

Lungu orders probe into stolen UK aid

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By Mukosha Funga

Former chief government spokesperson Chishimba Kambwili says the decision by the British government to freeze all bilateral aid to Zambia is proof that the entire government is being run by thieves.

On Monday, Britain confirmed that it had suspended all bilateral funding to Zambia owing to rampant corruption, fraud and embezzlement of donor aid within government ministries.

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WE'VE A GOVT OF THIEVES - CK

Tame Chinese, or they'll be the ones to vote for you in 2021, HK tells PF

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Coca-cola's move to infuse cannabis in its beverages elates Greens

By Abraham Kalito

Greens Party president Peter Sinkamba says the move by Coca-Cola to develop marijuana-infused beverages is a vindication that government should accept mass production of cannabis for medical purposes and develop a policy to regulate the drug.

In a statement issued by his media team, Sinkamba insisted that the policy agenda could be a game-changer to the economy and bring in the much-needed revenue for Zambia.

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Lieutenant Colonel Mwizukanji Namwawa has been appointed Director of Army Legal Services in the Zambia Army and effectively become the youngest female Lt. Colonel in the history of the country's defense force.

Unions legally established, you can't just wake up to fire - UNZA VC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

You can't just wake up today and say 'I am firing all lecturers' without following the procedures, says University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba.

Speaking when she officiated at the

10th Anniversary and 7th Graduation Ceremony for the Zambia Catholic University in Kalulushi over the weekend, Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo wondered why vice chancellors were allowing lecturers to go on illegal go-slows.

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It's hard to advise govt when it's not willing to listen - Prof Saasa

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By Mirriam Chabala

The Consumer Unity Trust Society (CUTS) says the newly-introduced 30 ngwee per day Internet tariff needs a consultative meeting where all the affected stakeholders can express their views regarding its introduction.

Commenting on President Edgar Lungu's assertion that the country must move on from debating the newly-introduced 30 ngwee per day Internet tariff because Zambians had already accepted it, CUTS Centre Coordinator Chenai Mukumba said the tariff needed to be reconsidered because ordinary Zambians were already squeezed with the different taxes that they had to pay and that the level of disposable income was limited.

She wondered where President Lungu witnessed a public meeting where Zambians agreed that the Internet tariff needed to be introduced, and insisted that government needed to conduct a thorough public discussion so that everyone could contribute their views regarding the tariff.

"Our concern, really, are consumers. We have explained that if consumers are moving from traditional phone calls to Internet-based phone calls, then

30 ngwee internet call tariff needs broader consultation before implementation - CUTS

it's because they are providing similar services at a much more affordable cost. And that really is just rational economic behaviour on the part of consumers and the group that you see that is moving towards this direction are low-income consumers. And already,

when you look at an average Zambian, we are already squeezed in terms of the different taxes that we have to pay, and so our level of disposable income is quite limited. So, that's why we, as CUTS, have come out so strongly to say that we are not in support of this

particular initiative by the government; it needs to be reconsidered," Mukumba said in an interview.

She added that she was not aware of any meeting where people agreed that government should effect the 30 ngwee tariff as President Lungu alleged

that "people have already accepted it".

"It is actually important to undertake a consultative stakeholder meeting so that all of the different stakeholders can have a say on this. We really need to have a public discussion regarding this because

if stakeholder meetings did take place, then they could agree because, honestly, I don't know anyone who was part of that meeting [where people agreed to effect the 30 ngwee tariff]. So, I think it's important for us or for the government to have this discussion much more publicly so that we are all able to contribute [to] this meeting. But I think in terms of moving forward, we are very unlikely to see anybody in support of it. So, as CUTS, and as various civil society organisations, we are urging the government to reconsider this decision. I think with Parliament opening, there will be a number of civil society organisations that will be engaged on this subject, so we hope that it can be reconsidered," said Mukumba.

Lusaka man gets 1 year for stealing trousers

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has sentenced a 19-year-old man of Bauleni Compound to one year imprisonment with hard labour for stealing four pairs of trousers valued at K550.

Particulars of the offense were that Thomas Tembo, unemployed, on August 20, this year, did steal four pairs of trousers altogether valued at K550, property of Tasila Mumba.

Facts of the matter are

that on the material day, the complainant, Tasila Mumba, just finished washing her husband's clothes and put them on the line to dry and went inside the house.

After some time, around 12:00 hours, Mumba came out of the house and as she looked towards the line, she saw Tembo removing the trousers from the line. When Tembo saw her, he ran away, which prompted Mumba to shout for help and was helped by a passer-

by who apprehended him and later took him to Bauleni Police Post.

"That's how passer-by helped her to chase the accused person and he was caught with four trousers. He was then apprehended and taken to Bauleni Police Post where she reported the matter and valued the trousers at K550. Detective Sergeant Phiri took up the matter and interviewed the accused person who was now in custody, but did not give him a

satisfactory reply. He later warned and cautioned the accused person in Nyanja. He gave a free and voluntary reply admitting the charge. He was later charged and arrested and the four trousers were kept as exhibit," read the facts. When the matter came up before Magistrate Felix Kaoma, Monday, Tembo pleaded guilty to the charge and admitted that the facts were correct.

Asked what he wanted to do with the trousers,

Tembo said he wanted to start wearing them.

"I just got them from the line and that's when they saw me. I wanted to start wearing them," Tembo said.

In mitigation, Tembo said he stayed with his grandmother and sister, and he was the one providing food for them.

"I stay with my grandmother and my sister. I just do piece works and provide food for home. And my grandmother doesn't know that I'm here," he said.

Passing judgement, Magistrate Kaoma noted that Tembo had not wasted the court's time by pleading guilty.

He further noted that the convict deserved some leniency and sentenced him to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour with effect from the date of arrest.

And Magistrate Kaoma warned Tembo to be a good boy when he was out of prison by not reaping where he did not sow.

"I have considered the mitigation and also noted that the convict is the first time offender and has pleaded guilty, thereby, not wasted the court's time. However, the convict still deserves some leniency. I sentence you to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour with effect from date of arrest. 12 months only, but when you come out, you should be a good boy. Thou shall not reap where you did not sow," ruled Magistrate Kaoma.

Lungu orders probe into stolen UK aid

By Mukosha Funga

President Edgar Lungu says he is just as frustrated as donors on the theft of aid and has since ordered Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Rowland Msiska to conclude investigations and take decisive action within a week.

President Lungu has also directed that the Minister of Community Development and Social Services Hon Emerine Kabanshi and Minister of Finance Hon Margaret Mwanakatwe to continue with their engagements with donors to assure them of the remedial measures government has been undertaking since suspected cases of misuse surfaced earlier this year.

This is according to a statement issued by Special Assistant to the

President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda, Tuesday. Chanda revealed that four months ago, the President ordered an administrative inquiry into suspected misuse of the social cash transfer funds but regretted that a comprehensive report was only submitted to his office on 14th September 2018.

Chanda stated that the Head of State now wanted all remaining actions and remedial measures to be availed to him within one week.

"I want a speedy and decisive investigation into the matter to establish the status of the disbursement of the social cash transfer programme. Wherever cases of abuse requiring criminal investigations may arise, such

cases must be reported to relevant agencies and where administrative action is required, I want to see prompt action taken," Chanda quoted President Lungu as saying. Chanda stated that President Lungu was concerned about the reported abuse because it was hurting the poor.

"The President says he is as frustrated as the donors financing the programme because his priority in this regard is the plight of the poor. The President is not satisfied with the pace of the ongoing administrative measures and so he wants quicker forensic audits by the Auditor General and other relevant government internal audit systems. On instructions from the President, the Secretary to the Cabinet led a

government team to a meeting with donors on 5th September 2018, and shared with them the measures being undertaken to address the problems encountered in the social cash transfer programme," stated Chanda.

"The President has been informed that preliminary information indicated that a total of K43,819,164 remains outstanding to the beneficiaries in Luapula, Northern, North-Western, Muchinga, Western and Copperbelt provinces. The President has directed that the Secretary to the Cabinet takes appropriate action in line with all the provisions of the Joint Financing Agreement between government and the cooperating partners."

