



# President knew about donor aid abuse but it was unwise to take public action...

# HE WAS PROTECTING

# EVIDENCE - AMOS

*By Sipilisiwe Ncube*  
State House Press Aide Amos Chanda says government was aware of the misuse of donor funds two months ago, but the President decided not to take public action because such move would have jeopardised investigations. *To page 7*



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo (r) confers with his General Education counterpart David Mabumba in Parliament on September 18, 2018 - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

## Kabanshi can't kill a fly, criminals have sacrificed her - CK

*By Mukosha Funga*  
Chishimba Kambwili says dismissed Community Development minister Emerine Kabanshi is a decent woman who can't even kill a fly, but she has been sacrificed to protect the real criminals in government. And Kambwili says a group of Cabinet ministers working with PF Secretary General Davies Mwila, calling itself Luapula United is mobilising to oust President Lungu at the party convention.

On Wednesday, President Lungu fired Kabanshi who is the PF Luapula member of Parliament following revelations of embezzlement of UKAid amounting to over US\$4 million under her

ministry. But Kambwili who is Roan PF member of parliament and former Chief Government spokesperson, said President Lungu's decision was a joke of the year. *To page 7*

## Police nab witch finder for exhuming bodies

*By Mirriam Chabala*  
Police in Luapula have arrested four people for allegedly exhuming a dead body of a named person in Mansa district and obtaining remains of the corpse to use for rituals. Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo disclosed in a statement that this happened

at a named village in Chief Mibenge's area where the four among them, a witch finder trespassed a burial site and tampered with two graves. "Police in Mansa District of Luapula Province have arrested four people among them, a witch finder for trespassing on a burial place," Katongo told

the media before naming the suspects. *To page 6*

## Chifire's lawyers anger Supreme Court judges

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**Parley doesn't need to approve govt loans, we have an able Cabinet for that - Mwanakatwe**

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# Parliament doesn't need to approve loans, we have an able Cabinet – Mwanakatwe

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Finance Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe says she does not understand why government has to seek Parliament's approval when contracting loans when there is already an able Cabinet to do so. And Mwanakatwe has also acknowledged that Zambia's debt levels have become very high, saying there is need for every stakeholder to work extra hard in order to increase the revenue base. Mwanakatwe was speaking in parliament when she issued a ministerial statement, Wednesday. "Your (Lukulu MP's) request that this House oversees the debt contraction, Mr Speaker I don't understand. I come to this Parliament with a budget and all sealings are agreed by this House. If there is a supplementary to be submitted, this House approves that supplementary. We have a very able Cabinet as well that approves all loans before it is contracted. So I think there is transparency and there is prudence in the manner in which we have contracted loans because collectively as a group of Cabinet ministers, we scrutinize every single loan that comes into fruition," Mwanakatwe said. She also admitted that debt levels had gone high. "Let me confirm to this House and to the nation that government is not in debt distress. Government is paying its debt as and when they fall due. Yes the debt has gone up but we have to work harder, all of us. We have to increase the revenue base to ensure that we can satisfy the demands of our people. This is a big country with a lot of needs," Mwanakatwe said. Meanwhile, Mwanakatwe dismissed claims that government had pledged some public assets as collateral. "Mr Speaker, [the] past few days have seen high levels of public interests regarding ceding of strategic assets owned by the republic to foreign creditors. Let me take this opportunity to inform the house and the nation that government has not pledged any public asset as collateral on borrowings [that] it has undertaken. All loans are secured through several ways, firstly, through government guarantees for

those borrowings related to projects in parastatals and quasi government institutions. Secondly, through insurance for loans taken by government itself, parastatals, and quasi government institutions where applicable; and thirdly, no security for direct borrowing by the republic as the law does not provide for such," she said. "The stock of external debt was us\$ 9.37 billion. This represents 34.7% of GDP and was below the internationally agreed threshold of 40%; the stock of domestic debt, in form of government securities, was K51.86 billion. This represents 19.2 % of GDP. Kindly note that there is no threshold defined internationally on domestic debt. However, the threshold for the combination of domestic and external debt is 56% of GDP. Against this threshold, Zambia's combined ratio was 53.9% of GDP; the stock of arrears stood at K13.9 billion or 5.1%

of GDP; and, the total stock of guarantees were us\$1.2 billion or 4.4% of GDP." In her statement, Mwanakatwe further explained that there had never been any discussions between government and China on asset swapping. "In view of this, it is clear that no collateral in the form of public assets has been provided for borrowings and none of the sovereign guarantees has been called upon by the creditors. Therefore, the takeover of any asset by another government is neither practical nor feasible. Through you Mr. Speaker, the nation is informed that there has never been any discussion related to a debt/asset swap between the Zambian government and any of its creditors, china inclusive," she explained. She insisted that government was on course in terms of repaying its debt. "I would like to assure the house and the nation at large that government takes

seriously issues of debt sustainability as a practical step towards ensuring that we are sustainable. I would like to assure the honourable members that the government has not defaulted on any of its external commitments and that it does not intend to do so. We are very much alive to the serious repercussions of any default of the economy and on any other borrowing [that] we have made through the cross default clauses contained in financing agreements. It is our undertaking that we abide by the provisions in our loan agreements by ensuring that we do not abrogate the provisions of our constitution that ranks borrowing as a priority constitutional core on our revenues," Mwanakatwe assured. "There has been no debt default by the republic of Zambia on debt obligations to the Chinese government or to other lenders. The loan at the Kenneth Kaunda

international airport [KKIA] is still being disbursed by the lenders. In this regard, we have not yet started repaying the loan because the new airport terminal is still under construction. Zesco loans from Chinese lenders relate to the extension project for the Kariba north bank power station and the Kafue gorge lower power station construction project, which two stations are independent of Zesco. Zesco only holds shareholding interest in the two power stations through separate special purpose establishments. Loan repayments for the Kariba north bank extension project are duly on course while loan repayments for the Kafue gorge lower power project have not commenced because the station is still under construction. With regard to the digital migration programme, a loan was obtained from china to ensure that the programme is implemented in the country. Government is servicing

the loan and is on course with debt servicing. Zambia national broadcasting corporation (ZNBC) was never offered as collateral for the loan. Instead, ZNBC and star times of china created an independent special purpose vehicle called top star to implement the digital migration programme." Meanwhile, Mwanakatwe asked Zambians to stop peddling lies about the debt situation of the country. "Any well meaning Zambian peddling falsehood about Zambia really should be ashamed because we only have one Zambia. You can't even imagine what peace costs. The peace that we enjoy is a fantastic asset. Why would anyone want to making the country look like it is on fire? So this Mr Speaker is my earnest plea to any well meaning Zambian to safeguard what we have. Let's not put this country on unnecessary fire. Let's stop sending falsehood," said Mwanakatwe.

## Time to change leadership is now – Chipimo

By Mirriam Chabala

The time has come for Zambians to hand over the country's leadership into hands that are capable of fighting the swelling levels of corruption, says National Restoration Party (NAREP) president Elias Chipimo. In a statement, Chipimo regretted that corruption in Zambia had swelled up to a point where people had gotten so accustomed to it that it had given a rise to the impunity that allows government leaders to openly parade their mess without shame or regret. "I recall watching a documentary on an aircraft several months ago. Part of the programme featured a clip on how waste from toilets on commercial planes is removed: a huge rubber and plastic pipe is attached to the underbelly of the plane and sucks all the offending material into a sanitised container perched on the back of a truck below. The material is taken to a treatment site and later safely

disposed of. The journalist at the centre of the documentary was vividly uncomfortable with the appalling stench of the raw waste as it was being pumped out. The equipment operator on the other hand, seemed almost unaware that there was any problem and appeared bemused at the journalist's discomfort. There is a parallel with what is happening in Zambia. Recent events have highlighted the challenge we have in dealing with theft, corruption, abuse of office, fraud and the miss-allocation or misappropriation of funds. Irregular transactions and credible allegations of theft and corruption by government officials and politically-connected individuals are routinely ignored until they become a topic of persistent public debate," Chipimo stated. "However, rarely will any serious inquiry or punitive action be undertaken, no matter how glaringly credible the allegations. The outcry eventually peters-out and the

debate about the awfulness of it all whittles down to 'isolated rantings' of civic leaders and opposition politicians. A couple of days ago, something odd happened. The UK government's representative in Zambia confirmed a rumour that DfID was suspending aid until an audit into missing funds intended for the poor and vulnerable in rural communities was complete, and satisfactory answers were provided to counter allegations that over US \$4 million was spent, amongst other things, on vehicles for the agency tasked with disbursing these funds. Within 24 hours of the confirmation of aid withdrawals from not only Britain, but also Sweden, Finland and Ireland, the Zambian Minister for Community Development

is unceremoniously fired in what appears to be a hasty and rather panicky attempt at covering up for inaction on a matter that was brought to the Zambian government's attention at least six months earlier." Chipimo demanded that all culprits in all previously published reports be punished accordingly. "It seems that the stench of corruption no longer worries those tasked to lead our nation. Our pants are heavily soiled and weighing us down, but our leaders march on undeterred, wondering what all the fuss is about. The stench of corruption is all too familiar for them; it no longer causes discomfort. The time to change our pants has surely come. It should not take the efforts of outside governments to call out the messy situation in our own

backyard. Sadly, we, the people, have also, it seems, become so accustomed to the smell; we hardly notice how bad it is and in doing so, have given rise to the impunity that allows our leaders to openly parade their mess without an ounce of either shame or regret. We demand the publication of the full report submitted to the President on the inquiry that was undertaken, as well as the immediate prosecution of those alleged to have played a role. We also demand that the same action be taken in respect of all the cases highlighted in the 2017 Financial Intelligence Centre Report, starting with the matter involving the procurement of 42 fire tenders worth less than US \$300,000 that were purchased at US \$1 million each," stated Chipimo.

