea is to make it safe in the country,” Soko said. “This is a bus that carries goods in other countries and in here we get it and fabricate it to carry commuters. We are trying to sort out this problem which has been a big one because when the economy was liberalized, everybody could come in with whatever business and that was the time that type of transport came in. We had no control measures then to look at what would be the best for the nation.”

# D/Speaker demands ministerial statement on Chengelo bullying

From front page

In his point of order, Nkombo said: “Madam Speaker, Last week, on social media, and out of social media, and we have now seen this on print media... There is a school in central province called Chengelo Primary School and Chengelo Secondary School. There is a trending matter of pupils bullying each other to a point of brutalisation. What makes this particular case worse is that the pupil who is a victim of this brutalisation is of caucasian nature, he is a white young boy who is alleged to have been assaulted brutally by two Zambian boys, pupils at that same school,” Nkombo observed. “As you know social media has no boundaries madam speaker. I have gotten calls from friends of mine from Canada and

Japan where they are now saying ‘we have been hearing about violence in your country and now it has escalated even to schools.’ He asked the Deputy Speaker to rule the general education minister out of order for being silent on the matter. “Madam Speaker, is it in order for the minister to sit so comfortably here without coming to this assembly to inform this house about the facts relating to that assort and what remedial measures his Ministry has taken in order for us to reclaim if we are able to, our standing on the world stage. Because what is going on out there is that we are racists and we are a violent group, is he in order to keep quiet and just sit the way he is seated without coming here?” asked Nkombo.

In her ruling, Namugala said although government was not obliged to respond to social media reports, the Chengelo issue was of national interest. “The ruling of the chair is that while the government will not be expected to comment on every news item. On this particular matter, especially that it has been reported even in the public media, print media. I will request the Honourable Minister of General Education to shade light on this matter through a statement indicating government’s position next week, Thursday. That should be sufficient time for the Honourable Minister of General Education to prepare himself to come and give that statement. That is my ruling,” said Namugala.





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SLOW DOWN ON DEBT CONTRACTION – CTPD URGES GOVERNMENT

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development urges government to take seriously the red flags raised by the International Monetary Fund if Zambia is to move towards the Economic Growth and stabilization path. The conclusions of the IMF’s Article IV consultations demonstrate the need to consider slowing down on debt contraction and minimize wasteful expenditures in order help improve budget credibility. This seems to be the underlying reason for the failure to secure a deal, and the Government needs to priorities getting a grip on debt in order to accelerate progress toward agreeing to the IMF financing CTPD have long-argued Zambia needs. In their analysis and conclusions, the Board of the International Monetary Fund observed that despite recording some improvements in economic performance, public debt has been rising to unsustainable levels and this is negatively affecting lending towards private sector players. According to the IMF, the outstanding publicly guaranteed debt rose sharply from 36% of GDP in 2014 to 60 % at the end of 2016 driven by external borrowing and the impact of exchange rate depreciation. Recently, the Minister of Finance presented the 2018 National budget before parliament, the proposed 2018 national budget comes at a time Zambia is still facing a number of economic

challenges, it is highly anticipated that if well implemented, the budget can help steer the country to a path of growth and stabilization as espoused in the recently launched seventh National Development Plan that seeks not to leave any one behind. The theme for the 2018 National Budget is accelerating fiscal fitness and growth without leaving anyone behind, drawn from the 7NDP, the budget continues to try foster fiscal fitness while embracing the five strategic growth areas of focus under the seventh National Development Plan of promoting economic diversification, poverty reduction, reducing inequality, enhancing human development, and creating a conducive governance environment for a diversified and inclusive economy. It is CTPD’s hope to see a properly structured economy that will see the creation of decent jobs, better health care service delivery, enhanced social protection and overall fiscal prudence in the management of public resources. From the speech delivered, CTPD notes that government has stipulated the macroeconomic objectives for the 2018 national budget, which will be to: achieve real GDP growth of at least 5%; preserve single digit inflation within the range of 6.0% to 8.0%; attain domestic revenue mobilization of at least 17.7% of GDP, limit

domestic financing to no more than 4.0% of GDP and maintain international reserves of at least 3 months of import cover. While we appreciate the ambitious projected macroeconomic indicators, the revenue and expenditure estimates for 2018, CTPD is equally deeply concerned with the growing public debt. The Honorable Minister in his address to parliament told the nation that Zambia’s total debt level is now at US\$ 12.45 billion (ZMW 114.9 billion in kwacha) , this is outstripping the total 2018 budget which stands at ZMW 71.6 billion) representing 47% of GDP. CTPD has noted the jump in interest payment to 23.0% in the first half of 2017 compared to 6.7% in 2012. The rate of contracting debt is what has skyrocketed the debt repayment and this has suffocated expenditure on critical social sectors such as education, health, and social protection that could uplift peoples’ livelihoods. During last year’s (2017) budget presentation to parliament, Finance Minister, Hon. Felix Mutati made a pledge to the effect that Zambia was not going to spend what it did not have. However, CTPD notes that Zambia has not lived up to that pledge. Further, we also noted that in 2017 government had exceeded the debt ceiling on domestic borrowing which crowded out private

sector participation thereby worsening the vulnerability of the economy. CTPD would like to appeal to Government to seriously consider slowing down on debt contraction and minimize wasteful expenditures in order help improve budget credibility and fiscal prudence. Instead of acquiring commercial loans at high interest rates, we urge government to priorities finalizing the bailout package from the International Monetary Fund, this will help improve the balance of payments as well as offer technical assistance on macroeconomic policy design and implementation. Beyond developing a debt management strategy, it is very important to adhere to provisions of the strategy because left on its own terms, it becomes a mere policy document that may not touch light of day. On the other side, IMF must give a clear position on Zambia’s request for a bailout package, there has been a lot of uncertainty around the outcomes of the negotiations which have dragged for quite some time now, as a concerned Civil Society, we would like to know in clear terms whether Zambia will be granted the bailout or not, if yes, when exactly?

