

AMOS REGRETS

'FIGHT' WITH CK

...I should not have responded

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Kawambwa man murders pregnant wife over nshima

By Diggers Reporter
Police in Kawambwa District have arrested a 28 year old man for the beating to death his eight

months pregnant wife on grounds that she did not prepare him nshima on return.

I am guilty, Mambo tells Supreme Court

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According to Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo, the incident happened when the husband identified as Evans Kabwe, 28, arrived home and didn't find his food prepared. To page 2



First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Catherine Namugala (c) with Zambian Parliamentarians and staff at the 49 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Summit in Gaborone

Lungu has continued undermining judiciary with 2021 bid - Chipimo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
NAREP leader Elias Chipimo says President Edgar Lungu's statement that he wants to deliver success between 2021 and 2026 is troubling. At a public rally in Kitwe on Tuesday, President Lungu asked his team to step up their game and see to the fulfilment of their campaign promises in order for him to successfully finish his tenure from 2021-2026. "I want to finish 2021 and 2026 with delivery, ... and we can only finish the

2021-2026 term if we deliver," said President Lungu. But Chipimo says President Lungu was also giving an impression that there was no democracy in the ruling party. "The statement by President Lungu

suggesting that his term will only end in 2026 is very troubling. He is undermining the authority of the Constitutional Court that is going to be looking at this issue based on the petition that is before it about his eligibility," Chipimo said. To page 4

Court acquits former C/Belt Police Commissioner Tembo

Story page 5

PUBLIC WARNING

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Felix Lupindula
Head Corporate Affairs/General Manager Retailing



Protests have been tried but don't seem to work, we need a new formula - Laura

By Mirriam Chabala

Civil Rights Activist Laura Miti has asked Zambians to find ways to let politicians know that it will be impossible to win elections in 2021 if those offering to stand do not have solutions to the country's problems.

And Miti says the country cannot continue being governed the way the PF administration is doing where businesses belonging to members of the opposition do not thrive.

Reacting to UPND president Hakainde Hichilima's call on Zambians to rise up and protest against the injustices of the PF government, Miti said Zambians needed a different approach to the non performance of the PF, explaining that protests had been tried and tested but were not very helpful.

"I think we need to come

together as citizens, whether in a large meeting or in small groups to agree with ourselves what we want. And when citizens agree with what they want, politicians will be forced to respond to us. When we get to 2021, we should not have the same kind of campaigns where as long as you have money, as long as you can give people Chitenges or as long as you can bribe the poor, you will win. We need political parties that will start looking inside themselves, those who are going to offer themselves should know that it will be impossible to win if certain things are not in place. Our problem is not that we have Edgar Lungu in power, our problem is that it is possible to have Edgar Lungu in power. I have said that we have broken fences, how is it that we were able to get a

President for the country who didn't really have any [vision], he didn't tell us we were taking us," Miti said in an interview.

"They just told us 'more money in your pockets', which is really nothing because nobody asked any questions about the holes in our constitution, no one asked questions about our accountability issues. So we are looking at these parties, all of them across the board. We need to begin to demand that a political party should be able to articulate how it will solve systemic problems, how it will ensure that this country is raised from the bottom. What are his responses to the poor? What will he do to ensure that our Judiciary is independent and free? Right now we have a Judiciary that nobody trusts, you can keep changing the

Chief Justice, you can keep changing the President but as long as the system allows the Judiciary to be captured or Parliament to be captured, then we have a problem."

Miti who is Alliance for Community Action executive director said people should vote based on someone's capacity to deliver, not just for the sake of removing an individual from government. "So when we citizens come together, we must for a moment forget about the name of the politician, we are spending a lot of energy talking about individual failures of the PF, today we are saying they have taxed us

30 ngwee, tomorrow we are talking about the fire trucks, the next day we are talking about ambulances... they will not stop, we know that they are a failed government and they are incompetent, we know that they want to get rich. So the question is, how do we get our country out of here?" she wondered.

"I am not talking about going in the streets and being ungovernable and all that, we can get there one day maybe but that's not where we should start from. We are not looking to burn tires, we are looking to ensure that whoever stands in 2021 must know that first they can't rig

and secondly, the vote will be on the base of what they can do for the country."

Meanwhile, Miti expressed concern about how hard it was for businesses belonging to the opposition to thrive under the PF administration. "But we have a system now where if you are not PF then you will be poor, that is where our country is broken. The fact is that if there is anyone in opposition who is in business then their business will fail. For anybody to survive now, feed their children and send them to school, you must be in the PF. This means the system is broken," said Miti.

Kawambwa man murders pregnant wife over nshima

By Diggers Reporter

Police in Kawambwa District have arrested a 28 year old man for the beating to death his eight months pregnant wife on grounds that she did not prepare him nshima on return. According to Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo, the incident happened when the husband identified as Evans Kabwe, 28, arrived home and didn't find his food prepared.

She said it was at this time that the suspect started beating his eight months pregnant wife identified as Dorothy Kangwa, 20, until she became unconscious.

Katongo said the victim was then rushed to Kala Rural Health Centre and later referred to Kawambwa General Hospital where she died upon arrival.

"Brief facts of the report are that, on 19th August, 2018 around 2100 hours, the husband went home in a drunken state and found that his wife had not prepared nshima which made him upset and started beating his wife who was eight months pregnant, kicking and punching her, until she became unconscious," Katongo narrated.

"With the help of other people, the victim was rushed to Kala Rural Health Centre and later referred to Kawambwa General Hospital where she died on 20th August, 2018 around 1600 hours," Katongo said.

She said the deceased's body was lying in Kawambwa General Hospital mortuary awaiting post-mortem.

Katongo added that the suspect was in police custody and would be charged with murder.



Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZCCI) president Michael Nyirenda addresses journalists during a press briefing as his vice Sylvia Mwansa listens in Lusaka on August 22, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Govt to stop paying for leave days under austerity measures

Mukosha Funga

Government, through Public Service Management Division permanent secretary Boniface Chimbwali, has announced a change in management of leave days which among other things entails that civil servants will be required to take at least 30 days leave annually.

And civil servants who accumulate days in excess of their prescribed leave will forfeit the extra days.

According to a circular addressed to State House Principal Private Secretary, Smart Zambia Institute, all Permanent Secretaries and deputy auditor general on August

16, the move was in line with the implementation of austerity measures.

"Following the issuance of Public Service Management Division Circular No B23 of 2016 and further to Cabinet Office Circular Number 15 of 2018, Government has put in place a number of austerity measures relating to the administration and management of leave days in the Public Service. These measures are intended to prevent further worsening of the current debt situation related to emoluments and to enforce the existing Terms and Conditions of Service for the Public

Service. In this regard, addresses are hereby directed to ensure that: Vacation leave, all public service employees take leave of at least 30 days or more annually, to reduce expenditures related to personal emoluments such as commutation of days; the provision of the Terms and Conditions of Service No. 141 (a) that requires an officer to proceed on 30 days or more paid leave every two years is hereby amended accordingly," read the circular.

"Vacation leave allowance continues to be granted at intervals of 24 months and not annually as provided for in the Terms of Conditions of

Service No 141 (c)."

And all civil servants who accumulate leave days in excess of their prescribed limits will forfeit their excess days.

"All public employees do not accumulate leave days beyond the prescribed maximum limits of 230 for Division I, 205 for Division II and 160 days for Division III as provided in the terms and Conditions of Service No. 104 (a) and an employee who accumulates leave in excess of the prescribed limit shall forfeit his or her excess number of days to the government or employer, commutation of leave days is

suspended until the fiscal position and debt situation improves and outstanding commutation claims already approved and awaiting payment prior to the issuance of Cabinet Office Circular No.15 of 2018 dated 29th June, 2018 be scrutinised and reviewed; and only those employees who at the time had accumulated leave days above the maximum entitlement of 230 for Division I, 205 for Division II and 160 days for Division III as provided in the Terms and Conditions of Service No 104 (a), be qualified for the payment of the outstanding commutation," wrote Chimbwali.

