



GOVT ABOLISHES MEAL ALLOWANCE

By Mukosha Funga

With effect from January 2019, government will no longer pay meal allowances to University of Zambia or Copperbelt University students, Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo has revealed. Last week, Copperbelt University students rioted over delayed payment of meal allowances, a trend that is also rife at the university of Zambia in Lusaka. But Professor Luo says

University students will feed themselves starting 2019 - Luo

since the delayed payment of meal allowances was the main source of unrest at institutions of higher learning, government would abolish the payment of the stipend next year so that students survive on their own. *To page 5*

RDA to revise speed limits

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Road Development Agency (RDA) Communications and Corporate Affairs Manager Masuzo Ndhlovu says the agency is working in conjunction with the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) to harmonise speed limits on most public roads. *To page 5*

We don't want laws that will hamper media growth - Dora

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Information Minister Dora Siliya says government has continued working with both the public and private sector to ensure that the legislation under IBA does not hamper the growth of the media industry. *To page 7*

Enter 2019 with renewed sense of hope - Hichilema

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Opposition UPND Leader Hakainde Hichilema says he is delighted about the ongoing spirit of oneness and unity of purpose which citizens throughout the

country are enjoying this festive season. In his statement containing the festive season message, Hichilema urged Zambians not to allow anyone to divide them again.

"As we enter the New Year, we must face it with a more positive and renewed sense of hope. On our part, we are humbled with the ongoing spirit of oneness and unity of purpose as citizens throughout the country. This is as it should be and we must not allow anyone to divide us again," Hichilema said. He further encouraged citizens to celebrate this festive season in a responsible manner and avoid involving in illicit activities that may endanger lives. *To page 2*

Nakacinda supports Lungu's 'third term'

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Fire tender protesters vow to soldier on

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Nakacinda supports Lungu's 'third term'

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Nominated member of parliament Raphael Nakacinda says as a mother of democracy, the Mutati led MMD will not participate in the antics of the opposition alliance, saying it is aimed at driving the UPND's agenda.

And Nakacinda says President Lungu deserves to stand again in 2021 because his first term in office was less than three years.

Speaking when he featured on radio Mano in Kasama, Northern Province, Nakacinda who is MMD national secretary distanced the his faction from the united opposition alliance. "I don't want to demean them, but I think they all have a common goal around HH as a candidate and so on. It's a political strategy of the UPND. They know that the mother of democracy (MMD) doesn't play such kind of antics. We are serious about our discourse in terms of advancing the interest of the Zambian people. When there is a fundamental issue that is not political in nature, but national in nature, we participate. But if it is a political strategy of a political party, we wish them well. Let

them use their strategy and see how far they can go. So, that is a political strategy of the UPND and they have a few individuals who gather around them to show that they have support. It is called 'stage-managing,'" Nakacinda argued.

He said those wishing for a "free ride" to State House using other political parties, or people's misfortunes, have got nothing to sell.

"...Because of the misfortune of another person, you want to be voted in because another person has been disqualified, I think [it] is undemocratic. Win an election because you have superior policies, superior ideals that the Zambian people are interested to support and vote for. That should be the thinking for any political player; we shouldn't have a situation where you are wishing another person to die so that you then can have a free ride to go to State House. Then it means you have got nothing to sell! I think, as a principle, President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, whether he is a candidate or not, should not be a preoccupation of political players if they have something to offer to the Zambian people,"



Nakacinda explained.

He said those insisting that President Lungu is seeking to run for a third term are only playing political gimmicks.

"If you remember in 2016, the UPND had a press briefing where they said that President Edgar Lungu did not qualify to get the benefits or to be built a house because he had

only served for one year six months and because that was not considered as a full term. That was in 2016 because they (UPND) were hoping that they would win the elections. After elections, they again changed their position and said he wants to go for a third term. Yesterday, you said he hasn't served a term, and today you

are saying 'third term.' So, it's about political gimmicks. These inconsistent positions are just meant for political convenience. I think when it comes to law, when it comes to fundamental issues in terms of our [Republican] Constitution, we must be consistent. The truth of the matter is that President Edgar Lungu never

served three years," argued Nakacinda.