Mr. Isaac Mwaipopo  
Executive Director

For more information visit our web site [[www.ctpd.org.zm](http://www.ctpd.org.zm)] or come to our office Plot 123, Kudu Road Kabulonga



# PF picked the worst candidate from those who wanted to succeed Sata – Laura Miti

From front page

“Please, please whatever happens, do not be distracted. Because we are so easily distracted, we voted in someone, and I keep saying it that we voted in someone who was not ready to become President. Of the people that Edgar Lungu stood against in PF, there were better people there. But this ability to bully people into silence, they chose the worst of the eleven. And then after that, he came in and he became President. He is absolutely failing us, he is running this country into the ground. Nobody asks questions because we have been frightened. Let us not be frightened, this is our own country,” Miti said. She charged that the current government was in power just to make money. “This is the first time there has been such personal viciousness I must say, I have never experienced consequences [for protesting], why now? The reason is because probably we have touched a nerve. The reason why subsequent governments have been in office was say ‘to use public space to develop private wealth.’ For the first time they

are beginning to think ‘wow! This cash-cow!’ Someone is beginning to touch the space that is important to us. They don’t come into power for us, they come into power to make money. So right now I think the anger is that we are beginning to touch the white space that is important to them. And I am saying, do not be obstructed, let me fight this bully and while they are fighting me, please keep asking about the 42 for 42, about the selling of NRDC, ask about the budget,” Miti said. And Miti asked government not to pressurize whistleblowers because they would end up manufacturing evidence. “It is government that has started this narrative of citizens being the ones to provide evidence and you have seen people try, I mean you have seen maybe Saviour Chishimba coming out to say ‘I have got this, I have that’ but the truth is that unless government is transparent and opens up these systems to scrutiny, government will always say they are lying. The evidence is in the hands of government. We need to insist that the systems that



is in the institutions whose mandate is to investigate, should do their job and they should do it in such a way that it is transparent. The 42 for 42 should have an audit. The Auditor General should actually carry out that audit,” said Miti.

“The Auditor General’s report should actually have come out by the end of September. What has happened to it because I am beginning to think that it has been embargoed or maybe it has got more information to it. But it is issues like that

where the institutions and the time line of democracy is easily ignored. Why hasn’t the Auditor General’s report come out? The Auditor General’s office itself is able to carry out a forensic audit on the 42 for 42. So let’s not put pressure on those who are asking to provide the evidence because I will be making it up, where will I get it? I will get it sent to me in my inbox, that is not valid evidence. We should insist that government opens itself up to scrutiny.” Meanwhile, Mwape observed that if President Lungu was serious about the fight

against corruption, he would access the evidence needed to prosecute those found wanting. “The President has so much power to be more accountable and also foster accountability. So being the person that has so much power given to him constitutionally, he is the one who is suppose to lead, he is suppose to be the first man whistle blower. So once we get it from the Head of State, it means that all the systems will begin to be aligned in a more transparent and accountable way. So we are demanding from the President to lead the anti corruption campaign and not the citizens. You can’t ask the citizens to provide evidence when you as the President who calls the ACC Director General everyday cannot have that evidence, cannot give that evidence. Then who is Saviour Chishima or Chishimba Kambwili to give all such evidence?” Mwape asked. He said that the attacks on citizens who demanded accountability were a clear indication that government was shielding itself from corruption allegations. “The attacks that we are receiving is as a result of a corrupt system. The corrupt system thinks that the way they act, the way they pay for the crowd for people to follow them, these cadres that we see being paraded, they are always paid because they have the money...So now whoever asks a question is an enemy of government. If people are not ready for being occupying political offices, I think they better leave quickly. You shouldn’t use archaic laws to say no ‘the President has been defamed’. Even when somebody says ‘Lungu’ I was just saying that now it looks like every Lungu is a President in this country. So if you say Lungu it means you have defamed the President. Even when am calling my colleague Lungu Phiri, they say you have no respect which is unfortunate,” said Mwape.

## Over 60,000 refugees enter Zambia

By Mirriam Chabala

Home affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo says the number of refugees who have entered Zambia has risen to about 60, 000 following an influx of asylum seekers fleeing from the Democratic Republic Congo into the country. In a Ministerial statement delivered to Parliament today, Kampyongo announced that Zambia was facing a humanitarian emergency of persons of concern following an influx of asylum seekers coming into Zambia from the DRC since January this year due to the unstable political atmosphere in that country. “Madam Speaker, I wish to inform this House and the nation at large that our country is facing a humanitarian emergency following the influx of asylum seekers into Zambia from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Most asylum seekers Madam Speaker are entering the country mainly through Chiengi district in Luapula Province, we have registered 3,700 asylum seekers since August 2017, the number of Congolese refugees who have entered Zambia since 2017 has since risen to over 6, 100. This is the highest number of refugees to enter the country over the past five years. The total number of Congolese refugees in Zambia has now increased to about 30, 000 in total. These together with refugees from Burundi, Rwanda and other countries will bring the total number of persons of concern in the country to over 60, 000,” Kampyongo said. Kampyongo said the number of asylum seekers entering

Zambia from DRC could increase to about 40, 000 if that country’s security continued to deteriorate. “Madam, the main cause of asylum seekers from the DRC is instability in that country arising largely from the protracted governance that has engulfed the DRC owing to the failure to hold Presidential and General elections on schedule. There seems to be widespread unrest and violence perpetrated by ethnic and political groups which has forced many Congolese to seek safety across the boarder and especially in the Luapula Province of Zambia. Madam Speaker, about 25 to 100 people have been crossing from the DRC into Zambia everyday since September 2017, this trend is expected to continue as the situation in the DRC is projected to remain volatile. The number of asylum seekers entering Zambia from DRC could however increase significantly with any deterioration of security in that country. Worst scenarios suggest a massive influx of asylum seekers of more than 40, 000 from the DRC alone into Zambia,” Kampyongo said. And Kampyongo said some of the refugee children were suffering from malnutrition while others had died due to inadequate health care. “The majority of asylum seekers received so far have been predominantly children and women and children including expecting mothers. The asylum seekers have strained the health and other social structures particularly in Chiengi and Nchelenge districts in Luapula. There

is also lack of shelter and adequate clean water supplies especially on entry boarders and indeed in the refugee temporal settlements,” said Kampyongo. “Madam this influx of asylum

seekers into Zambia calls for proactive preparedness on the part of government and its partners, this is because the situation is likely to deteriorate further into a humanitarian emergency.”