By Abraham Kalito

The Road Transport and Safety Agency says the airport road speed limit will be increased to 100km per hour. And RTSA says it is illogical for a well taught driver to complain about lack of adequate speed-limit markings on the road because they are expected to know. Speaking when he featured on ZNBC's Open Line program, Wednesday, RTSA public relations manager Timothy Moono the agency had taken into consideration concerns from motorists that the airport road speed limit was too low. "Airport road, we have addressed all the issues that have got to do with airport road, we will be announcing the date when the new speed

RTSA increases Airport Road speed limit to 100km/hr

limit will take into effect but we have put the new speed limit for Airport Road. As we are speaking right now, our engineers were on the road and Airport Road will be upgraded to 100km/hr but of course we should bear in mind that because of the area, there are some settlements around that area, of course it is a two-way thing, motorists should be on the look out," Mubanga said. And RTSA says it is illogical for a well taught driver to complain about lack of adequate speed-limit markings on the road because they are expected to know.

"A well taught driver will always know the speed limit at any given area. Of course we are going an extra mile to remind them through the sensitisation we have been doing and we have continued on a scaled up [level] because our prime purpose is to save people's lives. We have seen that the project is working quite well for Lusaka and the sensitisation is slowly getting to the people so we

will now be rolling out this project to other parts of the country especially on high ways where accidents usually happen," Mubanga said. "In terms of warning signs, to show that this area has got speed cameras, mind you we only have four points in Lusaka which have got speed cameras, of course facing different directions, making them eight. So all the areas that have got

cameras, we have got a speed warning sign now to show that there is a camera there. As we speak, if you can go with me to Great East Road right now, you can see that the cameras are there." Mubanga also said the proceeds from speed cameras were going to central government. "The proceeds of course are going to the central government," said Mubanga.

But according to a Concession Agreement between RTSA and Intelligent Mobility Solutions Limited, a Consortium of Kapsch International and Lamise Trading, government was only entitled to 85 per cent of the proceeds whilst the latter would be getting 15 per cent of the proceeds for a period of about 15 years in order to realise their investment.

BoZ to abolish unwarranted bank charges

By Abraham Kalito

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) has announced that it has completed phase one of a review of unwarranted charges by commercial banks, which look set to be abolished. And Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) president Dr Lubinda Haabazoka hailed the BoZ's move, saying members of the public have finally won. BoZ director for Bank Supervision Gladys Mposha stated the central bank is in the process of issuing a directive to all commercial banks on the unwarranted charges and fees, which look set to be abolished. "Following the announcement previously made during the governor's meeting with chief executive officers that the Bank of Zambia was reviewing charges and fees levied by financial service providers; we would like to take this opportunity to inform the market that the first phase of the review of bank charges and fees has now been completed. This phase focussed on identifying some bank charges and fees levied by financial service providers, which are determined to be unwarranted and, therefore, should not be charged. In this regard, the Bank would like to share with the market the list of these fees for information before the Bank of Zambia directive on unwarranted charges and for fees is issued," Mposha stated in a letter addressed to all CEOs of commercial banks dated August 7, 2018. She narrated the comprehensive list of fees that were deemed to be unwarranted. "The list of unwarranted charges will include the following: Account opening for local currency; cash deposit made by a third party into a customer's account; cash deposit on Automated Teller Machine (ATM); a charge on a basic savings account (without cheque book) opening within

contractual terms; transfer of an account from one branch to another branch of the same bank; aborted ATM cash withdrawals; ATM PIN reset; Point of Sale (POS) transaction (own bank customer and other bank customers); activity that is generated by the bank; additional charges arising from an initial charge generated by the bank; a charge for closure of a customer's account; re-activating a bank account; statement of a closed account upon closing of the account; balance and other account inquiries by a customer over-the-counter or my electronic platform; over-the-cash deposits and withdrawals; Initial debit card issuance fee; debit card maintenance and renewal fees (annually, quarterly or monthly); monthly maintenance fees on Basic Savings Accounts (without cheque book); "Transfer of funds between account domiciled in the same bank; inward local fund transfers, including on RTGS systems and electronic fund transfers (EFT); inward international funds transfer where the remitter bears the full cost; amendment or cancellation of a standing order; Automated Teller Machine (ATM) surcharge; ledger fees per entry on a current or savings account; commission on turnover/debit activity fees/ledger fees; any other charge or fee the Bank may determine." She added that the BoZ will in phase two look at other charges and fees that are unwarranted and deemed to be unfair to the public. "Kindly note that the outcome of the second phase of the review on bank charges and fees will be communicated to the market in due course," stated Mposha. And Dr Haabazoka reacted to the move with delight, saying members of the public have finally won, describing the fees and charges as totally unfair. "Dear colleagues! Unfair

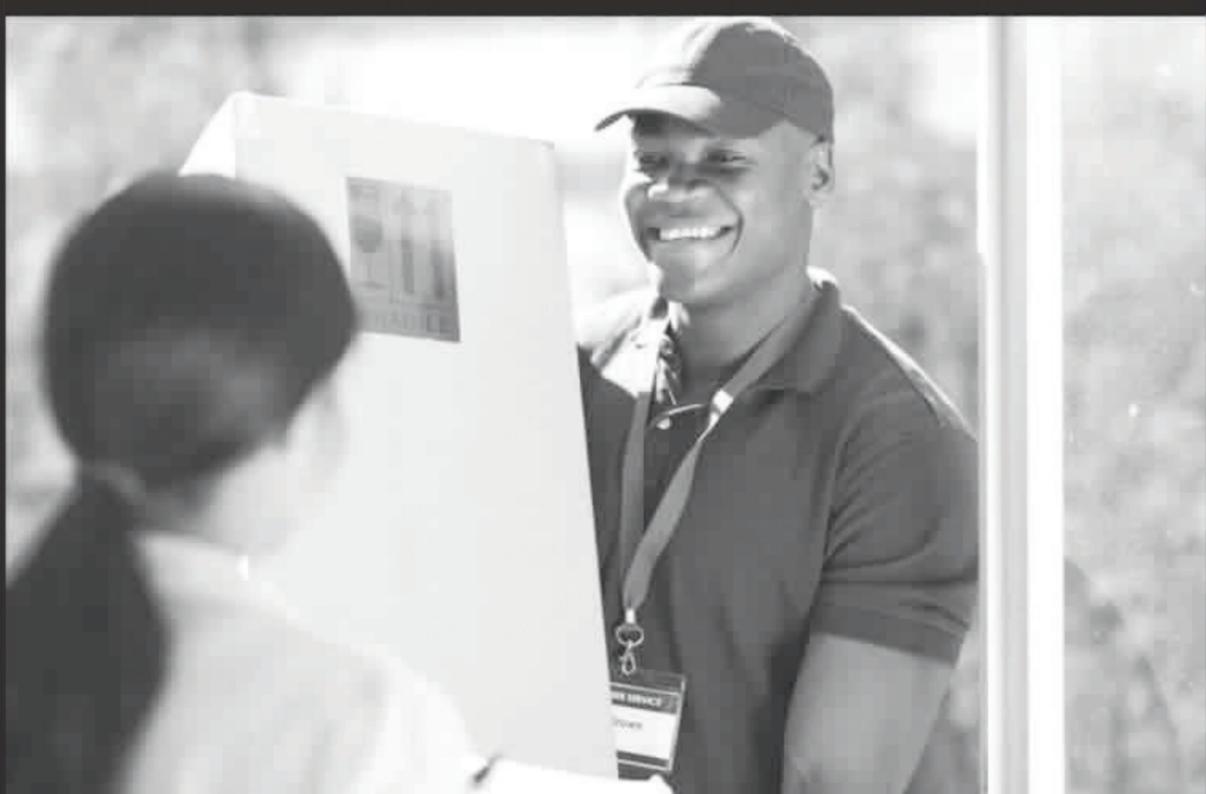
Bank charges have gone!!!! We have won!!!! The Bank of Zambia has intervened in the best interest of depositors!!!! Now we can talk about financial inclusion!!!! Banks

should concentrate on bank lending. That is their core business. I am very grateful to all those that supported the campaign. Together we can make this country clean

of economic unfairness!!! You can now safely check your account balance without paying K2. You can now withdraw your own money for free!!! Open a kwacha

non-cheque account for free!! No more paying charges for swiping!!! Amen!!!!" exclaimed Dr Haabazoka in brief comments posted on his official Facebook page.

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Amos apologises over brawl with Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga
Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda says he regrets the manner in which he

responded to unwarranted attacks from NDC leader Chishimba Kambwili. In a statement issued in his personal capacity, Thursday, Chanda insulting Kambwili

was a lapse in judgement. "In an unguarded moment, I responded harshly to incessant unprovoked and malicious personal attacks from Mr. Chishimba

Kambwili who repeatedly abused me publicly, but has also been invading my private space as he did in a recent phone call he made to me using a third party

phone line," Chanda stated. "Upon reflection, I regret that I should not have responded in the manner I did, despite the deep personal injury that his

unwarranted attacks have caused both in my private and public capacities. My harsh response was definitely a moment of lapse in judgement in the face of relentless malice from a person with whom I have no personal offense whatsoever."