Coca-Cola's move to infuse cannabis in beverages delights Sinkamba

By Abraham Kalito

Greens Party president Peter Sinkamba says the move by Coca-Cola to develop marijuana-infused beverages is a vindication that government should accept mass production of cannabis for medical purposes and develop a policy to regulate the drug. In a statement issued by his media team, Sinkamba insisted that the policy agenda could be a game-changer to the economy and bring in the much-needed revenue for Zambia. "Green Party President Peter Sinkamba says he is extremely happy that Coca-Cola, which is best known for its eponymous caffeine-based Coca-Cola drink, has decided to experiment with a different drug: cannabis. Reacting to a BBC news that the Coca-Cola drinks giant is in serious talks with a Canadian local cannabis producer Aurora Cannabis about developing marijuana-infused beverages aimed at not intoxicating consumers but to relieve pain, Mr. Sinkamba said time has come for all doubting Thomas's to simply accept that cannabis is safe medicine. 'Along with many others in the beverage industry, we are closely watching the growth of non-psychoactive cannabidiol as an ingredient in functional wellness beverages around the world,' Coca-Cola is reported to have said in a statement. 'It's going to be more of the 'recovery drink' category,' the source told the BBC," read the statement. "Cannabidiol, a constituent of cannabis, can help ease inflammation, pain and cramping, but has no psychoactive effect. The move by Coca-Cola comes at a time when Canada prepares to follow certain US states in legalising cannabis for recreational use, after years of permitting it for medicinal purposes. Legalizing cannabis has given rise to a large cannabis growing industry and some high-profile partnerships. Earlier this year, beer giant Molson Coors Brewing said it would make cannabis-infused drinks with Hydro pothecary, while Corona-beer maker Constellation Brands invested \$4bn more into a cannabis firm Canopy Growth. A partnership between Coke and Aurora would mark the first entry of a major manufacturer of non-alcoholic drinks into the market. Coca-Cola's shares rose marginally in early trade yesterday."

He said doubters had not taken his cannabis policy seriously since he announced it five years ago but that now they had to make serious adjustments. "And the Green Party leader says he is now vindicated on the question of mass production of cannabis

for medical purposes. "Doubting Thomas's have never taken our medical cannabis policy seriously since we announced it five years ago. This policy is for real. It is the only policy agenda at the moment which undoubtedly can be a game-changer in our

economy. It is a multi-billion-dollar business only second to smart phones," he said. And Mr. Sinkamba has disclosed that he is in talks with Finance Minister Margret Mwanakatwe to embark on his pilot project for medical cannabis. He hopes that the talks will

materialize so that he proves the point that the cannabis business can be a game-changer even here in Zambia. "You see, if we had embarked on this agenda in 2013 when I announced it, Zambia would have been same today," read the statement.

"We would have been a very rich country by now. Nonetheless, I am holding talks with the Finance Minister. I hope that talks materialize. I want to prove the doubting Thomas's that this business can be a game-changer even here in Zambia," he said. "We have also been talking to DEC on developing medical-grade cannabis seed though stalled due to on-going litigation issues. We informed DEC of our planned for export of seed stock under an import seed license of our partner based abroad, to enter their research programme so that they can examine the terpenes and cannabinoid profiles of strains from Zambia for medical-grade cannabis. This may well provide a support to our country's progression in commercialisation, but also an idea to jump start the medical-grade seed stock the nation will require in the future. Our plan is to leaders in medical-grade cannabis in SADC and the rest of the world because of our comparative and absolute advantages."



Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini speaks to German Ambassador to Zambia Achim Burkart and first deputy speaker Catherine Namugala at Parliament building shortly after the launch of the partnership strategies and guidelines for Constituency Offices and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Lusaka on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Unions are legally established, you can't wake up to fire people - UNZA VC

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

You can't just wake up today and say 'I am firing all lecturers' without following the procedures, says University of Zambia (UNZA) Vice Chancellor Professor Luke Mumba. Speaking when she officiated at the 10th Anniversary and 7th Graduation Ceremony for the Zambia Catholic University in Kalulushi over the weekend, Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo wondered why vice chancellors were allowing lecturers to go on illegal go-slows. "And I hope the vice chancellor from the Copperbelt University who is in the audience will liaise with his colleague, the vice chancellor of the University of Zambia, that government is very unhappy with the behaviour of your lecturers. How do you have a lecturer who goes on go-slow, illegally stops teaching students and we

as vice chancellors and chancellors and council condone and still keep them in our institutions and pay a months' salary to such people? If I had a way some of these lecturers were going to be history. We need to find a way and discipline our workers. Once we find the best way to discipline them, we will remain with a core group in our institutions that will give the glory that the Copperbelt University and the University of Zambia once enjoyed," said Prof Luo. But in an interview with News Diggers, Prof Mumba said no one has absolute powers to fire a lecturer as the process has stages to be followed. "I think you know very well, everyone has rights in this country. People have rights according to the constitution. And unions are legally established. They have a constitution [and] we have

a collective agreement with them but definitely it is our responsibility as management when we see that they are not doing things according to the constitution, according to the collective agreements, to take action. So it's not like we are allowing it but it's just that there are procedures. You can't just wake up today and say 'I am firing all lecturers' without following the procedures. It will not do," Prof Mumba said. "Nobody has those absolute powers, nobody. So on our part, we've noted that what our colleagues are doing is against their own constitution, is against the spirit of collective bargaining [or] collective agreements which both parties signed. So we've taken necessary steps. We've reported the matter to the labour commission, and the labour commission has invited both parties to a meeting tomorrow (today).

That is the only thing the Vice Chancellor can do, beyond that it cannot do. Otherwise you will be going against the law, you know there are procedures for everything. People have got rights and you have to deal with matters in a very sensitive way. I think that's how it works." He said his office could dispense disciplinary action against the lecturers. Vice chancellors don't have the powers to just fire anyone, but we can take disciplinary action. And what we have started doing is steps towards that direction. I don't want to pre-empt anything but all I can say is that the collective agreements provides that if there is a problem with either party, we have to engage. We have to discuss and engage and if we haven't agreed,

the matter can be taken to the next step. There is senate, there is council, there is the minister, but all these steps have not been taken. So that's not the spirit in which we co-exist," said Prof Mumba. "And the law doesn't provide for a go-slow and there is a process in which staff is supposed to go on strike. There are procedures that are stipulated. So all those procedures have not been followed. So as far as management is concerned, what our friends have done is against the law, it's against their own constitution, is against the spirit of collective bargaining and that is why we have referred the matter to the labour commission who oversees all the collective agreements in this country between employers and employees."

Frozen UK aid has vindicated me ; we've a govt of thieves – Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga

Former chief government spokesperson Chishimba Kambwili says the decision by the British government to freeze all bilateral aid to Zambia is proof that the entire government is being run by thieves. On Monday, British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyet confirmed that his government had suspended all bilateral funding to Zambia owing to rampant corruptions, fraud and embezzlement of donor aid within government ministries. High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyet was commenting on a story published by News Diggers quoting the Africa Confidential report that UK had requested a refund of about US\$4 million which was misappropriated by recipient government organisations. “[It’s] correct that UK has frozen all bilateral funding to the Zambian government in light of potential concerns until audit results are known. #UKAid takes zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption,” tweeted High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyet. Commenting on the development, Kambwili said he had been vindicated. “When I first called President Lungu a thief almost a year ago many people thought I was doing it out of bitterness or to scandalise the man. But you can now see what I have been saying that this government is a corrupt government led by a corrupt man. What the British High Commissioner has confirmed to us all is that you sir Mr President are a thief presiding over a corrupt government. President Lungu even as early as Friday accused us pointing out his corruption in his government as being on a crusade to scandalise the man yet here are our cooperating partners who have suspended aid to Zambia because of corruption, because they don’t tolerate corruption,” Kambwili said in an interview yesterday. “The last time this happened was during Rupiah and Chiluba’s time and you know what those governments were known for. When we

spoke about wheelbarrows being corruptly procured we were told to bring evidence yet President Lungu’s own agency the FIC documented the corruption. Over priced ambulances, again bring evidence. We asked how he moved from 3 million to 23 million in one year, again bring evidence. I wonder what sort of evidence he now wants when the British government has, all the way from the UK, confirmed this government’s corruption. I pity my brother President Lungu because if he doesn’t turn his life around, he will go to jail the day he leaves office.”