## UNZA hikes tuition, accommodation fees

Story on front page

Regular Programmes (Zambian, SADC, Refugee Status)		
Art Based Programmes		
Year of Study	Amount	Period
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	K23,462.00	Per Year
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	K21,329.00	Per Year
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	K19,390.00	Per Year
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	K17,627.00	Per Year
Science Based Programmes		
Year of Study	Amount	Period
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	K28,980.00	Per Year
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	K26,345.00	Per Year
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	K23,950.00	Per Year
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	K21,774.00	Per Year
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	K19,795.00	Per Year
Medicine Based Programmes		
Year of Study	Amount	Period
2nd Year	K28,980.00	Per Year
3rd Year	K26,345.00	Per Year
4th Year	K23,950.00	Per Year
5th Year	K21,774.00	Per Year
6th Year	K19,795.00	Per Year
7th Year	K17,995.00	Per Year



*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*

Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba says he has made it a habit to use public transport from Lusaka’s Chilanga area to town every weekend in order to observe how the sector operates. Speaking when he featured on 5FM’s The Burning Issue programme today, Mushimba also said there was a lot that needed to be done in order to sanitize the transport sector. “I actually make it a point on weekends to use public transportation. I live in Chilanga at the moment and I jump on a public mini bus, the Hiace buses from Sandy’s Creation there to come into town. I usually have a hair cut believe it or not, I have some hair cut, I usually cut it on weekends, and then I go back home. So I experience public transportation almost on a weekly basis. It (public transport sector) needs a lot of work and that is squarely in my domain and I have been thinking through how we can sanitize public transportation a bit, the behavior of some of our drivers and the conductors, the equipment that is being used, its just abusive to the public,” Mushimba said. Mushimba highlighted some of the progress made in the aviation sector. “You will see that maybe in the previous governments, there was a lot of investment in the road sector and not as much in the other sectors. You will also going to notice that in the PF government, there has been the spreading of resources into each one of the four modes of transportation in the country roads, railway, water transportation where we have water bodies, and

# I use public transport weekly - Mushimba

aviation. You have seen equal investments in all these because we want to make sure that as a country, at a certain time, all modes of transport are available to the people. And when all modes of transport are available to the people, the appropriateness of travel, then can be a conversation in the country. Those things that need to move by railway will move by rail because it will be available and it will be efficient enough. Those things that need to move by air can move by air,” Mushimba said. He said government has the vision to make Zambia the hub of transport and communication in the SADC region. “The investment, coming to your question that has been done in the aviation sector, the new airport terminals, the new raider system that is now automatically navigating planes in our air space, the provincial airports that are being worked on, Kasama, Mbala, the Ndola international airport, the new terminal Harry Mwaanga Nkhumbuka international airport which I had a privilege of commissioning last year, Nfuwe airport we are just finishing discussions to upgrade that as well. There are discussions on Kasaba Bay airport. There is a lot of investment, a billion



*Transport and Communications Minister Brian Mushimba speaks to journalists at Pamodzi hotel in Lusaka on October 5, 2017 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala*

dollar plan that has been put in the aviation sector,” Mushimba added. “And as government, the vision is to make Zambia the hub of transport and communication in the SADC region. We feel we can be that central country that everything can come through and filter to the rest of the countries through here and we want by 2030 to be that. And these investments we are putting in all these sectors are speaking to that vision.” Mushimba said Cabinet would soon deliberate

the modalities for the reintroduction of the national airline. “We also as government have plans to reintroduce the national airline. What we have done as government through is not to rush this conversation. We have been very methodical, very analytical and exhaustive in our scenario analysis to make sure that the best and the most sustainable way of re-establishing the national airline is the one that is picked. My ministry has finished these scenario analysis, financial modeling

and sent a memo to Cabinet to make a decision on which path among the several scenarios presented each with its advantages and its its disadvantages,” he said. “Once Cabinet applies its mind and makes a decision, that decision will be announced to the people in terms of how we will establish a national airline or if we establish a national airline. But we have made a very good case that we need a national airline because we have done the work. We want to make sure that if

we build a nice house with a nice garage, we also have a car to park in the garage, not a neighbor’s car to park in our garage.” Mushimba said government was working hard to diversify the economy. “There are several scenarios that have been put on the table but obviously the arching objective is for Zambia to be in the skies because we are diversifying the economy and we are not just giving lips service to this word ‘we are diversifying the economy’ under His Excellency the President, we want open tourism corridors, we want to do farming blocks in the agricultural value chain and products, and to do these things we certainly need a national airline. And this national airline will be for the people of Zambia on behalf of the people of Zambia,” Mushimba said. And Mushimba disclosed that close to 45 per cent works on the upgrading of the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport had been done. “Kenneth Kaunda international airport is far much more advanced than the Copperbelt and for obvious reasons that we started earlier on KKIA. The last I checked , we were close to 45 per cent completion and slightly ahead of schedule to the completion date of 2019 for that terminal. For the Copperbelt international airport, His Excellency just commissioned the project and activities have continued,” said Mushimba.

## 2018 budget is insensitive to the poor - CSPR

*By Mirriam Chabala*

CSPR says the 2018 national budget is insensitive to the needs of poor the people because it has focused more on resource mobilisation through increased taxation. Responding to a press query from NewsDiggers! today, CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano urged government to introduce universal social protection coverage so that all citizens could be covered. “It has been observed that despite the budget increase in social investment, the 2018 budget has remained insensitive to the poor and focused more on resource mobilisation on the fiscal measures with regards to taxation, which has failed to provide relief, both in terms of the PAYE and also other tax measures that affect the poor despite the increase in the cost of leaving. We are urging government to introduce universal social protection coverage so that all citizens can be covered both under non-contributory and contributory systems including pensions that extend towards the informal sector where most of the labour force is,” Nshindano stated. “Further, it should be noted that the country is far from being out

