



Kapata insults opposition MPs, challenges them to a fist fight

UPND WALKS OUT

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L-r:President Edgar Lungu, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, DR Congo Prime Minister Clement Mouamba and Special Envoy of the Chairman of the African Union Commission for Great Lakes Region Ambassador Basile Ikoube during the 9th high level conference of the regional oversight mechanism on Peace and Security in Kampala, Uganda on Monday - Picture by Salim Henry

Women's movement condemns students' harassment of Dora

By Mirriam Chabala

The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) has condemned UNZA students who insulted Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya on Monday when she joined the institution in a requiem mass organised for Vespers Shimuzhila.

And NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale fears that the conduct by UNZA students towards the minister would further reinforce the discrimination which discourages women from taking up leadership positions.

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Don't wait for donors' red flag before acting against corruption – SANAC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire says President Edgar Lungu should never wait for donors to raise a red flag before he acts against corruption because Zambians are looking to him to take a leading role in curbing abuse of national resources..

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Govt's delayed farmer input distribution worries CTPD

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PF's greatest enemy is the economy, says Felix Mutati's MMD

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

MMD national secretary for the Felix Mutati led faction Raphael Nakacinda says the PF's biggest enemy is the economy.

And Nakacinda says Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo would have resigned after the death of Vespers Shimuzhila if she had any morals.

Meanwhile, Nakacinda says Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya should sober up when giving official positions to avoid embarrassment.

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By Sipiliswe Ncube

MMD national secretary for the Felix Mutati led faction Raphael Nakacinda says the PF's biggest enemy is the economy.

And Nakacinda says Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo would have resigned after the death of Vespers Shimuzhila if she had any morals.

Meanwhile, Nakacinda says Chief Government Spokesperson should sober up when giving official positions to avoid embarrassment. Nakacinda said this when he featured on Hot FM's 'Frank on Hot' programme, Tuesday. He said PF's greatest enemy was the economy and called on its leadership to open up their ears to advice.

"The real opposition for the Patriotic Front, as a government being in the driving seat under President Edgar Lungu, is not UPND. Actually UPND seem

PF's greatest enemy is the economy - Mutati's MMD

to be lost, their leader seems to be really petty over certain issues and playing cheap politics. There isn't really a formidable arrangement that can govern out the Zambian people to make certain decisions. Us as MMD as some quarters have been speculating, we are not their enemy. We are their friends. The greatest enemy of Patriotic Front is the economy. It's the one that can actually be able to assemble an opposition even outside those that they seem to be focusing

on," he said.

"So if there is going to be anything that the PF needs to look at is the economy and as MMD, we have a wealth of experience having undertaken such a mammoth task before. There is no need for our colleagues to ask the question. I know they have honourable Felix Mutati on the desk in Cabinet [and] let them ask the important questions and possibly go beyond him and say 'who can we assemble to consult?' Balingile ukufumya

ubutonge mumatwi (they are supposed to remove the cotton seal in their ears) because in the ears is where there is life for the Patriotic Front. If they close their ears, they are not going to survive. The real answer to the Patriotic Front's stay in government lies in their ears. Let them open up their ears and seek for advice on what should be done at a particular time."

And Nakacinda said Prof Luo would have resigned after Vespers' death if she had any

morals.

"Personally I have expressed before, months ago when we had the Minister Professor Nkandu Luo ban student unionism in Higher Learning institutions, we did indicate that it's a mistake. Students unionism is a global phenomena because higher learning institutions are a nursery for the development of the intellectuals and therefore it becomes also a platform through which policies of the nation are influenced. So, just that singular decision to ban unionism has created the situation that we are faced with this time around. As the national secretary for the Movement for Multi-party Democracy, I want to call upon the president to be decisive. Ministers are expected to account for every action or policy position they take if it leads to chaos, worse still if it leads to a loss of life," Nakacinda said.

"For me, I would want to clothe responsibility of the Minister of Higher education and if she had any morals, she would first of all resign, by just virtue of that loss of life because the problem in institutions of higher learning has not stopped. They have just worsened and I think there is need to make a decision in that regard."

Meanwhile, Nakacinda condemned UNZA students for insulting Siliya but advised the information minister to sober up when giving official government positions.

"I think the behaviour of

students must be condemned with the contempt it deserves especially that that conduct was exhibited during a funeral, even out of just respect of the deceased. I think it was unfortunate and unnecessary. That behaviour is un-Zambian [and] it should not be tolerated. But coming to the minister, I think also the minister needs to take responsibility. She is for God's sake the government spokesperson and it is expected I think maybe in general terms we need to have government insist that those who are communicating on behalf of government, those communicating on behalf of the president, Chief Government Spokesperson and other jurisdictions to sober up. There is no need to be in a hurry to comment on matters that you can also sit and think about," said Nakacinda.

"I think the Minister of Information has been highly hyper, emotional [and] tweeting emotional expressions. The moment you begin to trade emotions, you also receive responses which are emotional and for young people, emotional expressions are sometimes unguided. So I think it is important that she sobers up, and if she is not ready to take up that role, she can equally give room to others who will take it in a mature manner. Government must not be afraid to wait until they give a factual position and it must be communicated. The minister needs to know that what she communicates is a government position."



Health Minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya sees off UNZA student Evelyn Choongo to South Africa for specialist treatment after she broke her spine during running battles between police and protesting students on Thursday night. Choongo jumped from a second floor of her hostel as she tried to escape to safety

Women's movement condemns UNZA students' harassment of Dora Siliya

By Mirriam Chabala

The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) has condemned UNZA students who insulted Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya on Monday when she joined the institution in a requiem mass organised for Vespers Shimuzhila.

And NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale fears that the conduct by UNZA students towards the minister would further reinforce the discrimination which discourages women from taking up leadership positions.

When she attended the requiem service for the late Shimuzhila at UNZA SDA Church on Monday, students accosted the Siliya and called her prostitute, among other unpalatable names, while others jostled to have a piece of her, but minister remained calm until she was whisked away.

But YWCA said government should have sent a less famous person to represent the State at the former student's funeral instead of the Chief Government Spokesperson, explaining that Siliya's presence at the funeral was provocative.

"It's unfortunate that an incidence such

as that one happened at the funeral. But you know the circumstances which led to that. If I were in the shoes of those who were being pointed at and seen as having compromised the situation, it is better not to even go there. You know when somebody is angry, they can do and say anything. But definitely, we do not support the use of palatable type of language or insults, be it towards a young person or an old person, we do not. Yes the University of Zambia yesterday was definitely non partisan because the students were merely escorting their friend so that she can rest in peace and that anger was as a result of the way the whole situation happened. It was still brewing and people were still hurt. But that is not excuse to use bad language," YWCA national president Lucy Lungu said.

"What you could normally do in such a situation, being human, they would have probably sent the low profiles representatives. That's one way of doing it but of course they could have even put a message as to why they are not able to do that because this is not the first time it happened.

On Friday (October 05), I am sure you also followed that story where

the presence of [Minister of Higher Education] honourable Nkandu Luo was also not accommodated by the students. So a lesson should have been learnt from that day to ay 'if this is like this, then it may be worse on the day of burial'. And this is what happens in most cases, not only yesterday's but it happens in most cases where there are certain circumstances relating to the case of somebody dying. It makes it worse because there was no clear apology from the government, so that is another thing that could have caused that. But definitely, the point is that there is no excuse to insult anybody. It shouldn't be accepted."

Lungu hoped that everyone had learnt their lesson from the incident.

"It is my hope that we can learn from this incident, all us including the politicians and even the students themselves so that it does not happen again. And again we just need to make sure that the root cause of this is addressed. The problem with us in Zambia is that we forget about route causes, we want to crossover before solving one problem. So as it is now, I will not be surprised to see [investigation into] the death of our student just dies a natural death. But I

am just hoping that we have learnt a lesson for now, both the government, the students and all of us civil society to see how we can move forward without losing a life where we can protect it," Lungu said.

She also wondered why the students did not harass and insult the male government officials who accompanied Siliya to the funeral.

"Though the student and most of us are still angry at how Vespers lost her life, YWCA strongly condemns the humiliation of Hon Dora Siliya at the funeral service of the late Vespers. We are working towards ending GBV and in both cases we see GBV being committed with impunity. The men who were with Hon Dora Siliya were also representing the government but they were not harassed, why? The action can easily repeat itself if government does not correct the obvious root causes of the violence," said Lungu.

Meanwhile, NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale feared that the conduct by UNZA students towards the minister would further reinforce the entrenched patriarchy that systematically discriminates and

discourages women from taking up leadership positions.

"The unreasonable conduct of the students was not only disrespectful to the minister but also very demeaning to women's leadership. The sexist insults against Hon Siliya go further to reinforce the entrenched patriarchy that systematically discriminates and discourages women from participating in various decision making positions. While we respect the right to freedom of expression and positive criticism, we strongly condemn the use of insults and demeaning language against leaders, female leaders," stated Mwale.