He charged that for the first time, Zambia had a government that could openly collude to steal from the people. “Surely how can you have a cabinet where almost everyone is stealing. Its like running a home where starting from the father all the way to the last born, all drunkards. How can you function? And you will now see how our poor people who depend on this aid for medicine will suffer, all because of this government’s greed and unrestrained ability to steal. This is the only country I know were a cabinet can conspire to steal to the extent that the

treasury is empty. There is nothing left to steal now because these thieves have stolen everything and now they have started selling off state house land to build tall buildings which are in fact a security threat to Lungu himself, but the man doesn’t even care about himself because of his greediness and corruption,” Kambwili said. “Just yesterday I saw on one of these PF platforms, where one minister is busy laundering his image that he has been in business with the mines and doing family business for so long when we only knew him as a constable a few years ago with empty pockets. Today

he is very rich. He must remember that there is something called a forensic audit which shows all your earnings. He should just prepare himself to go to jail because of his corruption. And like I said the other day, the preoccupation of President Lungu and his friends is to do deals and loot the country with their corrupt Chinese friends. And let me make it clear, we don’t hate the Chinese but we hate their corruption, their money laundering activities with state house and the PF during elections. We also don’t like their bad manners of participating in retail trade here in Zambia,

selling chickens, roasted maize, buying off our assets like ZNBC and ZESCO.” And Kambwili observed that the country had no liquidity left. “The only liquidity which is there is that in President Lungu and his friends’ pockets because of corruption and doing deals with the Chinese after selling our country. They are building all over and driving posh cars out of corruption. But I am glad I am slowly being vindicated to the extent that even foreign countries are now officially recognising this government’s corruption and thieving ways,” said Kambwili.

Tame Chinese or they will be the ones to vote for you in 2021, Kalaba warns PF

By Mirriam Chabala

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Harry Kalaba says government must tame the Chinese or else Zambians will tell the PF to get their votes from the foreign nationals in 2021. And Kalaba says Zambians must not only vote to oust President Edgar Lungu in 2021, but remove the entire PF from power. Meanwhile, Kalaba says he does not intend to stay any longer in the PF because he has Presidential ambitions he needs to establish ahead of 2021. Speaking when he featured on Prime Television’s Oxygen of Democracy programme, Monday, Kalaba, who is also Bahati PF member of parliament, said Zambians must reclaim their country which is now being run by the Chinese through PF. “This country must be called to order, there must be a point where you should say ‘you can’t cross this line’. I can be poor but someone can’t just come in my house because they’ve got more dollars than myself and say they are going to sleep in my bedroom and I should sleep in the sitting room, no! There must be places, there must be areas which are sacrosanct. Even in our poverty as a people we claim sovereignty, not the way we are losing sovereignty in this fashion. We can’t lose sovereignty in that fashion, no ways! All I am saying is

that the Chinese need to be tamed, if Zambians should rise against anybody, they should rise against the leaders that they elected. The PF leaders must be told that the ones who will vote for you in 2021 are the Chinese because they are the ones you are giving businesses, they are the ones you are giving preference to. You are not giving the Zambians preference,” Kalaba said. “So Zambians wherever they are, yes they must stand up and stop these jokes. Yes they must stand up and tell them ‘enough is enough’. We have tried this path, they have played this game and it is not working. We have to curtail this, it is Zambians that are suffering because their leaders are refusing to talk for them. Zambians are own their own. But anyway they are lucky because we are here, we are here to come and stop this nonsense. In fact, government, who do they listen to? What is government? That’s why I said ‘while you get a sit at that table of governance, you don’t own the government’. The people of Zambia own the government and that is why I am telling the people of Zambia that let us tell the PF in 2021 that we have come back to reclaim our government. We need our Zambia back into our hands, we need our youths and our women to have access to capital, which they no longer can have.

Look, in other countries they even have cooperatives where they put people together and give them contracts. What kind of country is this where we don’t have any cooperatives for our people?” Kalaba observed that President Lungu was not able to perform his functions because he had been swallowed by the system. “If you have followed my debates very well, I hardly bring President Lungu in my debates because what is going on now in this country is beyond President Lungu, that’s why I don’t talk about him. For me, when I talk about the PF going out [in 2021], I don’t mean President Lungu going out alone. We are seeking to fundamental change the status quo, we are looking for a change of just the party this time around... I think I have said it on other for a and I will say it again, we are talking about a failed leadership in the Patriotic Front. We are talking about a leadership that has failed to synchronize itself with the people, right now, the system of government has swallowed the President. The President has been held hostage by the system, that’s why I am saying that we are looking for more than a change of party in State House,” Kalaba explained. “We are going to fundamentally change the status quo because it is the system that has failed to

respond to the people of Zambia. And if you are not strong and firm enough as you get taken up, as a leader of the country you get swallowed. What we don’t have in this country is just leadership. If we can replace that leadership with a leadership that is affirmative... I mean look, the President was in Parliament on Friday, listen to his speech and how he came to the defence of the Chinese. He didn’t defend the Zambians, he was defending the Chinese more and he was literally warning Zambians ‘be careful, don’t lie about this. It won’t help you no matter how much you shout against the Chinese. We will continue with relationship’. Now, where does that leave an

ordinary Zambian? Where will an ordinary Zambians now get the courage to stand up to a Chinese who was also listening?” Meanwhile, Kalaba said his time in the PF was almost up. “My time to leave PF is coming, that time is coming and I don’t anticipate it will very far. Watch the space... Calling me president Kalaba sounds good and in 2021, it will be sounding great. I am going to stand for president in 2021, people have said I should stand and that’s why the Democratic Party has written to me. I have read their manifesto and I think the Democratic Party needs to be supported. All Zambians must stand up and support he Democratic Party if this country has to be redeemed,” said Kalaba.

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Ng'oma explains risk in PF merging party structures with govt

By Joseph Mwenda

Political Analyst Dr Alex Ng'oma says it is wrong for the Patriotic Front to combine government structures with those of the party and allowing members outside the Executive to discuss policy matters. And Dr Ng'oma has wondered why the PF Secretary General Davies Mwila is more powerful than all Cabinet ministers in the government when he is not even a part of the Executive. Commenting on PF deputy media director Antonio Mwanza's claims that party members were allowed to comment on policy matters because they were the party in government, Dr Ng'oma explained in an interview that the PF needed to draw a distinction between the party and the government because Zambia was no longer a one-party state. "Antonio Mwanza was right to say that the party in government will run government using the party manifesto; that is actually correct. Because even when you look at the manner in which presidents are elected, they are elected on the basis that they have their party manifesto to say, 'this is what we will do when we are in government.' So, that is not disputable at all. But what is disputable is what he said that, once the party wins an election and forms government, what should happen is that, only those who are appointed to government positions who are supposed to explain government policies, those outside government, like Antonio Mwanza, should remain at party-level and just do party work, that is how it is supposed to be," Dr Ng'oma explained. "Those that are appointed to government are the ones now who are supposed to champion the party manifesto, they are the ones who are going to explain things. In any case, the manifesto is never implemented in its raw form, there is always interpretation to say, 'this is what we promised, so what are we going to do now?' But it is those party members that have been appointed through government who should be commenting on party policies and programmes. If party members outside government are to comment, they should comment as a party and not as government. So, there has to be a clear distinction between the government and the party. We are not in an era of UNIP where we had the party and its government, those were inseparable, but now, there has to be a separation of powers, definitely, because we are now a democracy." Dr Ng'oma added that the interference of PF members at party-level in the affairs

of government was a recipe for confusion in the country. "If party members, who are outside government, can begin to even give instructions or directions to ministers, then that's total confusion! I am insisting that party members outside government have no right whatsoever to give instructions to ministers and even comment on what the government is doing. They are supposed to comment on what the party is doing;

that is the separation that is supposed to be there. So, this overlap is a recipe for confusion, one that must be resolved soon. There is need to ensure that there is a clear demarcation between the party and the government and what party members can talk about, as well as party members who are in government. The government that is in place is not a party government, yes it's PF, but the government that is in place is a national government. It's a

government for all Zambians, and even the President, now, has become a president for all Zambians; that's why there has to be this separation in governance. And also, because the President has got the right, actually, to appoint government officials, even from other political parties, even from members of the citizens who don't belong to political parties," Dr Ng'oma added. And Dr Ng'oma wondered why Mwila was above all