"The law is not applied in retrospect. When you change the Constitution, the new Constitution applies the day it is enacted. They even sponsored someone to go on Television in South Africa to try and argue this matter; the guy just embarrassed Zambia by beginning to argue things that are a figment of somebody's imagination. So, we can't have that kind of arrangement. So, as far as we are concerned as MMD, it's not about President Lungu being qualified or not, we will not base our future on the misfortune of another political party or another individual player. For us, it is about superiority of ideals, superiority of your policies and the quality of leadership that you are presenting to the Zambian people. That is where we anchor our hope and faith in terms of winning the confidence and trust of the Zambian people."

Enter 2019 with renewed sense of hope - Hakainde

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Opposition UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema says he is delighted about the ongoing spirit of oneness and unity of purpose which citizens throughout the country are enjoying this festive season.

In his statement containing the festive season message, Hichilema urged Zambians not to allow anyone to divide them again.

"As we enter the New Year, we must face it with a more positive and renewed sense of hope. On our part, we are humbled with the ongoing spirit of oneness and unity of purpose as citizens throughout the country. This is as it should be and we must not allow anyone to divide us again," Hichilema said.

He further encouraged citizens to celebrate this festive season in a responsible manner and avoid involving in illicit activities that may endanger their lives.

"From Mutinta, myself and on behalf of the UPND, we send you seasonal greetings. We wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous

New Year. Christmas is a reminder of the greatest gift our Lord gave to the world; Jesus Christ. It is a time for giving and sharing. Giving and sharing need not be

in physical form, you can give love, a smile, a helping hand and anything that is demonstrating the love of Christ," stated Hichilema.

"For those who can afford a

few gifts, please let's share the little we have with those of our citizens in need. Let's celebrate responsibly and avoid involving ourselves in illicit activities that may

endanger our lives and that of others. We love you and your families. Enjoy your Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Thank you and celebrate responsibly."

Looming BREXIT deal won't affect Zambia-UK trade – ZACCI

By Milimo Namangala

The Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) says if Britain eventually leaves the European Union (EU) next March, Zambia is not likely benefit by having increased trading opportunities with that country.

British Prime Minister Theresa May triggered the process of leaving the EU to formally cut off links on March 29, 2017, after British voters chose to leave the trade bloc during the historic 2016 referendum, dubbed "Brexit."

The means that the UK is scheduled to leave the EU at 23:00 hours, UK time, on Friday, March 29, 2019.

Since "Brexit" is now British law, the UK is due to leave the EU next March regardless of whether there is a deal with the EU or not, throwing into question where Britain's future major trading links will now be with.

Commenting on the development, however, ZACCI president Michael Nyirenda argued that Zambia does

not stand to benefit much from Britain's "Brexit" deal with the EU. Nyirenda noted that Zambia would still maintain its usual trading benefits with Britain at a much smaller scale compared to trading with the EU on a larger scale.

"Whether UK succeeds with a deal or no deal, I don't think we need to be looking at choosing whether we should trade with the UK or trade with the EU, we'll trade with both. But the fact is that their own arrangement is that, the UK will not have access to the EU market," Nyirenda explained in an interview. "With the EU, you have more than one currency, so it's a bigger market than you have with the UK; even in terms of population, numbers of GDP and everything else. But the point is that, for us, I don't think it is going to provide any bigger market than it is currently because we are able to export to the UK, we are also able to export to the EU."

Nyirenda added that Zambians enjoy more trading benefits with

the EU market, which consists of different countries unlike the UK, which has one market.