of the current fiscal challenges and continues struggling to reduce a fiscal deficit with a target of 6.1% of GDP for 2018, and growing public debt of 47% per cent of GDP. Therefore, the 2018 national budget should continue to respond and address these economic challenges to maintain stability and investment in essential public services such as health and education.” He however, commended government’s continued investment in social sectors as announced in the 2018 national budget by finance minister Felix Mutati. “The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction welcomes the continued path of fiscal fitness and investment in social sectors in the 2018 budget. In keeping with the objectives of the 7th National Development Plan, the 2018 budget focuses on growing the economy but also ensuring that the poor are not left behind. We are pleased to note the increase in allocations to key social sectors such as health and water and sanitation accounting for 9.5 per cent and 0.78 per cent from 8.9 per cent and 0.68 per cent respectively. Noted also is the nominal increase in budget allocation to education which has

however recorded a decline as a share of the budget from 16.5 to 16.2 per cent. Further to this, allocations to basic social protection which is key for the provision of necessary safety nets but also social investment for the poor and vulnerable, has continued to receive an increased allocation. This not only builds resilience but also the household and local economy,” Nshindano stated. He further noted that the increased budgetary allocation to school feeding programs would enhance the ability by children to excel in their education and to escape the poverty trap. “Under basic social protection all key programs such as the Social Cash transfer, the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme and Food Security Pack have seen an increase in budgetary allocation. For example, the social cash transfer program has seen an increase in both the amount and coverage of the transfers from 590,000 to 700,000.00 beneficiaries. Further to this, the scale up of the school feeding program from 956,000 to 1,500,000 children is commendable given the high level of poverty and

malnutrition in the country. School feeding programs have continued to encourage school attendance for children coming from poor households but also assist in reducing malnutrition and increase cognitive ability of children to allow them excel in their education and become productive citizens in future as well as escape the poverty trap,” Nshindano stated. Meanwhile, Nshindano urged government to accelerate the enactment process of the planning and budgeting bill. “We urge the Ministers of Finance and National Development Planning respectively to accelerate the planned fiscal reforms in line with planning and budgeting, especially the enactment of the planning and budgeting bill and also the review of the public finance act to ensure adherence and also punitive measures for erring officers respectively. These reforms were mentioned during the 2017 national budget but are yet to be actualised and it’s critical that we do so, as these provide for a legal framework for successfully implementing the of the budget and indeed the 7th NDP,” stated Nshindano.



# Let’s discuss Lungu’s sucesor now!

We mean no malice to late president Michael Sata and his family, but Zambia is in its current political state of affairs because Michael did not want to leave a proper succession lineage. He knocked out those who were perceived to be next in line after him, while keeping the weak, less ambitious and ‘humble’ vey close.

We cannot speculate about the motive behind late Michael’s political strategy, but what we know is that the succession dispute he left behind has brought us where we are today. Because the PF president did not want to have a co-captain on standby, the ruling party was left in the hands of a man who – by his own admission – never desired to rule our country; thus Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu.

It is a fact, not only in Zambia, but in many African countries that a ruling party candidate normally stands a 75 per cent chance of winning an election. This is mainly so because of two reasons: Rigging by the state machinery, and because the party in power has easy access to internal and external sources of campaign funds. In fact, sometimes a ruling party candidate may not even have a strong appeal to attract voters, but those who already have government jobs work with government contractors to manipulate and influence

the will of citizens in order to protect their own interests.

Mr Lungu was adopted PF presidential candidate on December 3, 2014 and in less than seven weeks, he was pronounced Republican President after the January 20, 2015 election. This was made possible because of one, or all the above stated reasons. This reality of African politics, makes us hold the view that the ruling party must at least give citizens an opportunity to know ahead of time, whom they would be voting for in the next election.

We hardly care about the MMD or UPND candidate because the opposition never rigs elections. If they were to win, like the PF did in 2011, it would be because the Zambian people resolved to vote for regime change. It is the ruling party candidate who has the capacity to ‘win’ an election even when the majority of citizens vote otherwise; so the time is ripe for the Zambian people, non PF members, to start asking who the PF candidate will be in 2021.

We are lucky, as a country, that our incumbent Head of State, says he is enjoying quality health and has since announced his intentions to recontest the presidency in four years time. Fortunately or unfortunately, we are told that it is not up to him to decide his availability because the law doesn’t categorically

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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support his desire.

That is why we are concerned with the slow pace at which the Constitutional Court is moving on this very important issue. We have heard opposition aligned lawyers in Zambia like Mr Wynter Kabimba and Mr Elias Chipimo saying the Constitution does not permit President Lungu to stand again. We have also heard PF aligned lawyers like Mr Frederick Imasiku and other state advocates saying the amended Constitution permits the Head of State to stand again. Zambians deserve to know who is right. We do not agree with lawyers like Mr Tutwa Nguluba who are saying “now is not the right time to discuss the topic”. We need this debate now. It would not be fair to keep the voters in suspense until a few months before the

next election.

In demanding this, we are not insinuating that our incumbent President is ineligible to stand in 2021. We are not asking the Constitutional Court judges to announce a decision that rules out President Lungu. We understand that there are some Zambians who love Mr Lungu so much that they would want him to be President of Zambia for 12 years or more. But we are also aware that there are citizens who will need to psychologically adjust to the fact that this particular President will be in power for that long.

It is for this reason that we are asking those who have been given the national duty of interpreting laws and settling legal disputes, to give the country direction. A country governed by

laws should never run out of answers. If our current Constitution was meant to stand the test of time, how can it be so hard to interpret a term of office?

This might appear to be a premature topic of discussion for people like the Kabwe Central member of parliament, but it is too soon to forget how the PF succession dispute in 2014 paralised the entire governance system. What happened in the ruling party then, was the beginning of a long journey to the present day. Those in the Patriotic Front can choose to bury their heads in the sand and pretend that it is too early for tabling the PF succession, but the truth of the matter is that “who succeeds Lungu?” is the elephant in the room. Even those in the PF want to know if they will be campaigning

for the same candidate again, but they just don’t want to talk about it. They are afraid of being misunderstood.

As an organisation that is not politically aligned, we are asking the Constitutional Court, on behalf of all the interested Zambians, to expedite the interpretation of this mater.

As a lawyer, President Lungu must also show willingness to wait for the court’s interpretation before embarking on 2021 campaigns, which he has already started doing. Should the court permit him, we will be happy to cover his campaigns, and if the Zambian people buy his campaign messages, they will be happy to vote for him again. But let him stop going round the country, telling citizens that he will be back in 2021.