He stated that he would no longer respond to the rebel Roan PF member of parliament but wait for the legal process to run its full course.

"Given that six months ago, Mr. Kambwili took me to court, and I counter-demanded against him in the same case over many of the false allegations he has made. I will no longer respond any of his provocations whatsoever. Instead, I will let the legal process to run its full course," stated Chanda.

In the past one week, Chanda and Kambwili have been involved in a brawl.

Those who lost mayoral nomination to me are dividing PF, says Sampa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa says he has observed malicious propaganda aimed at planting disunity among the party's top leadership by those who lost the PF mayoral nomination. In a statement, Sampa who resigned from the PF, formed his own party and alliance with UPND before defecting back to PF stated that he would support President Lungu now and beyond 2021. "Having come out of the Mayoral election, I realise that some of those that lost both during the nomination process and some from the opposition that lost the inter party elections have now resorted to malicious propaganda meant to plant disunity for the Mayor vis-a-vis Ministers, PF top leadership and His Excellency the Republican President Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu," Sampa said.

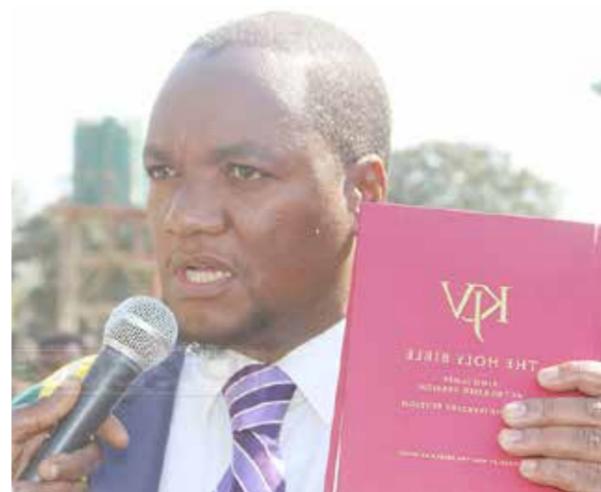
"For the umpteenth time but not the last, I Miles Bwalya Sampa wish to categorically state and affirm my unflinching loyalty and undivided support for our Party and The Republican President Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu now and beyond 2021. Any person or group stating or hinting the opposite, are simply expressing from their figment of wild imagination." Sampa also stressed that he was no longer interested in

contesting the presidency in future.

"I do not have interest in contesting for Presidency, I am very content and grateful for what my party PF and the President have given me as Lusaka Mayor. Through this position I want to contribute towards the development of the greater city of Lusaka. To those that have dared to read the PF constitution, they will realise that I don't even qualify to stand as a presidential candidate at the next PF

convention. So; Mwaloba Ilyauma in your cheap scheme simply because you have no support pa ground in the upcoming intra-party elections and wish to abuse my name hoping to redeem your dried up fortunes," said Sampa.

"I have a job to do as Mayor and that's to support the vision of the President and that I shall successfully do without fear or favour, with or without propaganda from apostles of hatred."



Lungu continues to undermine Judiciary with 2021 bid - Chipimo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
NAREP leader Elias Chipimo says President Edgar Lungu's statement that his time in office will only come to an end in 2026 is troubling. At a public rally in Kitwe on Tuesday, President Edgar Lungu asked his team to step up their game and see to the fulfilment of their campaign promises in order for him to successfully finish his tenure from 2021-2026. "I want to finish 2021 and 2026 with delivery,... and

we can only finish the 2021-2026 term if we deliver," said President Lungu.

But in an interview, Thursday, Chipimo said President Lungu was also giving an impression that there was no democracy in the ruling party.

"The statement by Republican President Mr Edgar Lungu suggesting that his term will only end in 2026 is very troubling. First of all, he is sending a message to is party that there is no democracy within PF

and that you cannot expect anybody to run against him because he has already decided that he will be the person whose term will end in 2026. Secondly, he is undermining the authority of the Constitutional Court that is going to be looking at this issue based on the petition that is before it about his eligibility. Now, it's one thing for an ordinary individual to comment on something that maybe happening in court [and] it's quite another for a

Head of State to be making comments that impact a case in which he himself is the subject matter," Chipimo said.

He said for a lawyer like President Lungu was putting the court in an awkward position with his utterances.

"So we do not expect somebody who is a lawyer and a president to be making utterances that are connected to a matter that is active in court and which involves him personally as the subject matter of that particular issue. It puts the court in a very difficult position. If they rule against him standing in 2021 which I believe is the correct position of the law that he cannot stand in 2021 because he has already twice been elected into office, meaning that he will no longer be eligible to be elected again, it would then mean that people within his ranks would assume that somehow the court had bowed to the opposition when whereas they simply followed the law. If on the other hand for some strange reason and we do not expect that the courts will violate the law or the Constitution by deciding that he can run, but if they were to say that he could run, it could be very troubling and unfortunate. And it would give people the sense that perhaps there is something

funny and something fishy going on in our judiciary," Chipimo said.

And speaking during his newly launched weekly Q&A live Facebook programme earlier, Chipimo said it was scary that every year, 400,000 young people were born against the employment ratio.

"I want to set an example about the kind of president that I will be when I am in State House because every week I need to be engaging with the people of this country, listening to them, hearing their concerns, hearing about how they feel I am leading them. There is a statistic which is very scary for me, every year, 400 thousand young people are born. That means that 1,000 people come on the job market, that means that we got to create 1,000 jobs every day. Now that's almost impossible for any economy to do. And again we need to rescue ourselves from all this huge debt. So we have a very big plan which is to make Zambia a super power in renewable energy. Only four per cent of the people have access to electricity in rural areas, we need to change all that, we need to improve the way in which agriculture is done, we are going to find an easier way of constructing roads at 1/3 of the cost that we are currently constructing roads on," said Chipimo.



Zambia's Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary to Estonia, Her Excellency Rose Salukatula presents her Letters of Credence to Estonian President Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid in Tallin

Ndola Court acquits Mary Tembo

By Daniel Chansa

The Ndola Magistrates' Court has acquitted former Copperbelt police commissioner Mary Tembo of abuse of authority of office.

Tembo, 58, of house number 4, Bukafu Street I Ndola, was arrested on November 13, 2013. It was alleged that between May 1 and June 30, 2013 in Ndola, Tembo abused the authority of her office as commissioner of police for the Copperbelt Province by obtaining a Toyota Corolla registration number AAX 5716 from Grizzly Mining Limited, which she registered in her name thereby obtaining benefits for herself.

In the second count, it was alleged that Tembo, on dates unknown but between November 1 and December 31, 2012 in Ndola, abused her authority of office as commissioner of Police for the Copperbelt Province by asking Grizzly Mining Limited, a private company, to fix her personal Toyota Cressida registration F100.

In his judgment, Thursday, chief resident magistrate Paul Chisha said it was not in dispute that by the time Tembo was serving as Commissioner for the Copperbelt, the province was faced with transport challenges. "It is not in dispute for the accused that she was a commissioner of Copperbelt. It is not in dispute that the accused faced a lot of transport challenges. I am persuaded to adopt the inferences to the

accused person. The persecution has failed to prove the second count and the accused is not guilty of this count and acquit her accordingly in count two," magistrate Chisha said.

"As regards to count one, was the change of ownership meant to benefit her? The state could have assisted the court to find out if operations were conducted using the same car. In sum, I am of the view and find that the accused did not facilitate the registration of a vehicle in her name for personal benefits but for police services. So the prosecution have failed to prove that she registered the vehicle in her name to benefit herself. I acquit her accordingly in count one."

Tembo's Lawyer Milner Katolo then applied that his client be given the vehicle which the state had grabbed from her.

Magistrate Tembo then granted the application.

"The vehicle grabbed from her and the laptop will be released within 14 days," said magistrate Chisha.



If banks don't shape up, others will take over, says Kalyalya

By Stuart Lisulo

Commercial banks must innovate to stay abreast of technological developments

happening in the financial market or they will cease to exist, says Bank of Zambia governor Dr Denny Kalyalya.

And Dr Kalyalya has reiterated the central bank's calls to the financial services industry for them

to continuously reach out to informal savings groups, such as women's village savings groups, to enhance financial inclusion.