# PMRC wants 2019 budget to tackle debt accumulation

By Mirriam Chabala

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) says the 2019 budget should address how government will curtail further accumulation of debt and the operationalization strategies for the Sinking Fund. In a statement, Wednesday, PMRC executive director Bernadette Deka stated that PMRC was expecting to see a reduction on budget deficits towards the social sector and dismantling of arrears. Deka stated that PMRC was expecting to see an increase in the allocation towards social

protection from the 2018 allocation of K2.3 billion to around K3.0 billion in 2019, adding that efforts must be supported by fully migrating the Social Cash Transfer system to an electronic platform to reduce administrative costs and improve overall efficiency. "The expected marginal increase in the 2019 budget compared to the 2018 budget is consistent with PMRC expectation as there is need to reduce on budget deficits towards the social sector and dismantling of arrears. The following are key expectations

of PMRC in the 2019 budget as the country moves towards the successful implementation of the 7NDP: Goods and services to decline in 2019 as austerity and fiscal consolidation measures aimed at reducing the administrative costs of running government take effect. In the 2018 budget, expenditure on goods and services was 2.1 per cent of GDP and is expected to decline below one per cent in order to reduce the budget deficit to not more than 5.1 per cent of GDP," Deka stated. "Government had embarked on massive public infrastructure

development across the breadth of the country, such as roads, health and education facilities largely financed by both external and domestic borrowing, resulting in increased debt service obligations. We, therefore, expect the 2019 budget to address how government will curtail further accumulation of debt and the operationalization strategies for the Sinking Fund. We also expect government to allocate sufficient resources towards dismantling of domestic arrears, which currently stand at K13.9 billion and curb any further accumulation of

arrears through the full roll-out of the Integrated Financial Management System (IMFIS). Payment of arrears will ensure that there is enough liquidity for Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises, which form the backbone of the economy." She stated that PMRC also expected an increase in the allocation towards social protection from the 2018 allocation of K2.3 billion to around K3 billion next year. "These efforts must be supported by fully migrating the Social Cash Transfer system to an electronic

platform to reduce administrative costs and improve overall efficiency. Further, we expect the government to prioritize funding payments of pensions to ease the burden of keeping unpaid retirees on the government payroll. We expect the budget to address the challenges of water and sanitation in rural areas by allocating more money towards water and sanitation projects. In the 2018 budget, much of the funding towards water and sanitation went towards the Lusaka Urban Water and Sanitation Project. PMRC expects 25 per cent of the water and sanitation budget to go towards rural areas. In order to actualize diversification away from mining, government must increase funding to the economic sector," she appealed. Deka explained the need to realign spending in the agricultural sector from Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) to key drivers of growth in the sector, such as extension services, research and development, among others. "PMRC notes that in the 2018 budget, there was reduction in spending from K20,132,600,000 in 2017 to K17,258,329,480. Government should, therefore, prioritize setting up the tractor assembly plant and utilize the US \$100 million Public Private Partnership (PPP) fund to improve productivity in the agriculture sector. There is urgent need to realign spending in the agriculture sector from FRA and FISP to key drivers of growth in the sector, such as extension services, research and development, livestock management and production, aquaculture, disease control and irrigation. Furthermore, PMRC expects government to maintain stability in the Mineral Royalty Tax regime (both in quantum and deductibility) and explore ways to boost production to offset losses from low commodity prices including; capital allowances of up to 100 per cent for mining operations and legislative reform to allow ring-fencing of capital allowances for open-pit development, shaft-sinking and shaft re-deepening," stated Deka. "It is envisaged that these measures will create optimal conditions for the industry to grow production. PMRC encourages government to press on towards achieving macroeconomic growth, fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability. We urge government to continue to acclimatize to austerity measures; the effective implementation of these measures, coupled with the Green Paper's objectives, will uplift the livelihoods of Zambians through improved service delivery, low inflation rates, increased employment and increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Government's intentions to rebalance the allocations in education, health and water and sanitation infrastructure in rural areas as a way of reducing development inequalities remains high priority focus."



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By Zondiwe Mbewe

The full Supreme Court bench on Wednesday took SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire's lawyers to task for "insulting their intelligence" when the counsels insisted that they would not proceed until they were guided on whether or not their client was charged with a criminal or civil contempt case. And Chifire has denied ever giving an interview to the Zambia Watchdog alleging that "Mambilima is the most corrupt judge" saying he did not know the article, neither was he approached by the online media for an interview. Chifire was charged with four counts of contempt of court after he allegedly wrote to Chief Justice, Irene Mambilima and caused to be published two articles in the *Zambian Watchdog* and another one in *The Mast Newspaper* concerning the judgement of the *Savenda vs Stanbic Bank case*. When the matter came up before a full bench of the Supreme Court judges led by Deputy Chief Justice Marvin Mwanamwambwa, the judges expressed displeasure with the conduct of Chifire's lawyers. This was after the lawyers, Landilani Banda, McQueen Zaza and Grace Mwenda sought the court's guidance on whether or not Chifire was facing criminal or civil contempt proceedings, because according to them, pleading guilty or not guilty was unique in civil proceedings. "We had sight of the court record in the previous proceedings and having not been there, we wish to be guided in certain aspects of the case. This court made a ruling in the last sitting to the effect that it was a civil contempt but when you look at the charge sheet and the counts, you will realize that Mr Chifire was made to plead guilty or not guilty on the four counts which is unique to civil proceedings," Zaza said. "If we have to proceed on premises that these proceedings are indeed civil, order 52 rule 1 of the white book paragraph five is very instructive as how to proceed in a civil way." At this point, the judges got incensed and accused the lawyers of lecturing them. "You are seeking guidance by trying to lecture us on that? What you are telling us is like an objection to these proceedings," they asked. This forced the lawyers to apologize to the court but insisted that they were seeking clarifications in order to ably represent their client. However, the judges guided that despite the matter being a civil one, it had characteristics of a criminal one, which was a serious offence. They urged the lawyers to proceed by calling their witness but the defence counsels hesitated, claiming that they still needed guidance from the court. The judges, however, warned the lawyers not to misconduct themselves saying it was incompetence on their part by going to court without proper

# Chifire's lawyers anger Supreme Court judges

instructions from their client. When the defence lawyers asked for a short adjournment to raise preliminary issues on points of law, the court rejected their application saying the lawyers had come to court ill prepared. "Your application to adjourn is rejected. It's quite obvious that you came here ill prepared. This court will not allow that, you come here ill prepared to resort or embark upon, expecting to survive on legal gymnastics," judge Mwanamwamba said as two other judges added, "You are not serious. From August 23 seriously? That was sufficient time...The courts are not a circus and the courts are not fertile grounds for research by counsel. You do not walk into court, the courts reminds you of the mistake you have made, you then seek an adjournment to go and repair that mistake, the courts are not fertile grounds for counsel. It's incompetence on the part of counsel to walk into court and seek guidance. You are a lawyer you should have researched. You do not walk into court to seek guidance not at all." Banda thereafter asked for guidance from the court to allow them to put their client Chifire on the stand for examination in chief saying their witness, a reporter from *The Mast newspaper* who was scheduled to testify on that day was not present. In response, another judge reminded Chifire that his client had already testified. "Mr Banda you saw the summons from your client. As such when your client came, he stood in the dock took the oath and each count was put to him. When each count was put to him, he explained his position. He answered all the counts and explained his position. We are only here for one count, fourth count which he said he needed to call a witness. But his evidence was given," one of the judges said. Judge Mwanamwamba then ordered him to call a witness but the lawyers maintained that they did not have a witness. However, after some consultation, the judges finally allowed him to recall and examine Chifire. During examination in chief, Chifire rejected the charge in the first count alleging that he caused to be published an article on *Zambian Watchdog* headlined "Mambilima is the most corrupt judge" saying he never gave an interview to anyone from *Watchdog*. "It's not my publication, I do not know it. I did not give an interview to the *Watchdog*, neither did they ask for my opinion to publish the said article," he said after he was

asked by his lawyer about the publication. Asked on his take regarding the letter he wrote to the Chief Justice Irene Mambilima, in count two, Chifire said he had authored the letter in good faith to bring to her attention the concerns from the public regarding the *Savenda Vs Stanbic* judgment. "I authored the letter in good faith with good intentions so as to bring to fall of the Chief Justice some of the concerns the general public have been raising regarding the judiciary. Some of the views regarded the judgement in the *Savenda Vs Stanbic* judgment," he said. "Further to this, my submitting in this manner was necessitated by the Constitutional requirement to uphold the rule of law as a good citizen. It was written to help the establishment, find a way to address this matter perhaps administratively. It was a mere request to the judiciary because the judiciary forms an important part of the society." And in the third count where he's alleged to have caused to be published in the *Zambian Watchdog* another article disparaging the judiciary, Chifire reiterated that he never had any interview with the *Watchdog*. Asked on the article published in the *Mast newspaper*

charging that the "Judiciary [was] one of the most corrupt in Zambia", Chifire admitted that he had an interview with *The Mast* but said the interview was not intended to demean the integrity of the judiciary. "I had an interview with *The Mast newspaper* and my views were the views that the general public have. And in so doing I was trying to help in bringing up some measures that maybe able to help the judiciary, an institution that I cherish. It was not at all intended to demean the integrity of the good standing of the judiciary," Chifire said. Asked in what capacity he had given that interview, Chifire said he was quoted as a *Lusaka citizen*. Meanwhile, Chifire said he shouldn't be cited for contempt because he had never attacked the judiciary maliciously or in any way. And in cross examination by the nine judges, Chifire denied having said that the *Savenda Vs Stanbic* case had exposed the level of corruption in the judiciary, saying issues of corruption had not come from him but the public. He was however reminded by justice Mwanamwamba that if one repeated an insult then he was also insulting. "So you were repeating what the people were saying? If you

repeat an insult are you yourself not insulting," justice Mwanamwamba observed. Asked what pained him about the *Savenda Vs Stanbic* judgement that made him want to defend *Savenda*, Chifire said he found the *Savenda* judgement to be faulty because the costs awarded to *Savenda* were too high and that the case had attracted public interest and was in public domain. Asked if he was a shareholder of *Savenda* for him to take up their fight, Chifire maintained that his interest lay in the poor *Zambians*. "I have not been championing their cause, my interest lies in the people who are poor in *Chawama*, in *Mtendere*," he said. And in re-examination, Chifire said every citizen was entitled to give an interview or views as enshrined in the Constitution because it was a Constitutional right. Chifire's lawyers then submitted that they had closed their case and wished to file written submissions. The matter has been adjourned to November 28 for judgement. In this matter, Chifire is in count one, accused of causing to be published an article on the *Zambian Watchdog* headlined "Mambilima is the most corrupt judge".

