



MPS 'RIP' LUNGU'S SPEECH ...as PF members come to his defence

To page 4

State objects to accused cocaine traffickers' plea for private medical examinations

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The State has objected to the application by seven court officials and three businessmen accused of trafficking in 80.11 grams of cocaine which was an exhibit in another case, to undergo medical examinations at a health facility of their choice.

To page 2



First Lady with General Education Minister David Mabumba and Save the Children officials during a donation of Early Childhood Centres in Western Province yesterday

Fawaz questions Katanga for linking him to theft of copper

To page 7

Show integrity, reject pay rise - Dr Sacika

By Mirriam Chabala

Zambians would regard their President as a man of honour and integrity if he ordered the

reduction of his own salary, says former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika. And Dr Sacika says President

Edgar Lungu should cut down on the number of embassies the country has in various parts of the world if he is serious about

the austerity measures he recently announced.

According to the latest salary adjustment, President Edgar Lungu has increased his annual salary from K447,599 to K487,839, backdated to January 2018. This means that the President will now receive K487,839.00 as an annual salary, plus a special annual allowance of K129,413.00.

To page 6

Mukata intended to kill his security guard, insists State

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The State has submitted in the Court of Appeal that when former Chilanga UPND member of parliament Keith Mukata shot his security guard in the neck, he had intentions of killing the deceased hence his appeal should be dismissed and his sentence upheld.

To page 5

TIZ condemns Police for denying CSOs a permit to demonstrate at Parliament

Story page 2

Chamber of Mines calls for stable fiscal policy in 2019 national budget

Story page 6

>Statutory Audits
>Project Audits
>Accounting Services
>Tax Compliance
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By Zondiwe Mbewe

The State has objected to the application by seven court officials and three businessmen accused of trafficking in 80.11 grams of cocaine which was an exhibit in another case, to undergo medical examinations at a health facility of their choice. The State has submitted that the accused persons, who complained of undergoing torture while in police custody, can be examined by prison authorities because the prisons in Lusaka have medical facilities. In this matter, the 10 accused persons are accused of trafficking in 80.11 grams of cocaine which was an exhibit in a matter in which Sydney Mwansa, Shaibu Likuta and Teddy Matanda are jointly charged with trafficking, which is before magistrate Kenneth Mulife’s court. The businessmen are Eric Chipango, Emmanuel Chimba and Charles Nkhuwa, while the court officials are; Emmanuel Chirwa, Bearvan Mengo, Mathews Mukanda, Victor Nzaila, Florence Mushoka, O’Brian Muyunda and Didie Kangwa, a senior clerk of court. The 10 accused persons are facing one count of trafficking in narcotic drugs while Chimba, a businessman, has been

State objects to accused cocaine truffickers plea for private medical examination

slapped with another charge of trafficking in narcotic drugs and being in possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime. They had all denied the charges. However, out of the 24.19 kilograms of cocaine that is alleged to have gone missing , the suspects are only alleged to have trafficked in 80.11 grams, details on where the rest of the cocaine went remain unknown. The defence lawyers comprising of Keith Mweemba, Zevyanji Sinkala, state counsel Irene Kunda as well as other lawyers from legal aid board, had asked the court at the last sitting to order for a medical examination of the accused persons as they were allegedly tortured during their stay in police custody. They had also submitted that the state should not allow officers from

the Drug Enforcement Commission to be used as state witnesses once trial commenced because they were interested parties in the matter. And when the matter came up for a response from the State before a Kafue based magistrate Kawama Mwamfuli who sat in Lusaka, the State first apologised for coming to court late. They argued through Deputy Chief State Advocate in charge of taxation and financial management unit Gamaliel Zimba that they were not against the idea of the accused persons undergoing medical treatment but they were objecting to the application by the defence to have the accused persons examined at a medical institution of their choice. They submitted that the accused persons could be examined by prison authorities because the

prisons in Lusaka had medical facilities. “Your honour, we wish to state that we are not objecting to the application to have the prisoners undergo medical treatment or examination. What we are objecting to is that the said treatment or examination should be done at a medical facility of their choice. Your honour Part four of the Prisons Act Chapter 97 of the Laws of Zambia provides for the appointment and duties of medical officers in prisons. And it is a notorious fact that the prisons services in Lusaka do have a medical facility which they should attend to the concerns raised by the prisoners,” they said. The State questioned whether the information of the alleged torture had been brought to the attention of a medical officer at the prison the accused were detained. And on the defence’s submission that the State

should not allow officers from the DEC to be used as state witnesses once trial commenced because they were interested parties, the State argued that the defence’s submission amounted to them placing evidence on the record from the bar. “Your honour that issue as raised by the defence sits at the heart of these proceedings and is an issue that can not be disposed off without summoning for evidence. It was highly irregular for the defense to touch on matters bordering on evidence. In the midst of that argument by the defence, is that being raised with this court as a constitutional issue? What is it that the defence are seeking to this court by raising that issue?” they submitted. In response to the latter issue, the defence through defence lawyer Keith Mweemba argued that at no point did the defence invite

the court to adjudicate on Constitutional issues. “Obviously the State has not given any meaningful response because at no point did the defence either invite this court to adjudicate on Constitutional issues. We simply invited this court to take judicial notice of article 18 of the Constitution on fair trial. The reason for the invitation was that when full trial commences, there should be no argument of an afterthought from the prosecution because DEC are interested party. It is not in dispute that they once had custody of the same drugs,” they argued. They maintained their earlier submissions and asked the court to grant their application saying the allegations of torture were very serious and the accused persons could not be forced to be examined by the prison authorities because they were interested parties. The defence further argued that the State had failed to show the court any provisions of the law which prohibited an accused who was still presumed innocent, from seeking medical attention at an institution of his choice. “Section 17 of the Prisons Act has completely being cited out of context. This section contains a provissal and the State has failed to point at the provisions in the act to which this provision is subject. In fact the provision has nothing to do with medical examination on allegation of torture. The provision talks about the duties of a medical officer that’s all. As a matter of fact, the law does not exclude the requirement of the accused to be attended to by medical personnel of their choice,” they argued “Once again I invite this court to take judicial notice of the contents of another public record where this similar application arose and we were successfully granted by the court in the case of the people Vs Hakainde Hichilema and others. They cannot be forced to be examined by the prison authorities, the prison are interested parties. Allegations of torture are very serious. Do we trust prison authorities to give a fair report as to whether the accused persons were tortured or not? Some of the wounds they sustained at the hands of the state are healing and we need a very serious medical personnel to prove that indeed they were tortured.” The matter has been adjourned to October 3, at 09 hrs for ruling and possible trial and October 15, 17 for trial.

PF using police to push Zambia towards authoritarianism - TIZ

By Abraham Kalito

Zambia is heading towards an authoritarian’s system of rule as the country’s democratic space keeps on shrinking under the current leadership, says Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) executive director Wesley Chibamba. Commenting on the decision by the Zambia Police to deny Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) the right to demonstrate at Parliament Building during the budget presentation this Friday, Chibamba said the decision was clear example of an infringement of citizens’ rights. “It’s really sad that Zambia Police decided to deny the Civil Society Organisations the freedom, their rights to demonstrate and bring to the fore pertinent issues pertaining to public resource management. I followed the due process of the law by informing the Zambia Police using the Public Order Act that we will be conducting a peaceful demonstration around Parliament Building when the budget is being presented. What we have witnessed is that the democratic space has really shrunk during the PF administration than in any other administration! We don’t need to

get Zambia into an authoritarian state, but right now, all pointers are pointing in that direction and if we continue like this, if we continue with that negative direction, if you don’t allow people to [demonstrate], then we are heading towards an authoritarian system,” Chibamba said in an interview. “Of course, the purpose of this demonstration is to encourage government to be prudent in the way they manage public resources, but also for them to adhere to the provisions of the budget. You know, we should raise issues of misapplication of funds and all those things. But then we were denied, we needed to bring this to the attention of the public; we needed the public to rally behind us because we are all concerned. These are tax payers’ funds and we just wanted to remind the government of their responsibilities and to be accountable to the people. So, it is really sad that the democratic space in this country is shrinking to that extent and that is a typical example. Because when you want to use democratic means to demonstrate yourself, these spaces are closed, I mean we have been issuing statements to the government, but it doesn’t work.”