"This trend is also prevalent on social media where we continuously witness many women being subjected to cyber bullying. We therefore call upon the student populace and society at large to support Zambia's cause for women in leadership. The death of Vespers is without doubt painful, however, we urge Zambians to remain calm as the security agencies investigate this matter to its logical conclusion. We also wish to urge government to expedite the inquest in the death of Vespers to ensure that whoever is responsible is brought to book without further delay."

By Tenson Mkhala

Angry villagers of Shaputu in Shibunji District have objected to the alleged sale of 7,650 hectares of land to some Indians by senior chief Shakumbila. And headman Charles Shaputu says senior chief Shakumbila must be replaced because he is more into real estate business than leading his subjects. Shaputu village representative Saputo Shikabwali said the sale of land by their chief without the knowledge of villagers was shocking. "We are very disappointed and shocked with our senior chief Shakumbila. He has sold off the land to some Indians as you can see they have already put some boreholes here, we are told that the land which the chief has sold is 7650 hectares to Avlow Zambia Limited, Avlow Development Company Limited, Green Gold Sala Limited and Green Field Crops Limited," Shikabwali told News Diggers! in an interview in Shibunji District.

"We have asked our headmen here in Shaputu village if they were aware of the chief's sale of our village, which has got more than 10,000 households to these Indians, and they have told us to start moving or they would be displaced by the some Indians." Shikabwali said villagers were now living in fear of being displaced by the said Indians. "We have tried to seek audience with our chief, but it seems the chief does not want to cooperate with us here. He told us that the land in question was sold to investors. Which investors whom we are not aware of? We have not had a meeting with them and all we hear is that the Indians have paid about 1.5 million to the chief. Now, we are wondering where the chief is getting powers to start selling land in that manner. We are, therefore, appealing to President Edgar Lungu to intervene and save more than 10,000 households from any displacement, which may result in untold misery and poverty levels as a result of the sale of this 7,650 hectares. Displacement of villagers, local communities, including women, youths and the disabled, is a cost to the government of the day," Shikabwali added.

And Shaputu asked senior chief Shakumbila to step down, alleging that he was more into real estate business. "I want to ask our senior chief Shakumbila to consider stepping down and continue with his real estate business because we know he is been doing that for some years now. We cannot have a chief who has no heart for his people. His interest is money! He is not concerned where these people will go. We are asking him to peacefully step down before people can start killing each other over his corrupt ways of managing and here," he appealed.

The headman further disclosed that the affected villagers would ensure that the Indians were not allowed to take away their land. "This is our land! We were born here. Our graves are here. We have animals and they graze in this same land and so we shall not allow this heartless chief to take away this from us! We will protect it and if the

Angry Shaputu villagers want chief Shakumbila removed over land sale

government won't help us then we shall find ways of protecting it from such corrupt people,"

vowed headman Shaputu. Among the 13 villages affected are Shaputu, Mwamkamyemba,

Sitali, Muukila and Mpolobe. Others are Chipindi, Moomba,

Mulowa, Cikobela, Malyango, Mungwala, Nkolongo and Shalulwe.

An attempt to get to chief Shakumbila at his palace for comment proved futile by press time as he was unavailable.



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Chiteme drags Kabwita to police for impersonation in a WhatsApp group

By Daniel Chansa

National Development Planning minister Alexander Chiteme has reported National Democratic Congress national Youth Chairman Charles Kabwita for impersonation

in a WhatsApp group. On Monday, Chiteme who is Nkana Member of Parliament reported Kabwita at Kitwe Central Police. According to police, Chiteme has accused Kabwita of using

his name in a WhatsApp group to insult State House. The police say Chiteme complained about a WhatsApp group member using his name to post anti-state house statements.

And Kabwita confirmed that he reported to police for questioning because he was a law abiding citizen, adding that although he was an administrator of the said WhatsApp group he had no

control over its members, as he was not the one impersonating the minister. "Yes, yesterday on Monday, I received a phone call from a Mr Harry Mukuni an officer at Kitwe Central Police. I was

told to report at 15:00 hours and like a law abiding citizen I went to the police though they kept me for over an hour and half before their questioning. I went with our Secretary General Honourable Mwenya Musenge," Kabwita narrated.

"There is a blog called 'Top Secret pa Zed' where I am the chief administrator of the group. In that group someone has impersonated Chiteme and has been posting statements that were putting State House in disrepute. Honourable Chiteme then reported me to the police." He explained that he has no control of who joins the blog because membership is advertised through links. "I gave a statement to the police. Now I have no control of who joins the blog. I can post the link in different WhatsApp groups for anyone to join. So how do I know who has joined? There are a lot of people in the blog and I don't know them all. The police wanted to find out if I can help with investigations, but I have refused because I don't have control and they have the number of the said. Let them use the same number to go to ZICTA to find out who the person is." Kabwita said Chiteme should just accept that he is the one who posted the statements.

Having no Auditor General a serious problem – LAZ

By Mirriam Chabala

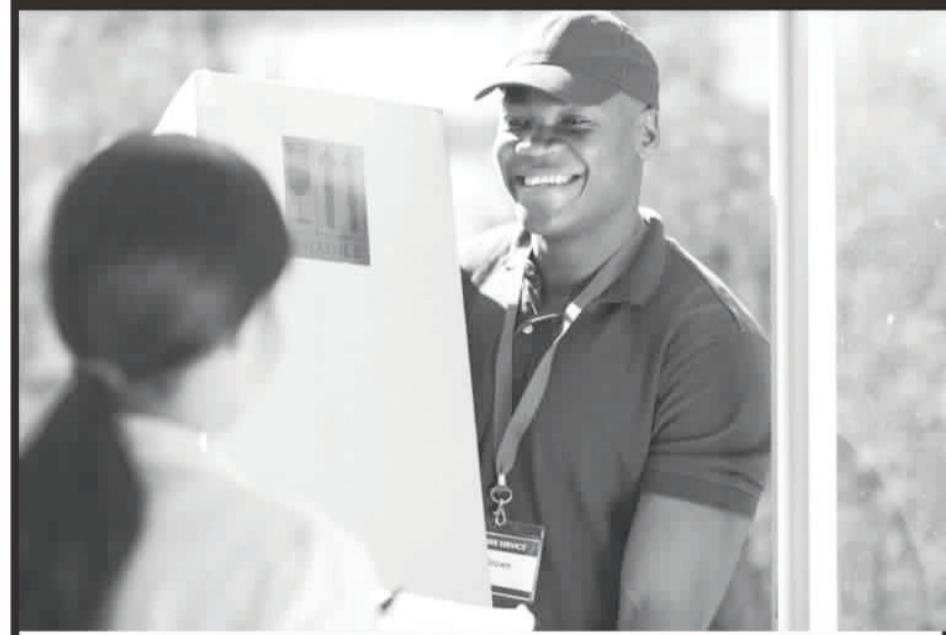
The Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) has explained that the reason why President Edgar Lungu cannot appoint a substantive Auditor General is because there is no State Audit Committee to recommend someone for his consideration. But LAZ says having no Auditor General for such a long time is a serious problem which needs to be addressed. Last week, Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda said President Lungu was eager to have in place a functional Auditor General, but there were constitutional impediments preventing him from appointing a substantive office holder. "In line with some of the discussions he had with Mr Speaker [Dr Patrick Matibini], it's a whole range of decisions and systems that are linked between the Executive and Parliament. The appointment of the Auditor General is not just a function of the Executive; it is also the function of Parliament. When the President sends a name there, how long will Parliament take? The President has no control over Parliament; it is a totally independent organization. The President is working very hard to make sure that all the constitutional impediments that has delayed the appointment of the substantive holder; if there must be a stop-gap measure to circumvent certain processes so that the Auditor General substantively is appointed...the President is consulting with all the arms of government to ensure that there is a substantive holder," said Chanda. "He's concerned that it's taken long, but the [Republican] Constitution prohibits him from nominating without following the Constitution. So, the President is very desirous to ensure that there is a substantive holder in that very important office of governance and oversight institution. And when contacted to explain what Chanda meant by saying the Head of State was failing to appoint a substantive Auditor General due to constitutional

impediments, LAZ vice-president Andrew Musukwa said according to the 2016 Constitution Amendment Act, there needs to be a State Audit Committee, whose mandate is to recommend someone to be considered for appointment as Auditor General before the President can finally recommend such a name to the National Assembly for ratification. Musukwa, however, admitted that the failure for the country to have an Auditor General for such a long time was a problem, saying it needed to be addressed soon. "Article 234 of the constitution says 'there is established the State Audit Commission. (2) The State Audit Commission shall— (a) subject to Article 249 (2) oversee the operations of the office of the Auditor-General, as prescribed; (b) make recommendations to the President on the appointment of the Auditor-General; and (c) perform such other functions as prescribed.' So the only way an Auditor General can be appointed [according to the new constitution] is if the State Audit Commission recommends. And the only way the State Audit Commission can recommend is if it has been established and there are people present. As far as I am concerned I have not heard of any State Audit Commission having been established. I think that's the problem, [but] I don't know. This is according to new constitution, but [I am not sure if this is so], I am only guessing that that is the most probable reason," Musukwa explained. "Then if you go to article 249, it says 'there shall be an Auditor-General who shall be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the State Audit Commission, subject to ratification by the National Assembly (2) The office of Auditor-General shall be decentralised to the Provinces and progressively to districts, as prescribed. (3) The following shall be prescribed: (a) the qualifications of the Auditor-General; (b) the operations and management of the office of the Auditor-General; (c)