In the said article, Chifire charged that Chief Justice Irene Mambilima was presiding over the most corrupt judiciary in the history of post independent Zambia. He accused Chief Justice Mambilima of ignoring corruption evidence against judges who presided over the *Savenda vs Stanbic Bank* case. In count two, Chifire allegedly committed contempt of court when he wrote to Chief Justice Mambilima concerning the matter, "I submit to your office that this Supreme Court judgment has affected the delivery of the justice system in Zambia and if the judgement is allowed to stand in view of the glaring omissions on the part of the Supreme Court, it has a potential to inhibit justice and development jurisprudence," read part of Chifire's letter to Chief Justice Mambilima on May 10, 2018. In count three, Chifire is accused of causing to be published another article on *Zambian Watchdog*, disparaging the judiciary, on June 15, 2018. And in the fourth and final count, Chifire is accused of causing to be published an article in *The Mast Newspaper* an article headlined "Judiciary one of the most corrupt in Zambia" on July 2, 2018.

## Underwear thief gets 6 months

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Lusaka Magistrate Brian Simachele has slapped a 23-year-old man of Lusaka's Chipata compound who stole underwear from *Shorprite Zambia Limited* valued K79.99 with a six months imprisonment with hard labour sentence. Particulars of the offence in this matter were Brian Bwalya, unemployed, on August 14, 2018 stole three underwear from *Shorprite Zambia Limited* valued at K79.99. Brief facts in this matter are that on August 14, 2018, Enock Sakala, the security manager at *Shorprite Waterfalls* branch, during his routine checkups around the premises, came across an empty pack of men's underwear pants and Bwalya, who was nearby, looked suspicious. A body search was conducted on him and he was found with three underwear which he had hidden in his boxer short which he was putting on. The underwear were then recovered and Bwalya was arrested and charged with an offence of theft which he readily admitted saying he did not have any undergarments.

## 6 months

When the matter came up for sentencing, Bwalya asked God to forgive him in his mitigation. This was after the court found him guilty of

stealing the underwear. In sentencing, magistrate Simachele slapped Bwalya with a jail term of six months with hard labour.

He said the offence Bwalya committed attracted a maximum sentence of five years but he exercised his maximum leniency on him because he did not waste the courts time by admitting to the charge. He said it was an undeniable fact that Bwalya stole the underwear with the purpose of wearing them.

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# Governance system is rotten – Kamboni

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Kalomo Central UPND member of parliament Harry Kamboni says the governance system is rotten and that is why there is rampant misuse of donor funds. Meanwhile, Mbabala UPND member of parliament Ephraim Belemu says President Edgar Lungu's speech to Parliament last week was a very strange speech because what the PF is doing today does not correlate with vision 2030. Debating President Lungu's address to Parliament, Wednesday, Kamboni charged that Zambia was being led by a group of leaders with no vision. "Social cash transfer is here in the report, its a very painful situation. People who steal

from orphans, people who steal from widows, poor people, those are very bad people. They don't deserve to be in leadership in any country. But in this report, there was no mention, we were told social cash transfer is going on very well. As an MP I was being asked by my people 'when are we getting our pay?' And then we are told in this report 'everything is rosy', what am I supposed to believe because in a report you must write challenges as a President of the country, and good directions,

solutions and hope for the nation. But when you simply praise yourself on things that are not correct, then citizens, you confuse them, they wonder what kind of leadership they have. Zambians are now fed up, I'm sure the PF government is an expired government," Kamboni said. "The donors have withdrawn their aid to Zambia because of corruption and the kwacha as I'm talking, it has lost value because of the donors withdrawing. The news is all over, the world now knows and

other countries are following suit. Ministry of Education misappropriated funds and the donors withdrew this year, March. They left the Ministry of Education, no one was punished. Now they shifted from Ministry of Education they went to social cash transfer hoping their money will be utilized properly. Now again, money has been misappropriated and it had to take the President to fire somebody. The President is not the one who is supposed to say 'fire that one'. When you

hear something being directed by the President it means the system is rotten because a system on its own should be able to arrest everybody else." He said people who steal public funds should not only be fired but jailed. "People who misappropriate public funds must not only be fired but they must be taken to jail. It is not enough to just demote them, it is not enough. They must go to court all of them. We want them to be accountable. We want all those who misappropriated

funds from the Ministry of Education to been punished now, that's when people are going to learn," said Kamboni. Meanwhile, Mbabala UPND member of parliament Ephraim Belemu said President Lungu's speech to Parliament last week was strange because PF come into power on the platform of transforming Zambia in 90 days, but now they were talking about vision 2030. He observed that what the PF was doing today was not correlating with vision 2030. "It's a very strange speech because there are things that are not adding up. For a party that came into power on the platform of transforming this nation in 90 days, from nowhere to turn round and talk about 2030 which is another 12 years from now, is very strange. Even when that happens, at least what they are doing today, what they are doing tomorrow should be correlating. They should be leading us somehow to 2030. Their activities must be saying so. As we speak today, there is no relationship with what they are doing and what they are telling us that 'in 2030 there will be a glorious land somewhere in Zambia'. How are we going to get to 2030 if the small businesses have been taken over by the Chinese? Land and factors of production are going in the hands of Chinese?" Belemu wondered. "You seem to be telling us that Zambians will have good water but only in 2030. Zambians will have good education, good agriculture, good health facilities but only in 2030. That there will be employment then [but] in the meantime anyone who is not employed today must wait for 2030? That's the contradiction. That is why I'm saying, in this speech there is something that is not adding up. This is bad news. There is no good report here." He said everyone should be involved in choosing Zambia's relations and not just few individuals in PF. "Listen to us. We are giving very brotherly and friendly advice. This is our country all of us. We must be involved in choosing who should be a friend of Zambia not one, two, three, four individuals sitting in a corner and saying 'this one will be our friend because he has got eyes like this'. Now the funds that are being withdrawn or withheld by donors, can't you do something as a government to redeem this country? The case of social cash transfer is not the only fund that has been withdrawn by donors. What we are calling if is a complete overhaul, complete prosecution and complete return of every money, donor or local, that has been abused or not properly used in this country," said Belemu.

## China was there for Zambia when the west wasn't – Mbulakulima

By Mirriam Chabala and Zondiwe Mbewe

Milenge PF member of parliament Mwansa Mbulakulima says reports that China plans to colonise Zambia are just propaganda because that country was there for us when the West wasn't. And Kabwe Central PF member of parliament Tutwa Ngulube says China has helped Zambia in many ways and citizens should give credit where it is due. Reacting to Monze UPND member of parliament who described President Edgar Lungu's ceremonial address to Parliament last week as uninspiring and unstimulating during a debate which was initially moved by Chama North member of parliament Darius Mumba, Mbulakulima said the leader of opposition's concerns were unwarranted, adding that China was Zambia's all-weather ally. In his debate, Mwiimbu had also complained that China had taken over all the jobs that were meant for Zambians whilst government was just quiet.

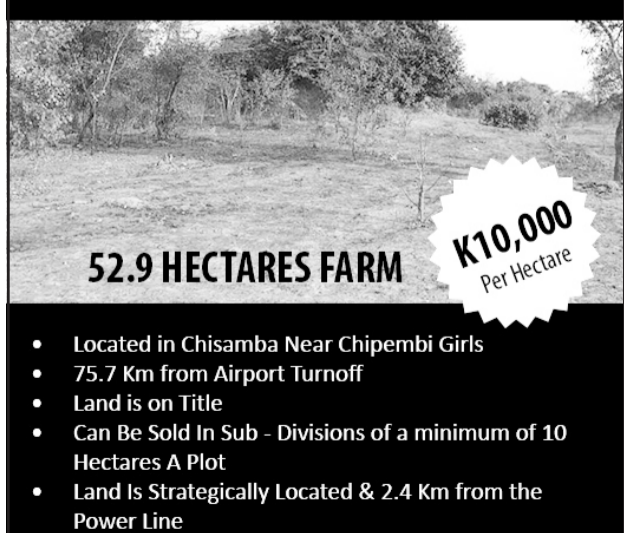
"There has been a lot of talk and hullabaloo on this topic. But for me, although people have said Zambia is being colonised, it doesn't scare me. The fear of colonisation doesn't scare me of this propaganda, I believe that it is too late. If China was to colonise Zambia, it would have been done a long time ago, especially at the time of independence. But I believe that today there are a lot of checks and balances globally where even slavery cannot take place now because the world has become united. Locally, we have got very enlightened citizens and democracy and the concept of sovereignty if entrenched in our constitution. So I don't see the fear of any country colonising us. It is unfounded and it uncalled for and it should not scare anyone," Mbulakulima said. "For us as Milenge, we don't want to be part of the trade battle between China and the Western world. We know what is going on between Europe, America and China. But of course we do understand where we are

coming from, China at the time of Zambia's independence was not even rated among the top 20 [prosperous] countries in the world. But today, it is the second largest economy in the world. So the threat that is had actually posed to the first world is understandable and for us in Milenge and in Zambia, we believe genuinely that it is there battle. But again Mr Speaker there is historical background to the Zambia - China relationship." Mbulakulima China was there for Zambia when the west wasn't. "Dear colleagues, it was tough for Zambia. It was tough militarily and economically. That time who came to our rescue? We have to find out, what comes to my mind are two countries, either Russia or China. But China gave us both moral and material support, I now ask a question, where were they when Rhodesia blocked us and when we didn't have a route to Tanzania? China came to our rescue. You know what they did? It is China which built the Tazara to rescue us from the bondage of Rhodesia. It was China that put up the TAZAMA pipeline to liberate us economically," he said. Mbulakulima also said the help that China had given Zambia in its few years friendship was more than what Britain did in its 70 years of colonising Northern Rhodesia. "Some of us from Northern Zambia will recall, it was hell to pass through the pedical and we did ask the Western world, help us find the solution... KK actually said we would have link up Serenje to Luapula. We asked Italy, we asked UK but they said it was not economical to do that. But who came to our rescue? China. Today we boast of the longest Bridge in Central Africa, Tuta bridge which is four kilometers. One of the smoothest roads, Tuta road.