He said he did not understand why the CSOs were not allowed to demonstrate, nor the time of security needed to monitor the activity. “So, we thought maybe we should raise the profile of our grievance by conducting a peaceful demonstration, you know, by way of raising placards, but we were denied and the reason we were given is very confusing. We were told that this is the day that the national budget is going to be presented to Parliament and the security situation will not be conducive for us to do this. I mean, we know the day that the budget is bring presented, that is why we choose this particular day because the issues we are debating are related to the events that will be happening. And we were very categorical that this is going to be a peaceful demonstration. We don’t know what security situation they were referring to, but in essence, we think it is just an infringement of our civil rights because constitutionally, we have the right to demonstrate on issues that concern us and that we are not happy about. And currently, as CSOs, we are not happy with the management of public resources,” added Chibamba.

“We can see the number of scandals that have ceased the nation [when] it comes through public resource management. It is unfortunate that we were denied, and we are very sure that they are itching for us to go ahead and demonstrate so that they can arrest us. As CSOs, we should not be treated as political parties. I think our agendas are different. Ours is public interest so we should not be put in the same basket. But if the government knows what is good and they want to put public interest, we would urge them to reconsider the way they are applying the Public Order Act. They need to let people exercise their freedom and enjoy their rights. This is an infringement and if they continue doing that, then people begin to get frustrated. So demonstration is the best way to air grievances so that the powers that be can attend to those grievances and, collectively, you seek redress to correct those grievances that are there. But if those democratic spaces are closed, it means that you are closing the avenues are people will start to link up and the situation becomes volatile. We would urge the government to reconsider the way they are applying the Public Order Act, especially to the CSOs.”

By Mirriam Chabala

Opposition members of parliament have taken turns this week to rubbish President Edgar Lungu’s speech at the opening of the third session of the 12th National Assembly, arguing that it did not resonate with real issues obtaining on the ground. Itezhi-Tezhi UPND member of parliament Herbert Shabula charged that the President’s address was just a ‘Trojan Horse,’ full of rhetoric and completely hollow, while his Gwembe counterpart Attractor Chisangano said the speech was too long, but did not address the challenges that people were facing.

And Katuba UPND member of parliament Patricia Mwashingele said it was difficult for the opposition to work with the PF because they were withholding a lot of facts from their colleagues. Debating the speech in Parliament, Tuesday, Shabula said he sympathised with President Lungu for delivering such a speech to Zambians, adding that the people responsible for preparing his speeches were being unfair to the Head of State.

MPs rubbish Lungu speech as PF members come to his defence

“The President’s speech is just a Trojan Horse; this is a scapegoat. This speech is rhetoric and it is hollow! When you write a speech, or you are writing anything, you always put a theme. The theme gives you a direction, the theme is a vehicle which takes you to your destination. If you get on the wrong transport or vehicle, it will lead you nowhere. In this case, Mr Speaker, the person or the persons that prepared this speech for the President misguided him, they misled the President and I sympathise with him. I sympathise because his idea was that he would speak to his people; that he was going to come up and show the nation the direction in which he wants this country to go. That was his idea. But those that are given the

power, the authority and the trust to prepare his speech came up with this numbly thing,” said Shabula.

“Mr Speaker, I want to say that the people who prepared the President’s speech prepared it from an air-conditioned office. They did not prepare this looking at the rural constituencies. In this speech, the rural constituencies do not appear. Many of us here are rural MPs. In this speech, the President talks about Vision 2030, but you know vision is a French word, which means see. It says, ‘picture what you see,’ now when you say ‘Vision 2030’ you are saying, ‘what do we, as Zambians, want to see by 2030?’ The issue here is that, by 2030, these bench marks that have been put must be able to be realised. It is not that we are

going to start working by 2030, but that by 2030, people should be able to live a normal, better life in a middle-income nation.”

And Mwashingele said there was simply no collective responsibility in the PF government because there was no cooperation. She passionately argued that President Lungu’s Cabinet lacked empathy for the poor and ordinary Zambians.

“What am I going to tell the people of Katuba if the Executive does not put everything on the table? Collective responsibility means all the truths, all the facts are laid on the table and we move as a team. But if we can go and squander Social Cash Transfer meant for my grandfather, the poorest Zambians and my brother and sister out there, does

PF really have a heart for the people? No! Mr Speaker, love is an action word; if the Executive really say they love the people of this country, we don’t want them to say it, we want to see it being done! Then they can argue that they love the people of Zambia. I will give an example because, mainly, they may feel that we are just talking from without. But here is a man, the late Patrick Levy Mwanawasa, when he won elections for the first time, he won on a shoe string, but because he loved the people of this country with passion, the second time he was running, Levy Mwanawasa could sell a fridge in Iceland and people could buy. A lot of people changed because that man proved to us that he was passionate and loved the country,” Mwashingele argued.

“But if you can go and squander Social Cash Transfer, do you love the country? What country do you love? When we talk about collective responsibility in this country, we need to know where the Executive is taking the country. We should not even pretend that things are not wrong. And we should not only accuse those few just because others haven’t been caught in the web. And trust me; at the pace this country is going, the President may end up firing the whole Executive and fire himself because we are in a crisis! In fact, the President has threatened to do that and he’s got the capacity to do that. But we are saying he doesn’t need to do that if every honourable member in the Executive can be prudent and lay the facts on the table. We want to know what challenges the Ministries are going through. But, unfortunately, if you look at the President’s speech, there are a lot of contradictions...so as we get to the [national] budget, we just want to see a change of heart where we will put our priorities right. We want to know who is right and who is wrong. We don’t want sacrificial lambs. For me, I will still argue, Mr Speaker, that the former Minister of Community Development [Emerine Kabanshi] is a sacrificial lamb. If she’s a leper, we want all the nine lepers.”

Meanwhile, Gwembe UPND member of parliament Attractor Chisangano regretted that President Lungu’s speech failed to address all the challenges that the country was facing despite being very long.

“The President’s speech was too long, but the contents really didn’t address the challenges that the common Zambian is facing out there. This speech was too long in the sense that even the person who was reading it sounded tired. Mr Speaker, why I am saying so, the common Zambian out there is suffering. There are certain issues that the President mentioned that they have to be attained by 2030, but look at what is on ground. The President mentioned that every citizen should have access to quality education by 2030 and the only thing I heard in the speech was about the teacher

recruitment. But when you are talking about quality education, you look at so many things. There so many things that should be added up so that we achieve that quality education. What we have on the ground is really pathetic,” Chisangano complained.

“Why am I saying that? When you go to an area like Gwembe constituency, or any other rural constituency, when you are visiting a school, the first thing that you are going to see is an old flag, which is torn as if this country has no government! The next thing that will greet you is the infrastructure, which is thatched, it has cracks with no doors, no windows and with maybe four or five desks for the children; the blackboard is also torn. The infrastructure, really, you can’t talk about it. Then when you look at the number of teachers, you only have one teacher to teach from Grade one up to seven. Then you look at the teaching materials, they don’t have! There is nothing. And the ICT, which was recently introduced, there are no computers, there is no electricity and our children in the rural constituencies have to sit for exams, just like children in the urban areas where there are computers and there is electricity. Is that fair, really? So, the President should have talked about how they are going to improve education; we want quality education for all our children across the country. That quality education should include all the things that I have mentioned here. Let’s be fair to children of Zambia.”

But in defending the Presidential speech, Kafulafuta PF member of parliament Joseph Kabamba argued that it was not possible for the government to develop the whole country at once.

“Mr Speaker, just from the theme of the speech that the President presented, which said; ‘working together to achieve Vision 2030’, you can see that a country can only develop if we work together. We need to work together in providing solutions. Let us bring up solutions that can be appreciated, it will be very bad for each one of us and for the entire country if we will just be there condemning even when things are happening. You can’t tell us that there is nothing being done when the roads that you travel on are tarred. Some of you are even talking of some roads that have been done half-way. Come to Kafulafuta, we need some tarred roads, but not even a kilometre has been done, but we are patient with our government and we know that at one time, everything shall be well. We know that you can’t have development at one time throughout the country, it’s practically impossible. The economy doesn’t operate like that. So, this is just a matter of understanding that when the time is right, something is going to be done. So, let us be patriotic to our country and put Zambia first,” appealed Kabamba.