*By Nathan Muyambango*

You probably remember George Orwell’s novel called Animal Farm published in 1945 in which the author ably reflected the events leading to the Russian Revolution of 1917.

In this magnificent allegorical nouvelle, Orwell describes the unfair balances of social classes in

# Temptations of the Rich

society, where the rich and powerful use their infleunce and privileges to serve their interests and in turn, castigating their perceived enemies.

Well, these crude happenings were not only perculiar to the times of George Orwell. Such evil and selfish tendencies have descended down with the procession of human history from time in memorial.

Nothing can so quickly demonize a person than does power and wealth. This has been proved time and time again. Power and wealth, this clamorous combination, has an irresistible, corroding

capacity to corrupt and confuse even the best of the people we hold in high esteem.

Wealth and power, if not well managed, have the potential to benumb one’s moral sensibilities, turning beautiful souls into ruthless monsters, protectors into predators, parents into pelicans and turning leaders into unbelievable leaking wolves, ready to devour anyone percieved opposed.

Yet the question goes begging, what really is it about wealth and power that so strangely transforms people?

First and foremost, wealth and power are not entirely evil in themselves. The Holy Writ tells us that it’s God who gives us strength to accumulate wealth and that also power (rulership) is a gift from God.

But the problem is that, both wealth and power need moral fiber or divine reverence in order to be properly managed. It becomes even worse when it comes to drastic, inherited wealth or undeserved power.

The possessor then becomes overwhelmed and mesmerized with his suddenly- attained status quo so much that there’s a strong urge to spend and

live without consulting conscience.

You probably remember what happened to the prodigal son. Right? Yes. Now see why the Scriptures say it’s “hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven.” Influence and affluence can be a death trap to anyone without a God- fearing heart of wisdom.

Like the ancient King Nebuchadnezzar, a person of material authority absolutely fears nothing nor anyone, except what threatens his welfare or appears to temper with his prospects.

To protect their interests, sons of men are willing to do almost anything doable and that’s exactly where lies the hotbed of vice. A moral person at least must possess restraining principles either out of his allegiance to God or out of he’s inert human conscience.

A blessed man of wealth and power must constantly guard against the deception of thinking that money can buy anything. Money cannot buy everything. Money cannot buy love nor happiness, nor can it command loyalty or respect for anyone.

“The rich man’s wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.”

# Made in Africa

Good thought, we pray for African Continent to unite as one, one currency, one people and putting all resources of 54 Countries in one Big manufacturing entity Made In Africa.

Africa, will start a healing



**Dr Charles Sinkala**  
*President - World Native Identity Foundation (WNIF)*

process once it is United and support its local products.

For example, Africa been supporting multinational cooperation for long time and more than \$167 Billion is taken out of the continent every year, tax heaven, skilled labour, Pollution Tax - which Africa does not cause, illegal fishing, proceeds from sales of minerals, corruption. I.e sales of ; BMW, Mercedes Benz, VW etc goes to Germany to the owners of the brand, only a small sales commission is left in Africa plus restrictive and unstable employments.

I submit to you that, why can’t Africa manufacture cars, cellphones which can be affordable and support herself?

80 % Of raw materials used in manufacturing industries

outside African Continent come from Africa, for example, most minerals, copper, gold, platinum, zinc, cobalt, diamonds, crude oil etc these are taken outside processed and comes back as finished product like Iphone (Average cost in RSA R19 000). Meanwhile, if we had to process our own raw materials into Finished products and invent our own products, a cellphone won’t even cost a fraction of that. Even in USA, the iphone for example is not that cheap because they have to collect raw materials from Africa and send them to China because of transportation costs and cheap labour and back to USA, This is a #TragedyofAfrica

I always say, there are three ways one can be invited for

dinner;

1. A Dinner
2. A waiter
3. Dinner to be consumed

And poor African Continent has been and for how long will it be Dinner to be consumed while Africa gets embarrassed and lives on Aid and considered a Continent where one can find the poorest people and always punching below poverty lines? Farm products are exported to Europe, America and Asia because of their unfavorable climatic conditions leaving Africa exposed and shortages give birth to high prices including her own staple food like rice and mealie meal.

For more information please be kind to join us or contact us at [www.wnif.org.za](http://www.wnif.org.za) and help reshape Africa.



# George Weah takes early lead in Liberia elections

Partial results from Liberia’s presidential election show former football star George Weah has taken an early lead.

Figures from the National Elections Commission (NEC) put Mr Weah ahead in 11 out of 15 counties, although most votes have yet to be counted.

His main rival, incumbent Vice-President Joseph Boakai, leads in one county and is second in most others. A candidate needs more than 50% of the votes for outright victory.

If no-one achieves that, a second round will be held in November.

The election is to choose a successor to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - Africa’s first elected female president and a Nobel Peace laureate.

As the results came in, the manager of Arsenal Football Club, Arsene Wenger, was apparently duped by false reports that Mr Weah had won.

“I would like to congratulate one of my former players, who became president of Liberia,” Mr Wenger told reporters.

“It’s not often you have a former player who becomes president of a country. So well done, Georgie.

NEC Chairman Jerome Korkoya hit out at false reports and said his officials were doing their best to get accurate official results out as quickly as possible.

“This commission has not declared any winner,” he stressed.

International election observers said they had not identified any major problems with Tuesday’s voting.

However, parties supporting three of the 20 candidates have alleged irregularities and said they would contest the result, Reuters reported.

Ms Sirleaf, 78, who is stepping down at the end of two terms, hailed the



George Weah casts a vote in the ballot box during the presidential elections in Liberia

election as a success. “We believe that all Liberians are ready for this process. I thank them for participating in this process,” she said.

Liberia, which was founded by freed US slaves in the 19th Century, has not had a smooth transfer of power in 73 years.

Ms Sirleaf took office in 2006, after her predecessor, Charles Taylor, was forced out of office by rebels in 2003, ending a long civil

war. Taylor is currently serving a 50-year prison sentence in the UK for war crimes related to the conflict in

neighbouring Sierra Leone. Mr Weah, 51, has chosen Taylor’s ex-wife Jewel Howard Taylor as his running mate. **BBC News**

## Taliban hostages freed after five years

Pakistani soldiers have freed a North American family of five who were being held hostage by the Afghan Taliban.