This is a friend and if they had to colonise us, why didn't they colonise us during that time? So where is the fear coming from? It is propaganda. We are looking for tangible development, tangible infrastructure," said Mbulakulima. "All of us today can attest, if you look at Zambia, moving away from the olden days to the current situation, when you look at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, you feel good. When you look at levy hospital you feel good, when you look at Kariba North extension, you feel good. Look at KK Airport, look at the urban roads. This (China) is a friend, who else come to your rescue? The nearest that comes to my mind if this country stayed longer, it should have been Israel. You can go to UTH, it was put up by Israel, UNZA it was put up by Israel, which other country can talk of infrastructure today in Zambia? It took UK 70 years to colonise us but they put up less than 30 secondary schools." And in his debate, Wednesday, Ngulube also defended Zambia's collaboration with China. "China has helped Zambia in many ways. Right now, if you drive around Lusaka, you can see all this infrastructure coming up. Let us actually give credit where it is due. Propaganda will not develop this country. No matter how much the international media demonizes Zambia, we, as Zambians, should not be seen to be in the forefront propagating hate speech against our own country," Ngulube argued. He said if one had evidence that Zambia had been "sold," they should bring the evidence to the table because they were scaring away investors. "If you have evidence, for example, that this country has been sold, bring the evidence on the table. But not just standing up and saying, 'Zambia has

been sold,' 'Zesco has been sold,' ZNBC has been sold.' Let's be objective; let us also make sure that we are factual in our debates, we are scaring away investors," Ngulube said. "If there is anything that we should do right now, let's thank the President for that stance. The whole world is now rushing to China. The Chinese are here to develop Zambia." And Ngulube said the withdrawal of donor support for the Social Cash Transfer should be everybody's funeral and no one would be allowed to celebrate that. "Mr Speaker, allow me also to talk about the Social Cash Transfer. I'm aware that some people are celebrating that the funding has been withdrawn! It is on the floor of this House that some people were dancing! Let us be factual. The withdrawal of donor support for the Social Cash Transfer should be everybody's funeral. All of us in this House must actually be sorry that has happened. We will not allow people to celebrate the withdrawal of the Social Cash Transfer," said Ngulube. "I'm also aware that some prophets of doom have been castigating government for each and everything that government does. It's the same people who are crying that they want Monze-Mazabuka road or Mazabuka-Kafue road to be done, yet you don't want Chinese support! I want to find out, how are we going to do that without any donor funding? You are accusing government of being broke, yet you want government to deliver a road? So, can we be positive in our approaches. We must never allow the propaganda I have seen on international media to be called facts and we come to this House and say; 'this is what has happened.' We will not allow any propaganda to tarnish this country."

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By Mirriam Chabala

Police in Luapula have arrested four people for allegedly exhuming a dead body of a named person in Mansa district and obtaining remains of the corpse to use for rituals.

Police Spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo disclosed in a statement that this happened at a named village in Chief Mibenge's area where the four among them, a witch finder trespassed a burial site and tampered with two graves.

"Police in Mansa District of Luapula Province have

# Luapula Police nab witch finder, 3 others for exhuming bodies

arrested four people among them, a witch finder for trespassing on a burial place. Those arrested are Emmanuel Kasuba aged 35 also known as Doctor Cheswa, Francis Malemba aged 50, Ngandwe Balakeni aged 35 all of Chitente Village,

Chief Milenge of Mansa and Conelious Mwilambwe aged 56 of Chilumba village Chief Kasoma Bangweulu of Samfya District also a witch finder. It is alleged that the suspects went to Nengenenge burial site and exhumed a body of a named deceased

person who died in 2010 and removed a bone from the remains which they allegedly hid at a named place in Chief Mibenge's area," stated Katongo.

"The burial site was visited and two graves were discovered tampered

with. After investigations, suspected human bones and other human remains were recovered yesterday and are yet to be subjected to forensic examination. The suspects are still detained in police custody yet to be charged."

According to sources, the

witch finder is a blind man.

"This is very shocking because the man who was leading them is actually blind. So how did he know exactly where to go? He is even the one who led police to the graves" the sources wondered.

# Kalaba outlines what Lungu missed in parliament speech

By Mirriam Chabala

Bahati PF member of parliament Harry Kalaba says President Edgar Lungu's speech at the opening of the third session of the 12th National Assembly was simplistic and failed to accurately connect with what was obtaining on the ground.

And Kalaba, the former foreign affairs minister, has vowed to continue worshipping from various churches across the country despite pressure coming from the State, saying he is not breaking any laws in so doing.

In an interview, Kalaba described President Lungu's

speech to Parliament last Friday was "very casual" and lacking urgency because it did not address any of the fundamental issues affecting citizens, which everyone was expecting him to do.

"The President's speech lacked urgency, it was very platonic. I had a feeling that maybe there was a disconnect between what he was saying and what is really on the ground. I found him to be very casual in the manner he was handling issues. First of all, the manner in which he handled the issue of corruption, the manner in which he handled the Chinese relationship

with Zambia. There are fundamental issues, which I was hoping the President was going to address, but he didn't. You know, in times like where we are, you need extraordinary methodology to propel a nation to another level, [but] that speech was just business as usual and it is a very sad development for the country. I expected the President to talk about the creation of industries as being a corridor for wealth and job creation," Kalaba said.

"He talked about power cuts being managed now, that they have reduced. I was hoping that he was going to connect the reduction in

power cuts to the beginning of the creation of industries in line with the same Vision 2030 he was quoting, as well as the SADC Agenda and the African Union's programme for the vision of Africa in 2063; the Africa we want. I was hoping he was going to talk about land ownership as being prerequisite for wealth creation and emancipation. I was praying that his Excellency, the President, was going to talk about the high levels of unemployment, but he didn't even talk about it. He told us that 1,000 jobs have been created in [a certain] mine on the Copperbelt, but he didn't explain how

many of those 1,000 jobs are permanent and temporary or casual jobs. He fell short of telling us the type of jobs he has created from that 1,000 in those mines he was talking about. And that criteria he told us that government had come up with to create jobs and diversify the economy, what criteria is that?"

Kalaba also wondered how President Lungu would instruct Minister of Energy Mathew Nkhuwa to broaden electricity coverage in the country from the current 31 per cent without giving any guidance about the steps he needed to take.

"He tells the Minister of Energy that 31 per cent of Zambians are the only ones having access to energy so he should ensure that it goes up. But he does not tell us how the Minister of Energy is going to do it, that's supposed to be for the President, to tell the nation that, 'these are the steps we have put in place to ensure

that by the end of next year, Zambians will move from 31 per cent to somewhere around 50 per cent, and these are the measures that we have taken in place.' I was hoping to hear the steps, but he was so simplistic just to say '31 per cent, we are expecting to up the game, no, the President was very casual. His Excellency, the President, was very casual and Zambians should brace themselves for a lot ahead of them, there is a lot ahead of them," Kalaba warned.

He also expressed worry about the Head of State's passion for the Chinese at the expense of the welfare of Zambians.

"A lot has been said about the Zambia - China relationship and I have said before that, I always salute the relations that exist

between Zambia and China, but we need to manage that relationship so that it continues being an 'all-weather' friendship. He said, 'we choose our own friends, and no matter how many headlines scream 'China, China it does not matter', just like that? Zambians have never complained about the relationship with the Chinese. In 1976, when Kaunda brought them, Zambians didn't complain because the Chinese were not selling tomatoes. When Kaunda brought the Chinese here, they were not doing what Zambians were doing, they had specific roles that they were given. But today, we have failed to streamline that; we don't hate the Chinese, what we are saying is that, as you bring them in here, can you give them specific roles that they should play like Kaunda did? But you find that it is [just] business as usual," Kalaba lamented.

He insisted that there was no correlation between President Lungu's speech and the real situation on the ground.

"Well, I found the speech falling short of the substantive; it was just talking, talking, and talking. Look at last year's speech, in last year's speech, it was the same thing about electricity. It was energy, 'we are doing this about energy.' It was like just getting the same sentence from last year's speech into this year's speech! So, governance has become that easy. People should be fair with him (President Lungu), those that are handling him and preparing these statements for him because [they are] showing a lot of disconnect between what the President is saying and what is going on," Kalaba observed.

# Prime TV boss asks IBA to dismiss Ngwira's complaint

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Prime Television managing director Gerald Shawa has asked the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to dismiss the complaint by PF youth Chanoda Ngwira against the TV station saying it is in breach of the authority's act.

In his letter dated September 17, 2018, addressed to IBA, Ngwira had cited the TV station for serious breach of the authority standard operating procedure through the repeated airing of a political advert.

Ngwira further charged that the political advert was ill-intended to incite viewers to rise against government and further sought IBA's intervention.

But in his response to Ngwira's claim, Shawa appealed to the authority to dismiss the letter as its author did not follow the IBA Act's complaints procedure.

"We are in receipt of a carbon copy dated 17th September, 2018, in which Chanoda Ngwira sought intervention from the IBA citing our broadcasting institution of breach of standard

operating procedure. It is our considered view that the complainant is breaching the very IBA Act they endeavour to protect by not following the complaints procedure. As you may recall, this is the same procedural technicality we argued about in our previous engagement with the IBA Compliance Committee," Shawa stated.