Addressing journalists during a question and answer session in Lusaka, Dr Kalyalya urged commercial banks to continue innovating in order to stay abreast of technological developments happening in the financial market or they will cease to exist.

"This has been in a discussion point in many fora. It means that banks have to shape up! If they don't shape up, obviously, the others will take over; that's how life is. So, I don't think they [commercial banks] will go away, but they will go away if they don't innovate. But they are aware of this," Dr Kalyalya said in response to questions from journalists following the BoZ's Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) announcement, Wednesday.

"So, banks are also innovating; the FINTEX that we are talking about. We also have to jack-up! You talk of regulation technology; you can't stay behind because otherwise you become a drag on that development. So, for sure, if you don't innovate, you will be overtaken. That's the message, and banks are working on that. Even us, as central banks, we are honing our skills in terms of being able to stay with the developments. So, the issue

is that, innovate or you die, as simple as that. So, that is the space, which is moving forward, so you have to keep pace or else you are cast on way side."

And he reiterated the central bank's calls to the financial services industry for them to continuously reach out to informal savings groups, such as women's village savings groups, which are an increasingly popular alternative, to enhance financial inclusion.

"These village savings, women savings...they are welcome! The space is big. At the end of the day, they [women] will have to put money somewhere so they will mobilize it, but they will have to put it somewhere else. We are also encouraging banks actually to work with these groups because they widen their reach," said Dr. Kalyalya. "So, all these are avenues. Banks are not enough; there are other forms of banking, we are even talking of agent banking so that you don't have to deal with a regular bank." Earlier, Dr Kalyalya announced that the BoZ's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 9.75 per cent, while also keeping the Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR) at five per cent in a bid to induce lower interest rates and revive economic growth.

TALC condemns HIV/AIDS stigma

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Remarks made by State House Press Aide Amos Chanda against Chishimba Kambwili borders on stigma to the over 1.2 million Zambians living with HIV and Aids, says Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC) executive director Felix Mwanza.

In a statement released before Chanda issued an apology yesterday, Mwanza stated that it was disheartening to hear such remarks from a person of that stature, especially at the time when the country has made gigantic efforts in reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

"The Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC) would like to express its utter displeasure and disappointment to the unpalatable and insulting language on phone attributed to President Edgar Lungu's Press Aide Amos Chanda humiliating Hon. Chishimba Kambwili as reported in the narrative phone conversation in the News Diggers! newspaper of Wednesday, August 22,

2018. Mr. Amos Chanda is quoted to have told Hon. Chishimba Kambwili that he is suffering from AIDS and that he is a dog. The words used by Amos Chanda purely border on hate speech with venom of stigma to over 1.2 million Zambians living with HIV and AIDS," Mwanza stated.

Mwanza appealed to President Lungu to intervene in the matter by way of disciplining Chanda.

He also called on Chanda to unreservedly apologize to people living with HIV and to Kambwili as well.

"At the time when our country has made gigantic efforts in combating the disease by investing in programmes aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, including treatment and prevention programmes, it is disheartening that such hate and stigmatizing language is coming from President Lungu's aide. Such hate speech towards people living with HIV is a clear violation of human rights of people living with HIV. TALC, therefore, calls upon

Amos Chanda to unreservedly apologise to people living with HIV and Kambwili. We further demand that President Lungu intervenes in this matter and discipline Amos Chanda because we find it difficult to understand how the presidential aide will in future represent the President on matters of HIV and AIDS if he is the one that stigmatizes people living with HIV in the first place," Mwanza stated.

He further condemned Kambwili for belittling Chanda.

"In the same vein, it is not right for Hon. Kambwili to have uttered the words that the young man is looking dehydrated, frail and grey as that may insinuates that Mr. Chanda may have a certain illness. This, too, is stigma and should not be allowed especially that it is coming out from a member of parliament and a leader whom a lot of our people look up to. We ask Hon. Kambwili to also apologize to Mr. Chanda and the people of Zambia," appealed Mwanza.

Chanda has since apologized in a brief statement released, Thursday.

By Abraham Kalito
Zambians have been paying double taxes before the 30 ngwee charge on Internet calls was introduced because government has failed to provide adequate services to meet citizens' needs, says the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS).

In an interview with News Diggers! in Lusaka, Thursday, CUTS centre coordinator Chenai Makumba said Zambian consumers who are heavily taxed still use their salaries to access services, which ordinarily should have been provided by government.

"The impact of high taxes on the consumer means that their disposable income has reduced. This

Zambian's have been paying double taxes all along - CUTS

means that, the amount of money that they have to purchase the goods that they need to survive from day to day declines. With the rising inflation and increasing cost of living, this is detrimental to the consumers' welfare. Taxes are supposed to be used by the government to enable them to provide public goods and services such as roads, hospitals, infrastructure. Government has failed

to do so. But if the government fails to adequately provide these services, the consumer is essentially paying double," Makumba argued.

"Firstly, the consumer is taxed by government, and then, secondly, if the public services are not provided, the consumer still has to use their remaining salary to pay for these goods and services that were supposed to have been already provided by their

taxes. The latest issue of concern to the consumers has been the 30 ngwee tax per day on Internet phone calls. Consumers moved towards Internet phone calls because they were more affordable."

She also said that the 30 ngwee charge on consumers was too aggressive and would negatively impact poor Zambians because it is a larger component of the majority of household

budgets.

"For the government to begin to charge a tax on Internet phone calls means that the consumer not only has to pay for data, but for the Internet phone calls as well. Additionally, this tax is aggressive as it will have the most significant [impact] on low income consumers for whom 30 ngwee per day charge is a larger component of their budget. The government needs to increasingly

realise that consumers are the most important agents of this economy. Without consumers, every single component of the economy comes to a standstill. To drastically reduce consumers' incomes means that the amount they can spend to ensure that the economy continues to churn and, thus, contribute to the economic growth and development is, therefore, reduced," observed Makumba.

Samora Machel Airport rehabilitation to gobble K41m

By Mirriam Chabala
Northern Province Minister Brian Mundubile has disclosed that government has released a sum of K41 million for the rehabilitation of the Samora Machel Airport in Kasama district ahead of the upcoming investment Expo.

And Mundubile told a media briefing yesterday that 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the investment Expo, which will be held alongside the centenary commemoration of the end of the First World War from November 20-25 this year.

Mundubile added that government had also been negotiating with local residents of Kasama, Mbala and other towns in the province to rent out their houses to tourists in order to accommodate guests who would be coming from other parts of the country. "Following Cabinet's

decision to have the centenary commemoration of the end of the First World War and Northern Province Expo as a State function, the provincial administration, in collaboration with other stakeholders, embarked on a vigorous campaign to prepare the hosting of the planned event. The milestones achieved so far regarding the preparations are: rehabilitating of key infrastructure that will contribute to the successful hosting of the event. Government has released an amount of K41 million towards the rehabilitation of the Kasama and Mbala Airport in readiness for the event. A total of 1,000 delegates are targeted to attend the centenary commemoration and investment Expo. These will include some Cabinet ministers and members of parliament; diplomats accredited to Zambia and

the UN family; international and local war veterans; local and foreign investors; senior government officials; the private sector and civil society organisations," Mundubile said.

He explained that a separate K15 million had been solicited from various line ministries to finance the hosting of the two events.

"In terms of budget, K15 million was budgeted for the two events, that is the Expo and the centenary celebration. Basically, in packaging part of those funds goes towards infrastructure rehabilitation then some of it goes to the promotion of the event and the actual hosting of the event. This particular event is being supported by five line ministries, that is: the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry; Ministry of [National Development] Planning; Ministry of Tourism and

Arts; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Northern Province. So, where this money is coming from is from within the budgets of these ministries; they just had to vary and realign. For instance, for the works at Motomoto Museum, all we did was to agree with our colleagues at the Ministry of Tourism and Arts to vary some items within their budget and bring forth the works at Motomoto Museum, they would have done the works at a later date, but we asked them to bring the debt forward because we needed the museum ready for the Expo," he narrated.

Mundubile also said a local airline had been hired to be flying guests to Northern Province who would not be sleeping there due to limited accommodation.