Uncontrolled small firearms pose a threat to elected govts – Interpol

By Tenson Mkhala

Small firearms have the potential to destabilize democratically-elected governments if not silenced, says Head of INTERPOL regional bureau and coordinator of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation Nawa Mubita. And African Union (AU) head of the defence and security division Einas Mohammed says porous borders and insecurity in other regions has had a direct impact on illicit weapon inflows circulated in the country. Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo has observed that illicit weapons and firearms have worsened conflicts on the African continent. Speaking during the official opening of the African Union Amnesty Month workshop for defence and security personnel in Lusaka, Mubita said small weaponry has the potential to destabilize democratically-elected governments if not silenced. “If not silenced, such situations have potential to destabilize democratically-elected government as anarchy takes root; citizens are compelled to lose confidence in the established security architecture and governance structure, thereby, taking the law in their hands. Such a scenario is often cyclical as illicit proliferation of guns increases for self-defence, giving criminals a fertile ground to commit serious crimes,” Mubita warned. He also said small firearms and light weapons in the hands of criminal elements remained a serious threat to world peace. “Small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminal elements are serious threat to world peace. Firearms are often used to commit heinous crimes that includes, among others, aggravated robberies, car-jacking’s, rape, human trafficking and poaching of wild life, creating a sense of insecurity in any given nation,” Mubita added. And Mohammed said illicit inflows and circulation of weapons and firearms in the country could intensify crime and inter-communal conflict. “While Zambia has long-enjoyed security and stability, porous borders and insecurity in other parts of the region has a direct impact on illicit weapons

inflows and circulation into the country, which can in-turn intensify crime and inter-communal conflict. This is why Africa Amnesty Month remains of high relevance and benefit to the country,” Mohammed said. She noted that the majority deaths in Africa were caused by small firearms. “The majority of deaths in Africa are caused by small arms. The availability of weapons can significantly shape the dynamics, scope and severity of the conflict, thereby, undermining and complicating peace-making and peace-keeping in the region. Arms acquired by non-state groups, including rebels, terrorists and criminals have and continue to cause widespread loss of life, destruction and disabilities. Illicitly-

[acquired] arms also enables a range of human rights and humanitarian law violation, including forced displacements, gender-based violence and attacks against peacekeepers and building and reconstruction efforts,” Mohammed added. Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo observed that illicit weapons and

firearms had worsened conflicts on the continent. “Illicit weapons and firearms have worsened conflicts on the continent and undermines sustainable social and economic development. As you are aware, the African Amnesty Month is centred on voluntary surrender of all illicit weapons and firearms by members of the public to law enforcement

agencies. It, therefore, seeks to contribute to the African Union’s ambitious programme of silencing the guns on the continent and is anchored on commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict on the continent,” said Kampyongo. The African Amnesty Month has been observed by all African Union member-states of the since September, 2017. It seeks to help rid Africa of illicit weapons and firearms, which have worsened conflicts.

Govt still owes NCZ K24.4 million – Katambo

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Agriculture Minister Michael Katambo says government currently owes Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) K24.4 million. And Katambo has announced that a total of 93,478 metric tonnes of D-Compound and 65,751 tonnes of Urea fertilizer have been distributed to the targeted districts so far. Speaking in Parliament, Tuesday, when he issued a ministerial statement, and responding to a written question from Kafue UPND member of parliament Mirriam Chonya, Katambo told the House that government owes NCZ K24.4 million in unpaid dues. “Government owes NCZ a total of K24,368,288.88 and the government is committed to paying the debt owed to NCZ, and has been making monthly payments of K6 million. The debt owed to NCZ will be paid as and when funds will be made available as per contract,” Katambo announced. Heo said NCZ has not commenced production of fertilizer because it was unable to acquire raw materials due to its debt owed to raw material suppliers. “The NCZ has not commenced the production of fertilizer because it was unable to acquire role materials for the production of fertilizer. In addition, NCZ was also unable to acquire spare parts for repair and maintenance of the plant equipment and machinery. These challenges are as a result of unpaid debt owed to suppliers of raw materials and spare parts by NCZ. NCZ was not contracted to participate in the direct input supply because NCZ

was not ready to participate in the programme due to the challenges highlighted,” Katambo added. “I did indicate that there is supposed to be good will. Management at NCZ should also make a decision to participate. The companies that have been contracted to supply fertilizers where NCZ will be considered are Nerious Investments; Rock Lift Trading; Nyimba Investment and Zambian Fertilizer. So, NCZ has room, Madam Speaker, to participate in this farming season or in this implementation of the e-voucher FISP season.” And Katambo announced that a total of 93,478 metric tonnes of D-Compound and 65,751 tonnes of Urea fertilizer have been distributed to the targeted districts so far. “Under the direct supply of inputs, a total of 373,616 farmers in 54 districts will be serviced in preparation for the district supply of inputs to the farmers. Contracts for supply of D-Compound and Urea fertilizers have been awarded to four companies. To-date, a total of 93,478 metric tonnes of D-Compound and 65,751 metric tonnes of Urea fertilizers have been distributed to the targeted districts. I am delighted to state that all the fertilizer suppliers are currently delivering stocks to the designated districts. To-date, 65 per cent of D-Compound and 81 per cent of Urea fertilizer has been positioned in the targeted districts. The Ministry has

also just completed the tender process for seed suppliers. A total of 10 seed companies have been engaged to supply assorted seed varieties to beneficiary farmers. All seeds stocks are expected to be in the districts by 31st October, 2018,” said Katambo. “Madam Speaker, the

other 64 districts, target beneficiaries will be serviced through the e-voucher system using card-less mechanism with all eligible agro-dealers participating in the input supply. A total of 626,384 farmers are targeted under the e-voucher system or the 2018/2019 agriculture

season. Under the card-less system, farmer deposits will confirmed in the system and an electronic voucher, or code, will be generated and issued to the farmers. The Ministry has engaged seven banks and two non-banking institutions to participate during the 2018/2019 season.”

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Hold press conference, respond to citizens' concerns, Brebner urges President Lungu

By Mirriam Chabala
Civil rights activist Brebner Changala has advised President Edgar Lungu to hold a press conference where he will address all the concerns that people have been bringing to his attention. Speaking to News Diggers, Changala wondered why President Lungu had opted to leave all matters affecting the country to be handled by his Spokesperson Amos Chanda. “PF has turned corruption into their legacy. Corruption, high taxes and abuse of power, that is their legacy. So the President must conduct a press conference where he’s going to speak to us through you guys in

the media. He can’t just keep on gallivanting all over the show when we have so many problems as a country. And he has surrendered Amos to us, but us we don’t know Amos, he was not on the ballot paper,” he said. “There are issues that the President himself must answer and they are plenty. Zambians have lost their citizenship to the Chinese through him. The President is the conduit of colonisation, Zambians don’t have any contracts or any employment because anything that glitters in this country belongs to foreigners. Zambians have been relegated to second class citizens. So the President must explain,

when did we authorise him to surrender this country to the foreign powers? He must answer all those questions.” He said the fact that Chinese were making roads was not reason for citizens to lose their right to them. “By making roads all over and making the streets impassable, that is not the reason why we should lose our right to know what is going and who is going to pay. Zambians don’t even know what is going on, they just wake up and find the road is closed because the Chinese are making up this and that and the President tells you in Bemba to say ‘aba bonse abalepanga icongo fipuba basele tubombeko (all

those people making noise are fools they should leave me to work) but naifwe tulefwaya tubombeko (we also want to work). We want to work in our right. We have been working before Mr Lungu came to power, but now our right to work has been disrupted. So you should look for President Lungu and ask him to explain why he’s running away from the people of Zambia. He should tell us that and I hope you find him,” he said. Meanwhile, Changala questioned the morality

of people who have been attacking British High Commissioner to Zambia Fergus Cochrane-Dyet for confirming that Britain had frozen donor aid to Zambia. “There are two people here who have confirmed theft, that is the President and the British High Commissioner but I have seen in the last two days that people are going for the neck of the British High Commissioner. They are even writing editorials against the British High Commissioner and they

have gone on the streets to collect every jim and jack to comment in the negative against the British High Commissioner. They are failing to go for the neck of the President, we want to find out why. Why are they not going for the neck of the President who has already shown that money is missing disciplining one of his cabinet ministers. Are they telling us that Emerine Kabanshi must be reinstated since money has been found? Are they telling us that the President must apologise to Emerine Kabanshi?,” asked Changala. “And from this same talk, I am appealing to you the media. Can you find a way of cornering the President to come and talk to the nation. There are a lot of issues that we would love to discuss with our President, can he stop running away from you the journalists who are our conduit between the powers that be and we the governed. We don’t want Amos Chanda to be speaking to us, Amos is just there to protect his job. He is not an elected officer to talk about policy and other important issues. We need the President to engage the people of Zambia, period! The president has been running away from the people of Zambia for too long. He’s able to talk to the Chinese, he’s able to talk to his friends. But what about the electorate? When is he going to talk to us? There are a lot of things that have gone wrong in this country.”