the recruitment, supervision, grading, promotion and discipline of the staff of the Auditor-General; and (d) the finances of the office of the Auditor-General'. National Assembly is there yes and it's sitting, no problem. But State Audit Commission is where I think there is a problem. It also says in article 251 that 'where the Auditor General is absent from Zambia or he is unable to perform his functions for other causes, the President shall appoint a person qualified to perform the functions of the Auditor General until that appointment is revoked or until the Auditor General returns to office. Now, the problem with this one is that there has not been an existing Auditor General for this article to be activated, so we have a problem.' Asked what the implications of not having an Auditor General for a long time would have on the country, Musukwa said it was a mess. "In short you are saying what are functions of the Auditor General, well, it means the functions of the Auditor General cannot be performed. The functions of the Auditor general include; auditing the accounts of State organs, state institutions... this is article 250 now [where all functions of the Auditor General are clearly defined]. So it means the functions of the Auditor General cannot be performed under article 251... basically it means the functions of the Auditor General cannot be performed. So it's a mess," he regretted. And asked what kind of message the failure to appoint a substantive Auditor General was sending to the international community and investors, Musukwa said, "That I cannot answer really, honestly. But all I can say is that this is a bad situation. And now that you have brought it to our attention, the council will review it. It's a very serious thing, I will be honest with you. We need to look at it as council and see how we can help government to come up with a resolution to this problem, especially that there is no State Audit

Committee Commission. But it's a very serious problem, it's a very serious problem." Meanwhile, Musukwa said the 2017 Auditor General's report was unlikely to be released because the only person who was eligible to sign it was the Auditor General. "The Auditor General's report can only be signed by the Auditor General himself and nobody else. Since we don't have an Auditor General, it means [that] this report cannot be signed. Like last years report, in fact last year's report is supposed to be presented this year by 30th December. But they can't present it because there is no Auditor General. If someone else other than the Auditor General signs it, it means that me who has stolen can walk away free because only the Auditor General can sign this report. So those are the implications. So this read more on article 211 and it will explain to you more about the implications. It basically talks about the financial report, it talks about the minister responsible for finance, that the minister shall within one month after the release of the Auditor General's opinion lay the Auditor General's opinion on the table of the House. Now because the Auditor General whose opinion has to be put on the table of the House, has not been appointed by the President," said Musukwa.

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By Abraham Kalito

ActionAid Zambia executive director Nalucha Ziba has asked government to take responsibility for the delayed meal allowances that led to protests and the subsequent death of a student at the University of Zambia (UNZA). UNZA student Vespers Shimuzhila, who was studying Adult Education, died due to suffocation after police officers threw tear gas canisters in her room. Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya, however, took to Twitter to claim that a few unruly students were to blame for Shimuzhila's death last Friday. But in an interview, Ziba condemned police brutality, adding that government should own up and take responsibility for the delayed meal allowances which led to protests and to Vespers' demise. "Citizens have rights, which include the right to assembly or association, assemble or association. Further, the human rights framework provides for the right to food as one for the fundamental human rights. And when you look at UNZA students, they are within the confinements of the laws of Zambia, which provides for the rights to associate and express. Additionally, they were acting within the UN human rights framework, which provides for the access to freedom as one of the fundamental human rights. However, it's disappointing that police conduct does not take into account that students have the right to protest in a peaceful manner. We failed to understand why police have been harsh on harmless young people expressing themselves as provided for within the law. This is not the first time police have conducted themselves in this careless manner at the University of Zambia and any other institution of higher learning. It is also very

ActionAid blames govt, police for Vespers' death

unacceptable that police have been infringing on human rights and know that people have the right to express themselves than deliberately conduct themselves in a reckless manner, which has led to the loss of life," Ziba said. "And we are of the view that government should take blame for the manner they have managed the education sector over the years. Funding for educational sector has been reducing, and yet on one hand, the people's contribution towards revenue in terms of taxes has been high and the service delivery on the other hand is unmatched. As a result, the loan scheme is poorly funded, which is resulting in delayed disbursement for meal allowances. Therefore, as long as we continue mismatching our priorities as evidenced in the 2019 budget, which was pronounced recently, where the education sector has been given very little resources, we will continue witnessing such. It starts from there in terms of the priorities as a country. If we want to see development in this country, we need to prioritise the social sector, more especially the education sector. There is no country that has developed without first developing its human capital. So, we need to make investment to ensure that we have a lot of the young people getting educated because Zambian population is small." She said government should set their priorities

straight to ensure that service delivery was in line with citizens' expectations. "We want to be part of the solution in the country rather than being part of the blame. Currently a lot of things in this country are not sitting well with a number of citizens, more especially when it comes to service delivery. And the issue of the rule of law itself, by and large, we have seen the weakening of the rule of law. Because when you look at the

issue of the Public Order Act, for instance, it's very clear, it's just a matter of notifying the police and the police don't have to give you authorisation. But it's the application of the Public Order Act and the practice, which itself brings to the violating of people's rights, which is a contradiction to the Constitution. And one of the things we need to ask ourselves is 'what has gone wrong?' What do we need to help [us] get back on the right track and

what needs to be addressed. We need to start tolerating divergent views. Listening to the critics to understand what is making them come from that point is what will make this country develop and drive inclusive development, which does not leave anyone behind," observed Ziba. While government's allocation to student loans and scholarships have remained static at K557 million in next year's budget, the PF-led

administration has increased public spending on defence at over K5 billion, which gobbles up nearly six per cent of the 2019 national budget, compared to K3.5 billion in the 2018 budget. Additionally, government's spending on serving external debt has drastically leaped to nearly K15 billion allotted in next year's budget, more than double the amount of K7.26 billion allocated in the 2018 budget.



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema among the mourners gathered for Vespers Shimuzhila's funeral service at the SDA Church along Katima Mulilo Road in Lusaka on Monday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

State asks court not to acquit cocaine traffickers on account that it's missing

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The State has asked the Lusaka Magistrates' Court to throw out two applications by lawyers representing three men who originally trafficked in 24 kilograms of cocaine which is now missing, arguing that they are frivolous and lack merit. Defence counsels Keith Mweemba and Shadreck Mbewe had in the last sitting made an application to the court to have the drugs in question subjected to chemical analysis and examination as well as have the accused acquitted as the purported drugs which required retesting had gone missing. In this matter, Sydney Mwansa, Shaibu Likuta and Teddy Matanda are alleged to have trafficked in 24 kilograms of cocaine which has gone missing whilst in the custody of the Lusaka Magistrates' Court which eventually led to the arrest of seven court officials and two businessmen. But when the matter came up before chief resident magistrate Kenneth Mulife, Monday, Deputy Chief State Advocate in charge of taxation and financial management unit Gamaliel Zimba objected to both applications by the defence to have the drugs retested as well as to acquit the accused persons. Zimba argued that that the application to have the drugs retested was frivolous, vexatious and lacked merit because there was no provision of the law supporting the application. "The State is objecting to both applications. For the first application relating to the retesting of

the drug, the State finds that application to be frivolous, vexatious and lacking merit and as such this court should dismiss it. We have found no provision supporting this sort of application. As such the State is at sea as to what provision of the CPC this application is anchored on," he said. Zimba argued that after looking at the exhibits produced in court, it would show that the drugs were seized from the accused persons and later on examined. "We also had a look at the exhibits that were produced in this court, an affidavit from a public analyst and an analysis of the two documents, we will show your honour that drugs were seized from the accused persons. Those drugs were later on subjected to the food and drug laboratory for analysis," he said. At this point, Mweemba objected to the Zimba's submission arguing that he was raising evidence from the bar as the accused persons were not found with the drugs. "We wish to object to that line of submission from the bar. The law as espoused by the Supreme Court is that evidence from the bar or submissions can not amount to evidence. Therefore adducing evidence in the submissions is not allowed. Non of us in this court qualify to say those were drugs. Those were not drugs. And counsel is not qualified or competent to prove those were drugs. That submission is highly prejudicial to the accused

persons. It's prejudicial to stand at the bar and say drugs were seized from the accused persons. Let the State concentrate on issues raised whether the accused have no right to demand for a retest," he said. But Zimba argued that he had not adduced any evidence but simply restated what was already on record. "State has not adduced any evidence, we are far away from it. What the State has done is to restate what's already on record. In the case at hand there is an affidavit that was produced by the State stating that, [the drugs that] was subjected to examination by the State tested positive to cocaine and that's the angle the State is taking. It is not mandatory for the State to call for a public analyst to appear in person because the affidavit if so produced, is sufficient," he argued. However, magistrate Mulife overruled the defence's objection saying Zimba was simply stating the contents of the document and that it would not prejudice the accused. Meanwhile, Zimba argued that the defence had an opportune time to object, which was at the time the analyst report was given but they did not do so. "Subjecting drugs to a retest, we are alive that at the time the report from the analyst was given, no objection was given by the defence. Wasn't the production stage the best time for the defence to raise that issue? Your honour we besiege this court to throw that application out," he said.