He explained that the IBA complaints procedure provided for a complainant to first write to the accused media house 14 days within the broadcast of such unlawful material.

"As you may be aware, the IBA complaints procedure provides for a complainant to first write the media in question 14 days within the broadcast of such an unlawful material within which the broadcast institution responds. If the answer is not satisfactory or matter not resolved, the complainant can write the IBA who would engage the said media house within 14 days. If the matter requires compliance, the media house would be written to by IBA within 14 days within which specific performance would be sought by the authority. If the

matter is of a litigation nature, the IBA would then have the matter referred to court for redress," Shawa stated.

He noted that the complainant did not follow the correct procedure as prescribed in the Act.

"We are of the view that such a procedure has been overlooked by the complainant and we request the IBA to advise the complainant accordingly for them not to breach the same law they intend to preserve: 'He that comes to equity must come with clean hands.' We further request that the letter be dismissed for failure by the complainant to follow the procedure," he stated.

Shawa, however, stated that the authority should dismiss the complaint and advise the complainant to follow the right procedure.

"IBA should annul the claim from the complainant and advise them on adherence to the IBA Act complaints procedure for us to safeguard the integrity of the law. As a media house, we have always endeavoured to comply with the IBA Standard Operating Procedure," stated Shawa.

By Diggers Reporter

Police in Ndola have arrested a 32-year-old man employed as a lab technician at Zambezi Portland for allegedly duping women into sending nude videos of themselves under the pretext that a 'Mr Smith' would pay them K100,000. After receiving the videos, the said man is alleged to have blackmailed the authors with the view of syphoning money out of them.

This is according to a statement issued by police spokesperson Esther Mwaata Katongo.

"Following the trending of nude videos on social media involving men and women in the recent past, Police instituted investigations and have managed to arrest one suspect identified as Mwamba Kafula aged 32 of Lubuto West in Ndola who is also a laboratory technician at Zambezi Portland and has been charged with Circulation of Pornography contrary to section 102 of the Electronic Communication and Technology Act number 21 of 2009," Katongo revealed.

"The suspect is alleged to have been purporting to be a link to a Mr Smith and was asking people through Facebook and Twitter to send nude videos on pretext that he would send them to

# Police nab 'Mr Smith'

a Mr Smith who could later send them K100,000. After receiving the videos, the suspect is alleged to have been blackmailing the those

who sent videos asking for money from them or have the videos published. The suspect is detained in police custody and will appear in

court soon." Katongo warned all those involved in such activities that the law would catch up with them.

"The Zambia Police have continued with the investigations with a view of apprehending more scammers who could have

been involved and are warning all those involved in such activities that soon, the long arm of the Law will catch up with them. We further warn those in a habit of making and producing obscene materials to desist or face the Law," stated Katongo.

# Kabanshi can't kill a fly, criminals have sacrificed her - Kambwili

By Mukosha Funga

Chishimba Kambwili says dismissed Community Development minister Emerine Kabanshi is a decent woman who can't even kill a fly, but she has been sacrificed to protect the real criminals in government.

And Kambwili says a group of Cabinet ministers working with PF Secretary General Davies Mwila, calling itself Luapula United is mobilising to oust President Lungu at the party convention.

On Wednesday, President Lungu fired Kabanshi who is the PF Luapula member of Parliament

following revelations of embezzlement of UKAid amounting to over US\$4 million under her ministry. But Kambwili who is Roan PF member of parliament and former Chief Government spokesperson, said President Lungu's decision was a joke of the year.

"It is the biggest joke of the year that Emerine Kabanshi has been fired over the cash transfer saga and it is betrayal of hard working and innocent people to continue being fired, leaving the actual thieves in government. I can vouch for Kabanshi that Kabanshi is a very

clean woman. She has no skeletons whatsoever, she is not a corrupt woman. Just like I can vouch for the young man Vincent Mwale, just like I can vouch for ba Inonge Wina. Kabanshi has been used as a sacrificial lamb to show the donors that the President cares. In any case, if you talk about corruption in Zambia, the first person to resign should be President Lungu because he is corrupt individual number one," Kambwili charged.

"Kabanshi is a clean woman and even if they investigated her, I would be vindicated that the woman is so clean. Obviously I can

only blame her for having not taken action when she heard that there was this scandal to the cash transfer. But knowing how Cabinet works, I know that the woman must have reported to the President. The President has already told us that he had instructed the Secretary to the Cabinet to take administrative investigation. Now if he had instructed the Secretary to the Cabinet, it simply means that the minister had reported to him that Zampost had actually misapplied donor funds. So to fire her just to please the donors is extremely unfortunate. I hope and

trust that my colleagues who have remained in PF are seeing how inconsistent and untrustworthy President Lungu can be to people who work hard."

And Kambwili says a group of Cabinet ministers working with PF Secretary General Davies Mwila, calling itself Luapula United was mobilising to oust President Lungu at the party convention.

They have created a group called Luapula United headed by the secretary general of the party and the thieves, the major thieves in PF who are stealing with Lungu, and they have been sponsoring people to sit on the structures, strategically to come and upset Lungu but he cannot fire them because they steal with him. Some of these ministers today hire planes and helicopters to go to their constituencies, some of these ministers today are building churches, a number of churches from their own pockets in their constituencies and yet we know how much they get," said Kambwili.

"Lungu must be very careful because the same people he is protecting have come up with a group that they are calling Luapula United, they have been having meetings and using the same corrupt money to put people in the structures so that when the convention comes, whether Lungu stands again, they beat him. We know the so called top 10 corrupt ministers in the PF, they are known as the Top 10, he has left them. Look at the corruption at the Ministry of Defence, and he has not fired anybody at the Ministry of Defence. The OP tells Lungu what these ministers are doing but he decides to go and fire an innocent woman who cannot even kill a fly. Kabanshi is so decent that she cannot even kill a fly, what a shame! Heaven is watching you Lungu, you leave a plank in your own eye, you go and see a spec in Kabanshi's eye, God is watching you."

# It was unwise for the President to act publicly on fraud allegations - Amos

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

State House Press Aide Amos Chanda says government was aware of the misuse of donor funds two months ago, but the President decided not to take public action because such move would have jeopardised investigations.

Speaking when he featured on a Hot FM live telephone interview yesterday, Chanda said President Lungu had now taken decisive action, which includes firing minister Emerine Kabanshi, after realising that the scandal had been exposed to the media and the evidence which he wanted to protect had become unattainable.

"The problem of the social cash transfer has been an ongoing problem which was made known to the government some months ago. The prerogative of the president to hire and fire a minister remains just that. He may at any time substitute a minister or any appointee at any time without any restraint, or without any reasons. With regards to the ultimatum he gave to the secretary to the cabinet, the president does have multiple sources of information [and] so when he takes corrective measures to fore store certain things happening, he may decide that even before the completion of an inquiry, he can take measures to correct the situation. And I must state to you that he ordered this inquiry four months ago but because its already in the public domain and causing a disturbance and what it is probably

that he might have wanted to protect, the evidence and what sort, can no longer be protected; so he begins to take action immediately. So the timeframe that he gives does not constrain him from taking corrective measures at any point. He may continue to do so in the coming days, [or] in the coming weeks when the administrative inquiry is completed," Chanda said.

"The government, especially the president does have access to a lot of information on a daily basis. There are certain actions that have been accumulating [but] that may not be announced. If there is an ongoing inquiry, an inquiry which the president reasonably suspects could actually result into a criminal inquiry, will it be sensible for him to go on the ant hill and announce that 'we have now begun to investigate this K10 that is missing?' if that K10 will result in fraud? You know that a criminal prosecution is possible, will it be sensible to announce on the first day of the inquiry that this investigation is taking place? Now that the newspapers have put it in the public domain and that which you wanted to protect is no longer attainable to protect, what then would hold the present from taking actions publicly? It is not true that the newspapers and the radio stations have caused the action. Of course they have disrupted certain things but again the government will not tell you what those pre-mature announcements [which] they have

disrupted, but from that point when it was now clear that certain pieces of evidence that were being protected can no longer be protected because the matter is in the public domain. The president would have to act swiftly as he did."

Chanda said President Lungu was disturbed to see the details of the fraud report.

"I can state that preliminary information given to His Excellency indicates US \$4.3 million doesn't reach the beneficiaries. I cannot say here that that money has been stolen, that money has been misapplied [or] that money has been misappropriated. What is very clear is that that money has not reached the intended beneficiaries [who are] the poor, because of some maladministration of the fund. We know from preliminary reports that it was misdirected to in some cases retirees, rehabilitation of infrastructure. If there is criminal culpability, again the investigative agencies will appropriately step in," he said.

Asked why the President fired Kabanshi alone leaving the rest of the people in the ministry who could also be implicated, Chanda said the new minister would help sweep the ministry.

"That is why the new minister was tasked to make sure that she gets down to work and help the ongoing efforts to identify the problems. So the Auditor General is very key in this regard. The president did

inform the ACC and DEC that he has taken administrative actions so they may wish to express interest and see whether any elements of criminal behaviour is there. So the clean-up continues. What I can't say is whether an act of corruption has occurred here. We want to be logical, we want to be fair and ensure that only proven cases of malpractice receive appropriate action and we cannot begin to finger point," Chanda said.

"But there is no sacrificial lamp. As I told you, the right to appoint or disappoint a minister is purely the preserve of the president in any case, if he chooses, he gives reasons for hiring and firing. There is no sacrificial lamp, for what? The president as you heard him say [that] there is no limit to how many substitutions he can make in government in order to make his administration function more efficient. The actions being undertaken are all intended to ensure that there is a restorations of this programme. Whatever government component contribution to the social cash transfer, will remain operational. It is our view that the donors will quickly return to finance this important programme. I am telling you that the government has been aware of all these things but the suspension [of aid] was not yesterday. What you saw yesterday and the other day is the sensational headlines but the action actually occurred two months ago."