Mukata intended to kill his security guard, insists State

By Zondiwe Mbewe
The State has submitted in the Court of Appeal that when former Chilanga UPND member of parliament Keith Mukata shot his security guard in the neck, he had intentions of killing the deceased hence his appeal should be dismissed and his sentence upheld. The State has further submitted that there were no extenuating circumstances that could have caused Mukata to shoot at his security guard. In February this year, Judge Susan Wanjelani sentenced Mukata to death by hanging for the murder of his security guard, but acquitted his co-accused and lover Charmaine Musonda on all counts. In her judgment, Justice Wanjelani said she was convinced beyond reasonable doubt that Mukata’s guard died from gun shots, which were discharged by him. However, on Tuesday, defence lawyers asked the Court of Appeal to acquit Mukata of murder for lack of evidence linking him to the death of his security guard. The lawyers who included; Mutemwa Mutemwa, Kasumpa Kabalata, Milner Katolo, Keith Mweemba and Wilis Muhanga submitted that High Court Judge Susan Wanjelani erred by admitting evidence, which

was not on record, which led to the conviction of Mukata. They submitted that there was no medical confirmation by the post-mortem report to prove whether in fact the deceased died as a result of the gunshot. They submitted that the pathologist in his evidence did not touch on the cause of death, but only gave evidence on the size of the wound, adding that the judge erred in-law and fact when she convicted Mukata purely on circumstantial evidence, which had the potential to draw more than one inference. But when the matter came up, Wednesday, in the

Court of Appeal before a three member-panel led by justice Chalwe Mchenga, the prosecution team, led by deputy chief State Advocate Monica Mwansa, submitted that Mukata was properly connected to the offence and was not distanced at any stage from the murder scene. They submitted that investigations had further revealed that the firearm, which was on the scene, belonged to Mukata. The State submitted that the deceased had three gunshot wounds and it was not in dispute that he died from those wounds. They added that the trial court had ruled that the

evidence of two State witnesses had confirmed the evidence of Mukata when he said he had fired three gunshots. “As such, the findings of the court matched the evidence on record. We submit that the appellant before you has been properly connected to the shooting of the deceased whose body was found at the scene. It is also our submission that the appellant had the gun, and after the shooting incident, he hid it under a plate in a basket,” they submitted. The State further said Mukata knew what he was doing and he had intentions of killing the deceased,

adding that the position of the bullet wounds, which were on the neck of the deceased, proved that. They further submitted that in trying to help the deceased and in concealing the gun, Mukata wanted to conceal his guilty conscious. The State submitted that there were no extenuating circumstances that could have caused Mukata to shoot at his security guard. They urged the court to dismiss Mukata’s appeal and uphold both the conviction and sentence. The matter has been adjourned to Friday for Mukata’s lawyers to make their defence.

Lusaka woman sues RDA for constructing a road on her property

By Zondiwe Mbewe
A woman of Lusaka West has sued the Road Development Agency (RDA) and the State in the Lusaka High Court for allegedly constructing a road on her property and extensively damaging the foundation of her piggery project. Everligher Ndhlovu, is demanding K200,000 which RDA has already agreed to pay as compensation. In statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court,

Monday, Ndlovu submitted that some time in March 2016, she went to inspect her land only to find that a road had been constructed through the property and that a foundation that was being constructed for a piggery project, was extensively damaged and completely buried. She stated that a road which was now being

used by members of the public, as well as, an illegal bus stop had been set up without her consent. Ndlovu stated that upon inquiries, she found out that a company which was working in Ngwerere had closed off Ngwerere Road and decided without her consent, to construct a road bypass over the property. She stated that when that

company was written to, they replied that they got their mandate from RDA. “It was discovered that the company that constructed this road bypass was called SAFRICAS Zambia. When the plaintiff discovered who had trespassed into her property, she informed lawyers, who in turn wrote a demand letter to the said company. Upon

receipt of the letter, the company SAFRICAS replied that they got their mandate from RDA and members of the public,” read the statement of claim. She now claims the sum of K200,000 which RDA has already agreed to pay, restoration of the damaged land which was used as a road bypass to its original state and the closure of the current illegal road and bus stop, damages, costs and any other reliefs the court may deem fit.

By Stuart Lisulo
The Zambia Chamber of Mines has called on government to maintain the same mining fiscal policy for continued stability and predictability. And the Chamber has advised government to enhance indigenous ownership in the mining sector by adopting measures to encourage locals to invest in exploration. Ahead of the 2019 national budget presentation tomorrow, Zambia Chamber of Mines president Nathan Chishimba advised government to maintain the mining fiscal policy to ensure stability and continued growth in the mining sector. On February 17, 2016, Cabinet approved new mining tax measures that saw the re-designing of the tax regime for mining operations in a bid to sustain mining operations that were badly hit with a dramatic fall

Mines call for stable fiscal policy in 2019 budget

in copper prices, which were subdued at below US \$5,000 per tonne in 2015. Among the key measures was the introduction of a varied mineral royalty rate for copper based on the prevailing price on the international market, commonly referred to as the 'sliding scale'; a flat mineral royalty rate of five per cent for other base metals and a flat mineral royalty of six per cent for precious metals and gemstones. This followed the ill-fated 2015 mining fiscal regime, which had a two-tier regime characterised by a mineral royalty tax for open cast mines and underground

operations. Since those changes made a couple of years ago, the mining sector has enjoyed relative stability, buoyed by copper prices that remain above US \$6,000 per tonne. "The Zambia Chamber of Mines has reiterated its call for stability in mining policy. We are confident that stability in the fiscal and regulatory regime for mining, complimented with a few more non-cash actions, such as restoring working capital tied up in Value Added Tax refunds by offsetting against dues going forward, will go a long way in positioning the Zambian mining industry

for double digit growth," Chishimba stated in a press release issued in Lusaka, Wednesday. "From current indications, Zambia can grow the sector to produce one million tons of copper per annum and then further upward to 1.5 million tonnes per annum, which is double the 1972 pre-nationalization production levels, within the next six years. With continued stability and a focus on growth, Zambia will easily attract exploration capital to extend the copper mining industry's life beyond the twenty years of present proven bankable reserves of 20 million tonnes."

He added that the mines also seek limits of capital allowance claims for equipment, among others. "The other thing industry seeks is the removal of capping of carry forward loss tenure to ten years and the limiting to below 100 per cent of capital allowance claims for equipment and mine building expenditure in a year. This will shorten the break-even period for mining expansion and new projects, thereby, making the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces more attractive to mining company managers, institutional shareholders and financiers than it is

presently," Chishimba added. And Chishimba, who is also Barrick Lumwana's executive director, advised government to enhance local ownership in the mining sector by adopting measures to encourage Zambians to invest in exploration projects. He stated that government should offer Zambians tax rebates when they buy shares in such projects. "As a further means of enhancing Zambian ownership in the mining sector, we have also proposed that the State takes measures to encourage Zambians and Zambian institutions to invest in exploration by offering them tax rebates when they buy shares in such projects. We believe this will offer a bright future along the lines that our neighbour Botswana has enjoyed over their last 40 years of policy stability in their mining sector," stated Chishimba.

Prove your integrity by ejecting pay rise, Sacika challenges Lungu

By Mirriam Chabala
Zambians would regard their President as a man of honour and integrity if he ordered the reduction of his own salary, says former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika. And Dr Sacika says President Edgar Lungu should cut down on the number of embassies the country has in various parts of the world if he is serious about the austerity measures he recently announced. According to the latest salary adjustment, President Edgar Lungu has increased his annual salary from K447,599 to K487,839, backdated to January 2018. This means that the President will now

receive K487, 839.00 as an annual salary, plus a special annual allowance of K129,413.00. Others whose salaries have also been raised are the current Secretary to the Cabinet and his deputy, Permanent Secretaries, Auditor General, Director of Public of Prosecutions, Attorney General, Solicitor General and the Public Protector. In an interview, Dr Sacika condemned the recent salary adjustments for the Head of State and other selected government officials in the face of austerity measures. He said Zambians would be proud of President Lungu if he slashed his own salary

in the spirit of abiding to austerity measures. "In the situation in which we are, Zambians would regard their President as a man of honour and integrity if he ordered the reduction of his own salary and salaries of his ministers. And if he took other austerity measures to mend the economy, such as closing a third of our embassies abroad, most of which are completely unproductive. Zambia does not need a number of embassies abroad. Secondly, the government bureaucracy is too big and expensive to run! We have too many ministers, too many permanent secretaries and to many bureau chiefs