"Due to limited accommodation facilities in the province, arrangements

are being made with one local airline to be flying VVIPs, VIPs and other dignitaries on a daily basis from either Lusaka, Copperbelt to Northern Province during the event. Sites have also been identified where contemporary tented accommodation with basic facilities such as water, electricity and Internet facilities will be available. One of the measures we have taken is that we've realised that the Expo will be spread over a period of five days. For instance, we will pick a day when we will talk about tourism, meaning that when we are at Kabwelume Falls, we will take advantage of the activities in Kawambwa [District] and Mporokoso for a specific day then, maybe on a particular day, we will be in Nsama taking of advantage of the Kasaba Bay then the main event of the Expo will be on the 24th [of November]. So, you will realise that some of our potential investors are coming for specific sites and once they have asked their questions and they are satisfied they may even get back to their respective areas... so issues of accommodation at such an event are a big challenge, but these challenges are actually exposing and confirming the potential that lies in those particular areas. But for our VVIP, they will be flying to Northern and back to Lusaka on each particular day, so this local airline that we are talking to will also have a number of flights in and out of the province every day for those number of days," Mundubile added.

"We've also called upon private residents, there are people in the province who have very good mansions. This is an opportunity where they can lease out

their houses to the tourists during that time. This is not unusual, I am sure those who have been to Cape Town, this happens every year. Roundabout October, people leave their homes and for three months their houses are let out to tourists and when these retirees come back in January, they've got enough money to live on. So, this [is] an opportunity even for our local business people who have big houses and they are able to let them out."

And Mundubile added that the oil exploration works that were launched last year in Northern Province under a company called Tullow Oil were progressing well and that a full report about the works would be issued soon.

Meanwhile, Works and Supply Minister Felix Mutati urged the people of Northern Province to take advantage of the upcoming investment Expo to market the province's agricultural potential.

"This is an opportunity to market our tourism potential as Northern Province, given the fact that the Expo will also take place during the centenary celebration, we need to go beyond just tourism and focus on agriculture as a key opportunity in Northern Province. So, all of us that are here will be bringing something to the table; in particular, bringing investment that should mature when we hold the Expo, both in our capacity as members from the North, but as part of government. So, we will remain committed to deliver this investment in agriculture and in tourism and at an appropriate time, we shall give an outline of the investment that we are going to bring in November," said Mutati.



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu talks to American Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote during a meeting at State House on Thursday, August 23, 2018. President Lungu and Ambassador Foote discussed several issues on bilateral relations between Zambia and the United States of America. - PICTURE BY SALIM HENRY/STATE HOUSE

By Mirriam Chabala

United Prosperous and Peaceful Zambia (UPPZ) president Charles Chanda says he has more land than the Lusaka City Council (LCC), part of which he is willing to give the local authority if approached.

And Chanda has explained that he has been smart enough not to have been registering the land he buys in his own name because he has a number of political enemies who want to tarnish his reputation. Speaking when he featured on Hot FM's Hot seat programme, Thursday, Chanda said he decided to start empowering Zambians

UPPZ president explains his controversial land ownership

with land, which he didn't want to be a preserve for only rich people.

"Anybody who got land from me, not one of them voted for me. They voted for either HH or Edgar Lungu, but I am the one meeting those promises that some of them never met. So, what is supposed to happen is that my land policy right now is

supposed to get the blessings of government because I am carrying out a programme that the Minister of Housing is supposed to do. In fact, if there is a Minister of Housing, he should have called me and said, 'Mr Chanda, we know that Lusaka has got no land, but here you are, you've got land.' I was going to

show the Minister [Ronald Chitotela] how to get land. Even the Mayor [Miles Sampa] here, if the Mayor is serious, he must contact me, I am even in the position to help the Mayor with land because it is not a secret, I have more land than Lusaka City Council (LCC); this is not even something you can debate. So, if the Mayor

came and approached me: 'Mr Chanda can you help us?' I can even give the Mayor the land for a grave site. I am in the business of land and I will ensure that I make Zambia great," Chanda said.

Asked if the land he was selling was really genuine, Chanda said all the land he acquired had all the paperwork required for the ownership of land.

"Land is not like Coca Cola, land is verifiable. That is why you can see that we have so many illiterate Zambians who don't understand anything about land. I bought land from a Chinese [national] at \$1.6 million; that land was on title and we had to subdivide it. Ministry of Land approved, I have the survey diagrammes for that land. So, when people are talking, I know who is talking, I know who is affected by my land policy and those enemies of mine are using every method... I know I have got political enemies because I am involved in the political life, but remember, it is not UPPZ selling the land. I have a registered company that is selling the land. So, we buy land and then we sub divide it, the only challenge here is that I am the co-director of that farm, and I run UPPZ, so I have to find a way of influencing the prices so that we don't

allow a situation where land becomes expensive and only a preserve of the few," Chanda said.

"So, this is where people are confused, but it is nice to confuse your enemies and I have successfully confused the enemies. When I buy land, I don't change it to Mr Chanda's name because I have a flag on my name. Ministry of Lands will not approve anything because they've been given instructions by the powers that be 'the moment you see anything written Chanda, don't approve it' so I am ahead of the game, when I buy land from Mr Phiri, I tell him to sub divide the land in his name and once it is finished I get it, that is why people say I don't have land. And if you go to the Ministry of Lands today, you will never find my name in the system, but I have land. I know what I am doing, you have to be clever in this game. Even the President [Edgar Lungu] doesn't know how much land I have. I am just coming from the Copperbelt Province now, and I am going back their tomorrow; I have 2,000 plots and I am going to give the people of the Copperbelt those plots from tomorrow. I have land in almost every city in Zambia and nobody is going to know how much land I have because I am ahead of the game."



Dr Kennedy Malama at the launch of the National Human Resources for Health strategic plan (NHRH) for the period 2018 to 2024 and the flagging off the preparations to develop the National Training Operation Plan (NTO) 2019 to 2030, at Cresta Golfview in Lusaka on Wednesday

I'm guilty of contempt, Mambo apologises to Supreme Court

By Zondiwe Mbewe

I'm guilty of contempt, Mambo apologises to Supreme Court
CiSCA chairperson Bishop John Mambo has pleaded guilty to a contempt of court charge in the Supreme Court, saying he didn't mean to bring the court into disrepute or undermine its authority.

Bishop Mambo had last month denied the charge and asked for more time to hire a lawyer saying he had not hired one earlier because he did not know what he was called to court for.

But SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire has maintained his plea of not guilty in the same matter.

Meanwhile Rainbow Newspaper editor-in-chief Derrick Sinjela has also pleaded guilty to contempt of

court.

Bishop Mambo is alleged to have committed contempt by writing a letter to the Chief Justice Ireen Mambilima on May 12, 2018, over the Savenda Vs Stanbic matter.

"The legal suit against the bank by Savenda, though given a favorable decision at the lower court, was suspiciously overturned by the higher court on appeal...most judges seem to be more interested in achieving personal ambitions at the expense of justice for all and equality before the law..." read Bishop Mambo's letter in part.

And when the matter came up in the Supreme court before the full bench, Thursday, bishop Mambo, who was represented by three lawyers, reversed his earlier plea and pleaded guilty to the charge.

His lawyers told the court that

their client wanted to purge his contempt.

In his purge, bishop Mambo apologised for the contemptuous remarks emanating from the letter he wrote.

He said when he wrote it, he did not mean to bring the court into disrepute or undermine its authority.

Bishop Mambo said his intentions were to raise what he believed were concerns of alleged corruption with respect to the judiciary.

"Little did I know that sending the letter would bring me into contempt with the entire bench. My actions are regrettable. I sincerely apologise," he said as he also quoted some Bible scriptures on forgiveness.

Asked by Justice Mwanamwambwa whether he read the judgments

passed by the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court over the Savenda and Stanbic bank case, bishop Mambo said he didn't read the judgement passed by the courts in that case.

He said he wished he didn't write the letter.

"I did not read the judgment apart from what is in public domain. I wish I did not write the letter," bishop Mambo said.

He accused some media houses of misinterpreting the contents of his letter to Justice Mambilima.

Meanwhile the court said it was reckless for bishop Mambo to have published a letter before reading about the judgments in that case.

The matter has been adjourned for ruling to a date to be announced.

And Chifire who also appeared for hearing in the matter he's charged

with four counts of contempt of court in connection with Savenda Vs Stanbic judgment, has maintained his earlier plea of not guilty.

The matter has been adjourned to September 19, 2018 for continuation of trial.

Meanwhile Rainbow Newspaper editor-in-chief Derrick Sinjela has pleaded guilty to contempt of court.