Cabinet ministers when he did not hold any official government position. "It is not right for the PF to combine the government structure with the party structure. I don't know what principle or what criteria they used to try and merge the party structure with the government structure because those are two different and separate structures, which must never be merged. The party secretary general, of course,

can be given the respect, which is due to him, but he should not be brought into the government structure because he's not part of the government. So, that is a question I think the people of Zambia should be asking the government to explain, especially Dora Siliya, the Spokesperson, she has to tell us why the PF Secretary General is so powerful; why he's more senior than all Cabinet ministers," said Dr Ng'oma.



CHEVENING

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Applications for the 2019/2020 Chevening Scholarships are now open and will close on 6 November 2018.

Chevening is the UK government's prestigious global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and partner organisations. The scholarship offers full financial support for future leaders to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural events. They are awarded to individuals with demonstrable leadership potential who also have strong academic backgrounds.

A Chevening workshop will be hosted at the British High Commission in Lusaka on 22 September from 0900 to 1300 hours, with a live feed available for those unable to attend in person. Please look out for more details on our Facebook page.

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For more information, please visit the Chevening website: www.chevening.org/apply or contact the British High Commission in Lusaka on +260 211 423200 or email Mwila Mipango at Mwila.Mipango@fco.gov.uk
Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @UKinZambia

It's hard to advise govt when it's not willing to listen - Saasa

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Premier Consult Limited chief executive officer Professor Oliver Saasa says knowledge brokers like himself often fail to advise government on how best to run the economy because its doors were usually closed.

And Prof Saasa says if government plans to sell Zesco to China as reported by Africa Confidential, the process must be transparent.

Meanwhile, Prof Saasa says Zambia is not in debt distress but it is quickly gravitating towards that direction.

Speaking when he featured on the Hot Fm's 'Frank on Hot' programme, Prof Saasa observed that many professionals were failing to advise government because

pertinent discussions were usually caderised.

"[Lack of national interaction is worrying because] as someone who sees himself as a knowledge broker, who spends much of his time interrogating knowledge and information and yearning to share it with those that want and if I feel that each time I knock on somebody's door and I've done that many times; sometimes successfully but many times I must say the doors are not opened, and I have this information that I would want to share with my colleagues in government and then I am left with only talking to the press. And yet we also know that talking to the press is not usually the only medium and perhaps the

most effective media to engage government. Essentially what that means is that if you are not opening up the political space to allow those that are not in government to advise you and to help you run the government better, then you deny yourself the opportunity for the information that is so important to make informed choices," Prof Saasa said.

"So for me and of course for many professionals, there are many situations where discussions get caderized, we always just coil back in our shells and say 'I don't want to be messed up [or] I don't want blood here' because sometimes you feel wow, so this is how we would want to manage issues even where information

suggests something else. There are so many Zambians out there who have information that can help government but why aren't we building them? I am against building walls because walls prevent people from discussions and I want bridges that allow us to the other side and to see ourselves as collectively part of developmental discourse."

And Prof Saasa said if government planned to sell Zesco to China as reported by Africa Confidential, the process must be transparent.

"I do not believe that the government is yet to sell off Zesco to the Chinese, but if they do, I will be the first one to raise the red flag like 'if you do it, do it transparently, in an accountable manner

and that everybody sees that that's what you are doing, but mostly importantly, float it' do not single source," he said.

Commenting on Zambia's relations with China, Prof Saasa said government needed to draft a proper document to define its relations with that country.

"China has a very clear strategy towards Africa for the next 50 years. This strategy is well defined. Its, resource driven, that is a ballooning economy in the next ten years it might surpass America, it will be economy number one. So even when we talk about 'boot them out' and sometimes we hear xenophobic expressions which is sad, you are actually talking about an emerging elephant, a huge animal but it knows what it wants in Zambia, in Kenya in Tanzania or in Africa. They have a clear strategy. For them when they invite you to go and talk to them and pledge for the next year or the next three years how much they are going to give you, they are very clear as to what they want. What is important is that for each individual African country, must sit down and also have clear policy and strategy as to how it can maximize its benefits from China. If you don't do that and then they decide what you want from them, then you are in trouble," he said.

"I have heard the Head of State indicating that they have come here in our own terms but I am yet to see a Zambian government document that clearly defines our relationship with China. If we don't have it, this is the time we better, for the next one year or two years, let's define in a clearly understandable manner how we want to interact with China because the Chinese are here and no matter how much we shout about some of the transgressions we associate with what they do, unless we are putting in place systems that clearly defines what we want from them, we will always be on the losing side."

Meanwhile, Prof Saasa said Zambia was not in debt distress but it was quickly gravitating towards that direction.

"Zambia is not in debt distress but is gravitating in a significant speed towards debt distress which might lead to an economic crisis. If we continue to be in a state of denial and you allow people with the limited information but which can access additional information

to lead the show in debating national issues of significance, and you allow anger to guide how Zambians interact over these issues, you politicize it in a manner that even the Africa Confidential, what they said if you challenge it and then you even assume that if they said that it's because of another political party that has said it, then you miss the boat. Zambians are intelligent, we have very intelligent people in the Zambian government by the way. Why can't we talk to each other and be able to utilize the human resource we have and the knowledge that we have at our command, and find solution to this? I don't understand it why we have caderized, why we have politicized many issues of national significance and start name calling?" he asked.

"At personal or household level there is a crisis if you like but when we talk about debt and when we talk about debt distress, we reserve that classification, we reserve that when government fails to meet its debt obligation repayments when they fall due. Presently, Zambia is paying its debt commitments, presently Zambia has not yet defaulted on any of the payments, to my knowledge, presently if you look at the three Eurobonds, the first one is due as a bullet payment in 2022. So what we are saying is that we are gravitating perhaps in a significant speed towards debt distress but we are not yet there."

On President Edgar Lungu's speech to parliament, Prof Saasa said he was disappointed that the Head of State did not explain details of the national debt, which is a controversial issue.

"If there is a disappointment that I had in the President's statement to Parliament was that I was really yearning to hear him talk about the debt, debt contraction and the controversy that was going on. He made reference very briefly to the importance of ensuring that we borrow within our means and that we should not contract debt beyond our capacity to service it. That is what was implied in the statement and then he kept quiet. And I was 'wow' this is like a pine in the sky, it just fell in the speech, there is no background a bit [and] so there is recognition he has made it but I wanted to hear a little bit more, because it is a topic that has occupied our interests so much," said Prof Saasa.

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BUILDING WITH KASONDE

Kasonde Mwenda C is a Registered Consultant Architect (B.Arch, MZIA), Buildings Inspector and Author.