who are doing very little, but getting paid fat salaries. It is actually a shame that the Social Cash Transfer scheme is supported by the donors. Such programmes should be supported from our own resources," Dr Sacika said. He observed that President Lungu was failing to give national direction on critical matters. "The challenge President Lungu is facing is that, he does not want to manage situations, he wants to be managed by situations. He also does not want to appear to be politically-sensitive to the situation. Leaders are not ordinary workers like doctors in our hospitals. Leaders have a sacred duty

to lead their people and to manage situations in such a way as to safeguard safety and the welfare of the people they lead. That is why leaders must make sacrifices in order to achieve the common good. While our President may feel that he is entitled to a salary increase, this is not the time for him to entertain such ideas because our economy is hurting for the ordinary people," Dr Sacika said. "Retirees are not getting paid their retirement benefits. Pensioners under the Public Service Pensions scheme are receiving pension from as little as K200 per month. The country is in serious debt right now [and] the economy is also under-performing. At the bottom of all this is that the government is cash strapped! The government has no money, the demands being made on its coffers exceed what is available in the coffers. These are the problems that the President must find answers to. If, as a leader, he does not make sacrifices, how does he expect the ordinary Zambians to make sacrifices? Leaders must lead by example. If the situation demands austerity, leaders must be in the forefront making sacrifices." Dr Sacika also said the austerity measures that the President recently announced were non-existent because they were not being implemented. "The austerity measures that the President announced are not [even] there, I can't see any austerity measures. Making an announcement and producing a result are two different things. As

an ordinary Zambian, I don't see that there are any austerity measures being applied in order to mend our economy. To me, it looks like business as usual. For the austerity measures to be effective, they must be done on a larger scale. Why do we have so many Zambian Missions abroad? Do you know how much we are spending just to run one embassy? We are spending huge sums of money just on running one embassy. If the President wants to be seen to be a person who is concerned, those are the areas he must be touching on. There is absolutely no reason why Zambia should spend so much money on maintaining a huge number of embassies, which are largely unproductive," said Dr Sacika. "There is no reason why the President should have such a big Cabinet; there are too many Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who are doing very little. He needs to cut down on the size of Cabinet he has. Those are tangible austerity measures that will produce the desired result, not cutting down on trips, and he hasn't cut down on trips, anyway. Himself, civil servants, his ministers are traveling everyday drawing huge allowances! So, taking cosmetic measures or talking about austerity measures, which will have no impact whatsoever on the economy is a complete waste of time. In short, the President's austerity measures are not sufficient and they are not assisting our economy."



Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyongo shares a light moment with defense advisor at the Zambia embassy in Ethiopia accredited to the African Union Brigadier General Getrude Mwale during official opening of the African Union Amnesty Month workshop at Mika Convention Centre in Lusaka on Tuesday – Picture by Tenson Mkhala

Peacekeeping faces challenges: here’s how we can meet them

By Jean-Pierre Lacroix

United Nations peacekeeping remains one of the most effective tools to respond to today’s challenges of global peace and security. Every day, women and men who serve under the UN flag, put their lives on the line, protecting millions of civilians at risk, supporting fragile political processes and sustaining peace. They have been successful in helping countries like Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire return to peace.

UN peacekeeping faces increasingly difficult challenges, including attacks against our peacekeepers, complex mandates, and uneven political support. Peacekeeping is essentially a collective endeavour: a partnership. It only works if all partners step up and carry their share, including the Security Council, troop and police contributors, the UN Secretariat, regional organizations and host countries. We require strong, collective action if we are to succeed in addressing these challenges. This is why the Secretary-General launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative on 28 March to reinforce these commitments and help us succeed on the ground where it matters most.

Following intensive consultations with all Member States as well as intergovernmental organizations, the Secretary-General put forward a document of Shared Commitments to all Member States for their endorsement.

This Declaration lays out a number of mutual commitments that aims to concretely improving the impact and effectiveness of our operations: stronger support for political efforts, stronger commitment to improve training, equipment and performance and stronger partnerships.

For our part, we have already begun implementing a number of actions. This includes improving performance, mindsets and support for our peacekeepers by implementing our Action Plan on safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

Much work remains to be done, but we are already seeing the effects of our collective efforts.

Seventeen peacekeepers have lost their life due to acts of violence so far this year, compared to 26 in the same period last year. While this represents a significant decrease, we must remain vigilant against continuing threats. Each and every peacekeeper killed is one too many.

In many of our missions, peacekeepers are responding more effectively to threats and attacks.

I recently returned from Mali and I saw firsthand the positive changes MINUSMA has made. Many of our



camps are better protected thanks to the use of more advanced systems that detect threats. Our peacekeepers in places such as Aguelhok and Tessalit are conducting more patrols to protect populations despite significant threats. Changing mindsets and enhancing the preparedness of troops is helping to significantly limit casualties during attacks, such as against our base in Timbuktu last April, when the perpetrators were met with a strong response.

We have also undertaken a series of independently-led reviews of peacekeeping missions to assess mandates and determine whether we have the appropriate strategies and resources to meet our objectives.

We are strengthening cooperation with key partners, especially the African Union and European Union.

Despite our full commitment towards implementing these initiatives, UN peacekeeping cannot succeed without the engagement of all our partners.

Strengthening peacekeeping also means helping countries who provide us with troops and police, including by supporting training needs to ensure we deploy personnel equipped and prepared to accomplish these tasks.

Similarly, Member States are also key to our efforts to increase the number of women in peacekeeping at all levels. More women in peacekeeping means more

effective peacekeeping. Women are only 21% of our personnel and we must collectively do better.

Ensuring that all United Nations personnel maintain the highest standards of conduct must be at the heart of our collective efforts. In recent years, we have done more to strengthen accountability and transparency, raise awareness and provide better support for victims. However, we must continue to work harder and closely with Member States who possess the authority to hold all categories of personnel accountable for criminal conduct.

We are fully committed to playing our part to strengthen peacekeeping. The Declaration of Shared Commitments that more than 135 countries have already signed (and remains open for more endorsements) is an important and meaningful first step. But we now collectively need to implement on the ground where it matters most and where people are counting on us the most.

Peacekeeping deploys to some of the most complex and difficult places, protecting the most vulnerable. For hundreds of millions, it’s the last best hope. It needs all our support.

The author is Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Shawki Fawaz’s lawyers Magubbwi and Associates have written to Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga, telling her to retract a police statement in which she alleged that copper concentrates destined for Chambeshi Smelter were diverted to Shawki’s mining plant, Markov Investments Company.

Shawki’s lawyers explained that their client was not in any way associated to the said company, and neither is he a shareholder nor director.

On Sunday, police on the Copperbelt arrested 19 youths and a mastermind who diverted a truck loaded with 32 bags of copper concentrates weighing 32,000 Kgs.

Fawaz questions Katanga over ‘malicious’ police report

Katanga had said the truck was diverted at Markov Mining Plant, which belonged to Shawki Fawazi. She explained that the truck was coming from Chinsenda Mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and destined for Chambeshi Copper Smelter before it was diverted.

But in a letter, Tuesday, Shawki’s lawyers disputed Katanga’s statement, insisting that their client was not in any way associated with the said Markov Mining Plant. They added that Katanga’s

statement was a total misrepresentation of facts. “It has come to our client’s attention that you did issue a press release indicating that copper concentrates destined for Chambeshi Smelter was diverted to Markov Investments Company Limited Mining Plant and that the said plant belonged to Mr Shawki Fawaz, our client. As you may be aware, the print media has adopted and published your statement and therein repeated your implication of our client,”

they stated. “We find it critical and imperative to draw your attention to the fact that, our client is not in any way associated with the said Markov Mining Plant as he is neither a director nor shareholder therein and, therefore, your press statement to the extent it refers our client as the owner of the plant, is a total misrepresentation and fabrication.” The lawyers further stated that it was regrettable that Katanga issued a statement

without the due care of establishing facts. “Our client finds it regrettable that the statement was issued without the due care of establishing his non-privity to the said company, and indeed, the circumstances that culminated into your press release. Had your office taken the reasonable effort and exercise of verifying the ownership of the said company, the false implication of our client could have been avoided,” they argued. The lawyers stated that

Katanga’s unverified statement had bleached their client’s reputation and if not retracted, would damage him. “It is obvious that your unverified press release has bleached our client’s reputation, and if not corrected or retracted, will serve to effect serious reputation damage to him. In the circumstances we are instructed to request your good office to correct the impression and disassociate our client from the subject company and circumstances under reference of your press release or statement. Your good action of causing a retraction and corrective press statement will be appreciated and hoping this is done with utmost haste,” appealed Shawki’s lawyers.