Zimba further argued that the second application by the defence to acquit the accused persons was baffling because sufficient evidence had been produced to prove that the drugs trace back to the accused persons one way or the other. "There was a further argument that the accused persons should be set at liberty. To say the least, that submission is baffling. Because there is sufficient evidence that has been produced to show that the drugs in question trace back to the accused persons in one way or the other. If the defence are arguing that the accused persons be acquitted, on what basis? A careful perusal of the record will show the kind of exhibits that the State produced," said Zimba. "And if I understood the submissions from the defence very well, the submission for an acquittal is anchored on the missing drugs. It is the State's position that at the time that we produced the affidavit from the food and drugs as prepared by the public analyst, the State had demonstrated at that point that material which was subjected to examination did test positive for cocaine. There is no basis for an acquittal at this stage. We besiege this court to throw out both applications by the defence because they are lacking merit, frivolous, vexatious." In reply, the defence applied for an adjournment so that they could give their response with authorities. The matter has been adjourned to October 11.

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

PF media director Sunday Chanda says Bahati member of parliament Harry Kalaba should resign from the party if he is unwilling to exculpate himself over gross misconduct charges laid against him.

On Monday, The Patriotic Front disciplinary committee has summoned Kalaba and former party deputy chairperson for elections Kelvin Bwalya Fube (KBF) to exculpate themselves for alleged gross misconduct. But Kalaba said party Secretary General Davies Mwila should stop wasting his time by asking him to exculpate himself because

that will not change the lives of suffering Zambians.

In a statement, Tuesday, however, Chanda asked Kalaba to stop playing games and respond to charges of indiscipline.

"Every association of people – whether it be a home, club or institution – has rules and guidelines by which those that associate with it abide. Rules and regulations

are essential to maintain discipline, order and purpose. It is in this regard that the chief executive officer of the Patriotic Front Mr Davies Mwila wrote to Honourable Harry Kalaba, giving the latter 14 days to exculpate himself from various charges of misconduct. Mr Kalaba should stop playing games and respond to charges of indiscipline. Principle and

morality demands that he resigns from PF if he is unwilling to exculpate himself," Chanda stated. "Sadly, Mr. Kalaba's response has been less than honourable. His belligerent attitude defies logic. Mr Kalaba thinks he is too big for the PF or any kind of authority. He is being very hypocritical. He preaches decency, yet he is a man

puffed up with the corrupt-leaven of pride, insolence and misplaced arrogance. The people of Bahati voted for him out of their love for the Patriotic Front. Their vote was primarily an endorsement for PF and he just happened to be the candidate selected by the party to stand on its platform. Why is he betraying the people of Bahati?" And Chanda charged

that Kalaba was not only a disgrace to himself, but also to the people of Bahati constituency.

"Apart from being a disgrace to himself, he is a disgrace to the people of Bahati and to everything that is decent and noble. If he is as straight as he would like to portray, why is he ducking and diving in the shadows of false pretences? wondered Chanda.

PF MPs, ministers call UPND satanists in the House as opposition walks out

By Mirriam Chabala and Mukosha Funga

UPND members of parliament yesterday walked out of the House after Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo charged that the opposition party caused the riots at UNZA which subsequently led to the death of fourth year student Vespers Shimuzhila.

And some PF members of parliament, led by Lands Minister Jean Kapata, hurled insults on their colleagues who took a protest walk out, branding them Satanists and suggesting a physical fight between the two camps to see who was stronger.

Meanwhile, Prof Luo has vowed that there will be no unionism in universities.

The fracas began when Prof Luo accused the UPND of causing the riots after its Choma Central MP Cornelius Mweetwa wondered whether Prof Luo thought she had been too heavy handed on the students by banning UNZASU.

"Information coming out of the university is that there was no property destroyed whatsoever by the students at UNZA, except for the police's destruction. In the recent past, it is only under your leadership that a student has sadly died, and this follows the statements that you've been making that are very anti-university students' interests. Honourable minister, don't you think that from the time you took over as Minister of [Higher] Education, you have been too heavy handed on the students? Leading to a situation where you have banned student leaderships such as UNZASU and now a situation where when there is a demonstration or a demand, students do not know how to channel their grievances?" Mweetwa submitted before a member of the ruling party distracted him.

Mweetwa then angrily responded, telling the ruling party MP; "keep quiet you

don't know what I am talking about".

But the Choma lawmaker's response to his colleague angered Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Catherine Namugala who instructed the opposition MP to take his seat as she invited the Minister of Higher Education to respond.

And in her response, Luo accused the UPND leadership of causing the riots at UNZA, which subsequently led to a loss of life.

"Madam Speaker, I would have wished that the honourable member of parliament who is asking this question would have declared interest and probably, it's because of his leadership that we have had so much damage done to people's property," Prof Luo charged.

But Prof Luo's accusations offended the UPND MPs who left the House in protest whilst Prof Luo was still responding to the question.

However, ministers and other ruling party MPs ceased the opportunity to hurl insults at their UPND colleagues as they walked out.

The MPs were heard shouting "walk out, kabiyen! (go away)".

And Lands Minister Jean Kapata was heard saying "bye bye polio... elo beshile nabafwala nefya black (they even here came dressed in black), get out! Nabafwala nefya black kwati balewamya (they are even dressed in black like they are doing the right thing) [How can you be] politicking when someone has lost a child? Ata bane [more insults], one day members tukaiponone one by one, tukamone uwakosa ninani (one day we should beat each other up as members of parliament so that we see who is stronger). Ala imwe baice! Fi satanist (you little kids, [you are just] satanists)," said Kapata as her colleagues on the right agreed

with her whilst others added their own unprintables to the fracas.

Namugala eventually managed to restore calm to the House but did not comment on the insults before resuming business.

Earlier, Prof Luo announced that management had been instructed to tighten security at the campus, identify and punish culprits.

She also announced that by 2019, UNZA would be split into several campuses as one measure of preventing riots. "Because of this, that is why we are splitting UNZA. By 2019, UNZA will not look like it does now. As Cabinet, we have decided that the school of engineering and the school of mines will be put together and it will be called the UNZA school of engineering, belt sciences, mines and minerals and it will move away from this campus. And the school of veterinary medicine and agriculture will now become

UNZA school of agriculture and veterinary sciences. The

school of medicine will now be called UNZA school of medicine and health sciences and the school of education will be the only school that will remain at the University of Zambia as the UNZA college of education. The unfortunate thing is that when we made this decision, we didn't have information that in fact, most of the riotous behaviour comes from the school of education and therefore, I will be rethinking the decision to move the school of education when we establish it as the UNZA college of education to another location," Prof Luo said.

"The riots that are happening at the University of Zambia are not done by the population of the university students. They are actually motivated from outside. That's why you have not heard a single statement from me regarding this riot because I want this

investigated. I have never seen such a tragic incident where people take advantage and want to make a name."

Meanwhile, when asked if she thought the absence of the union at UNZA was part of the cause of the riots, Prof Luo vowed that unionism in universities was banned and would never be reintroduced. "I did say that the riots at UNZA are being instigated by outsiders and I am aware from our investigations in the past that the students' union leadership or very few number of men and women were being used to actually propagate riots, I'm afraid it won't happen at the universities," said Prof Luo.

When asked if police had the right to teargas students' rooms, Prof Luo also asked: "Do the students have the right to go and smash peoples' cars?"

This prompted opposition MPs to start jeering before Namugala intervened.

Govt's delayed farmer input distribution worries CTPD

By Mirriam Chabala

The Ministry of Agriculture's delay in the distribution of farming inputs for 2018/2019 farming season is disturbing and unacceptable, says the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD).

And CTPD head of programmes and research Brian Mwiinga has blamed parliamentarians for government's delay to distribute inputs, accusing them of having failed to put the PF government to task by taking them on during parliamentary debates.

In a statement, Mwiinga wondered when government intended to commence distribution of farming inputs to farmers in the country, stating that signs were clear that sooner rather than later, Zambia would receive the first rains.

"We have been eagerly awaiting to see the flagging off of the distribution of farming inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) initiative for the 2018/2019 farming season, which is at hand. Signs are clear that sooner rather than later, Zambia will receive the first rains. Going by the 22nd Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF)

held in Lusaka, Zambia from August 22-24, it was revealed that the rainy season in most of SADC countries, which includes Zambia, would start around October, 2018, to March, 2019. What is not clear, however, is when the Zambian government intends to start distributing farming inputs for the farming season that is at hand. In July, 2018, on the floor of Parliament, Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo indicated that the distribution of agricultural inputs would commence on 1st September, 2018. Our calendars indicate that we are now in October, but we have

not seen nor heard any rumour of the government having commenced the distribution of farming inputs," Mwiinga stated.