News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

On face value, former minister of Community Development and Social Services Emerine Kabanshi stood out as the most decent and innocent Cabinet Minister. She was generally absent from the news headlines, save for a few occasions when she would officiate at a donor event or social cash transfer launch.

She could as well have been the most incompetent minister at the same time and we couldn't notice because her absence was too present. In fact, this is probably what cost her the job – too naïve. Honourable Kabanshi was too raw to work with experienced crooks in this government. She followed the wind and it has now blown away her dress, leaving her completely exposed while the real fraudsters have remained afloat.

There are many people out there who are defending the former minister, saying she is a sacrificial lamb. Maybe that is true in the context that corruption in this PF administration runs from top to bottom. The higher the office, the more corrupt it is. But we do not agree with the notion that Honourable Kabanshi was completely innocent. Yes, she is a political innocent and maybe she didn't understand that she would be the one to be sacrificed when the filth hits the fan, but she can't come out clean on this one.

# Kabanshi is a very innocent accomplice

In saying this, we are not suggesting that Honourable Kabanshi is guilty of pocketing any social cash transfer funds, but we can speak with confidence that she abused donor money to campaign for President Edgar Lungu. We witnessed her do this with other ministers who have remained in government.

In February this year, Honourable Kabanshi, Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Infrastructure Ronald Chitotela, and Luapula Province Minister Nixon Chilangwa, among other PF officials, used ZAF planes to fly to Luapula Province to campaign for President Lungu. At the said campaign rallies, Kabanshi, with help from other Cabinet Ministers, distributed tonnes of cash and thousands of cell phones to the voters in the name of social cash transfer benefits.

During that meeting, Kabanshi and her fellow ministers told the people that the money and cell phones they were receiving was coming directly from President Lungu because he was a caring leader. Kabanshi and her gang persuaded the people to vote for President Lungu in 2021 because he was the only one who could give them such amounts of money and free gifts.

“Ba Lungu bali bomba. Bali mupela ulupiya uwabalanda kuno ku Samfya, impendwa ifikile kuli 17,000 abantu bali pali social cash transfer. Ukufuma apo banamayo, mwe bali 2000 nalimiletela ama phone, namutampa nokufola ama K1,000 mwebali 2000. Bushe kukaba umuntu ukeisa mipela impiya efyo baLungu balemipela? Takwakabe aini? (Mr Lungu has worked. He gave you money for the

poor here in Samfya and the Social Cash Transfer programme has reached 17,000 people. And for the women, I already brought phones for 2,000 of you and you are already getting paid K1,000 each. Do you think anyone else will come and give you money the way Mr Lungu is giving you? There will be no one),” said Kabanshi.

“Social Cash Transfer nalamipela naiimbi ikeisafika 23,000 (Social Cash Transfer will reach more people so that it covers 23,000 people). Eh kumitemwa bamitemwa ba Lungu (this is how much Mr Lungu loves you). So, vote for him in 2021.”

While the bosses at ZamPost were buying luxury cars under the watch of Honourable Kabanshi, this is how the remainder of British aid was used to campaign for PF, as if it was the Presidential

Empowerment Fund. This minister was fully aware that money was being diverted from the intended elderly and vulnerable beneficiaries, and given to those who attended PF campaign rallies. She allowed the misuse of funds, thinking as long as she was campaigning heavily for President Lungu, she was safe.

Later, it emerged publicly that hundred thousands of social cash transfer beneficiaries were not getting their money. We asked Honourable Kabanshi on March 28 this year, why people were not receiving social cash transfer funds and her answer was that it was normal.

“That's normal; people should understand that government does not always have money. You know, what happens in our households is what happens at higher level, but

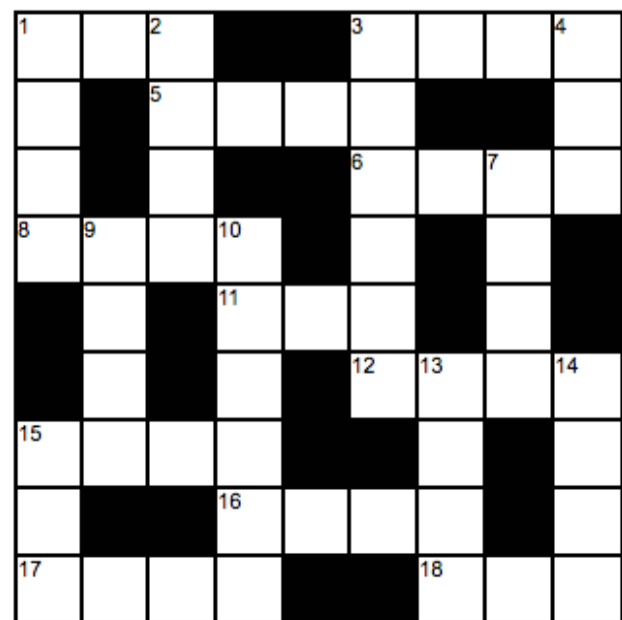
as a caring government, we are committed to this programme, and we will make sure that we pay them because there is no President who loves the poor more than this one. But for now, government has no money,” said Kabanshi.

Dear readers, Honourable Kabanshi has been used and flushed away like toilet paper, but her innocent public outlook will not fool us. She fully participated in the misuse of donor aid. Yes, it is extremely unfair and evil to single out a naïve participant like Honourable Kabanshi and throwing her in the dungeon, but this is a lesson to the rest of the remaining Cabinet ministers who are committing wrongs to please President Lungu.

When Honourable Kabanshi was distributing money and cell phones in Luapula, she was in a multitude. She was in the midst of experienced crooks who helped her dish out campaign gifts bought from donor money. Today, she has been isolated and shamed. The President whom she was trying to please has ordered the attack dogs to find her guilty so that he protects his own image.

Like we said before, this is a government of mafias, for mafias, by mafias. If you can't survive in a casino, leave now before you are destroyed. Kabanshi is gone, who is next?

## Crossword puzzle 192



*“The most dangerous thing in life is an incompetent that has been given a gun and a law enforcement badge.”*  
- Steven Magee

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|--|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vapor</li> <li>3. Trampled</li> <li>5. Split apart</li> <li>6. Unattractive</li> <li>8. Attire</li> <li>11. 6th sense</li> <li>12. Try to locate</li> <li>15. Prepare for publication</li> <li>16. On the other hand</li> <li>17. Loud crowd response</li> <li>18. Pecan or almond</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unruly group</li> <li>2. Our sun is one</li> <li>3. Surpasses</li> <li>4. Not night</li> <li>7. Misplace</li> <li>9. Citric ____</li> <li>10. Superior</li> <li>13. Tied score</li> <li>14. Shoelace problem</li> <li>15. Talent for music</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Solutions to puzzle 191





# Reader's feedback

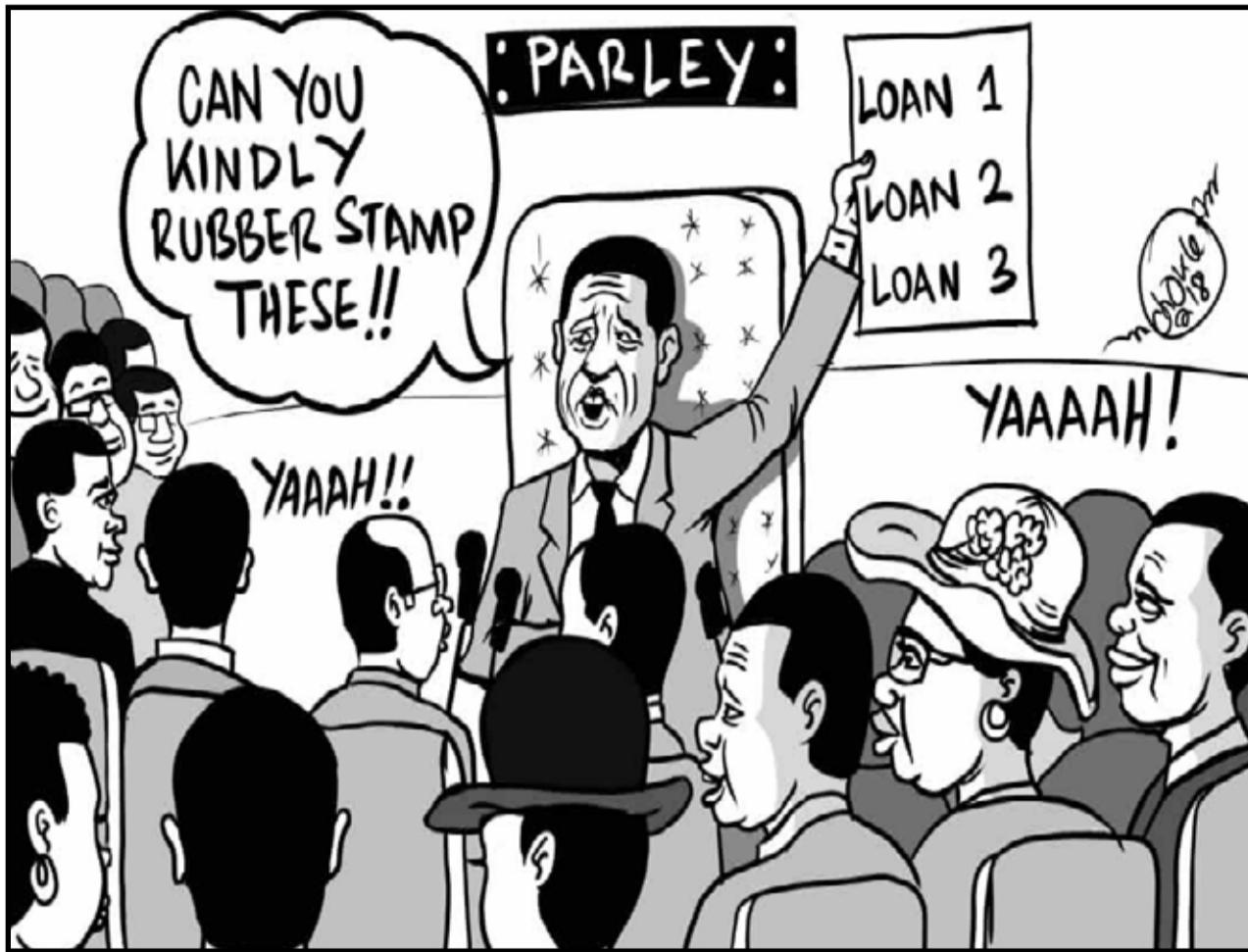
## ND OPINION: Like we said, Ministry of Religion is useless