It is alleged that Sinjela, as editor-in-chief of Rainbow Newspaper, published or caused to be published, an article by Derrick Sinjela titled "Zambian Supreme Court verdict in the Savenda vs Stanbic Bank is 'questionable' says COMESA, SADC journalist.

Sinjela pleaded guilty and apologised.

The matter has been adjourned to September 25, 2018.

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

The Patriotic Front insists that it is a listening government, our question is; it listens to who? Does it listen to itself or to the people that it is governing?

We ask this because it is not enough to just listen and do nothing. In fact, we find it annoying to have a government that listens, quite alright, but does exactly the opposite of what people are complaining about.

The happenings of the last two weeks speak to the remaining few who still believed that we have a caring government that puts people's interests first.

It was deliberate last week that we published a story quoting Ms Bernadette Deka, Miss Nakiwe Simpungwe, and Mr Philip Mubanga, all of whom serve government owned enterprises and are supporters of the ruling party. When the government announced an extra charge on WhatsApp and other Internet calls, these three patriots joined the masses within the ruling Patriotic Front who disagreed with the Cabinet decision.

Contrary to popular belief, Ms Deka, who is Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) executive director, is actually a very streetwise

An arrogant govt that never admits a wrong

and politically astute lady. She can also be very frank when arguing a matter that she wholeheartedly believes in or against. So it did not surprise us that she boldly decided to stand with the poor majority whom a bad government decision was intended to hurt.

Ms Deka knows, as much as we do that in Zambia, public servants are expected to support every government decision, no matter how foolish or retrogressive it may be. That is why we stand here today, to applaud her for choosing a private public platform, such as a WhatsApp group to respectfully warn against implementing such a bad government decision, both from a political and economic viewpoint.

Of course we are not

naive to the political scheming in the background targeted at specific members of the Cabinet who are being blamed for this unpopular policy pronouncement. We know that some PF supporters who voiced out on the matter were merely stooges, representing the views of more senior government officials who have in-house scores to settle.

But our point is that if our government truly listens as it claims to do, surely, by now it would have reversed this unpopular decision. Even if this Cabinet doesn't care about the complaints of citizens who don't vote for the governing party, how can it be deaf to the cries of Ms Deka and other government stakeholders over this Internal tariff saga?

Once again, our appeal goes to President Edgar Lungu. Sir, people have complained, it's too much. It's like your administration is now at war with the people it is expected to serve. How else can one interpret this pressure on the citizenry? All the bad policies that the public has rejected have gone ahead to be approved as laws.

People have raised serious questions about this newly imposed Internet calling levy. They are asking; who will pay 30 ngwee? Is it the initiator of a call, the recipient or both, since they will both be connected through Internet bundles. How will the government wing responsible know that a social media user is making a voice call and not just browsing the Internet?

Why punish the caller instead of the company that is believed to be making profits from the calls? Why demand tax from a person using Internet bundles to make VOIP calls and not a person who is using the same to watch social media adverts on YouTube etc? Why make poor citizens pay double for the same service.

Since this move is meant to save jobs in the telecommunication industry, will this money be remitted to Airtel, MTN and Zamtel? All these questions have been asked, but no one is willing to answer. Why?

Mr President Sir, your government is neither brave nor confident, it is simply arrogant. Sometimes over-confidence turns into arrogance and that

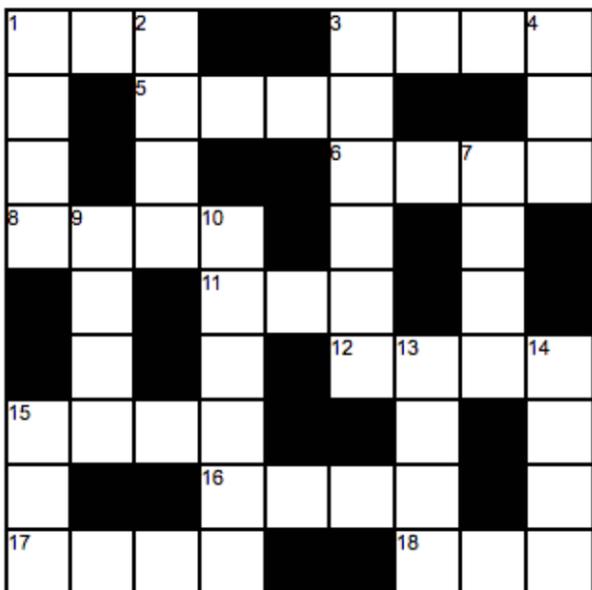
is a very big leadership weakness. Arrogant people usually view themselves as superior and never admit their past mistakes. They have difficulties listening to others; but if things do not work out as expected, they refuse to take blame.

Arrogant governments don't mind losing their relationships with the electorate because they are shortsighted. They mind only their own position and force others to accept their ideas. PF cannot point at any single bad decision that it U-turned on account that people have rejected it; so they are not governing the people but themselves.

This is the reason why positions such as the one taken by Ms Deka are often regarded as offensive. Opposing views are treated as treasonous in this regime, especially if such views are coming from within. The boss is always right in the PF government.

On this one, NAREP president Elias Chipimo is right when he says it is unfair to say this Cabinet is operating like a circus; because that would be giving the circus a very bad name.

Crossword puzzle 172



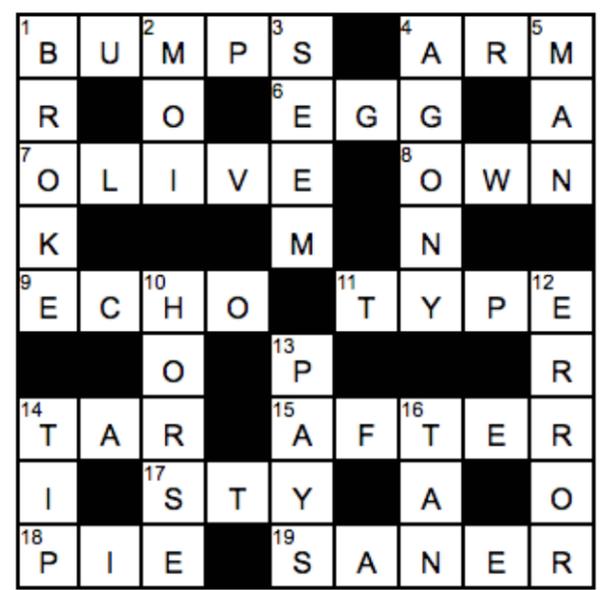
"Arrogance is a creature. It does not have senses.

It has only a sharp tongue and the pointing finger."

- Toba Beta

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First ___ or financial ___ 3. Graceful bird 5. Aid in wrongdoing 6. Oxidize 8. Lincoln and Vigoda 11. Trash holder 12. Interruptions 15. Painting of ___ Lisa 16. ___ legal or ___ medic 17. In the buff 18. Traveler's aid | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Melody for a single voice 2. Appointment 3. Kite flying need 4. Hard-shelled dried fruit 7. Finish 9. Swedish toy maker 10. Minor injury 13. Actor Sandler 14. Small cut 15. Guy |
|---|---|

Solutions to puzzle 171



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

Amos' insults to Kambwili

Editor,
"Well, these positions in government have become too political because of power and money. So sad, indeed, to read this article." - Tiza Silavwe

"Even his parents if are still living should be ashamed of themselves for failing to teach him manners. Raising a child like that, then the whole family has a big problem." - Catherine Mwangala

"The language from these people who think they are the only ones to rule this country. Help us, Father God; what language is this?" - Grace Linyandile

"Hmmm. This is not a pleasant exchange between a presidential aid and an opposition leader. Both need to sober up. There are a lot of troubling and frustrating things happening to millions of Zambians currently and these two leaders need to exert their energies towards alleviating those challenges." - Mike Phiri

"How the educated are failing to see the benefit of education; now the uneducated are failing to see the difference. Advice to both: Chanda, you are at State House representing our country; sober up. CK, don't expect anything good from people whose dealings you keep on revealing as and when you hear of them. To the nation, especially from Southern, Western and North Western, see how these brothers from the same area are tearing each other. Do you expect anything good from them? I don't." - Solomon H. Phiri

"In a normal country, the aid would either resign or be fired. A presidential aid should not use such language, even if provoked. It cheapens that position he holds." - Zak Zim



Kudos to Kenyan Airways captain after bird strike at KKIA

Editor,
"Aviation accidents are prone to taking off and landing, any foreign object in the engine is likely to cause a catastrophe air disaster. Kudos to the captain for the intermediate life-saving action to request a turn-around landing to ascertain the possible damage to the aircraft." - Kayne Gondwe