"Since this statement was made on the floor of Parliament, we wonder why our parliamentarians, whom we pay a lot of money and most of whom come from rural constituencies where farming is the main source of livelihood for their constituents, some of whom voted for them, have not raised concerns over this matter, one month on. We begin to wonder what our honourable MPs are doing if such important matters

are quiet in their debates. We are also still wondering as to how many of the one million targeted beneficiaries will be on the e-voucher system and how many will be on the old FISP system. We would appreciate an update on how the government has addressed the challenges of the e-voucher system experienced last year, if at all they have."

Mwiinga called on government to expedite the process of delivering farming inputs for the 2018/2019 farming season, insisting that it was an obligation that government had to Zambians.

He also asked government to disclose how many of the one million targeted farmers will benefit from the electronic voucher system, and those who will remain on the conventional FISP, as well as give a clear road map on how challenges of the e-voucher system, experienced last year, would be addressed.

"The conspicuous silence from the Minister of Agriculture is something that we find disturbing and unacceptable as CTPD as it has the potential to negatively affect the agricultural sector's performance

vis-à-vis compromise the country's food security position. We, therefore, wish to also remind the Minister of Agriculture just in case he has forgotten that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for majority of our people, especially in the rural areas. It is also a major contributor to the country's GDP and by far offers the best opportunities for the government's diversification agenda and poverty reduction efforts," stated Mwiinga.

"May we remind the Minister that this year's harvest was quite poor and in a long time we had no bumper harvest to brag about and part of the reason for the poor performance of the sector last season was simply because of poor planning and mishandling of the e-voucher system. At the rate we are moving, a repeat of the disorganised FISP and e-voucher system is more likely this year. This is one thing we ought to avoid at all cost. As CTPD, we, therefore, wish to appeal to the Government of the Republic of Zambia to expedite the process of delivering the agricultural inputs for the 2018/2019 farming season. This is an obligation they have to the Zambian people, especially the small-scale farmers."



BUILDING WITH KASONDE

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

...Only in **Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

Part 1: Special NEEDS

It was a joyful day, finally Monde's dream came true when her beloved mother gave a sigh of relief as she eased herself onto the sofa of her living Room. A widow and survivor of cancer, Monde's mother had finally agreed to leave her house in Mpulungu and join her daughter in Livingstone. This move was very important to Monde because she finally could get rest because her ailing mother who was far away was eventually nearby and being a nurse it was easy for her to monitor and control her mother's BP because now she was in her house. This feat had not come easily, it had taken over five years before she could agree to move in her daughter's house. Like most mother's do, she had chosen to live in the village to avoid being extra responsibility and pressure on her eldest daughter's young family in the town. At that time Monde had three children and was waiting for a fourth one.

It was a fairy-tale family moment as the grand children bonded with their grandmother. For the first time in a long time, the old woman was all smiles again. A little later, the fourth child arrived and the joy was multiplied. One unfortunate morning, Monde's mother woke up feeling dizzy and was rushed to Levy Teaching Hospital. Within a few hours she was discharged but upon reaching home she felt a numbness in her knee and was unable walk. She was rushed back, the doctors did their investigation and resolved to give her a wheelchair to help her with mobility and discharged her from Hospital a few days later. It was great again to have her back home but the joy was short lived because although the wheelchair provided mobility and enabled her to move about freely, it came with its own challenges. It could not get inside the toilet with her on it. The wheelchair was reaching the toilet seat before she could get completely in thus preventing her from closing the door behind her because the space was too little to allow for turning a wheelchair.

Who was going to help lift her up and help her with the toilet business? It was at that moment that Monde began realizing that her perfect house was not that perfect after all. What looked like a good dream come

true at first was developing into a nightmare at a rapid rate as she realized that not only couldn't her mother on a wheelchair fail to get in the toilet, she could not use the shower as well. While sitting on the wheelchair she needed to be sat in the bath tub and body massaged but there was no bathtub in the communal bathroom except the bathroom in the master bedroom. In that regard she had to be moved to the master bedroom as Monde and her husband shifted to the guestroom. For a while her bathing situation was sorted but they had to build another toilet outside the house as they built a bigger toilet following their breaking the pantry that was next to the toilet to make the toilet space bigger. The other problem was that since the children were sleeping in the bedroom upstairs, grandmother could no longer get up the stairs on her wheelchair to go and tell her grandchildren bedtime stories in their bedroom.

Anyhow, the rest is water under the bridge, Monde and her mother are well now although she is still on the wheelchair and Monde had to lose the Kitchen pantry that was made part of the toilet. Monde and her husband are still in the guest room because the bathroom is too small to accommodate a bathtub however she is consulting her architect to see how they can break part of the living room and make it part of the bathroom so that the bathtub can get in.

Well, such inconveniences can be avoided by planning for special needs in the houses and other buildings. As a matter of fact, all human beings are expected to grow old and become physically challenged in one way or the other. In that regard it is important to make our houses and building accommodating of such developments. So here are a few things to consider when you are building concerning physical handicaps and challenges:

1. Toilet and bathrooms: these two spaces are among the most critical and most used spaces in every building and as such they should be as accommodating and user friendly as possible. In case of old age or physical challenges that require use of movement aids such as

wheelchairs, clutches and mechanical walking aids, it is a requirement that these rooms are made bigger and spacious enough to allow for effective use. Anyone can end up on special conditions so not to prepare for such is a remedy for problems in the future.

2. Steps, stairs and ramps: Stairs are a space efficient and cost saving mechanism to ascend to higher space in a building. Stairs cases are made up of steps (rises and treads) and have to be climbed in a walking like motion and as such the users have to be capable of walking. It is in this regards that when people become incapacitated of develop walking challenges stairs become hard or impossible to use. The alternative to stairs are ramps. These are gradual elevating platform that does the same job a step does but without steps. It's all smooth and ideal for wheelchairs and for people with sight (vision) defects. These consideration are not optional, they are a requirement of the law and they should be enforced because their absence in most buildings have negatively impacted the society by excluding people with physical challenges from enjoying their rights to belong and associate freely and easily. Apart from including these facets in commercial buildings, it is important to note that people with physical challenges come from homes and if the homes are not enabling and accommodating how are we to only consider them in public spaces such as shopping malls?

Other cardinal consideration on this subject will be in the next article.

Building is great investment, do it right.

Quiz Question: Explain what features a house should have if it is to be accommodating of a person with a sight impairment (blind)?

*Send your answer to: zambianbuildingguide@gmail.com
Congratulations to the winners to last week's quiz:
MUKALI NOAH and GIFT MUKABA.*

Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

SANAC executive director Gregory Chifire says President Edgar Lungu should never wait for donors to raise a red flag before he acts because Zambians are looking to him to take a leading role in the fight against corruption.

And Chifire says in order to retain confidence in Zambians, the PF government must endeavour to adopt a zero tolerance approach towards corruption.

Last week, President Lungu suspended Ministry of General Education Permanent Secretary Henry Tukombe to allow for smooth investigations into theft of donor aid at the ministry, as reported by the Auditor General.

And the President recently fired Community Development Minister Emerine Kabanshi, just days after British High Commissioner Fergus Cochrane-Dyet revealed

Don't wait for donors' red flag before acting against corruption - SANAC

that his government had frozen all bilateral aid to Zambia as a result of rampant corruption and fraud in government institutions.

In a statement issued, Tuesday, Chifire stated that his organization was following with keen interest, the development at the Ministry of General Education regarding the suspension of Tukombe and other members of staff.

He urged investigative wings to re-interview the suspended members of staff arguing that some of the witness statements obtained earlier may not reflect the true picture of what obtained as they may have testified under influence from their

superiors. "The Southern Africa Network Against Corruption (SANAC) is following with keen interest the development at the Ministry of General Education regarding the suspension of the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Henry Tukombe and other members of staff for the purpose of perving way for investigations in connection with misappropriation of donor money," he stated.

"Now that the Permanent Secretary has been suspended, SANAC wishes to request the Investigative wings to re-interview the suspended members of staff because some of the witness statements obtained from suspended members of staff

may not reflect the true picture of what obtained as some of them testified under undue influence from the superiors."

And Chifire further urged President Lungu to never wait for donors to raise a red flag before he could act against corruption.

"The suspension of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education is the second case of disciplinary measures instituted by the President in connection with theft of donor money involving high ranked government officials within a space of one month. The other case being that of former Minister of Community Development, Emerine Kabanshi regarding

the misappropriation of Social Cash transfer money," he stated.

"The people of Zambia are looking to the head of State to take a leading role in the fight against graft so as to arrest the evil vice that has not only contributed to untold suffering among our people but has also led to the erosion of donor confidence and the tarnishing of Zambia's good image in the sight of the outside world.

In as much as we appreciate the action taken by the President on the two, I bet under pressure from donors, we are of the view that the President must never wait for donors to raise a red flag before he acts."

Meanwhile Chifire noted

that the fight against corruption needed to be a conscious action as opposed to being impulsive.

He added that in order to retain confidence in Zambians, the PF government needed to endeavour to adopt a zero tolerance approach towards corruption.