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Ear to the ground

Noises, Smells, Secrets and In-laws

A few days ago my Landlord-friend told us how his plushy ultra-modern housing apartment he built late two years ago in Lusaka's Meanwood has already housed six families. He was complaining that he is not making much from rentals because most times he is paying Estate Agents to look for new tenants because people do not stay more than three months in his houses. Our friend was almost calling his Church Pastor for especial prayers because he was beginning to suspect that his house was haunted by an evil spirit that was chasing people away. However, his mind changed a few days ago when he received a call from his most recent former tenant who explained why he left. His most recent tenant, a local business man had left without notice. He packed and moved out of the last week in frustration after missing a business flight to China. He complained that he left the house because it kept embarrassing him to his family and neighbours. Rumour has it that his in-laws had visited his home but one fateful evening that tenant had a troubled stomach and upon arrival decided to visit the only toilet in the house leaving his in-laws in the livingroom chatting. All was fine when he left but by the time he came out of the sacred room, he found no one in the living room and the all windows and the exterior door wide open. When he inquired why everyone had left the livingroom and opened windows at that time of the night; his wife who was in the kitchen told him that it was hot so she was just trying to let the heat out but his little daughter followed him and whispered to him that the real reason the windows were opened was because there was a bad smell in the house. Filled with embarrassment the gentleman struggled to meet his in-laws the following morning to say bye and in the process lost time and missed the morning flight to China. This happened just a few days when his son told him that the neighbour's children were telling his children that they are able to see what happens in his bathroom when they stand at their balcony because they have clear glass instead of obscure glass. The

man could not take it anymore, without notice he shifted his family out of that house and taken them back to Kalingalinga and vowed to only move into a house he will build for himself with his own design specifications. Just before our friend he finished narrating his story another friend of ours interjected and started telling us why he left a good house in Kabulonga. His story was that one day his neighbor who was living in the other apartment of the semidetached flat they were sharing approached him and asked him to stop using bad language when he was quarrelling with his wife because the neighbour had little children whose bedroomed although belonging to a different house was separated from his bedroom room by a single wall thus the children could hear everything going on in his bedroom. The walls had no sound proofing mechanism so sounds pass through it easily to the next room. Before long everyone had something to say about their nightmare houses but one vivid story that struck most was that of one lady friend of ours who lives in Livingstone. She lamented how their house though beautiful is so hot nowadays and everyone wakes up with a headache in the morning. At first they thought its normal and common feeling because we are entering the hot season but they were shocked to find out that their neighbour's house was so cool that in the evening everybody is forced to wear something warm. After analyzing the neighbour's house, she found out that although the house plans were similar, her neighbour's house was cooler because it has better ventilation owing to its orientation against the sun path and had big windows that allow wind to blow through the house. Lastly a pastor friend of ours had something to say. Being a pastor, a month ago he had invited his church executive leaders for a meeting at his home but being a strategic man he sneaked out of church and rushed home to make sure that everything was well in readiness for the meeting at his home. Up to date he is grateful to God that he went home before the others

came because he found the whole house smelling burnt fish because his daughter had forgotten a pot of dry fish cooking on the stove. The meeting did take place but outside under the tree because their house is an open plan design and the smoke had gone to all the rooms and all carpets, blankets, curtains and clothes had to be washed to get the smell of fish smoke out. It took a week for the smoke to die out. That wouldn't have been the case if the house was not an open plan because the smoke would have been confined to the kitchen but that is not to say open plans are bad, no, they have their own advantages.

Well, how any building functions needs to be determined way before it is built. Deciding how a house will serve its users is called Architectural Design. In Architecture, a building design puts a lot of things into consideration. Among the things considered are facets such as user's way of life (culture and tradition), expected activities, building use and lifespan etc. Having a house that embarrasses its occupants through lapses such as everyone in the house hearing toilet noises, picking embarrassing smell or hearing private bedroom talks are proceeds of poor or lack of design. The Design of the house should not just be looked at in terms of beauty and how cheap or expensive building will be. Since buildings and more specifically houses are used by people, it is very important to pay attention to how best the user will find satisfaction in living in that house or using that building because it is pointless to build a house or building that does not make the users happy.

It is in this regard that it is not advisable to just pick or download a house plan from anywhere just because it looks nice. A good design in the western world is may not be a good design in many instances back here at home because of the difference in culture and lifestyle of the users.

Building is great investment, do it right.
"Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there."

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 26-year-old Lusaka woman has been dragged to court for murdering her two children aged three and 10 by poisoning them. Lweni Chali, of Fumba area, is charged with two counts of murder. In the first count, it is alleged that Chali on August 10, 2018, in Lusaka

Lusaka woman poisons own children

district did murder one Carol Chali. And in the second count, it is alleged that Chali on August 11, 2018 in Lusaka did murder one Aless Chali. It is alleged that Chali took

her three children to a river where she gave them poison, however one child survived. She was supposed to appear before magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Tuesday, for explanation of the charge

but was not present as she was allegedly undergoing medical examinations at Chainama Mental Hospital. The matter comes up on September 20, 2018 for explanation of the charge.

And a 35-year-old teacher of Lusaka's Marrapodi area has denied defiling a girl under the age of 16 in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court. Particulars of the offence are that Micheal Phiri, between January 1, 2017 and August 30, 2017, unlawfully had carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16.

When Phiri appeared before magistrate Alice Walusiku, Tuesday, he said he understood the charge and pleaded not guilty.

This was after he was informed by magistrate Walusiku that he had a defence if at the time of having sex with the girl, he thought she was above the age of 16 years.

"When you are charged with defilement, you have a defence if at the time of having sex with the said girl, you thought or saw

that she was of or above the age of 16. You should have that at the back of your mind as you proceed with the case," said magistrate Walusiku.

Matter adjourned to October 22, 2018 at 12:00 hours for trial.

Meanwhile, a 51 year-old pastor of Lusaka's Chadlleign area has pleaded not guilty to defiling a 15 year-old girl in the Lusaka Magistrates' Court.

The accused, Davies Banda has since been granted K10, 000 bail in his own recognizance with two working sureties in the like sum.

In this matter, Banda is alleged to have defiled the child at his orphanage.

The accused, also a contractor, runs God at Work Orphanage as an administrator.

Racing driver gets 4yrs for causing death by dangerous driving

By Zondiwe Mbewe

A 22-year-old student has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment with hard labour in the Lusaka High Court for causing the death of four people during a car race on Kafue Road.

Facts before court are that on August 17, 2017, Simon Adhanon lost control of the motor vehicle due to excessive speed, overturned and in the process hit three pedestrians who were walking on the roadside.

Adhanon's friend who was with him in

the car also died.

The court heard that he was speeding in what appeared to be a car race activity while in the company of his friends.

When the matter came up, Monday, Judge Catherine Phiri convicted Adhanon, saying the State had proved its case.

She said there was recklessness in the manner Adhanon conducted himself on the road.

Judge Phiri dismissed Adhanon's defence that he hooted on the victims

and that his car lost control and hit into them.

And in mitigation, his lawyer Keith Mweemba asked the court to exercise leniency, saying the offender was young and he was remorseful.

Passing judgement, judge Phiri said she took into consideration the mitigation, but, however, had to send Adhanon to jail to deter would-be offenders.

"This sentence will serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders as deaths on the road have become prevalent," ruled judge Phiri.

No one in this PF government is willing to admit that Zambia is in a debt crisis. They have found all sorts of fancy names for it, but not a crisis. The President, the Minister of Finance, the Chief Government Spokesperson, as well as the Patriotic Front leadership is being economical with the truth on this matter.

Let's face it; Zambia is under debt distress. What are the indicators of that? 30 per cent of its revenue is going towards debt servicing at the moment and it is common knowledge that emoluments for Zambia account for about 65 per cent of its earnings. The 30 per cent has been taken away from project investments; the 30 per cent has been taken away from spending on social needs of the country; the 30 per cent has eaten into the reserves. That is the truth.

Right now the reserves for the country are just about one and half month worth of imports, when just about 10 years ago Zambia was boasting about having over four months import cover. We have completely depleted our reserves. This is the lowest we have gotten to in many years and the creditors in Europe are already classifying us as a country that is getting into a junk bond very soon, if government doesn't do something drastic.

It is not out of jealousy that the owners of the Eurobond are apprehensive about China. They have given government a strong caution, they want Zambia to go the IMF route because they feel that is the only cure right now for the country to come back from its potential disaster.

But we know that the government of President

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Call it 'debt Christmas' if you like, the point is, we are so screwed up

Edgar Lungu, Margaret Mwanakatwe and Dora Siliya is not happy with the IMF for two reasons; number one, they are looking at how much money IMF will give them. Of course we agree with them that the money is small compared to the problems they have created in the economy, but they know as much as we do that an IMF bail out package secures investor confidence and improves the credit rating of the borrower. Secondly, they don't want IMF help because they know that they don't have the fiscal discipline to implement resource accountability. They don't want anyone having a say on how they are spending and stealing from the Treasury through unproductive expenditure.