"For the first time I have agreed with the Diggers! that the minister is useless for sure." - Essah Phiri

"Wouldn't agree more with you, thank you." - Numwa Mwangelwa Wamulume

"The people who support such wasteful initiatives at the very expense of the tax payers' money are the worst sinners that require serious rebuttal and secular psychological examination. Shame on this lady! What a joke modern Christianity has become." - Amos Chilufya

"I have always said the name of that Ministry is wrong. It should be Ministry of Christian Affairs. Religious Affairs is a wide phrase including the rest of the religions that are known to exist in Zambia. These include Rastafarians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hinduism and many more." - Sydney Skycastle



## Mutati's admission that his faction's relationship has issues with the PF

Editor,

"This MMD faction has got to be kidding me. They are gearing up to contest elections that will deal the final blow to their existence because PF will field candidates everywhere." - Mike Phiri

"This leader of the faction, which was deemed illegal, and his MPs will stand against PF in 2021. But Dr Mumba, as the legal leader, got into bed with the opposition." - Joe Mumba Kawimbe

"I thought Nevers Mumba was MMD party president...Mr Mutati, I can assure you, sir, that, if you contest in 2021, you will just waist your funds..." - Elvis K Makwangala

"You have been lowered more is coming! You will be dropped as minister soon, and you will cry." - Phillimon Mfula

"Focus on 2021 when your party is working with PF and you think you can be trusted!?" - Sikabenga Ng'anda

"Mutati is walking on a thin line; Nevers is not going to jail. ECL is way ahead of you." - Manda Mands

"Nothing surprising there, when alliances depend of feeding each other's greed eventually the relationship will break down when one party feels it can have a bigger share of the cake without the other. Mutati was used to kill off competition that is all and now PF have all." - Noah Clarke

## Luo's scheme to abolish UNZALARU for teaching moral decay to students

Editor,  
"With this government, every time people complain all you think of is banning them, and you say you're a listening government." - Ben Chibwe

"Unions can't hold government at ransom, but government can hold citizens at ransom with their demands: WhatsApp Tax, borehole tax, toll gates, maid salaries, mandatory HIV testing, electricity increment, TV levy increase, endless loans..." - Chris Hbc Kayombo

"Unions are legal entities. Let her go and check with Ministry of Labour. The problem is not the lecturers, but the employer who fails to meet the legal obligations. The matters at UNZA or CBU are all well-known and hinges on the employer owing employees a lot of money. People do not eat promissory notes. Pay for the services, period. GRZ must demonstrate to be a good employer. If madam Luo is offended by lecturers' behaviour, let her take the case to the relevant industrial relations court instead going to the media." - Cephas Mkandawire

"Dictatorship is finally here anyway civil servants supported this 'dununa govt' in the past elections so let them continue dancing; it's their time." - Temfuma Sam

"Are politics the enemy of civil servants? Why are their jobs always threatened when they offer grievances?" - Michael Wiz Simz

"I've always thought almost every year, lecturers always strike. Why? When their salaries are quite high, actually? Maybe her solution can work."

Teaching anywhere does not pay so much money. Anyone who cannot manage to teach anymore, well, let them find another job. It doesn't imply if you hold a masters or PhD degree, then you are automatically called to lecturer, no!" - Chrispine Chupa

"Well done, Professor. Unionism is simply politics unexercised forcing people to exercise their political competence to the detriment of organisations to appear relevant!" - Muyapekwa Namatama

## Lungu's sacking of Kabanshi after UK aid theft exposé

Dear Editor,

"In as much as it is a good thing that she has been fired, but I personally feel she has been sacrificed. She can't eat all that money alone. If she goes alone, then she has been sacrificed for the sake of the many in this issue." - Kennedy Siwale

"I still feel firing of Ms Kabanshi is not enough. I don't think she alone is involved in this graft. What about the PS, the Director for Social Welfare etc. Even Cabinet office; some people must go!" - Kafuli Davison

"It had to take foreigners to move this govt. So, if it wasn't for the funds that have been withheld, it could have been story after story. Now that they cannot eat from that source again, they quarrel and they are firing each other. Shame." - Muzumbwe Hakwaambwa

"FIC Report and many others? She is just been used to cover up and show he is working." - Posen Sheleni Mwanza

"If this is what they are doing with donor money, imagine what they are doing with Zambian tax payer money!" - Kaumba Mulanda

"As long as Dora Siliya is in Cabinet, this means nothing to me. I am waiting for Kampyongo, Chitalu Chilufya and Jean Kapata to go." - Janny M. Nyendwa



# Jet Airways: Passengers hurt as pilots 'forget' cabin pressure

More than 30 Indian passengers, some bleeding from their noses and ears, have received treatment after pilots 'forgot' to turn on a switch regulating cabin pressure, officials said.

Jet Airways flight 9W 697 from Mumbai to Jaipur turned back shortly after take off.

Videos tweeted by passengers aboard the plane showed oxygen masks deployed inside the aircraft.

The Boeing 737 aircraft, which was carrying 166 passengers, landed safely.

The aviation ministry has said the cockpit crew has been taken off duty pending investigation. Passenger Darshak Hathi tweeted a video of the interior of the cabin as air pressure dropped and oxygen masks came down.

Another passenger Satish Nair tweeted a picture of himself

bleeding from the nose, and complained that "the safety of passengers had been completely ignored" by the airline.

Lalit Gupta, a senior official of India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), told the Hindustan Times newspaper that the crew had forgotten to select a switch to maintain cabin pressure.

Jet Airways said in a statement that Thursday morning's flight had turned back "due to loss in cabin pressure" and "regretted" the inconvenience caused to its passengers.

"The B737 aircraft, with 166 guests and 5 crew landed normally in Mumbai. All guests were deplaned safely and taken to the terminal. First aid was administered to few guests who complained of ear pain, bleeding nose etc," the statement said. *BBC*



Rescuers search for survivors at the site of a landslide in Naga City, on the popular tourist island of Cebu. *AFP*

Donald Trump suggested the Spanish government tackled the Mediterranean migration crisis by emulating one of his most famous policies and building a wall across the Sahara desert, the country's foreign minister has revealed.

According to Josep Borrell, the US president brushed off the scepticism of Spanish diplomats – who pointed out that the Sahara stretched for 3,000 miles – saying: "The Sahara border can't be bigger than our border with Mexico."

Trump wooed voters in the 2016 election with his promise to build a "big, beautiful wall" across the US/Mexico border, which is roughly 2,000 miles long.

A similar plan in the Sahara, however, would be complicated by the fact that Spain holds only two small enclaves in north Africa – Ceuta and Melilla – and such a wall would have to be built on foreign territory.

Borrell's comments were made at a lunch event in Madrid this week and widely reported in the Spanish media. "We can confirm that's what the minister said, but we won't be making any further

comment on the minister's remarks," said a spokesman for the foreign ministry.

Trump is thought to have made his frontier recommendation when Borrell accompanied King Felipe and Queen Letizia to the White House in June.

Spain has found itself on the frontlines of the migration crisis, with more than 33,600 migrants and refugees arriving by sea so far this year, and 1,723 dying in the attempt.

## Trump urged Spain to 'build the wall' – across the Sahara

The increase in arrivals, amounting to three times the total for the same period last year, has meant Spain overtaking Italy and Greece as the main destination for migrants

crossing the Mediterranean. Spain's socialist prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, was widely praised for announcing that Madrid would take in the 630 refugees aboard the rescue ship

Aquarius. The refugees had been turned away by Italy and by Malta.

But the high number of arrivals on Spain's southern coast has strained reception facilities and

infrastructure. The issue has also been used as a political weapon by rightwing parties who accuse Sánchez's government of double standards and of being too soft on immigration. *YAHOO*

## Israel air force chief to give Moscow findings on plane downing

Israel's air force commander was set to lead a delegation to Moscow on Thursday to share the military's findings on the Syrian downing of a Russian warplane following Israeli air strikes.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has blamed Israel for the incident, which was the worst case of friendly fire between Moscow and his regime since Russian forces intervened in the war-torn country in late 2015.

The Russia-bound delegation, led by Major General Amikam Norkin, will "present the situation report... regarding all aspects" of the incident, the Israeli army said in a statement on Wednesday.

It will also provide information on "Iranian attempts to transfer strategic weapons

to the Hezbollah terror organisation and to establish an Iranian military presence in Syria", the statement said.

Syrian air defences shot down the Russian military plane on Monday, killing all 15 soldiers aboard, after Israeli missiles had struck the coastal region of Latakia.

Israel has vowed to stop its arch-foe Iran, which backs the Assad regime, from entrenching itself militarily in neighbouring Syria.

Earlier this month, it acknowledged having carried out more than 200 strikes in Syria over the past 18 months, mainly against Iranian targets.

After Monday's incident, the Russian military accused Israeli pilots of using "the Russian plane as a cover, exposing it to fire from Syrian air defences".

Israel denied the allegations, saying its jets were already back in its airspace when Syrian forces launched the missiles that hit the Russian plane.

In a letter to his Russian counterpart on Wednesday, Assad offered his condolences for the deaths after the plane was downed by Syria's Russian-made S-200 air defence system.

"This unfortunate incident was the result of Israeli arrogance and depravity," the Syrian leader said.