"The only thing I currently see is that, if you go to the UK market, it's one market; but even currently, you know that the UK does not accept the euro per say even in their current state. They still insist on their pound, but when you are in the EU, you can actually use the euro across, which is the issue I am talking about in terms of free trade. So, to me, I don't think it will add any additional value for us, we'd have to keep both the EU as well as the UK in terms of our strategic plans," Nyirenda added.

He also pointed out that Zambia has had linkages and a long history with the UK since colonial times, which has led to the UK thriving on providing more services, such as offering education.

He added that this calls for Zambia to focus on finding a way to intensify trade links with the UK as a trading partner.

Meanwhile, commenting on the trend of unregistered businesses in the country, Nyirenda said in order for the government to maximise on getting revenue, all Zambians must register their business, including those exempted from making payments temporarily.

"As a country, we need to realign all businesses so that we can then all contribute to the development of the country; in fact, the best is that as a country, you ask what you can do for a country than what the country can do to you," said Nyirenda.

"The government through the Ministry of Finance will exempt certain people or companies for a specific purpose, but that does not mean they should not be formalized. So, in short, they should be formalized and registered, both as a business or business name, but also for the purpose of knowing and taxation that we all need to do that." He further urged any kind of business regardless of size to register as a company.

By Stuart Lisulo

Government will fail to hit their projected revenue target of around US \$1.3 billion expected to be accrued from the new mining fiscal regime next year, according to the Zambia Chamber of Mines. And the Chamber has reiterated that as many as 21,000 jobs could be lost over a three-year period in the mining sector resulting from the new tax proposals. Meanwhile, the Chamber has disputed assertions that mining companies are trying to “arm-twist” government by threatening to scale-down operations and trigger job losses.

The 2019 national budget announced significant changes to the mining fiscal regime, which will see an increase in mineral royalty rates by 1.5 percentage points at all levels of the sliding scale.

Speaking during a media presentation, newly-appointed Zambia Chamber of Mines president Goodwell Mateyo announced that government will not hit

Govt won't hit projected US \$1.3bn in mining tax revenue, says Chamber

their projected revenue target of around US \$1.3 billion next year from the 2019 mining fiscal regime, but will only raise less than US \$30 million from the tax measures.

Mateyo explained that more than half of mining operations in the country will be loss-making as a result of the fiscal regime government wants to enforce next January, and as a result, some will inevitably start scaling down operations.

“The proposed tax measures by the government were intended to raise a further

US \$530 million. So, the government anticipated that with the new taxation regime for mining, they would get mining tax revenue up to US \$1.3 billion. But with the scaling back of production; the reduction in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI); the curtailment of expansion plans, this is not going to materialise,” Mateyo told journalists at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, Thursday.

“...Because, they will be a loss in Pay As You Earn (PAYE) if employees are laid off; there will be a loss in Mineral Royalty Tax (MRT) if there's

a reduction in production in export duty. So, if we carry out the numbers, we realise that this US \$1.3 billion that the Ministry of Finance intends to get in revenue in 2019 will not materialise. By our calculation, what will materialise will be US \$844 million, which will only be US \$30 million more than what was earned in 2018 under the current mining tax regime, but at greater pain of reduction in production; cancellation or deferment of expansion plans.”

And Mateyo cautioned that as many as 21,000 jobs could

be lost over a three-year period in the mining sector resulting from the new tax proposals.

“The result of this is 7,000 jobs are at risk, and if we look at one mining job having three further (indirect) jobs, it's a potential 21,000 jobs, which are at risk. There's a bigger threat to production, with a lot of mines will have to scale back on production, they will have to scale back on investment, and this will all have a large social impact,” Mateyo explained.

“I must mention that that 21,000 is both direct and

indirect, but that's over a period of three years.”

When asked for the Chamber's reaction from government's sentiments that mining companies were trying to “arm-twist” government by threatening to scale-down operations and trigger job losses, Mateyo disputed such claims.

“Mines are mining with the purpose of giving a return to their shareholders, and if the cost of operations rises as a result of the fiscal regime, the first thing that you look at as any responsible businessperson is which are the least profitable aspects of your operation. And the curtailment of those least profitable operations, inevitably, if there's going to be employees there, it means those employees become redundant,” explained Mateyo.