However, that is the only insurance that the current bondholders have. They know that once IMF comes

in, the management of fiscal affairs, the deficit is going to reduce, government will be spending less.

Let us look at the recent auctions of the treasury bills and the bonds, where there was an under subscription and government had to turn to NAPSA to finance the balance. The current holdings right now, the current foreign investment in treasury bills and cooperate bonds is about US\$700 million, which is about 35 per cent of the reserves. This government doesn't want people to know the severe implications of this situation.

What this means is that because of the debt stress right now, the creditors are getting worried. If all these foreign investors decide that they don't want to roll over the US \$700 million, it means that government has to find that US \$700 million from the reserves again because

they invested in kwacha and when they want their money; they get it in dollars and where do they find the dollars? From the reserves! So this alone is threatening the financial health of the country and this is a very important measures about the debt distress.

Some people are already joking that the reserves are already determined in terms of application because they go towards debt servicing so, in the true sense of Emergency Funds, we do not have. Since some foreign investors in the government securities are not rolling over the investment, the Kwacha is beginning to feel the pressure, and it should not surprise anyone if it trades at K11 in a few weeks from now.

What's wrong with help from China? The problem with the Chinese model is that China actually takes

away the foreign reserves. It doesn't bring any cash in Zambia. So when we pay them cash for the infrastructure loans they are bringing, they are actually getting our dollars back to China. This government and everyone in it who is defending Chinese loans, knows that China just brings equipment not cash. They know that China will never give balance of payments support. It will never give us import cover. That is why the refinancing initiatives of government may not even work.

China may stretch its own loans, they may agree to restructure the repayment periods etc, but we don't see China coming forward to refinance foreign loans because those foreign loans are not in the interest of China. That money which came from the Eurobond had nothing to do with Chinese

investment or Chinese infrastructure building or Chinese contracts. It's none of there business.

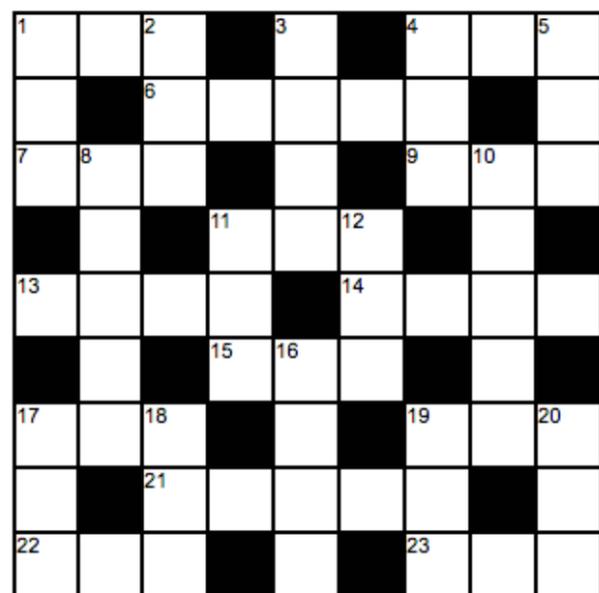
So how does Minister Mwanakatwe expect China to bail her out when they were never involved in the agreements and interests of other lenders? Whatever China does they do it with their own people, their own companies, their own finance. So refinancing a Eurobond which they didn't participate in, in terms of how it was used, is not going to happen.

The Eurobond had nothing to do with the Chinese people so Zambia will have to repay that debt as soon as it matures while also toiling to satisfy the new Chinese loan obligations.

In our layman's understanding, this is what debt distress is. So when our economists are exchanging blows over who is right regarding the definition of Zambia's debt, we wonder why they are trying to confuse citizens with all sorts of complicated lingual on a straight forward matter.

UNZA lecturers are on go-slow because government is failing to pay its support obligation to the institution, civil servants are getting salaries late, contractors are not getting their money, Cabinet is selling off assets while toiling around the world looking for financial support on top of the ballooning nkongole they already have. How else can we define this situation other than a debt crisis? Anyway, call its debt Christmas if you want, the point is, we are totally screwed up - thanks to the Great Leader of this Great country.

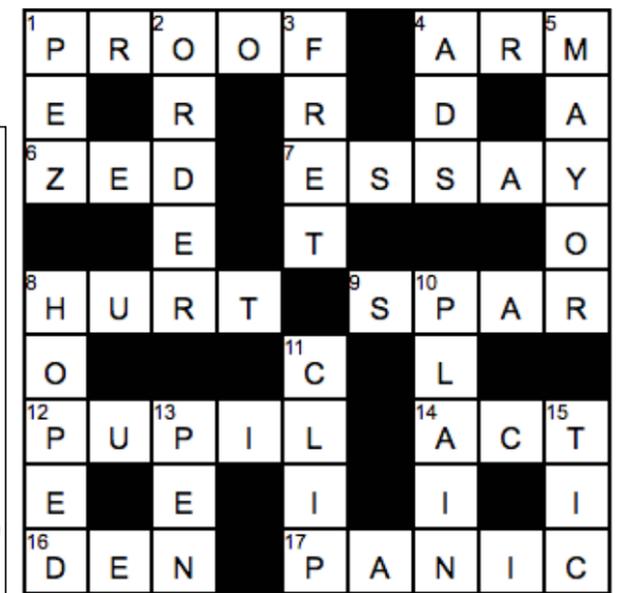
Crossword puzzle 190



"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." - Virginia Woolf

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overly 4. Employ 6. Electricity 7. Ancient mummy king 9. Holiday drink 11. Pig home 13. New thought 14. Prefix with morph or plasm 15. Said in surprise 17. Use a wok 19. Last year's jrs. 21. Major happening 22. Beer belly 23. Umpire | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youngster 2. Make a selection 3. Hit hard 4. Vase 5. ___ roll, appetizer 8. Beneath 10. Aquatic mammal 11. Witnessed 12. Evergreen tree 16. Unlocked 17. Newton fruit 18. Thus far 19. Stuart's nickname 20. Drips from trees |
|---|--|

Solutions to puzzle 189



Reader's feedback

Lungu's defiance on not allowing 'propaganda' to end friendship with China

Dear Editor,
 "Arrogance at its best once again....He looked so angry, annoyed and very tense on the address!! Like it was a vengeance speech."
 - Pious Emmanuel Sungah

"And then he looked over the left side and did a thumbs up, walked out arrogantly; boasting bakateka."
 - Salbrine Mukwayi

"Awe sure, Mr President. It's not about cutting the ties, but to be in check as you engage the Chinese."
 - Sibalwa Muleya

"Definitely, no propaganda will end the relationship because Zambia has no choice.... shame."
 - Kabwe Kasaila Kelvin



Water Resources Authority's low compliance levels on borehole registration

Editor,

"I have a borehole at my residence but do not know where to register the same because nobody has explained fully to us."
 - Chrispin Chanda

"Follow me to my place for me to pay. Otherwise, if you think I will follow you to make a payment, you must have your head examined. I don't support theft in the name of collecting tax."
 - Sam Rich Zulu

"I am ready to go to court for this. First and foremost, the same govt for WARMA has failed to provide me drinking water; I make plans and drill my borehole then I should pay tax for what?"
 - Kebby Kay

"Almost a million kwacha raised so far from those registrations, so what's purpose of that money?"
 - Aandrew Nonde

"So what's the use of this tax? Are you going to use to replenish underground water?"
 - Mike Kajoba

"Oh, what is this registration? I registered my borehole, which I have been using for 14 years now, since we do not have any other water source; LWSC don't supply. And I was told that my borehole would need to be inspected to check the water quality. Well, I have been using it for 14 years, so I reckon it's OK. But maybe, they just want more money."
 - Mike Colinese

"In Barotseland, that SI is non-functional because land belongs to the king. Govt of Zambia doesn't possess land. Even where govt offices are, it's the Litunga's land. We are free from that one-off fee (tax)."
 - Limpo Simukau