"In order to retain public confidence in the war against corruption, President Lungu and the PF administration must endeavour to adopt a zero tolerance [approach] to corruption. The Public perception on President's Lungu's fight against corruption is not so charitable. There is need for this government to do more," stated Chifire.

The right to life is fundamental; under no circumstances must it be violated. The reality of human rights protection is one that continues to elude the Patriotic Front under President Edgar Lungu. The nation remains in shock at the death of a defenceless young female student at the hands of police brutality.

Everyone was heartbroken except those in leadership. Instead of taking responsibility and sympathizing with the bereaved family, we saw sarcastic messages coming from government officials tormenting those who were grieving. We know that people like Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya and her accomplices in the PF media team are capable of defending anything as long as it keeps their political career alive, but we plead with them to respect the sanctity of life.

It was really unfortunate that angry students accosted Honourable Siliya and started boozing while calling her a prostitute at the funeral. We condemn that in the strongest sense possible. In our African and Zambian culture, not only are elders supposed to be respected, but a funeral is no such place for settling scores or applying vengeance.

These youths at the University of Zambia must not hide behind the veil of being students to justify unruly behaviour. They are fully grown adults who represent the crème de la crème of the Zambian intelligentsia, so they must stop exhibiting

News Diggers! Ear to the ground

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Please respect sanctity of life

thug behaviour. Looking at the video of these UNZA students hailing insults at the minister, one would think those were call boys at a bus station reprimanding a skimpily dressed girl and not university students expressing anger at a government official. There has to be a difference.

But no sooner had we expressed our disgust for this conduct than we saw retaliation from the minister with a similar measure of emotions. The minister was describing the grieving students as drunkards and went ahead to immediately suggest that

government was wasting taxpayers' money by funding drunkenness and violence at the University. Surely, this was too soon to suggest. It showed a lack of sorrow on the part of government. But who are we to question? The PF government knows it all.

Vespers is gone and

nothing will bring her back. But we would like our readers to appreciate the genesis of this UNZA fracas. Government is only looking at the riot and suggesting that without it, Vespers' life would have been preserved. They are ignoring the fact delayed payments of meal allowances caused the protest, which led to the confusion. But even assuming that the students had no reason for protesting, we insist that the use of excessive force among our officers continues to take a toll on human life.

There is enough documented evidence that shows the many human rights violations perpetuated by this regime. It is a fact that Zambia's human rights record under the leadership of the PF has deteriorated to levels many never thought possible in the post-1991 era. The

2017 Zambia Human Rights Report published by the US Department of State indicates that the most significant human rights issues in Zambia included: arbitrary killings, which were prosecuted by authorities; excessive use of force by police; harsh and life threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest; interference with privacy as well as restrictions on freedoms of the press, speech, and assembly.

The report notes that government selectively applies the law to prosecute or punish individuals who commit abuses and mostly target those who oppose the ruling party. That is why even in the case of the University of Zambia protest and the death of Vespers, the entire government is pointing fingers at the opposition UPND leader. How can Mr Hakainde Hichilema be responsible for controlling

universities and police conduct as if he holds the instruments of power?

We find it baffling that under this government, simple efforts to exercise basic democratic rights are often met with brutal resistance, but when consequences of their actions arise, they find someone else to blame. It is difficult to understand why the police service continues to work very hard to reclaim its original definition of "police force". Why they continue to use draconian tactics to tackle simple acts such a peaceful students' protest can only be attributed to the system under which they operate.

A system that is presided over by scared politicians,

individuals who are intolerant of criticism for

fear that their evil acts will

be exposed.

We challenge President Lungu to address the

nation on many issues that

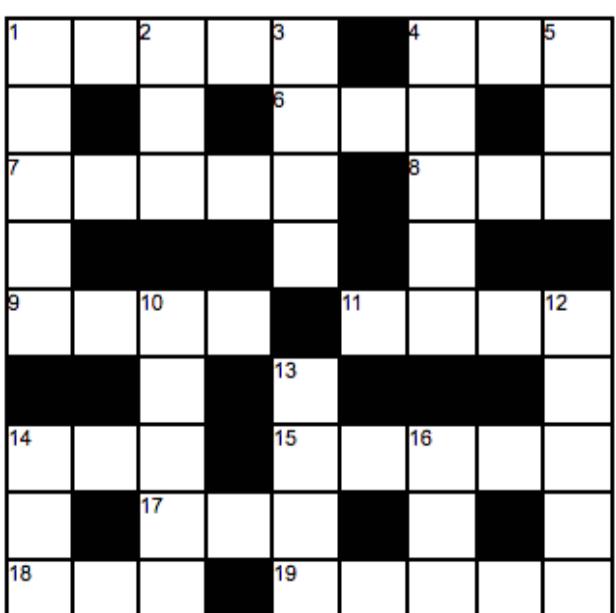
affect Zambian citizens that are building public resentment against his administration. An apology from the highest office to the family of Vespers is the barest form of humanity that any leader can exhibit in such a highly provocative situation.

We wish to remind the PF administration that the power they enjoy today is rented from the masses; a day will come and is fast-approaching when the real owners of the power will demand it back! The institutions that they abuse today to deal with their opponents in unjust ways will one day be used against them when they leave office.

We know that this reality of the PF leaving office bothers President Lungu so much. He loses sleep when he thinks about it. Recently, on a visit to the Copperbelt, he complained of how Zambians do not appreciate good leaders until after they leave office; citing the example of Levy Mwanawasa and Michael Sata.

This showed us that the President is indeed aware of the unhappiness among Zambians over the conduct of his administration. What is worrying is that he seems to take an 'I don't care attitude' "after all, Zambians will have good things to say about me too when I leave office". No, sir, when you leave office, you will be defined as the worst Head of State, and if you are unlucky, you will be the first former president to enter prison.

Crossword puzzle 205



"Power attracts the corruptible. Suspect any who seek it."
- Frank Herbert

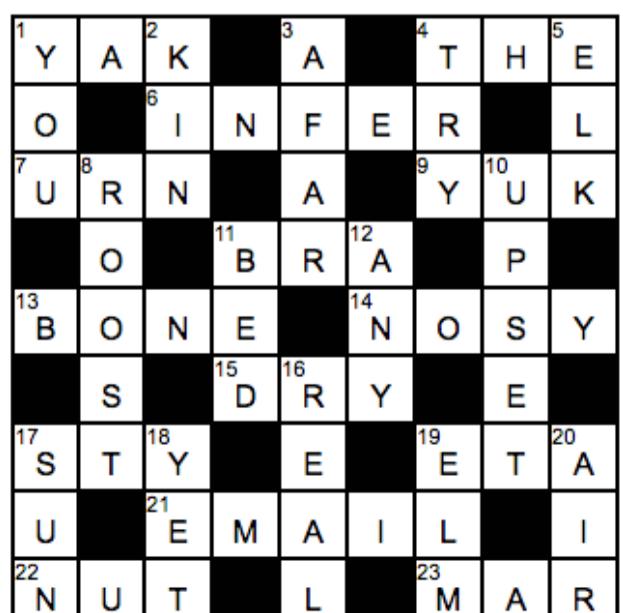
Across

1. Long keyboard key
4. Have a seat
6. Not used before
7. Felt sore
8. Freudian subject
9. Actress Hudson
11. One-pot dinner
14. Flowery necklace
15. Kitchen appliance
17. Formerly
18. Raiders of the Lost
19. Swallowed fluids

Down

1. Fire starter
2. Residue of fire
3. Brings to a halt
4. Perspire
5. Also
10. Get ideas
12. Destroy
13. Mr. Flintstone
14. Grassy plain
16. Actress Peeples or Long

Solutions to puzzle 204



Reader's feedback

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Note that we block Facebook users who use abusive language.

ND OPINION: Timeline proof that cheap Saudi oil deal was fraudulent

Editor,

"Thank you, News Diggers! for this timeline reporting. We need to remind these people in government of the lies." - Chola Mwale

"PF has been a

fraud from the word go. Let's get organised abena Zambia...LET'S DEMAND FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. Enough of this failed government. EARLY ELECTIONS." - Mwanakatwe Chulu Sikasula

"As long as Zambians don't speak with one voice, this will continue. We're fools to them. Wake up bena Zambia. We need to act." - Kawuwa Leonard Simwawa

"Is 6 days equivalent to 5 years? Or there will be supply of 6 days every year for 5 years? Broad daylight fraud." - Maningi Dibili

"Saudi cheap oil. The deal that never was. I am seeing this being a source of litigations and removal of someone's legal immunity. Ask RB about the Nigerian oil and arms deal." - Sekeli Lubinda

"This is not about government, NEVER! This is about us Zambians who have allowed a few individuals to ride on us. Zambians, we have more power than these few heartless thieves whom we've allowed to steal in broad daylight." - David Mbolumwa Chakopo

"I am still surprised you would waste taxpayers' money to go and purchase 5 days' worth of oil. Seriously, and we don't even know who benefitted." - Ben Chibwe

"Sin has a tendency of catching up with its offenders; soon, this PF government will answerable to the massive corruption." - Mundia Munganguta



HH should sue Tayali over allegations

Editor,
"Please sue him for K100 million. His allegations are very, very serious." - Hikavula Chinyama

"Just sue the skunk for criminal libel." - Joseph Chisenga

"You have wasted your time; better take him to court so that he can explain while you hear, sir." - Gore Kasayenda

"Tayali deserves to be locked up, he does not appreciate being free to

move about. Tayali's vendetta against HH is due to his jealousy since HH is a successful businessman and politician.