"We are determined that such tragic events will sway neither you nor us from continuing the fight against terrorism," he added in the letter published by the official Sana news agency. *AFP*

## South African arrested after racist rant against president

South African Kessie Nair has been arrested after using a racial slur to describe President Cyril Ramaphosa in a video that has been widely shared online. In the nearly five-minute long rant Mr Nair says that the president should be charged with "frauding this nation, for

oppressing this nation, for high treason for failing and he's the source to all crime violence poor healthcare, poverty that prevails in a so-called true democracy".

Mr Nair is due to appear in court on the charge of crimen injuria, which is defined as impairing the dignity of

another.

Earlier this year, Vicky Momberg was jailed on the same charge.

Mr Nair has defended his comments, which he posted on Facebook, saying that he was trying to get the nation's attention, *News24* reports

"Nobody wakes up one morning and makes a statement and a video like that on social media," he is quoted as saying. In the video, Mr Nair criticises the current government saying that it is continuing the policies of racial division. *BBC*



If only one French club was going to emerge victorious in the Champions League this week, probably very few thought that team would be Lyon, for all that they possess in their ranks a World Cup winner in Nabil Fekir.

France's Champions League trio all had extremely difficult assignments, with Lyon recording a stunning 2-1 win on Wednesday away to Pep Guardiola's Manchester City.

That contrasted with Paris Saint-Germain's 3-2 defeat in Liverpool a day earlier, while Monaco's limits were exposed as they went down 2-1 at home to Atletico Madrid.

Lyon's win was their best result in Europe since they reached the Champions League semi-finals in 2010, and came with the pressure growing on coach Bruno Genesio.

Their start to the Ligue 1 season has been poor, and they are already eight points behind leaders PSG after five games. But against City, with 10 players aged 24 or under featuring in Genesio's side, Lyon demonstrated what they are capable of.

Their goals came from Maxwel Cornet and captain Fekir, who shows no sign of being troubled by the knee issue that saw Liverpool pull out of a move for him in the summer.

"Nabil showed that our captain is back, well and truly back. He was decisive and was also exemplary when we didn't have the ball. I am very proud of my players," said Genesio.

He has been in charge for two and a half years but is not popular with all supporters -- disgruntled fans have draped the Groupama stadium with banners targeting Genesio,

# Lyon fly flag for France as PSG, Monaco disappoint in Europe

who has also been accosted by fans while walking in the

streets of the city.

However, he and his team

are now galvanised ahead of another huge match,

when they host bitter rivals Marseille in the league.

"We need to be able to put together a run of these performances, and we will need a repeat on Sunday against a team who are of Champions League standard," Genesio added.

Meanwhile, the inquest into PSG's defeat against Liverpool has focused largely on their problems in midfield.

The defeat in itself was no disgrace, and the result may not ultimately matter, but the manner of the performance from Thomas Tuchel's side was a cause for concern.

After five straight wins in Ligue 1, they were unable to deal with the step up against last season's Champions League finalists. *AFP*



Nabil Fekir celebrates at the end of Lyon's stunning win away to Manchester City.

## Pressure mounts on Buffaloes as executive demands sitdown over poor performances

By Alex Chilumbwe

Green Buffaloes Football Executive has summoned its senior football club to a meeting where the coach and his technical bench are expected to explain the club's continued descendancy on the league table. The club that topped the league in the first round and held on to second spot up to week 29 of the FAZ/MTN

league has in recent weeks been in free fall mode and now seats fourth on the table without a chance of taking home the coveted trophy this season. The football fraternity has mocked Buffaloes' inconsistency. 'Consistent title pretenders,' they are called. This is now the 3rd consecutive season in which Buffaloes lost their grip on the title fight

right at the depth of the season, and coach Biltone Musonda was evidently worried as he spoke to Goal Diggers! ahead of the meeting with his bosses. "It is very tricky for me because there is really not anything else I can do more than coaching. It does not

help me to work on the same mistakes and not getting the much needed good results. I will be there in the meeting almost dry because what am I supposed to say? We are losing and in important games while others are ascending on the table. We are going to be listening to

senior people as Zambia army demands and it will definitely be awkward. We are in the final throes of the season and not improving," bemoaned Musonda. Striker of the side Friday Sam could not also figure out where the problem was that kept the team from attaining maximum points in crucial games, and worried about his coach's peace in trying to contain pressure from his bosses. "We are putting our coach in pressure mentally. He has to keep trying out things that he thinks may work out but to no success. I believe there is no coach that trains his team for losses and it is even worse because other teams are winning important games. We are seeing Nkana ascending and it is all frustrating for everyone including fans," said Sam. On Wednesday, Buffaloes lost 1-0 to Kabwe Warriors while ZESCO United drew to police side, Nkwazi. Nkana football club keeps ascending and is now second-placed with 68 points while ZNS side kept the eagle hunting with 65 points and third on the table. Buffaloes also has 65 points and fourth on the table based on goal difference.

## Basketball league ties three teams at 16 points

By Alex Chilumbwe

Munali Suns, Matero Magic and Lusaka City Council (LCC) Looters have found themselves in a points triangle after each club played nine games and won seven in the Midlands Basketball league. The three clubs have 16 points each while UNZA Pacers is fourth with 15 points and above fifth placed Hawks that has 14 points. The three leading teams are characterized by unimaginable endurance and almost unbreakable physique in players whose usefulness is reduced by sharp shooters from Pacers and Hawks. Pacers and Hawks have equally played nine games each and each has lost three. In an interview with Goal Diggers! coaches from each side exchanged subtle shade and optimism that would keep their teams soaring to new heights. "I have very young but tactically gifted players.

They are also highly motivated and understand that a game needs to be enjoyed before it can be won. Unlike other clubs, I can make up to three first fives and they will still play like they were key players. You got to keep in mind that they are young, occupied with either work or school and are doing extremely well. It is their third season in the super league but pose the biggest threat to bigger teams," boasted Suns coach, Martin Muchena. Levy Nkandu praised his Looters side for solid team efforts and encoed on possibilities of winning the league title. "My players are the hungriest and it shows when they are playing. Of course I have key players that make most points but the team effort is also undeniable. It is a mixture of younger and older players whose experience helps the young ones stay composed and focused. There is a huge probability

we may win the league title," hinted Nkandu. Meanwhile, Matero Magic coach Obed Shamboko took pride in his boys' undisputed fighting spirit and experience from winning three championships, an international tournament and league titles. "My team understands better than others that we mean serious business on the court. We have able-bodied shooters, multi tasking forwards that can equally shoot and die-hard fans. It is a well organised side that will not give in until the final whistle. Their discipline is also something that helps them win," said Shamboko. The Midlands basketball league had kept a tradition of ushering Matero Magic and UNZA Pacers into league finals and championships for four seasons and this season's unpredictable table could be the remedy to change in the usual.



Pressure mounts on Buffaloes as executive demands sitdown over poor performances *P11*

# SHEPOLOPOLO JOURNEY ENDS

**By Alex Chilumbwe**

Zambia women national team yesterday lost 1-0 to Cameroon at the ongoing COSAFA tournament in South Africa. A goal from Edith Ngo late in the 78th minute of the game as enough to send the indomitable lionesses' through to the final at Shepolopolo's expense. Shepolopolo coach Beauty Mwamba expressed sadness over the loss and attributed it to one defence error. "It is a silly goal to allow, we could have done better. It was our second time playing them in this tournament so we should have done better. Chances were not created regularly either," said a disappointed Mwamba. Meanwhile, Cameroon coach Bernedette Among said she was happy her side carried the day, and praised Shepolopolo for a good fight. "It was not an easy, Zambia has an extremely good side. They are young but super talented. It was however going to be silly on our part to lose twice to one team.

We will now focus on the final and see how best we can approach it," said Among.

Zambia will on Saturday play for either third or fourth position against

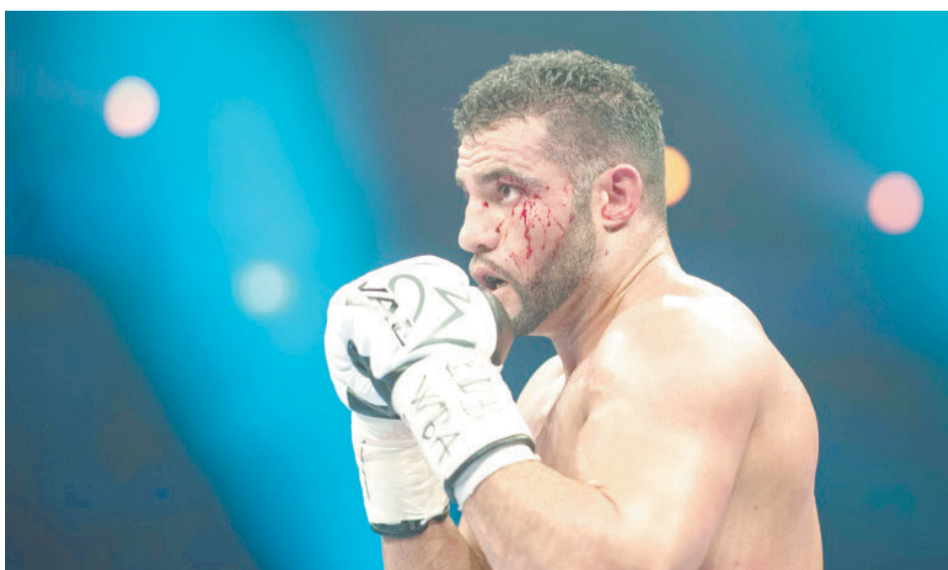
whoever is going to win between South Africa and Uganda. If Zambia wins

third position, it will be the second time they finish third in COSAFA, consecutively.

The two had already met in the group stages where Cameroon lost 1-0.



Ronaldo is astonished after a 29th minute red card ended his first Champions League game with Juventus prematurely at the Mestalla. Juventus went on to win 2-0 with Miralem Pjanic converting both goals from the spot in the 45th and 51th minutes.



Manuel Charr has had to call off his world heavyweight title defence next week after failing a drugs test. AFP



Paul Pogba thanks José Mourinho in sign of thawing relations. THEGUARDIAN