Sumaili on inviting Hindus & Muslims to Day of Prayer causing confusion

Editor,
 "That's why this Ministry is as useless as used diapers. It has absolutely no relevance to society. They are already segregating, whilst blowing there rusty trumpet calling for prayers. Please, barmen, keep some cold beers as early as 8.00hours. We are not going to fall for these hypocrites."
 - Mainde D Keembe

"This is the most foolish response a so-called Rev can make...If this is what this Ministry propagates, then this whole day of prayers is a shame. Lucky for me, I don't observe it."
 - Michael Chisenga

"I thought her Ministry is called Religious Affairs, meaning all religions fall under her Ministry...Why segregate?? Then change to Ministry of Christianity and change the day from National Day of prayer to Christian Day of Prayer so those other guys can know they not part of it."
 - Chris Hbc Kayombo

"This Ministry is irrelevant and if we keep it up it will cause confusion in itself."
 - Leah Liheshi

"National Guidance and Religious Affairs

is the most useless and irrelevant Ministry we have in Zambia."
 - Simon Da Kinsman

"Can People who don't recognize Jesus Christ attend

a prayer meeting, I don't think so! She's right. Why should I go into a Mosque when I don't believe in Islam?"
 - Desmond Chileshe

Africa Confidential's revelations of more corruption, suspension of donor aid

Editor,
 "Zambia is in trouble! This will teach voters to vote on merit instead of dununa reverse."
 - Mutinta Mulonda

"At this rate, I foresee our country heading for a situation similar to that of Zimbabwe, Venezuela or even worse."
 - Yoram Likuwa

"But people are still voting for them, what's wrong with us Zambians, sure?"
 - Mathews W Ks

"Suspension of social cash transfer is a welcome move or among the best decisions made by donors. This is because it is being abused during campaigns boasting as if the money comes from their pockets."
 - Kazundulu Wachila

"Finland, Sweden, Ireland and UNICEF have frozen funding, and DFID has privately asked for £3mn to be returned. When the President officially opened Parliament, he said government was making conceited efforts to fighting corruption. I would have loved him to say he has instituted investigations with a view to bringing culprits to book. How does one Ministry misappropriate £3mn? That is before we even discuss the Ministry of Defence."
 - Ben Kauzeni

'Game of Thrones' takes top prize at surprising Emmys



"Game of Thrones" author George RR Martin and the cast of the HBO show pose with the best drama series Emmy -- the ninth for the program this year

HBO's record-breaking fantasy epic "Game of Thrones" stormed back onto the Emmys stage on Monday, winning the coveted best drama series prize on a night full of surprises, including an on-air marriage proposal that stunned the audience.

The other big story of the Hollywood gala, television's answer to the Oscars, was the huge success of "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel," Amazon's story of a 1950s housewife-turned-stand up comic, which took home eight Emmys overall, including the best comedy award.

"The Handmaid's Tale" -- last year's best drama and an early favorite for more hardware in 2018 -- went home empty-handed from the star-studded event at the Microsoft Theater, after winning three minor awards handed out a week ago.

The ceremony hosted by

"Saturday Night Live" regulars Colin Hanks and Michael Che took on a decidedly political hue at the start, with a barrage of edgy jokes on hot-button issues from diversity in Hollywood to #MeToo and Donald Trump.

The gala also saw several sentimental favorites take home their first Emmys.

Matthew Rhys won for best drama actor for spy thriller "The Americans," Claire Foy was named best drama actress for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in "The Crown" and Henry Winkler triumphed for supporting comedy acting on "Barry."

But the coveted drama prize went to "Game of Thrones," which was ineligible for last year's Emmys, and series star Peter Dinklage took home the best supporting actor prize for his portrayal of Tyrion Lannister.

"Writing for these actors behind us is the honor of a lifetime," said the show's co-creator David Benioff.

"But we didn't invent these characters. That was George R.R. Martin. The show could not be without the mad genius of George."

"GoT" won nine Emmys this year, meaning the blood-spattered cinematic tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne -- which returns in 2019 for an abbreviated eighth and final season -- now has 47 awards overall.

That breaks the program's own record as the most decorated fictional show since the Television Academy first handed out prizes in 1949. **AFP**

Zimbabwe's opposition MPs out on Mnangagwa address

Zimbabwean opposition lawmakers on Tuesday walked out on President Emmerson Mnangagwa's state of the nation address to parliament, signaling their lingering bitterness after losing a disputed July 30 presidential

and parliamentary vote. Members of Parliament from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and their leader Nelson Chamisa heckled Mnangagwa when he started reading his speech before filing out and

leaving the national assembly. MDC members had been quoted by local newspapers on Tuesday saying they planned to embarrass Mnangagwa. After leaving parliament, the MDC lawmakers broke into song denouncing the ruling

ZANU-PF party. But Mnangagwa, who has previously called for unity among the country's political parties to help rebuild the shattered economy, said the elections were now in the past. "The election period is

decisively behind us. It is now time for us as members of parliament and political leaders to exert our efforts toward delivering promises we made to the electorate," Mnangagwa said in his speech. **REUTERS**

Syria accidentally shot down a Russian military aircraft, killing all 15 crew members, when its air defences swung into action against an Israeli missile strike, Russian and Israeli forces said Tuesday. The incident late Monday was the worst case of friendly fire between the two allies since Russia's game-changing military intervention in September 2015. The Russian Ilyushin dropped off the radar over the Mediterranean moments after Turkey and Russia announced a deal that offered millions of people reprieve from a threatened military assault in northern Syria. There was no immediate word from Damascus, but the deadly air war sequence started when Israeli missiles struck the coastal region of Latakia on Monday. Israel confirmed that it had targeted a Syrian military facility where weapons manufacturing systems were "about to be transferred on behalf of Iran" to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. It expressed "sorrow" for the Russian deaths, but insisted the Russian plane had been felled by "extensive and inaccurate Syrian anti-aircraft (surface-to-air

Syria shoots down Russian plane during Israeli air strike

missile) fire". The plane downed by Syria's Russian-made S-200 air defence had a crew of 15, who were all killed, Moscow said. The Russian military claimed Israeli pilots had attacked Syrian targets by using "the Russian plane as a cover, exposing it to fire from Syrian air defences". But Israel denied the accusations, saying that "when the Syrian army launched the missiles that hit the Russian plane, (Israeli) jets were already within Israeli airspace." The Russian government stressed that the incident would have no impact on the fledging Idlib deal, but warned Israel of reprisals and summoned its envoy in Moscow. Syria state media reported late Monday "our air defences are countering hostile missiles coming from the sea towards the city of Latakia,

and a number of them have been intercepted," it said, quoting a military source. Moscow had earlier said rockets were fired from a French frigate positioned in the same area of the Mediterranean. But the French military

denied any involvement, with spokesman Colonel Patrik Steiger telling AFP the frigate Auvergne "did not fire anything last night". The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some missiles did get through the Syrian defences and

struck ammunition depots at the site of the technical industries institute. Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based monitoring group, said at least two fighters were killed and 10 wounded in the strike. "Two bodies were found,"

he told AFP, adding that he could not immediately confirm whether the casualties were soldiers or militiamen from the forces supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Israel has conducted frequent raids in recent months against Syria's military infrastructure, including against bases it believes host Iranian combatants. Earlier in September, Israel admitted carrying out 200 strikes in Syria over the past 18 months. **AFP**

South Africa's highest court legalises cannabis use

South Africa's highest court has legalised the use of cannabis by adults in private places. Pro-marijuana activists cheered in the public gallery and chanted "Weed are free now" when the Constitutional Court gave its landmark ruling. In a unanimous ruling, judges also legalised the growing of marijuana for private consumption. South Africa's government's had

opposed its legalisation, arguing the drug was "harmful" to people's health. It has not yet commented on the ruling, which is binding. Three cannabis users who had faced prosecution for using the drug brought the case, saying the ban "intrudes unjustifiably into their private spheres". In his judgement, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said: "It will not be a criminal offence for an adult person

to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his or her personal consumption." It will, however, remain illegal to use cannabis in public, and to sell and supply it. The Cannabis Development Council of South Africa welcomed the ruling, and called on the government to drop charges against people found in possession of the drug. **BBC**

By Alex Chilumbwe
Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) President, Andrew Kamanga yesterday toured the refurbished ZNBC Studios in line with the Digital Migration mantra that has gobbled US\$ 273 million. Kamanga said FAZ is ready to partner with the national broadcaster through a wide range of business ventures that could benefit the public. "As FAZ we have embarked on a number of commercial ventures which obviously

FAZ and ZNBC revisit working relationship

are essential and remain critical to help us sustain ourselves financially. Television broadcasting is

an important component of the sponsorship that we are always looking out for," Kamanga said.