"Good caution by the pilots; birds have a record for devastating air disasters in history. Though nowadays,

improvements have been made to the modern plane to withstand a bird strike, but a swarm of birds can bring down a plane." - Michelo Bryson

"There is a need to build the air space free from loitering birds around the airport, especially in the route that the aircraft is directed to use during take-off. The technology is very simple." - Vincent Kyamasengo

"Protect the air space, free of birds." - Chad Mupila

Lungu's view on being rich because of the poor

Editor,

"To see or hear such hypocrisy is shameful especially coming from a Head of State...funny he feels hurt to see people suffering, but he doesn't even feel anything when crucifying people with all sorts of taxes on these same poor people. What a shame indeed!" - Samuel Chibale

"They are rich because of the poor. Do you think they can work on creating an enabling environment for the people to move out of poverty knowing that once poverty is reduced, their status is threatened?" - Andie Mubita

"Mr President, please direct the councils also to stop creating artificial shortage of plots, and I refer to the Kitwe City Council where they recently advertised for very few plots against a huge demand when the area has vast land, which can cater for everyone, but decide to release only a few at an astronomical plot premiums." - Mwebe Mugala

"There! You heard it from the horse's mouth. They're rich because of us. We clean their mansions and Range Rovers. To add insult to injury, we pay for these mansions and Range Rovers." - John Mufichani

"Lungu baffles me." - Tobey Chanda

Defiant Australia PM Turnbull refuses to 'give in to bullies'

Defiant Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull vowed not to "give in to bullies" Thursday in the face of a new leadership challenge, but said he will quit politics if his party no longer supports him.

Former home affairs minister Peter Dutton, an ex-police officer and right-wing conservative, said he was confident he now had the numbers to unseat Turnbull, considered a moderate.

And with senior ministers defecting, Turnbull's near three-year grip on power is tenuous despite surviving a snap ballot on his leadership on Tuesday, winning the vote 48-35.

He said Dutton had yet to prove he has majority backing from the Liberal Party -- a requirement for him to force another meeting to have a second crack at the top job ahead of national elections due by mid-2019.

If a petition arrives showing that support -- and reports late in the day said Dutton was closing in on his target -- the meeting will be held at midday on Friday (0200 GMT).

Turnbull said that if that

happens, he will not stand as a leadership candidate and will leave parliament, sparking a by-election which could be problematic for the government which has a wafer-thin one-seat parliamentary majority.

In a twist to the plot, ABC and Sky News reported that Treasurer Scott Morrison and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, both Turnbull allies, may also stand in a leadership ballot, in a bid to derail Dutton's power grab.

Turnbull accused Dutton

and his supporters of intimidation in a crisis that snowballed from Monday after months of poor opinion polls and a revolt by fellow Liberal politicians over plans to embed carbon emissions targets in law.

"What began as a minority has by a process of intimidation persuaded people that the only way to stop the insurgency is to give in to it," he said.

"I do not believe in that. I have never done that. I have never given in to bullies,

but you can imagine the pressure it's put people under."

He added that what Australia was witnessing was "a very deliberate effort to pull the Liberal Party further to the right".

Dutton earlier told reporters he had advised Turnbull by phone that "it was my judgement that the majority of the party room no longer supported his leadership".

"As such, I asked him to convene a meeting

of the Liberal Party at which I would challenge for the leadership of the parliamentary Liberal Party," he added.

In a major blow, Turnbull's influential Finance Minister Mathias Cormann, along with the employment and education ministers, then said he no longer had their backing.

They joined at least 10 other ministers who have either resigned or offered to.

Complicating matters, it emerged that Dutton faces questions over his eligibility to sit in parliament, due to financial interests in childcare centres that receive government subsidies -- a possible breach of constitutional rules.

"This issue of eligibility is critically important," Turnbull said, adding that the solicitor-general was looking into the matter.

Dutton, described by supporters as a pragmatic legislator who gets things done and by detractors as a racist who demonises refugees, said he has legal advice that he is in the clear. He quit his cabinet position after his first failed leadership bid on Tuesday and has said that if he became prime minister, he would focus on cutting immigration to ease population pressures and boosting water investment to help drought-stricken farmers. *AFP*

Trump's options narrowing as investigations close in

President Donald Trump is running out of options to avoid possible impeachment or prevent his family from prosecution, legal experts say.

The felony convictions of two former top aides Tuesday demonstrated that Trump's nonstop attacks have failed to impede Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia collusion and obstruction investigation against him. And while no one knows how strong a case Mueller has built against the president and his inner circle, Trump's own behavior suggests he feels intense pressure.

Experts say he has three basic strategic options, none of them good.

Though he repeatedly says there was no crime committed, Trump has tried disrupt and delay the investigation, and has avoided for months being interviewed by Mueller.

That's a bad strategy, if Trump truly has nothing to hide, says Eric Freedman, a constitutional law professor at Hofstra University.

"He should absolutely adopt and embrace a policy of openness," Freedman says, a move which could buttress the White House campaign to tarnish Mueller's probe as a political "witch hunt."

Doing so would require abandoning his support for former aides like Paul Manafort, Trump's ex-campaign chairman convicted Tuesday on tax

and bank fraud charges. Trump could, however, justify that he is "draining the swamp" of Washington corruption, argues Freedman, "wrapping himself in the mantle of good governance."

Robert Bennett, a veteran Washington criminal defense lawyer who worked for president Bill Clinton in the 1990s, says it is too late for that.

"They decided a long time ago to attack the special counsel. It would be hard now to do an about-face," he told AFP. "Who is he

going to turn on? He's at the top of the food chain."

Moreover, cooperating now would almost certainly not change the direction of Mueller's probe, except possibly for the worse, said Bennett, currently senior counsel at Schertler & Onorato, a Washington law firm.

An interview with Mueller would be fraught with dangers for Trump, who notoriously cannot stay on script. "He couldn't truthfully cooperate without further incriminating himself, is

my guess," Bennett said.

Cooperating could also force the president into a difficult position if, as many think, his son Donald Trump Jr. or other family members fall into Mueller's sights.

What then? "Stall as long as possible and pardon him," says Freedman.

Trump's immediate hurdle is the November 6 election, in which Democrats are threatening to take control of one or both houses of Congress. Trump needs to prevent that, to avoid having a Congress that

would support impeaching him.

His current strategy has been to convince voters that Mueller's investigation is an illegitimate, pro-Democrat operation, in hopes of attracting support to Republicans. The effort appears to be having limited success, polls suggest.

In addition, the White House is demanding Mueller abide by a Justice Department policy for prosecutors not to take any action in the 60 days before an election that would impact any candidate. *AFP*

Facebook suspends hundreds of apps over data concerns

Facebook on Wednesday said it has suspended more than 400 of thousands of applications it has investigated to determine whether people's personal information was being improperly shared.

Applications were suspended "due to concerns around the developers who built them or how the information people chose to share with the app may have been used," vice president of product partnerships Ime Archibong said in a blog post.

Apps put on hold at the social network were being

scrutinized more closely, according to Archibong.

The app unit launched in March by Facebook stemmed from the Cambridge Analytica data privacy scandal.

Facebook admitted that up to 87 million users may have had their data hijacked by Cambridge Analytica, which was working for Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Archibong said that a myPersonality app was banned by the social network for not agreeing to an audit and "because it's clear that they shared information

with researchers as well as companies with only limited protections in place."

Facebook planned to notify the approximately four million members of the social network who shared information with myPersonality, which was active mostly prior to 2012, according to Archibong.

Facebook has modified app data sharing policies since the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

"We will continue to investigate apps and make the changes needed to our platform to ensure that we are doing all we

can to protect people's information," Archibong said.

Britain's data regulator said last month that it will fine Facebook half a million pounds for failing to protect user data, as part of its investigation into whether personal information was misused ahead of the Brexit referendum.

The Information Commissioner's Office began investigating the social media giant earlier this year due to the Cambridge Analytica data mishandling.

Cambridge Analytica has

denied accusations and has filed for bankruptcy in the United States and Britain.

Silicon Valley-based Facebook last month acknowledged it faces multiple inquiries from regulators about the Cambridge Analytica user data scandal.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg apologized to the European Parliament in May and said the social media giant is taking steps to prevent such a breach from happening again.