Sometimes it feels like we are watching one of those Apartheid movies where black citizens are beaten into doing unpaid hard labour, while the minority white rulers are plundering national resources and living lavishly out of the sweat of the poor. But this is real and it is happening “black on black” right here in Zambia, in front of our eyes.

Some people don't feel the pain of the Patriotic Front's rule because they forget too easily. So we will put things into perspective for a few of our readers who may think we just condemn the PF without any basis for our criticism.

Here is the tale of the tape: President Edgar Lungu has increased his annual salary from K447,599 to K487,839, backdated to January 2018. This is right in the face of austerity measures announced by his own government. His ministers too have awarded themselves salary hikes.

Before this development, government refused to give in to the demands of better conditions of service from civil servants. So, no pay rise for the government worker. As if that is not enough, they banned these poor civil servants from

News

Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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PF under Napoleon

commuting their own leave days to earn some extra income. Government doesn't want a bloated wage-bill, unless that wage-bill is for Cabinet.

Next, the Patriotic Front government announces sudden cash deducted from civil servants' salaries who were educated from government loans. While the government leaders are failing to meet the State's obligation on loan repayments due to dwindling revenues, they start forcibly extorting debt repayment from civil servants.

What about the former ministers who illegally stayed in office after the dissolution of Cabinet? They got paid handsomely for whatever illegal activities they were doing to make sure that they hand the presidency back to Lungu. The courts have ruled against them,

asked them to repay the salaries they illegally got. Has government forced forced them to pay back? NO!

In the face of this injustice, government goes further to increases the minimum wage of civil servants' domestic workers to as high as K1,000 per month. So, the little that remains after all the deductions must be paid to the maid; and they say 'if you can't pay, don't employ' – forgetting that the government itself is failing to pay those that it has employed.

How can our government leaders persuade us to tighten our belts and face the harsh austerity conditions when the President with his ministers are paying themselves more, getting fatter and loosening their belts? This is evil of the worst kind.

This regime reminds us of the 1917 Russian

Revolution tragedy that is well depicted in George Orwell's book "Animal Farm". The Patriotic Front's rule is not any different from the rule of Napoleon at the Manor Farm.

Old Major dies just three days after proposing a rebellion. Three young pigs (Snowball, Napoleon, and Squealer) lead the resistance. When the farm owner Mr. Jones gets drunk one night, the animals drive him and his men off the farm.

Together, the pigs write the Seven Commandments of Animalism, a new political philosophy that declares all animals equal. Under the pigs' leadership, the farm animals work hard to bring in the harvest and build an idyllic society.

Snowball and Napoleon fight for

power and control of Animal Farm. Napoleon uses specially trained dogs to run Snowball off the farm into exile.

Napoleon then makes false promises of comfort and prosperity to the other animals. But life gets worse on the farm, as the pigs assume the supreme role of Mr. Jones the farm owner, and a dictatorship is born.

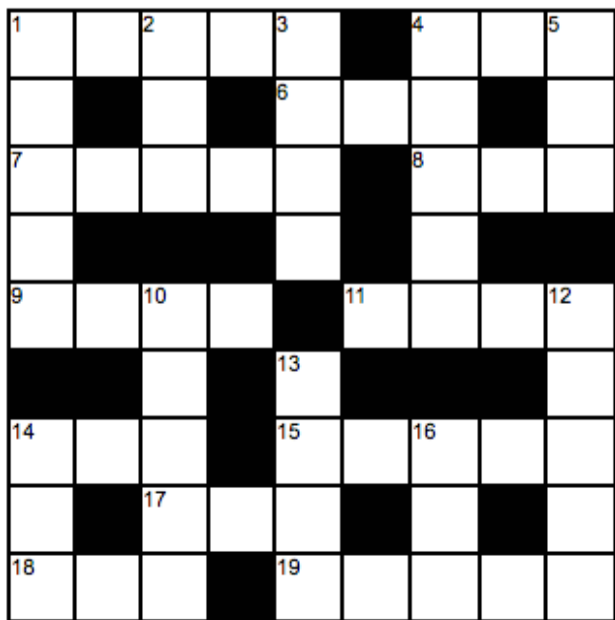
In this tale, we see former President Rupiah Banda who was ousted from power, late president Michael who died shortly after the rebellion, President Lungu and UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema who fight for power and control of this country – leading to one being sent into prison. We hear President Lungu making false promises of comfort and prosperity to the

hardworking people of Zambia and the poor civil servants whose sweat is being exploited by a full-fledged dictatorship that has changed all the rules.

When begging for votes, they told us that under the Patriotic Front, all 'animals' would be equal. They said no animal would kill another animal. But like the pigs on Animal Farm, they have altered the Commandments. Today, they are demonstrating to us that, although we were created equal, they are more equal than the rest of us. They get annual salary increments, but no pay rise for the civil servants, only more taxes for them and the voters. They promised that no 'animal' would kill another 'animal', but today they are saying they will not kill us without a good reason.

Listening to the cruelty and looking at the greed of the leaders whom they elected into power, the people of Zambia are left confused. They can't tell the humans and the pigs apart, they were fooled and now they have no choice but to survive through a tyrannical regime of Napoleon, the Great Leader of This Great Country.

Crossword puzzle 196



“It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace.”
- Chuck Palahniuk

- Across**
1. Locations
4. Unhappy
6. Haul
7. Extremely overweight
8. Furniture wood
9. Happily ___ after
11. Goblet part
14. A hot drink
15. Take the blame
17. Male child
18. Round baked dessert
19. Name of a book
- Down**
1. Boutique
2. Casual top
3. Dance movement
4. Kindly
5. Water obstruction
10. Wipe out
12. Kind of syrup
13. Times New Roman, e.g.
14. Spigot
16. Denial

Solutions to puzzle 195



Reader's feedback

Amos says it was unwise for Lungu to act publicly on fraud allegations

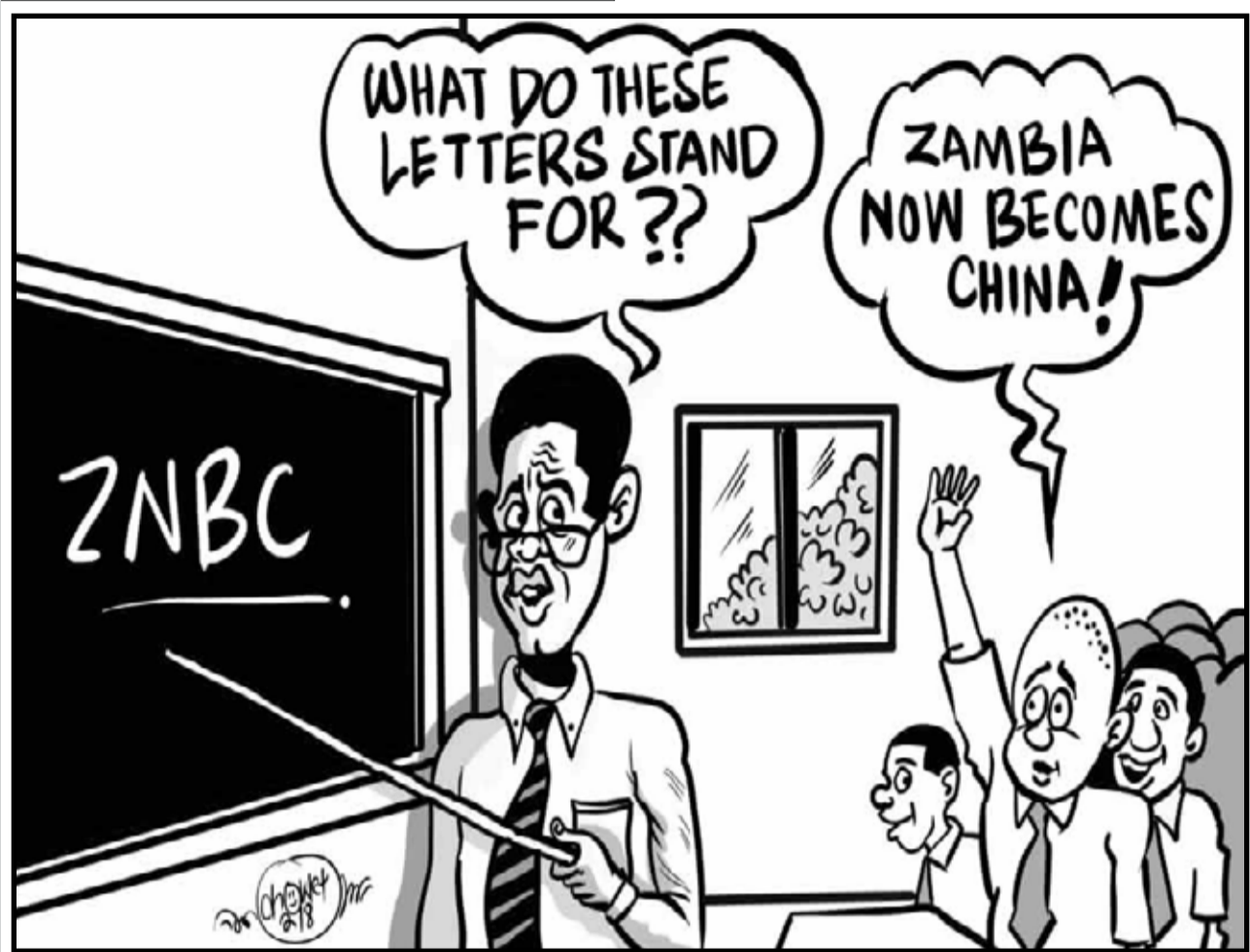
Editor,
"I think what Amos says does not co-ordinate with his mind." - Fernez M Scot