Tayali is sponsored by some political elements to demonize HH." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"Tayali is just a loudmouth, an attention seeker. He will say almost anything to be and to stay relevant." - Thulani M'sandibvute Mwinga

Minister's argument that selling fuel at K5.50 wouldn't make economic sense

Editor,

"What is economically senseless is his being a Minister. What a waste of a portfolio and money." - Victor Chansa

"So, a whole 5-year of supply of cheap crude was compressed to six days' stock? No wonder it doesn't make sense. Guess what Ba Mr unhonourable Minister, we already knew that. So there is no point even trying to wiggle your way of this one. It doesn't hurt to say 'you are sorry' and carry on with whatever you do." - Japhet Kapanji

"The Ministerial communique then read that a 6-year deal has been signed on a govt-to-govt basis. Was it supposed to read 5 days?" - Wayne Mfula

"It's so sad that Zambians are now fooled for lack of a better term. I mean, how can high calibre people make such false pronouncements to millions of Zambians if they knew that the cheap fuel in question was not viable? Or why didn't they make it more like a promotion, even for those said days and clarify to us?" - Chricious Chongo

"You stole people's money." - Bernard Musonda

"Fuel money chewed." - Dickson NK



Ladanise Joseph sits with her 9-month-old granddaughter outside their home damaged in the quake that hit over the weekend in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 8, 2018. The death toll from a 5.9 earthquake that hit Haiti over the weekend rose to at least 15 people with hundreds injured, according to updated figures released Monday by authorities, as rescue crews worked to help victims spooked by strong aftershocks. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

South Africa finance minister's IMF trip eases fears over his future

South Africa's finance minister is traveling to Indonesia for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting, the Treasury said on Tuesday, a statement that may soothe markets a day after a media report that he had asked the president to sack him.

The rand fell more than one percent on Monday when Business Day reported that Nhlanhla Nene had made the request after acknowledging he had visited the Gupta family, friends of former leader Jacob Zuma accused of unfairly winning state contracts.

Both Zuma and the Guptas have denied any

wrongdoing. Nene, who publicly apologised for not previously reporting the visits to the Gupta brothers, has not made any statements

confirming or denying the Business Day report. The president's spokeswoman told Reuters his office was not aware of any such request from Nene. Treasury spokesman

Jabulani Sikhakhane said the finance minister was expected to arrive in Indonesia on Wednesday. Nene is due to read the mid-term budget later this month. **REUTERS**

Indonesia tells independent foreign aid workers to leave quake zone

Indonesia on Tuesday ordered independent foreign aid workers to leave the quake zone and said foreign groups with staff in the disaster area on Sulawesi island should pull them out.

Indonesia has traditionally

been reluctant to be seen as relying on outside help to cope with disasters, and the government shunned foreign aid this year when earthquakes struck the island of Lombok.

But it has accepted help from abroad to cope with

the aftermath of a 7.5 quake and tsunami that hit the west coast of Sulawesi on Sept. 28, killing at least 1,948 people.

Despite that, some foreign groups say they have faced difficulties getting entry permits to bring in staff

and equipment, and there has been confusion about the rules.

There have long been restrictions on the activity of foreign aid workers, and the national disaster agency, in a notice posted on Twitter, set the rules out for

foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Foreign groups are not allowed to "go directly to the field" but must conduct all activities "in partnership with local partners", it said.

"Foreign citizens who are working with foreign NGOs are not allowed to conduct any activity on the sites affected," it said.

"Foreign NGOs who have deployed its foreign personnel are advised to retrieve their personnel immediately," the agency said in its English-language notice.

The official death toll in Sulawesi stood at 1,948 on Tuesday, with most of the fatalities in Palu, a small city that bore the brunt of the disaster.

No one knows how many people are missing, especially in areas of southern Palu devastated by soil liquefaction, but it could be as high as 5,000, the national disaster agency said.

About 70,000 people have been displaced. **REUTERS**

IMF cuts global growth forecast to 3.7% for 2018, 2019 as risks rise

An upswing in economic risks due to rising trade tensions and debt levels has prompted the International Monetary Fund to cut its forecast for world growth for this year and next.

With trade growth set to slow sharply amid a trade war between the United States and China, the IMF cut its outlook for global GDP by two-tenths to 3.7 percent for 2018 and 2019, according to the quarterly World Economic Outlook Report issued Monday.

The revised estimates include a worsening outlook for developing economies this year and next compared to the July report, as well as downgrades for the US and China in 2019.

The IMF warns that risks highlighted in previous reports "have become more pronounced or have

partially materialized" in the real world. The dominant US economy has been shielded from the ill effects so far due to the stimulus provided through tax cuts and spending policies but that will wear off by 2020.

Still, the trade disputes sparked by President Donald Trump that have led to tit-for-tat exchanges of tariffs among major trading partners are affecting China, other Asian economies and more vulnerable countries like Argentina and Turkey, along with Brazil.

Growth estimates for the euro area and Britain also were revised down.

The report warned that growth "may have peaked in some major economies."

"Downside risks to global growth have risen in

the past six months and the potential for upside surprises has receded," the IMF said.

Rising trade tensions are a key challenge to the world economy as "protectionist rhetoric increasingly turned into action."

That includes President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods, as well as on aluminum, steel and other products worldwide.

The IMF warned the uncertainty caused by the trade disputes "could lead firms to postpone or forgo capital spending and hence slow down growth in investment and demand."

And if it continues, the "escalation of trade tensions to an intensity that carries systemic risk is a distinct possibility without policy cooperation." **AFP**

Singapore court convicts activist, opposition politician over Facebook comments

A Singapore court on Tuesday convicted a rights activist and an opposition politician of contempt of court, punishable by up to three years in jail, for online comments posted on Facebook, the first such ruling under a new law. The wealthy Asian city state's High Court found Jolovan Wham, a vocal government critic, and John Tan, a member of the opposition Singapore Democratic Party, guilty of "scandalizing the judiciary" with the social media posts. The posts of both Wham and Tan "posed a risk that public confidence in the administration of justice would be undermined," Judge Woo Bih Li said in his ruling.

Wham's post "impugned the integrity and impartiality of Singapore's judges, and thus the Singapore courts" by implying judges were not independent and were partial to

the government, he added.

Tan's post supporting the comments similarly impugned the court's integrity, the judge said.

The convictions are the first under the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act that took effect a year ago, the Singapore Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) said, with sentencing set for Nov. 7.

Convictions carry a fine of up to S\$100,000 (\$72,200) in addition to the maximum term of three years.

In a Facebook post after the ruling, Wham said he would await sentencing. Tan's party does not have an elected member in parliament, which is dominated by the ruling People's Action Party.

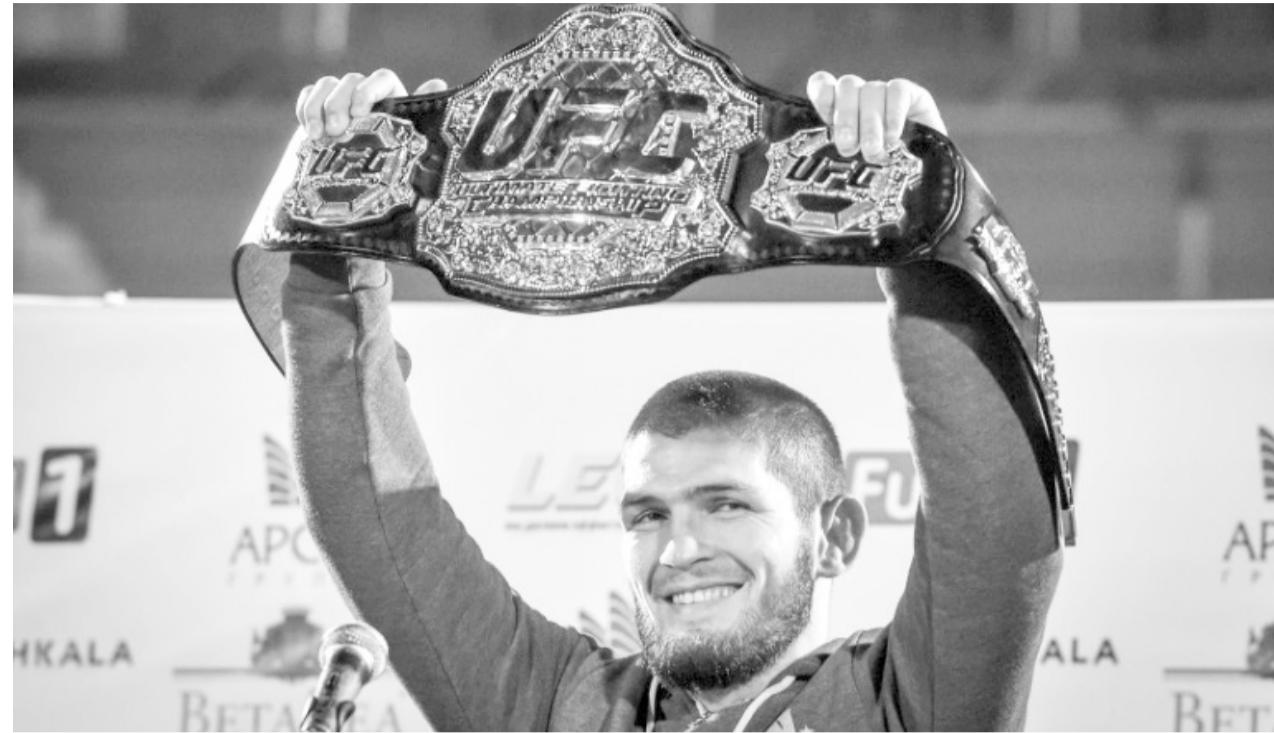
Wham's lawyer, Eugene Thuraisingam, said he had argued his client was not contemptuous of the judiciary as he was "merely comparing the relative independence" of judges in different jurisdictions. The defendants have made no decision about an appeal, he added. **REUTERS**