“So, it's not necessarily that employees are being used as pawns; you don't directly single out labour; you look at profitable and least profitable operations, and once those are closed, there's an indirect effect of labour being left redundant in those areas.”

Government will, among other key measures, roll out import duties of five per cent on copper and cobalt, while equally introduce an export duty on precious metals including gold, precious stones and gemstones at the rate of 15 per cent next year. The measures, however, have sparked a row between mining companies and government over the sudden change in the proposed tax rates.

Immigration nabs 219 in clean-up operation

By Milimo Namangala

The Department of Immigration has apprehended 219 people in connection with various immigration offences countrywide.

In a press release, Department of Immigration public relations officer Namati Nshinka stated that 219 people, who committed various immigration offences countrywide, were arrested over a five-day period.

“The Department of Immigration between 14th and 19th December, 2018, apprehended a total of 219 persons for various immigration offences countrywide, including 171 apprehended in a clean-up operation conducted on 15th December, 2018. In various parts of Lusaka. The initial screening done on the day of the operation saw 70 suspects detained, 64 mandated to report to Immigration for further formalities and 37 released unconditionally, after producing proof of their legal immigration status,” Nshinka stated.

He added that 20 suspects remained in detention last Wednesday, while 112 were mandated to report to Immigration for formalities. “As at 19th December, 2018, 20 suspects remained in detention, while one 112 had been mandated to report to Immigration for further formalities. Meanwhile, 39 of those apprehended had been released unconditionally. Screening of the suspects is ongoing,” Nshinka added.

And officers at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) last Tuesday succeeded in intercepting

Congolese nationals who failed to produce legal immigration documents, according to Nshinka.

“Officers at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, on 18th December, 2018, intercepted 13 Congolese. The 13 were nabbed at a snap checkpoint after they failed to produce documents regarding their immigration status in Zambia. The group was leaving the airport after seeing off some Congolese refugees who were re-settled to Europe, when they were cornered. Similarly, the Chipata Regional Immigration Office on 16th December, 2018, in a clean-up operation, apprehended 12 suspected illegal immigrants. These were 10 Malawians and two Congolese,” he stated.

“Meanwhile, three Somalis in Kapiri Mposhi; two Burundese in Mbala; one Kenyan in Livingstone and one Congolese in Ndola, were all apprehended for unlawful entry. Others were one Congolese in Lukwesa; one Mozambican in Petauke and one Congolese in Mwami. Those apprehended for unlawful stay were one Zimbabwean and two Congolese in Mufulira; one Chinese; one Congolese; one Guinean in Kitwe and one Malawian in Lusaka. Others were one Congolese in Solwezi; one Zimbabwean in Kafue and one Tanzanian in Isoka. Others apprehended were two Burundese in Isoka and one Congolese in Nakonde, for concealing their true identity.”

Nshinka further narrated that the Department removed 18 illegal immigrants and refused entry to 18 other

foreign nationals.

“During this period, the Department also removed 18 illegal immigrants from the country and refused entry to 18 other foreign nationals. Those removed were three Burundese; one Rwandese; one Tanzanian in Mpika; two Egyptians; one Gambian and one Tanzanian in Lusaka. Others were three Tanzanians in Kasama; three

Congolese in Mufulira; two Malawians in Lundazi and one Congolese Brazzavillian in Mansa,” stated Nshinka.

“Those refused entry were two Tanzanians; one Kenyan and one South African, as they had exhausted their visit days, and two Kenyans; two Congolese and one Ugandan, for using invalid travel documents. Meanwhile, one Chinese and one Indian were

refused entry for returning to Zambia prematurely, having been recently removed. Others refused entry were three Mozambicans and one Zimbabwean, for insufficient funds; one Beninese for not having an entry visa; one Syrian because his employment permit application was still being processed and one Rwandese for not having a host.”