Canadian Joshua Boyle and his US wife Caitlan Coleman were kidnapped while backpacking in Afghanistan in 2012. They had three children while in captivity.

They were rescued after a US tip-off during an operation near the Afghan border, the Pakistani army said.

US President Donald Trump said it was a “positive moment” for US-Pakistan

ties. “Ms Coleman gave birth to the couple’s three children while they were in captivity,” Mr Trump said in a White House statement. “Today, they are free.”

He added: “The Pakistani government’s co-operation is a sign that it is honouring America’s wishes for it to do more to provide security in the region.”

Who are the Taliban? Videos of the couple were released by their captors, the Taliban-aligned Haqqani network, during their captivity. The insurgent

group has been demanding the release of three of its prisoners in Afghanistan.

The latest video, released last December, showed the couple with two young boys. In it, Ms Coleman - who was pregnant when she and Mr Boyle were abducted - begged for an end to what she called their “Kafkaesque nightmare”.

The Pakistani army said US intelligence agencies had been tracking the family in Afghanistan, and reported that on 11 October they had moved across the border into the Kurram tribal

district of Pakistan.

In a statement it said: “The success underscores the importance of timely intelligence sharing and Pakistan’s continued commitment towards fighting this menace through co-operation between two forces against a common enemy.”

In a video statement released to the Toronto Star newspaper, Linda Boyle said she and her husband Patrick had spoken to their son Joshua by telephone after his release.

“That’s the first time in five years we got to hear his voice,” she said. “It was amazing.”

The couple offered thanks to the Pakistani soldiers who had “risked their lives” to rescue the family.

They said Joshua had said his children were looking forward to meeting their grandparents, and that he hoped to see them within days.

However, Reuters news agency quotes anonymous US officials as saying that the US military had been ready to fly the family out of

Pakistan - but Mr Boyle had refused to board the aircraft. Mr Boyle was once married to a woman who espoused radical Islamist views and is the sister of a former Guantanamo Bay inmate, Omar Khadr. CNN suggested he might fear prosecution by the US authorities.

Asked about this, Canada’s Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said: “Joshua Boyle is not the subject of an investigation. Our focus is very much on the safety and the security of this family.”

Ms Freeland also said Canada did not pay any ransom for their release.

Earlier, she had said her government was “greatly relieved” the family had been released and was safe, and thanked the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“Joshua, Caitlan, their children and the Boyle and Coleman families have endured a horrible ordeal over the past five years. We stand ready to support them as they begin their healing journey,” she added. **BBC News**

## Three dead after ‘mid-air collision’

Three skydivers have died in Queensland after they apparently collided mid-air, say Australian authorities.

Paramedics and police were called to Mission Beach, a popular skydiving spot about 140km (87 miles) south of Cairns.

Two men in their 30s, and a woman in her 50s, were found dead at the scene, said Queensland police in a statement.

Police said initial investigations found one person may have had collided

with tandem skydivers, and their parachutes failed to deploy correctly. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported one local resident as saying that the three people fell on the lawn of a property about 1.5km north of the usual landing site.

An unnamed eyewitness told The Cairns Post that he saw one of the skydivers falling. “You could see one chute was tangled and it wasn’t opening.”

“I was just watching him in free fall

until he went behind the trees, and that was the last I saw,” he said.

“It wasn’t good to watch. I had my heart in my mouth.”

The area’s local mayor John Kremastos told the ABC that the incident was “horrible news”, saying: “Three people in one accident is very, very sad.”

Skydiving is a popular tourist activity in the area, with many of the backpackers who travel the Queensland coast stopping by Mission Beach. **BBC News**



## #42FOR42 FIRE TENDERS THROUGH THE EYES OF ACA & JAAZ SO FAR. PART ONE

Alliance for  
community  
action ▶▶



FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Republican Vice President Inonge Wina commissions 42 Scania branded fire tenders and announces total cost as 42 million US Dollars, working out to exactly 1 million Dollars for each truck.



**SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**

Zambians begin debating the reported price and prioritization of the fire of the equipment are widely shared on online.



**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

ACA writes to Scania to find out their involvement in the tender. Scania responds the same day stating that they were not directly involved in the sales arrangement with the Zambian government. Scania AB Press Manager & Corporate Relations Manager Hans-Åke Danielsson says that the company made the 42 chassis and delivered them to Rosenbauer, Spain for manufacturing of the superstructures.

**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

ACA on behalf of other Joint Action for Accountability in Zambia notify Zambia Police of intention to hold peaceful demonstration against fire tenders procurement in particular and generally over poor public resource management on National Budget presentation day Friday 29 September.



Friday 22 September

Rosenbauer confirms that they manufactured the superstructures (actual fire-tenders) but through Gerda Königstorfer, Company Spokesperson and Head of Corporate Communications/Investor Relations refuse to give any information with regards to factory price and technical specifications. ACA reminds Rosenbauer that the contract is a public tender and request is made in the public interest. Rosenbauer still refuses to make information available in an email sent to ACA on Monday 02 October.

**Alliance for  
community  
action** ▶▶



## #42FOR42 FIRE TENDERS THROUGH THE EYES OF ACA & JAAZ SO FAR. PART ONE

## MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Zambia Police invite ACA for interviews at Lusaka Central Police. Deputy Commissioner of Police Geoffrey Kunda informs ACA that police 'will not allow' ACA and partners to hold peaceful protest. Suggests that ACA should instead lobby parliament through letter. ACA informs DCP Kunda that police have no right to decide for citizens how the latter should express their displeasure with elected officials provided they meet the legal requirements, in particular Public order Act 113 (5) (4).



WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

British High Commissioner to Zambia, Fergus Cochrane-Dyett proposes that other oversight bodies other than ACC must look into the tender, suggests office of the Auditor General.

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER, 29 (08:30)**

Zambia Police deliver backdated letter (26 September) to ACA proposing cancellation of peaceful protest. ACA responds that notice is illegal and too late, protest will go ahead.

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER, 29**

ACA and other JAAZ partners stage peaceful protest. Police break up procession and detain 6 demonstrators. Detainees are released at 23:30 from police custody the same day.