"From our side, we do have the Super League which is currently broadcast on the SuperSport Channel

and we are looking at increasing our footprint with local content. This is where the big opportunity

lies where we can interface with ZNBC especially that you have technical capacity which includes the state of the art outside broadcast equipment and the new studios to be able to provide content that will meet the expectations of the public," Kamanga added.

Kamanga further said FAZ was undergoing massive transformations administratively for the betterment of the game.

"FAZ has decentralized operations away from Football House by creating FAZ offices in all the 10 provinces simply because we want to be closer to the public as well as ensure that we are able to meet targets on talent identification. As you would appreciate, every Zambian should have an equal opportunity to play for the national team regardless of where they are coming from," said Kamanga.

He added that the Association was in the process of delinking the Zambian Super league and letting it run independently, as well as making the most out of the new Kopa brand for the national team attire. And ZNBC Director General, Richard Mwanza expressed delight at the prospects of a long term partnership with FAZ.

"The equipment that we have is state of the art that other international institutions are currently using for televising sport. For us, we feel partnering with you is the right thing. There are local games that are currently not televised which we feel with this equipment we can ably televise live games," said Mwanza.

Sparks generally fly when India take on Pakistan at cricket, and today's Asia Cup clash in Dubai will be an emotionally charged fixture as always



'Ignorance makes you very bold', Ramos slams Griezmann attitude

Sergio Ramos has launched a scathing attack on Antoine Griezmann's attitude after the French forward said he has his eye on the Ballon d'Or this year and is on a par with Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. In an interview with AS on Monday, Griezmann admitted he was disappointed not to be nominated for the Best FIFA Men's Player award and regarding the Ballon d'Or prize, he said: "I have it in my head and there are three months to give everything". Asked if he considered himself in the same class as Ronaldo and Messi, the Atletico Madrid player said: "Yes I think so and I know other players are going to come for sure. "Being at that table is a vision I have but I also know that I can do better." Griezmann also teased Ramos after Atletico beat Real Madrid 4-2 to win the UEFA Super Cup in August. The striker posted a picture on social media of Ramos

placing a crown upon his head. When asked about Griezmann's comments on Tuesday, Ramos said: "Ignorance makes you very bold. "When I hear this kid talk, I remember players like (Francesco) Totti, Raul, (Gianluigi) Buffon, (Iker) Casillas, (Paolo) Maldini, Xavi or (Andres) Iniesta who have won everything but not a Ballon d'Or. "Everyone is free to express their opinion but I think he should take the advice of (Diego) Simeone, (Diego) Godin or Koke who represent the values that serve them (Atletico Madrid) well. "But I have always said that he is a great player and I wish him the best." Atletico play Monaco in France on Tuesday in the Champions League while Madrid begin the defence of their title at home to Roma on Wednesday. Julen Lopetegui's side are chasing a fourth consecutive

European triumph but they will be without Ronaldo, who scored 15 goals in last year's competition and joined Juventus in the summer. "He has defined an era at Madrid, broken all the records but he is already in the past," Ramos said. "We cannot dwell on what he did in the past. The hole he leaves is very big but it has been covered by

other players with a lot of ambition and we have a great squad to compete. "We always have a lot of love for top players but when they are not there, you have to keep going. We wish him the best, as long as he is not playing against us." Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema have both made strong starts to the season in Ronaldo's absence but some, including Messi,

have said Madrid will still be worse off without the Portuguese. "I respect the opinion of everybody," Ramos said. "Cris gave us a lot and took away very little. He was very direct, scored a lot of goals. "Now we have to adapt to another style, we have more possession and another way to hurt our opponents and that is what we have to exploit." AFP

Catherine gets Zarika rematch

By Alex Chilumbwe
World Boxing Council (WBC) has appointed Catherine Phiri as a mandatory challenger to Fatuma Zarika of Kenya. After beating Catherine Phiri and retaining her Super Bantamweight title in 2017, Zarika extended her winning record to 30 in a total of 42 fights. Catherine Phiri on the other hand has 15 wins in a total of 18 fights. In a correspondence letter to Oriental Quarries Boxing promoter, Christopher Malunga, WBC female bantamweight chairperson, Malte'

Miilter-Michaelis stated this; "The WBC Female Championship Committee hereby officially orders the WBC Women's World Superbantamweight Championship between reigning World Champion Fatuma Zarika (Kenya) and mandatory challenger Catherine Phiri of Zambia." "We hereby kindly ask you to start free negotiations to find an agreement regarding the conditions (date, place, purses etc.) for this important championship fight. We are looking forward to hearing from you and receiving signed contracts before

Friday, October 5th, 2018. In case you cannot reach an agreement until that date we will call for a purse bid to be held at the WBC office in Mexico City on a date and time to be announced," said Michaelis. And Christopher Malunga also indicated having received the letter and did the needful to ensure the bout preparations begun. "Based on the correspondence from WBC we have contacted Fatuma Zarika's team and we are just waiting for the response from them," said Malunga.

Five years after quitting the pool, Amaury Leveaux, world record holder and Olympic medallist, is returning to swimming aiming at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The 32-year-old Frenchman still holds the short-course world record for the 100m freestyle which he set at the European championships in 2008, when he also broke world records in the 50m free and 50m butterfly.

He won a gold and two silvers as part of French Olympic relay teams and has one individual medal, a silver, in his favourite event, the 50m free, from Beijing in 2008.

The sprint is the event he is targeting.

"I still have something to do in the 50m," he said. "My goal is to win Olympic gold in Tokyo."

"I'm made for that, I know it, I feel it," he said. "I like the challenges, my goal is the Olympic gold medal in Tokyo, I'm coming back because I love swimming. I

French swimmer Leveaux comes out of retirement chasing gold

do not feel I have reached the end," said Leveaux, adding that he did "not need to work" to get in shape.

Since retiring at the age of 28 in 2013, the 2.02-metre tall swimmer has published his autobiography, 'Sex, Drugs and Swimming', which drew a vitriolic portrait of the swimming world and took digs at some members of the French team. He also appeared in French reality TV shows.

He told Le Parisien newspaper that he is negotiating a sponsorship deal to cover his costs, that he planned to train in Los Angeles, starting next month, and that he will have a chef, a cameraman and a film editor with him. *AFP*



ZAMBIA WALLOPS MOZAMBIQUE 3-0

'As good as Ronaldo and Messi? Griezmann's ignorance is bold!' -Ramos

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By Alex Chilumbwe

Shepolopolo yesterday beat Mozambique 3-0 in their final group match, booking a semifinal date with Cameroon at the on-going COSAFA tournament in South Africa.

Rachel 'Victor Moses' Nachula scored Zambia's first goal at the stroke of half time before Mary Mwakapila and Barbara Banda found the net in the 73rd and 84th minutes respectively. Shepolopolo coach Beauty Mwamba said she was happy the girls carried the day but noted they could have done better.

"I'm happy with the result although we could have done better. We created a lot of chances that we failed to utilize. It could have been more than three goals," Mwamba noted.

Asked if meeting Cameroon for the second time gave her pressure, Mwamba thought otherwise.

"The pressure will be on Cameroon as it is a much bigger team than mine. We have less pressure because we gained composure and confidence after beating them in the group. My only concern is that some of my key players have injuries although I have just as enough confidence in their replacements. They will do just fine and carry the day," said Mwamba.

The win against Mozambique saw Zambia win all the group matches and banking maximum points.