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Reckless drinking will make women vulnerable to irresponsible men, says Gender Minister

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Gender Elizabeth Phiri has appealed to women to avoid engaging in reckless beer drinking during this festive season to avoid being taken advantage of by irresponsible men and youths.

And Phiri has further appealed to women and girls to be cautious and avoid being swayed into engaging in illicit activities which may endanger their lives.

Meanwhile, Phiri says parents should save enough money for children's school fees instead of going on shopping sprees out of excitement.

This is contained in a statement issued yesterday by Ministry of Gender media liaison officer Mwape Mwenya, where the ministry wished all Zambians violence-free Christmas celebrations.

Phiri said the festive season was a time to spend time with families and friends, to reflect on the achievements attained and to look forward to future prospects. Phiri warned that the law would not spare anyone who would be found wanting especially in Sexual and Gender Based

Violence cases, irrespective of age and gender.

"According to the 2017 statistics of juvenile delinquency by the Zambia police, 1,761 juvenile offenders were convicted compared to 1,193 juveniles who were convicted in 2016 for various offences ranging from assault, drunk and incapable or disorderly acts and house breaking," she said.

Phiri further said breaking the law with impunity attracted stiff punishment by the law as no person had the right to take the law in their own hands.

"Women and the youth

especially girls should avoid being found in conflict with the law for cases which can be sorted out amicably and in a mature manner," she said.

Phiri expressed shock with recent media reports of inhuman acts which some women had committed towards fellow women, children and intimate partners.

She urged victims of GBV especially men who shy away for fear of victimisation, to report any form of abuse to relevant authorities so that whoever was found wanting could face the wrath of the law.



Move to dismiss teachers who impregnate pupils excites NDC

By Mirriam Chabala

National Democratic Congress (NDC) chairperson for gender Saboi Imboela has welcomed the announcement by government to introduce a law that will make it a dismissible offence for teachers to impregnate pupils.

Last week Eastern Province Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo made an announcement to Hot FM news that government would consider introducing a law that would make it a dismissal offence for a teacher to impregnate a pupil, and that

the culprits would also lose their benefits if found guilty. This was after Chipata District Commissioner Kalunga Zulu disclosed at the official opening of the adolescent health technical working group in Chipata that more than 5000 pupils had been impregnated in Chiapata district alone during the third quarter of 2018.

The District Commissioner further disclosed that the pregnancies were recorded from girls below the age of 20 and that some of the affected girls were still in schools while the others had dropped out.

Commenting on the matter in an interview with News Diggers, Imboela said her party supports the strengthening of laws to ensure that culprits are dealt with accordingly.

"Maybe when the culprits hear that their benefits can be terminated once that happens, they will be scared. But it's not only teachers that impregnate pupils. Sometimes even the truck drivers in the communities where the girls live. So it's about strengthening laws so that people are scared. If you look at developed countries, just a relationship between a pupil and a teacher, its a dismissible offence. Even at university level, female students are protected by the law and no lecturer can come near a student. But in Zambia you find that even at university, primary and secondary school teachers are so free to indulge in sexual activities with the pupils. So it's because of that we have

all these issues we are facing now. So for me, the law should start from the teacher-pupil's involvement, even if a pupil hasn't been impregnated. Just when a teacher is found wanting, I think they should be dismissed. Then for the terminal benefits, I definitely welcome what the PS said, it's a welcome move," Imboela said.

"Even if that law doesn't go through, there are still other laws that should protect a pupils. Though for me, that's the problem with the GBV laws that we have in the country, in that, after there is even that attempt by Parliament to bring certain bills into place, we have not yet enacted them into laws. So you find that when a law has been violated, you have to depend on other pieces of legislation to deal with that particular act. So nobody can be prosecuted for example for child abuse, but they will be prosecuted for another law, it can be assault on a child or other laws. But if certain laws against children, against women can be moved from just being 'substantive laws' to laws that can be found in the penal code, in that they can provide punishment within themselves, I think that will be a very welcome move."