"What angered the West is the speech the President made in Parliament that 'everything is fine' when there is a problem. That showed you guys are not serious and want to cover things with a lie." - John Simonga

"So tolerating thievery is an administrative way of staying on course to continuing receiving handouts!!!!? Which schools did these guys go to!!!!? And then, why did he act publicly after donors discontinued funding!!!!? Is it because now donor funds had stopped flowing!!!!?" - Robby LM

"Only gullible people can buy that lame excuse..." - Kool Int

Chinese shooter who caused Kitwe riots



Editor,

"Playing with a gun? These corrupt officers...can a Zambian be spared in China if he or she did anything close to it?" - Newton C Muyutu

"Okay, playing with the pistol? Is it a toy? As if that's not enough, accidentally?" - Memory Muma

"So, it's allowed to play with guns in Zambia? You are even reporting that he was playing with a gun? Let's be serious!" - Morgan Chuutu

"What kind of madness and cover up is this one?? Playing with a gun in a public place? How much has the Chinese bought our moral consciousness??" - John Muleya

"For a Chinese, it's 'accidentally'; for a Zambian, 'failure to secure a fire arm'." - Chrissy Mashekwa

Wina's claim that Zambia's debt being used as a tool to force regime change

Dear Editor,

"If regime change is what it takes to correct things in Zambia, then so be it." - Simon Chinyama

"Regime change is inevitable because you have failed to run the country!" - Kaseba Golden

"If it means a regime change, better we do it so fast than we thought. Our next generation will have nothing to do, but to only regret being born in this country, Zambia." - Stanley Muswema

"Why not resign grandma Wina? You clearly don't have the energy for the VP job. Let younger ones lead." - Joe Simukonda

"This woman; she wants when they recklessly borrow and steal the donor funds meant for poor people, we applaud them?" - Urwyler Kalota

"Politics! This is one of my mothers I admired. But now, she doesn't seem to care for the people. She would have been shining being a female VEEP." - Jones Samanenga

"You were advised not to 'kongola' too much kaloba, but you thought you were intelligent. Now, you want to start crying ati, 'regime change.' Change is the only way to save Zambia. Even when things are bad, the President still sees it fit to charter a jet to go to New

York for a UN meeting; a caring government would have told him to go commercial like other presidents, like John Magufuli." - Michael Sandala

"What is the Zambian retirement period time? The woman has lost proper capacity; need resting. She only appears when things goes bad; don't allow people to use you, mama, when they're stealing, they don't involve you. Wake up from your sleep!" - Violet K Kapepa

Mwanakatwe's argument that it wasn't Lungu's mandate to disclose Social Cash Transfer irregularities

Editor,

"The arrogance of this government can be seen in the manner that it runs away from accepting responsibility for acts or omissions that are pretty obvious. Accepting responsibility for error is the first step to taking long-lasting remedial measures. Sadly, this government is in perpetual denial mode." - Mwape Nkonge

"Sleepy govt that doesn't know what they are doing? To-date, they don't know how much was stolen? No vision." - Chiundule Wansimbi

"The PF in denial gear as expected; never assuming responsibility. Surprisingly enough, they've run out Hichilema or Kambwili insults as reality slowly, but surely, settles in their laps. 'It's not the appointing authority, Lungu, but the flabbergasting people the man appoints?' What sort of idiotic excuse is that? What difference does it make! She's worked too long with empty tin-cans, she's become one." - Silavwe Mwengu Simon

"Huh!!! How do you brag about something that is terribly wrong? Madness." - Charles Munalula

"Police should be professional and know that their role is to protect the Zambians first than foreign nationals. How does one play with a pistol in a shop and ending up firing a person?" - Davies Nyirongo

"The Chinese will over power Zambians soon because for them, money is not a problem. They are the most preferred by government to get contracts. Then they bring their own people as general workers... watch the space." - David Maj

"Charge him for carrying, displaying and playing with a dangerous weapon in public!" - Happy Chimwemwe

"From the shooter to the riots, it's a very sad affair." - Haggai

'Judgement day' looms for Australia's scandal-hit banks

Australia's scandal-plagued banks are braced for "judgement day", as a public inquiry into industry misconduct prepares to publish its initial findings after months of damning customer testimony.

The financial sector -- including Australia's all-powerful "big four" banks -- faces a public backlash and the prospect of tighter regulations when an interim Royal Commission report is published before a Sunday deadline.

Firms like Commonwealth Bank, NAB, ANZ and Westpac are among the world's most profitable financial institutions and largely avoided the shackles placed on US and European banks in the wake of the global financial crisis.

But a raft of reports of them issuing dodgy financial advice, life insurance and fraudulent mortgages forced a reluctant business-friendly government to call for a Royal Commission late last year.

Since then, a series of hearings involving almost 10,000 submissions and more than 100 witnesses has stunned even hardened observers.

They included accounts of

NAB staff accepting cash-stuffed envelopes to pass dubious loans and help them "smash" sales targets, while

staff at Commonwealth Bank -- Australia's largest firm -- charged fees to customers who had died up to a decade before.

"This is a shocking wake-up call to the business community," said the government's former competition tsar Graeme

Samuel.

The sector needs to admit that "something's fundamentally wrong", he told AFP.

The inquiry has already claimed several scalps, including the chairman of the country's largest wealth manager AMP, who quit in April days after the chief executive stood down when it was revealed the firm charged clients for advice they never received.

A decade ago the sector was lauded for emerging unscathed from the global financial crisis and avoiding the risky investments that doomed their peers.

Commentators say that successes may have bred complacency among banks as well as the government and regulators.

In Samuel and other analysts' books, regulators had sufficient powers to reign in wayward banks -- but failed to do so.

"We have to be aware that regulators do run serious risks of being captured by industry," he said.

"It requires a strong discipline on the part of regulators to prevent it from occurring, so this will be a wake-up call."

Recently installed Australian Securities and Investments Commission chairman James Shipton has vowed to bring about cultural change. *AFP*



Bill Cosby, 81, is taken into custody in handcuffs at Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pennsylvania. *AFP*

French President Emmanuel Macron delivered a fiery rebuke of US policies under President Donald Trump at the UN General Assembly Tuesday, signaling that he is ready to take up the mantle of global leadership usually assumed by a US leader.

At times directly referring to the US, Macron rapped the Trump administration for its policies on Iran, climate change, the UN, migration and Mideast peace, among others.

The 40-year-old French leader also took direct aim at the central theme of Trump's speech earlier in the day, in which the US President focused on sovereignty and emphasized his administration's intent to distance itself from international agreements and groups.

"I shall never stop upholding

the principal of sovereignty," Macron told the General Assembly, which draws more than 120 world leaders each year. "Even in the face of certain nationalism which we're seeing today, brandishing sovereignty as a way of attacking others."

But unlike Trump's emphasis on the importance of countries' independence, Macron offered a different vision, one that earned him sustained applause when he was done.

"Only collective action allows for the upholding of the sovereignty and equality of the people in whose name we take action," Macron said.

Macron rebukes Trump's isolationist message

"This is the reason we must take action against climate, demographic and digital challenges. No one alone can tackle these."

Macron began by telling the assembly that the world order based on sovereignty and equality among nations that came into being in the 1600s was facing a "far-reaching crisis," and said the answer lay in cooperation and collaboration among nations. "Nationalism always leads to defeat," said Macron, who

couched his remarks in the historical context of Europe's world wars. "If courage is lacking in the defense of fundamental principles, international order becomes fragile and this can lead as we have already seen twice, to global war. We saw that with our very own eyes."