Nkwazi Football Club coach Chris Kaunda says he would be glad if the club executive maintained him as coach next season adding that he has fully identified areas that made his team perform poorly. Kaunda also noted that his side had improved towards the end of the season and expressed sadness that the season could not be prolonged to prove a point as far as winning games was concerned. He said this in an interview with Goal Diggers! "I do not know if I'm still going to be Nkwazi coach but I would be glad if I was given the chance by the executive. I think I have identified areas that prevented us from winning games and it is evident in the last three games we have played. I mentioned in the first round of the season that my players were failing to score out of the created

Nkwazi coach begs for 'second chance'

chances but now they are able to. It would not be starting from scratch if I was maintained as coach," said Kaunda. Meanwhile, Nkwazi goal keeper Charles Muntanga expressed

disappointment that his team could not finish in the top ten this season. "We are a good team that is expected to do better than this. We were winning games which a few people did not expect us to win and losing those that could have been walks in the park. We kind of mastered the winning formula in the last games of the league but that did not help us. For next season, we should be able to start with the winning formula and maintain it. We can do it if other clubs have done it," said Muntanga. Nkwazi is 11th on the table and has 48 points and a game before the season is concluded. Last season the police side finished 12th with 45 points.



Unbeaten UFC lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov of Russia shows his belt to fans after receiving a hero's welcome in Dagestan following his fourth-round victory over Conor McGregor of Ireland. AFP

NAZ still in the dark about player dues

By Alex Chilumbwe

Netball Association of Zambia (NAZ) president Getrude Mukumi says she is still in the dark about the remaining balances due to netballers who participated at the Africa Netball Tournament on 13th August 2018. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Mukumi said although the budget for the

national team was prepared by the association, only a person from the ministry of sports would know the balances, and the date that players would receive their dues. "I am well aware that we prepared the budget as an association and the ministry actually approved it. I am however still in oblivion about the amount remaining

for players and I do not know when they will receive it. Only a senior person from the ministry can tell," Mukumi said. Asked about how she was not in the know-how of the money owed to players, Mukumi explained that it was regrettable that there was no clear communication between govt and the association, adding that she would escalate the

matter to relevant authorities. "I will follow this matter up and obtain information from the ministry so that am able to respond to such questions

with confidence. Otherwise I understand that I have to know the players' welfare and see to it that they are given what they have worked for," said Mukumi.

The tournament which was a qualifying determinant for 2019 Liverpool World Cup in England saw Uganda and Zimbabwe qualify while Zambia finished third after losing to Zimbabwe on aggregate. Zambian players were given K2000 each a week after the tournament and were told their 'unknown balances' would be deposited in their respective accounts on 'unknown date.' The current NAZ Executive has been unchanged for more than six years. It has from time to time been rocked with issues of under-paying national team players and not looking out for their general welfare after international tournaments and series. A few unnamed players that spoke to Goal Diggers! said they were playing netball at national team level solely for passion and were sacrificing more than expected.

Serena confirmed for eighth Australian Open title tilt

Seven times champion Serena Williams will be back at the Australian Open in 2019 having missed her title defence this year after giving birth, organisers said Tuesday.

The 23-time Grand Slam winner, who won on her last appearance in 2017 while pregnant, will be joined in January's tournament by double Melbourne Park champion Victoria Azarenka who was forced to withdraw from the 2018 event because of a custody battle with her baby's father.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said Tuesday he was expecting a full contingent of the top 100 men and women players in Melbourne next year.

"I'm delighted to announce that Serena Williams will return to the Australian Open in January," Tiley said while launching the 2019 event at Rod Laver Arena.

"We last saw Serena here in Melbourne as our champion, holding the Daphne Ackhurst Memorial Cup in 2017. Of course what

we didn't know at the time was that she was already eight weeks pregnant with baby Olympia," said Tiley. Williams needs one more Grand Slam singles victory to equal Australian Margaret Court's all-time record of 24. "Serena loves coming to Melbourne and I know she's excited about returning in January with her family,

it's definitely a very special place for her," said Tiley. "She'll also be super-focused on winning here, and equalling Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles."

Tiley said the tournament was gearing up to welcome back Azarenka and Williams -- and their children.

"Vika (Azarenka) is also a

new mum to toddler Leo and I'm looking forward to showing her, and Serena, our new creche facilities," said Tiley. "I'm sure they'll be appreciated."

Six-time men's winners Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, who captured his 20th Grand Slam title in Melbourne in January, look to be among the players to

beat again in 2019. Tiley was also looking forward to the return of Britain's Andy Murray, the five-time losing finalist who missed this year's tournament with injury. "With his incredible work ethic and competitive spirit it would be foolish to underestimate him," he said of the Scot. AFP

Senegal to be the first African country to host Youth Olympics

Senegal will host the next edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It will be the first African nation to host the event. Four other African countries - Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia - were in the running to host the event, but Senegal was chosen as it provided the "best value proposition and the greatest

opportunities at this moment in time", the IOC said in a press release.

The competition will be held in three cities: Senegal's capital Dakar, the new city of Diamniadio, which currently under development, and Saly on the coast.

"Senegal and its young people are proud of the honour you have bestowed upon us, in entrusting the organisation of the Youth Olympic Games

2022 to our country," Senegal's President Macky Sall said in a statement.

"In fact, it is the whole of Africa, the birthplace of humankind through its history and the youngest continent through its demographics, which will welcome the young athletes of the world in 2022." Apart from Antarctica, Africa is the only continent in the world to have never hosted the Olympic Games. BBC

Patson wants a clean sweep in remaining AfCON games

WE OWE

FANS

By Alex Chilumbwe

Chipolopolo forward Patson Daka says the national team owes Zambians victories in all the remaining AFCON qualifier games so as to qualify for next year's Africa Cup of Nations. Daka also said that today's clash against Guinea Bissau should set the winning mood that would guide

the squad to other victories and restore fans' confidence in the national team. He was speaking on the sidelines of Chipolopolo coach Sven Vandenbroeck's pre-match press conference in Lusaka yesterday. "I feel like we owe soccer fans and Zambians at large victories in all the remaining qualifier games in the group. We have to

win all of them so that we restore their confidence in us. I have to admit that after winning AFCON in 2012, the winning spirit started dying slowly and we need to bring it back at all costs," said Daka. Daka who plays for an Austrian club FC Red Bull Salzburg started his national team duties in 2014 when he made a cut to the Under 17 Zambia National team. His club mate and multi-tasking forward Enock Mwepu noted that it would be the third time Zambia failed to prove its soccer giant status in Southern Africa and the continent at large should they fail to qualify. "When it comes to football a good number of Africans know that Zambia is a giant not only in our region but the entire continent. This is one of the reasons we should beat Guinea Bissau and stretch our chances of qualifying for AFCON. If we fail it will be the third time we convinced them that we are disappointing soccer giants," said Mwepu. Zambia and Namibia have a point each while Guinea Bissau and Mozambique have four points each. Winning the remaining fixtures would help Zambia qualify.



Anthony Joshua wants to battle Deontay Wilder for all the world titles. Skysports

The FA is set to investigate Jose Mourinho's touchline comments after Manchester United's 3-2 win over Newcastle on Saturday.

Mourinho was caught on camera as he left the pitch at full-time at Old Trafford, appearing to speak in Portuguese. If the Manchester United

FA set to investigate Jose Mourinho's touchline comments at Old Trafford

boss is found to have used 'offensive, insulting or abusive language' then he could face a touchline ban.

Mourinho's position at United has come under intense scrutiny, with reports on Friday suggesting he could

be sacked regardless of the result against Newcastle at the weekend, although they were later dismissed by the club.

Following the win over Rafa Benitez's side Mourinho hit out in his post-match interviews and claimed there

was a "manhunt" against him and "wickedness" behind the rumours surrounding his future. **SUPERSPORT**