## Saturday 30 September

ACA writes to Zambia Public Procurement Authority requesting for information on the fire tender contract with regards to technical specifications in the bid call and copies of all the bids received and details of offers made.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER, 29

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Malcom Mulenga invites ACA for a meeting at Force Headquarters and suggests that date of protest be moved forward due to lack of police to marshal the protest. ACA clarifies no need for heavy police marshaling.

## FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

64 Members of Parliament petition Speaker of the National Assembly to open inquiry into the fire renders contract.

## MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

Police charge 6 demonstrators with "unlawful assembly" "disobeying 'lawful orders'" and schedule 27 October for court appearance.

# Mascherano to retire from internationals

## after 2018 World Cup



The 2018 World Cup will mark the midfielder's final tournament for Argentina if he is chosen.



The 2018 World Cup will mark the midfielder's final tournament for Argentina if he is chosen, the veteran confirmed

Argentina veteran Javier Mascherano confirmed he would retire from internationals after the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

A Lionel Messi hat-trick led Jorge Sampaoli's men to a 3-1 win over Ecuador on Tuesday, securing a place at the showpiece event.

Mascherano, who has won 139 caps – just four shy of the nation's all-time record held by Javier Zanetti, said Russia 2018 would mark the end of his international career. “My cycle in the national team finishes in Russia,” the 33-year-old Barcelona man told TyC Sports on Thursday. “I have been clear that it

will be my final point.” Mascherano has been used in midfield and defence for Argentina, who struggled in qualifying and were in danger of missing the World Cup before Messi’s heroics. The former Liverpool midfielder said he hoped to be in Russia, but added it was a decision for

Sampaoli.  
Mascherano said: "The decisions are taken by the coach and he will decide if I am in Russia or not. "I will try in these six or seven months to prepare to be able to be. Sampaoli will decide. "I have a lot of respect for the decision that coaches make."



# Ballon d'Or never my focus - Lewandowski

Fresh from setting a UEFA World Cup qualifying goal-scoring record with 16 goals, a Ballon d'Or nomination and landing a bachelor's degree, Poland striker Robert Lewandowski caught up with ESPN FC for an exclusive interview. Speaking at the launch of Bayern Munich's new partnership with Audi, Lewandowski discussed his ambitions for club and country, his Champions League dreams, and a very close shave with Blackburn Rovers.

Q: What are your thoughts on Bayern Munich's first campaign (2016-17) under Carlo Ancelotti?

A: We played well during Ancelotti's first season. Without my injury in the Champions League, we had a good chance to reach the final. [Lewandowski missed the 2-1 first leg defeat vs. Real Madrid in Munich and was rushed back for the second where he scored a penalty, but was substituted late on as Bayern forced extra-time only to lose 6-3 on aggregate.]

If I had been 100 percent fit to play in Madrid, I think we could have made the semifinal, then who knows maybe we would have won the Champions League.

Q: It's been a turbulent start to this season. Bayern trail Dortmund by five points in the Bundesliga, and in Champions League you suffered a 3-0 defeat at Paris Saint-Germain. Ancelotti left the club, and Jupp Heynckes was brought in. Going forward, what are your hopes?

A: Now there's a new season and a new challenge with the new trainer. Sometimes it's not so easy if you are at a club that changes trainer during the

season. But we have to push on now. We are five points behind Dortmund, but there are a lot of games left until the end of the season.

But in the Champions League, after our defeat at PSG, we have work to do to qualify. We have to play to the end. Who knows? Maybe we will win the Champions League and the Bundesliga.

Q: What do you think of



Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge's comments about Real Madrid being your "dream club"?

A: I don't know exactly what he said. Maybe you can ask him why he said what he did. I don't know if he said that and where he said that. It's important what kind of newspaper quoted him.

Q: Last year, you were highly critical of the Ballon d'Or voting process. You came 16th and called it a "cabaret" after not making the final shortlist. Why?

A: I don't know why some players get 50th, 5th or 25th place. Only the first three places are important. That is why last year I was a little bit... how should I say... shocked. Because if you play for Bayern Munich and are playing Champions League semifinals and scoring a lot of goals in the Bundesliga and you're second top scorer in the Champions League... I don't

know what place I was but it was a little bit funny -- maybe funny is the right word.

Q: Is Ballon d'Or recognition especially vital to you?

A: No, I wouldn't say it was that important to me. Success at Bayern is more important, especially in the Champions League. If we reach the UCL final and win the Bundesliga, we can speak again but the Ballon d'Or is never my focus.

Q: You have won Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich. Your trophy cabinet is stacked with German cups and Torjagerkanonen (Bundesliga top scorer) awards. But you've only played in one Champions League final, and lost it. Is your main target now the Champions League?

A: Yes, after winning the Bundesliga and DFB Pokal a lot, you have to start thinking about other trophies. Last season, we



were disappointed because we knew we were playing well but sometimes in football a poor few minutes means you are out of the Champions League. Q: Ahead of your move to Borussia Dortmund in 2010, you were also linked with Blackburn Rovers. Your career could have taken quite a different turn. What stopped you from moving to England at this early stage of your career?

A: I could not fly to Blackburn because of the volcano [the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull which disrupted air travel in most parts of northern Europe in April 2010] but I wanted to go there just to see what the club is like because I didn't know back then where I was going.

Because if I travelled there, I would then know which is the best club for me. I couldn't go but I have to say at that time Blackburn was my second-

choice anyway. But maybe if I went there and saw the club, the stadium and everything, it would have become my first-choice.

Dortmund was my first choice back then but I was thinking about other clubs and different options. I'd never been to

Blackburn so that's why I wanted to go there, but I couldn't.

Q: Poland have qualified for the 2018 World Cup. How do you rate your country's chances in Russia?

A: It's hard to say. Poland have a great team at the moment with lots of very good players. We can

play really well sometimes and we have a lot of potential, but we also know there are many things we can do better. We will have to wait and see who we play in the group stages, but in the World Cup you never know -- every game is crucial.

*ESPN*

**ESPN**

# #42FOR42 FIRE TENDERS THROUGH THE EYES OF ACA & JAAZ SO FAR. PART ONE

## MONDAY 09 OCTOBER

ZPPA invites ACA for a discussion to clarify new role in tenders. ACA has meeting with ZPPA on Tuesday 10 October. Meeting establishes that the procurement authority did play any role in the tender apart from advising against the initial proposed route of single sourcing by the ministry and review of appeals that followed by some losing bidders.