As the US launches trade wars and turns its back on regional trade pacts in favor of deals with single countries, Macron pointedly said, "bilateral agreements,

new protectionisms, will not work."

As he listed global challenges, he both critiqued the Trump administration's approach and offered his counterargument, mentioning early on the importance of the United Nations.

"At a time when our collective system is falling apart, it is most in demand," Macron said. "We shall support those working for peace and humanity," he

said and then mentioned several arms of the UN that the Trump administration has stopped funding, criticized or withdrawn from, including UNESCO, the organization devoted to cultural preservation, the UN human rights council, the International Criminal Court and the agency that supports health and education for Palestinian refugees in the near east. *CNN*

US-Iran: John Bolton warns Iran of 'hell to pay' if crossed

US National Security Adviser John Bolton has warned Iran's rulers that there will be "hell to pay" if they harm the US, its citizens or allies.

His comments came hours after President Donald Trump accused Iran of sowing "chaos, death and destruction" across the Middle East.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

responded by criticising the Trump administration for its hostility.

The US recently imposed sanctions after leaving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The accord, negotiated by former President Barack Obama, saw Iran limit its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

The remaining signatories are standing

by the deal. The UK, China, France, Germany and Russia say they will set up a new payment system to maintain business with Iran and bypass US sanctions.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the plan as "one of the most counterproductive measures imaginable". *BBC*

DR Congo Ebola work resumes after rebel attack

Health workers involved in tackling Ebola in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo city of Beni are resuming their outreach operations following a two-day suspension because of an attack by rebels.

The attack, suspected to have been carried out by the Ugandan group the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), killed at least 18 people, including 14 civilians. The local authorities agreed to allow the health workers to restart following a warning by

the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO said efforts to control Ebola had to resume because it was spreading to border areas and Uganda was facing an imminent threat. The health workers will now be able to continue with vaccinations and the tracing of people who have contact with suspected Ebola patients. A hundred people have died since the start of the outbreak in July. *BBC*



Pep Guardiola congratulates Phil Foden following Manchester City's 3-0 win at Oxford United. Skysports

African women's basketball teams make history

Nigeria and Senegal have made history at the Women's Basketball World Cup on the Spanish Island of Tenerife by becoming the first African nations to reach the second stage of the tournament. Nigeria beat Argentina 75-70 to record their second win of the finals. The victory meant that they finished second in their group and progress

to the play-offs where they will face Greece later on Wednesday. The winners of that match will then go on to play the USA in the quarter-finals. Senegal lost 75-66 to China but that was good enough for them to finish third in their pool and they advance to face Spain. The winners of that qualifier will play Canada in the quarter finals. *BBC*

Jose Mourinho confirmed Paul Pogba has been stripped of the vice-captaincy at Manchester United, but insists they have not fallen out. Reports began to circulate prior to United's disappointing 8-7 penalty shoot-out defeat to Derby County in the Carabao Cup on Tuesday that Pogba – who was rested – had been relieved of the role. Pogba was slammed by his

'I don't have to explain' - Jose Mourinho confirms Pogba stripped of vice-captaincy

manager during training and told he would never wear the captain's armband again, as he did not have the right temperament for the job. The French World Cup-

winner had captained United three times this season in the absence of Antonio Valencia, including the Premier League opener against Leicester City.

Mourinho's decision to give Pogba the armband on that occasion came hard on the heels of suggestions Barcelona were pressing to sign the 25-year-old. But the midfielder has made

several comments which some have considered to be veiled digs at Mourinho this season, the latest coming following the 1-1 draw with Wolves on Saturday, and the Portuguese confirmed

reports of the change after the Derby clash. He told Sky Sports: "The only truth is that I made the decision of Pogba not to be the second captain anymore. [There was] no fall out.

"The person who made the decision to be second captain was also me. It's just one decision which I don't have to explain." After United's win over Leicester, Pogba claimed he would be fined if he commented on his situation at the club, while he also conceded his attitude was not right in the 3-2 defeat to Brighton and Hove Albion. Pogba's latest comments on Monday saw him question Mourinho's tactics, as he implored United to "attack, attack, attack" when playing at home, though he is adamant his remarks were misrepresented. Media reports have claimed Pogba will not demand a move away from United in January, though he is said to be ready to consider his options again at the end of the campaign. *goal.com*

Buffaloes netball coach fears complacency

By Alex Chilumbwe

A very heated postmortem talk yesterday rocked Green Buffaloes netball team following a draw with Green Eagles in their fifth game of the second round of the regular league. The draw was Buffaloes' first setback as they had won all their other games, while other teams have recorded either losses or draws. Buffaloes coach Catherine Chanda expressed fear her ladies would fall into their football counterparts' trend of failing to maintain the top spot. They have 49 points and on top of the league while Nkwazi

is second placed with 42 points and has two games in hand in the second round. Buffaloes on Saturday played against a reforming ZNS side that was struggling in the first round and it was all in Buffaloes' favour until the third quarter. Persistent bad passes and misses supplemented Eagles' efforts in catching up yet the army side had led by 9 nets before the start of the fourth quarter.

"The ladies have relaxed too much and they seem to have forgotten that the second round is always tougher. This draw after leading with so many should be their wake up call or else we will fail to beat any big team and lose our top spot on the table. I have older players but they still could have played better than this. We need to intensify training and make amends as soon as possible. I'm actually

very upset with this premature draw. We could have won," said Chanda. Meanwhile Eagles coach Edith Muloshi was happy that her side forced a draw, and added they could have won had time allowed. "At one point, I had given up and thought we have lost but the ladies fought on and equalized. Buffaloes actually helped us equalize because of the poor passes they made, wrong decisions and other

mistakes. They brought our morale back into the game and we capitalised on them. Buffaloes is a tough team so even a draw against them after three quarters of trailing is a good result," said Muloshi. The fight for the league title in the netball regular league has always been centred around Buffaloes, Eagles, Nkwazi, Prison Leopards and NAPSA with the current title holders being Prison Leopards.

Rugby development officer calls for training responsibility

By Alex Chilumbwe

Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) Rugby development officer Jeff Muwele has expressed concern over the increasing number of amateur training grounds that lack the technical knowledge and precautions that should be followed during training. Muwele said injuries were

soaring among amateur players and that it was attracting attention from parents of the young players. "It seems every person who has once played the game wants to open an illegal academy or conduct training sessions anywhere

they feel it is right. Some of them do not even have the technical knowledge of how to train players or precautions to be taken so that injuries do not soar. Injuries are being reported to me by their parents and I have no

idea about them because the training was done in secrecy. I'm afraid this will stop some parents from allowing their children to embrace the game and the country will run low on talent," Muwele noted. Muwele also encouraged

rugby players in the country to stay dedicated to the game adding that it would grow eventually. "Right now it is not the biggest sport in the country but I can assure you it is bound to grow soon. We have a sea of

players, development officers and coaches that have the capacity to elevate it. We just need to keep supporting them and involving the corporate world so that we can have more tournaments. We already have a national league and it is competitive. Growing it to even a wider audience cannot be a problem," said Muwele.

ZESCO UTD WIN SUPER LEAGUE

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United are the champions of the 2018 FAZ/ MTN super league with games to spare, after defeating Nchanga Rangers 4-0 yesterday in week 37 of the league. Zesco United amassed an unassailable 80 points which none of the chasing pack can accumulate in the remaining games.


The goals came from Mwape Mwelwa, Solomon Sakala, Jesse Were through a penalty and Kalonda M. Soccer analyst Musonda Chibulu urged other teams to reminisce on how ZESCO kept winning the title consecutively and learn from their ways.

"Other clubs should now sit down and see how ZESCO keeps winning the league. What is it that ZESCO is doing that other clubs are not doing? How are the players motivated, how's their management team and officials. We do not want to have a predictable trend in the super league sonic other clubs ought to learn something from ZESCO," said Chibulu.


The race for top four is still on as Green Eagles lost 2-1 to Nkana while Green Buffaloes lost with the same scoreline to Power Dynamos. ZANACO and Red Arrows shared the spoils with a 2-2 draw and NAPSA Stars beat Nakambala Leopards 3-0.



Phil Jones missed the crucial spot-kick as Derby eliminated Manchester United from the League Cup on penalties. AFP




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Atletico Madrid are finally finding their groove in La Liga and just in time for a city derby against Real Madrid after they strolled to a 3-0 win over newly-promoted Huesca on Tuesday. AFP