She further regretted that the number of girls that had been reported to have been impregnated just in one quarter of the year in 2018 was too much.

"Most of us have been calling for teenage pregnancies and child marriages to be declared a crisis in this country. We

should declare it a national disaster and ensure that certain measures are put in place to deal with the issue decisively. We have had schools even here in Lusaka, you go there and you find that in just one term, there are about 49 girls that have been impregnated and the school teacher or any other culprit will even beg you to say 'don't publicise this information please, I don't want to get embarrassed'. But when you go to the rural places, it's even too much. And Eastern Province, in terms of early marriages and teenage pregnancies, it's the highest in the country at the moment. So for me, those statistics show that nothing and nothing much is being done. When we look at these teenage pregnancies and where the country is going, it's a problem for all of us," said Imboela.

"That is why some of us are never in Lusaka, we are all over Zambia to see what can be done by all of us as individuals and as organisations. The Ministry Chiefs and Traditional Affairs has launched a campaign against child marriages and early pregnancies but I don't know how far that has gone. Those are campaigns which should not stop because if you look at the reasons why girls are being impregnated and married off early, the reasons are so culturally entrenched in many of these societies. So much really, needs to be done to change mindsets of individuals especially in rural areas about teen pregnancies and early marriages."

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Fire-tender protesters vow to continue with lawful protest

By Zondiwe Mbeve

Alliance for Community Action (ACA) executive director Laura Miti has vowed to continue protesting lawfully with other Civil Society Organisations and citizens in order for their voices to be heard.

And Lusaka lawyer Keith Mweemba says police sometimes cause embarrassment to Zambians, adding that he doesn't believe the law enforcers always have instructions from politicians for them act in a certain way.

On Friday, the Lusaka Magistrates' Court acquitted Miti, PeP president Sean Tembo, musician Chama Fumba commonly known as Pilato, ZCSD executive director Lewis Mwape, Bornwell Mwewa and Mika Mwambazi after they were arrested last year on the charge of disobeying lawful orders.

The six were nabbed outside Parliament building in Lusaka on September 29, 2017 as they were protesting the purchase of 42 fire trucks for \$42 million. Magistrate Mwaka Mikalile dismissed the charge saying, the police did not act professionally and lawfully and were indeed the major obstacle in the proper administration of the Public Order Act.

"As rightfully submitted by the defence, the police did not act professionally and lawfully and they are indeed the major obstacle in the proper administration of the Public Order Act. The order issued by PW1 to the accused persons was not duly made or was not backed by law. As such, I find that an essential element of the offence under consideration has not been proved. I do hereby dismiss the charge [and] I accordingly acquit all accused persons and set them at liberty,"



she ruled.

And speaking after the judgement, Pilato expressed happiness that justice had been delivered.

He however, added that, "this is what happens when you have insecure leaders who want to cover their insecurities using the police. This shouldn't have happened," he said.

And Tembo regretted that the State had proceeded to

prosecute the matter despite knowing that it would be dismissed.

"We regret the fact that the State knew from the very beginning that they did not have a case in this matter and yet they proceeded with the prosecution of the six of us. The intention was malicious; it was merely to deprive us of the financial resources that we would incur, as well as the

inconvenience of going to court knowing fully well that the matter would be dismissed at the earliest possible instance," he said.

He added that their acquittal was a victory not only to them, but to all citizens who had been denied their fundamental right to demonstrate.

"And we are hopeful that going forward, the police are going to be ashamed to violate the lives

of citizens when they know that they don't have any case in any particular instance," he said.

Meanwhile, Miti vowed to continue protesting lawfully.

"We will continue to protest lawfully. The Court has stated that citizens have the right to assemble and that the Constitution is above any other subsidiary law. Yes as civil society, as members of the public, we have the right to

protest peacefully, to not injure anyone, but so that our voices should be heard," she said.