## FRIDAY 06 OCTOBER

ZPPA holds Press Conference to clarify the institution's role in public procurement since amendment of law and change of mandate in 2008.

## MONDAY 09 OCTOBER

ACA writes to Ministry of Local Government and Housing Permanent Secretary requesting access to tender documentation. Letter is copied to Honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing, Office the Public Protector, Parliamentary Accounts Committee and Office of the Auditor General. All 5 offices acknowledge receipt of the correspondence.

### WHAT NEXT?

We will continue to demand full answers on #42For42 so that citizens can determine if buying 42 fire tenders was the best use of 42 million US dollars given the competing needs that the money could have been used for. We also want to know if principles of accountable procurement were followed. We will keep you posted. #AskWithUS. #ItsOurMoney



# CHILUMBA SALUTES WADA

## Was Musonda right to rant about being badly treated by Chelsea?

Charly Musonda Jr's ambition spilled over into frustration this week as the Chelsea youngster took to Instagram to express his bitterness over a lack of game time with the first team.

"You sacrifice, you work hard, harder, you give more than what's expected, and often more than you can, because you love what you do and clearly more than you should," he fumed, "and what do you get back? "Literally, nothing...done.

"However, with this being said, I will continue with same dedication and commitment to this great game."

The 20-year-old has since apologised for the manner of his outburst but his post polarised Chelsea fans. Some believe that Musonda was right to complain about a lack of first-team opportunities, while others are unhappy that he reacted in such public fashion. Despite the controversial comments, the Belgian youngster will remain a hugely popular figure among the Stamford Bridge faithful due to his exciting style of play, which he was able to show off on his first start for the club, the 5-1 hammering of Nottingham Forest in the Carabao Cup. He scored in a man of the match-winning display alongside Eden Hazard and Michy Bathsuayi.

Musonda understandably wants more chances to shine and he's not the first academy player from Chelsea to be left unhappy with a lack of game time.

Nathaniel Chalobah, Nathan Ake, Bertrand Traore and Dominic Solanke all felt that their careers would be better served by moving elsewhere,

while Ruben Loftus-Cheek is presently on loan at Crystal Palace. And these are just the academy player departures to have happened in the past few months!

Musonda is another incredible talent that has been developed at a Cobham Training Centre. The Belgian could have left west London this summer, with Celtic keen to take him to Glasgow on a permanent deal, but he felt he was good enough to become a regular in Antonio Conte's side.

However, that is proving a tough - and, evidently, a frustrating - challenge.

Musonda is competing for an attacking midfielder spot with proven, international-class players such as Eden Hazard, Pedro and Willian.

Indeed, it is worth noting that he hadn't started a professional first team match for 362 days until his recent cup display.

Approaching his 21st birthday on Sunday, Musonda has only two goals in his 27 professional matches and, at his age, Hazard was already a Ligue 1 winner with Lille with around 150 senior games under his belt.

Still, while the Brussels native can hardly be blamed for his lack of experience in such a competitive environment, he can give himself a better chance of breaking into the first team.

Conte has asked him to bulk up, as well as hinting that Musonda needs to be more versatile.

"We're talking about a young player with really good prospects," the Italian coach enthused. "But now it's important that he works very well. In my mind, he could play like No.10 or like a winger and



in the future he could play also as a wing-back."

Certainly, the multi-talented Andreas Christensen has shown it is possible for a young Chelsea loanee to make the breakthrough at Stamford Bridge. He played twice as many matches as Musonda over a two-year period thanks to a successful loan spell at Borussia Monchengladbach before returning this summer a better, more experienced player capable of forcing his way into the first-team reckoning.

Musonda, though, got unlucky last season while on loan at Real Betis, where he was an automatic starter before being dropped after the Liga club changed managers.

Now that he has returned to

west London, he is not only competing with Hazard & Co. but also fresh batch of players every from arguably the best academy in the world.

Chelsea have not yet produced Marcus Rashford or Harry Kane but their youth teams are winning trophies at an unprecedented rate.

Of course, Rashford only got his chance to break in at Man United because of an injury crisis and Musonda needs a similar slice of luck at Chelsea.

However, he also needs to keep his head down and work harder because, as it stands, Chelsea are quite happy with how things are going.

The production line is churning out players that can be sold on to generate funds for

strengthening a successful first team.

Indeed, Chelsea made about £45 million on academy players last summer, helping the club to almost break even in a hyper-inflated market and pay for the likes of Alvaro Morata, Tiemoué Bakayoko and Antonio Rudiger.

While many in Chelsea's academy share the same concerns as Musonda, it is hard to argue with a business model that allows Chelsea to win titles while comfortably adhering to UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules.

One can understand Musonda's frustrations but, in reality, all that matters is the bottom line and Chelsea are a lean, mean winning machine, so what has sentiment got to do with it?

Literally, nothing. *Goal.com*

*By Nyambe Lubasi*

Ex-Zambia striker Tennant Chilumba says the blueprint Zambia has exhibited against Algeria and Nigeria will see the team go places.

The 1994 AFCON silver medal winner and former Power Dynamos and Napsa Stars coach also believes coach Wedson Nyirenda's philosophy has hit the right tone in the team.

"We played very well against Nigeria and should treat every game we will now play in the same way," Chilumba said.

"If you even look at the preparations for both the Nigeria and Algeria games, they were no hiccups and the performances have shown. We hope to see the same support for Wedson in the coming games."

Zambia's next match will be against Cameroon in a formality 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier.

That match will determine who symbolically finishes second in Group B that Nigeria clinched on an assailable 13 points with a game to spare on October 7 with a 1-0 home victory over Zambia to qualify for the Russia finals.

"I know Wedson very well. I have played with him and worked with him. He is not going to treat the Cameroon game like a formality and wants to win it," Chilumba said.

Meanwhile Chilumba added that Chipolopolo recent success was also a collective effort on the pitch.

"For me, I cannot say it was because of a player's performance it is all about the team. They have all played very well," said Chilumba.