Zuckerberg was grilled about the breach in US Congress in April. *AFP*

FAZ to announce Eagles - Dynamos qualification decision within a week

By Alex Chilumbwe
Football Association of Zambia says the association will make known who qualified for the Barclays Cup between Green Eagles and Lusaka Dynamos within this week. And the association also called for a little more patience from the media saying it is aware of the need to inform

the nation on time. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Association general secretary Kashala Nkwazi said Green Eagles presented the case to them and were still evaluating the matter to determine if it carried weight. "Green Eagles football club presented the matter to us and said they believe they qualify for the tournament

as per game 19 of the first round of the Faz/Mtn super league. I should mention that the criteria used to select teams to play in the Barclays Cup has not changed. It is the top six teams in the super league as of week 19 games and not the 19th game of the first round. This is because there are rescheduled games that would see other teams fail

to reach 19 games in the first round. Get it clear that it is the top six teams in week 19 of the first round. Whoever started to mislead others should correct their information to this one I have given," Kashala advised. As of week 19, Green Eagles had 32 points while Lusaka Dynamos had 30. Kashala further gave an

update on the disciplinary case that emanated from the league game between Nkana and Zesco United. "We are not giving the verdict just now because we have been unable to find time to sit down with Zesco and Nkana executive team. As you all may be aware, Zesco has been kept busy playing in the super league as well as

CAF football games. They are rarely settled because their games fixture is quite tight and leaves them little time to travel for the hearing of the disciplinary case," said Kashala. Nkana football fans have enjoyed cheap fame of attacking fans of their opponents in most games they have lost for quite some time.

By Alex Chilumbwe
Netball national team assistant coach Davies Twininge says there is no time to waste, the Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) should now scout for taller players that could be trained and included in the national team. His statement comes after noticing the height advantage other African teams enjoyed over his shorter players. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Twininge said the just ended Africa Netball tournament the country hosted was evidence and reason enough for the

Netball coach urges NAZ to scout for tall players

association to look for means of investing into the scout for taller players that could help the national team keep up with their opponents. "We had East African girls that were above six feet and players

we considered taller here were not a match. Even our neighbour Zimbabwe had taller players and the advantage they had over us was very clear. Our association, NAZ, should look into ways of investing

in taller girls that may be scouted and teach them the simple basics so that we can square up on height. It is just sad that most of the tall ones are either lazy or not interested but that should

not be the reason we should not try. We missed the chance of qualifying to the 2018 Liverpool world cup partly because of the height disadvantage we had, and a few mistakes here and there. This is

the time to go back to the drawing board and make amends," Twininge said. Meanwhile, one of the tournament volunteers Francis Mushabati said there was a chance of finding taller players in some provinces of the country. "Local netball tournaments should be increased and be spread to other provinces so that the association observes other players too. There might be taller players in Southern or Western province but are familiar with improved rules of the game. Those are the ones to invest money in and make them better players as they already have the potential to play at national level. One cannot simply talk about wanting taller players but do nothing to lure them to the game. A situation where the current national team players grow old and the association struggles to find readily available replacements should be avoided at all costs," Mushabati advised.

Matete reconciles with Mpondela

By Alex Chilumbwe
Former World 400m hurdles champion Samuel Matete and Zambia Association of Amateur Athletics (ZAAA) president Elias Mpondela have reconciled and agreed to work together in developing athletics in the country. Matete said he realised fighting in courts of law was not going to bring medals for Zambia, "I have decided to put our

differences aside and reconcile with Mpondela to see how best we can continue to develop athletics in the country. The Mpondela administration has improved athletes' performances and has worked hard to raise resources for athletes," said Matete. He believed his return to ZAAA would add more value as he desired to see Zambia win medals at the 2020 Olympics. Meanwhile, Mpondela also expressed his

happiness about the return of Matete to the sport. "I am excited, it is wonderful news for ZAAA, and we warmly welcome him to the athletic family. Matete had always belonged to ZAAA family and it was just unfortunate that we engaged into unproductive fights," Mpondela said. He further disclosed to having an official letter from Matete's lawyers requesting to drop all the court cases between the two.

Woods, Mickelson confirm \$9 million duel

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will go head-to-head in a winner-take-all \$9 million (7.78 million euro) duel in Las Vegas in November, it was announced on Wednesday. Woods and Mickelson, who have 19 Major titles between them, will face off at the Shadow Creek Golf Course on November 23, coinciding with

Thanksgiving weekend in the United States. The match play duel between the two veterans, a head-to-head meeting that has been mooted repeatedly over the years, will be screened on pay-per-view. "It's an opportunity for us to bring golf to the masses

in prime time during a period where we don't have much going on in the world of golf," Mickelson told ESPN on Wednesday. "It's a way to show a side you don't normally see by having us miked up to hear some of the interaction between us." Mickelson and Woods

had an occasionally frosty relationship during their prime years at the summit of men's golf but have enjoyed warmer ties recently after working closely during various Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup campaigns. Mickelson said there was no chance of the duo

carving up the lucrative purse between them, insisting that the event would be winner-take-all. "If you (don't) do that, it undermines it," Mickelson said. "The whole point is the winner-take-all thing. That's the exciting part about it." Former world number

one Woods only returned to golf this year after missing most of the previous two years due to recurring back problems. The 42-year-old bagged a second place finish at the PGA Championship earlier this month while 48-year-old Mickelson missed the cut. **AFP**



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LENGWE TRAILS

By Alex Chilumbwe
While new Shepolopolo coach Enala Simbeya is looking for ways of drilling her girls and changing their mindset towards the game, top zambian female referee Gladys Lengwe was at the centre of the third and fourth play-off match at the FIFA U20 World Cup between France and England in Stade de la Rabine, Vannes yesterday. Lengwe has been flying the Zambian flag high at the FIFA

U20 World Cup and will be adding to her rich credentials that also include an U17 FIFA World Cup in 2017. Red Arrows top striker and shepolopolo regular Hellen Mubanga made known the hope and inspiration that could be drawn from Lengwe's achievements. "She has really set the bar high and she has also demonstrated that gender is not a barrier. This is a big achievement and a good example especially

to us that are in women football. Speaking for myself, I did not even think I would one day play active football at club level and Lengwe has now shown me that it can be done beyond playing. More girls will now be motivated to take roles that are popularly known for men. I would also want many Zambians to watch all the games she will handle and support her," Mubanga said. Another top Zambian referee

JANNY

Janny Sikazwe made history by being the first Zambian referee to officiate at the FIFA

World Cup in Russia for men. The third and fourth play-off will be played today at 16:00

hours with the final between Spain and Japan at 19:30 hours.



Wang earned the 'Nine-Goal Diva' nickname from Chinese fans when she plundered a scarcely believable nine goals in a dizzying 29 minutes against Tajikistan at the Asian Games. AFP

Japan's golden girl Rikako Ikee created a slice of history while Singapore's Olympic swim champion Joseph Schooling edged a nail-biter in the 50m butterfly at the Asian Games on Thursday. The irrepressible Ikee propelled Japan to victory in the women's 4x100m medley relay in Jakarta to equal countrywoman Yoshimi Nishigawa's five gold medals at the regional multi-sport event in both 1970 and 1974. "I feel a bit broken and my body aches," said Ikee, who can win a record sixth gold in Friday's 50m freestyle. "But the joy I get from winning blows all those thoughts away. AFP



Japan's Rikako Ikee won her fifth gold medal of the Asian Games.

Jurgen Klopp defends compatriot Mesut Ozil over Germany criticism



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has called criticism of Mesut Ozil's retirement from the Germany national team "complete nonsense". Arsenal's Ozil came under fire for his performances at the World Cup in Russia, where Germany were knocked out in the group stage. Critics questioned his public appearance with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan ahead of the tournament. It led to the 29-year-old quitting international football last month over "racism and disrespect" due to his Turkish roots. Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness told Sky Germany that Ozil should not have been selected for the World Cup due to his performances for Arsenal, saying "we would have been spared the whole theatre" of the fallout from his retirement. Klopp suggested Ozil has been the victim of politically-motivated acts and that the furore over the playmaker is "a classic example of absolute misinformation and, of course, complete nonsense". "In politics, little things have always been blown up and big things pushed away in order to continue," the Liverpool boss told German television channel Sport 1. "Normally, intelligent people tend to hold back because it is not easy to say the right thing. I would count myself too. All those who have no idea are loud in these conversations." Ozil and international team-mate Ilkay Gundogan, who is also of Turkish descent and posed with Erdogan, were subjected to jeers from German fans in warm-up games before the World Cup. SKYSPORTS