And their lawyer, Keith Mweemba said the ruling was good and well reasoned.

He however regretted that it was not coming from the superior court so that it became binding on the lower courts.

"My only regret is that it's not coming from a superior court because the way the magistrate has analysed the evidence and even the legal reasoning of the court, you would just admire and hope that it came maybe, from the superior court so that it becomes so binding on other lower courts," he said.

Mweemba observed that police sometimes caused embarrassment to Zambians, adding that he didn't believe the law enforcers always had instructions from politicians for them act in a certain way.

"The police keep saying 'we are arresting somebody because he has got no permit'. The law is very clear, there's no need for anyone to get permission to speak. The law is simply 'you must notify the police within seven days'. But the sad thing is that the police always give one excuse 'we are unable to police the event on security grounds'. That is a ground under which they hide," said Mweemba.

Govt abolishes meal allowances for university students

By Mukosha Funga

With effect from January 2019, government will no longer pay meal allowances to University of Zambia or Copperbelt University students, Higher Education Minister Professor Nkandu Luo has revealed.

Last week, Copperbelt University students rioted

over delayed payment of meal allowances, a trend that is also rife at the university of Zambia in Lusaka.

But Professor Luo says since the delayed payment of meal allowances was the main source of unrest at institutions of higher learning, government

would abolish the payment of the stipend next year so that students survive on their own.

She said this move, to only pay tuition fees to students, would also allow government to accommodate more students on bursary, adding that parents also need to

show responsibility by giving their children pocket money when sending them to school.

This revelation was made when a Copperbelt University students' representative called the minister to consult her on when students would receive their allowances.

Luo assured the students that government had already disbursed the allocation through ZANACO bank and that the money would reflect in their accounts by Monday (today).

Below is the conversation between Professor Luo and the named Copperbelt University student.

Luo: Hello

Student: Hello, good afternoon Prof

Luo: Good afternoon

Student: I am calling to make a follow up on allowances at the Copperbelt University, at CBU.

Luo: Can you wait until Monday and check on your accounts. What am I supposed to say on a Saturday, really?

Student: Oh, sure. Yesterday we were told the money would start reflecting today but it's 15:00 hours, we haven't received.

Luo: Yes, you know banks don't do work on Saturday and Sundays so what am I supposed to to you? Me I have told you that the loan

board yesterday worked on your allowances.

Student: sure

Luo: what is now happening is that, and I am told they informed Zanaco to work round the clock but maybe they will start working on it on Monday for something. The allowances are coming. Now it is between you and the bank.

Student: Sure, Prof, we'd really appreciate if you would make a follow up so that by Monday our allowances can be in. We don't want unnecessary attention in school.

Luo: Anyway, starting January we will not be paying any pocket money allowances. We will only pay for your tuition, we will pay for project, we will pay for your accommodation. I think this allowance thing is going to drive us crazy. That way, we can even support more students. That's too much, I think we need to stop this allowance [thing].

Let your parents also take some responsibility for you people at that school, it is too much. So in the new year, I will announce so that you know that when you're coming to school, you come with your own pocket money. And also so that we can focus on other serious things in the nation.

Student: sure Prof, thank you

Luo: Thank you

RDA promises to harmonise controversial speed limits

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Road Development Agency (RDA) Communications and Corporate Affairs Manager Masuzyo Ndhlovu says the agency is working in conjunction with the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) to harmonise speed limits on most public roads.

Lusaka motorists have complained that the speed limit on most highways in the capital city were too low, thereby causing traffic congestion.

In an interview, Ndhlovu said the two agencies were working on something which would also factor in the various concerns raised by motorists concerning the un-harmonised speed limits.

"We are working in conjunction with RTSA just to harmonise all those things because there have been a lot of concerns lately because of the speed cameras and all those things. There is something we are working out and very soon we should be rolling out

just to normalise all the concerns that stakeholders are bringing out. There was something that was still being worked on in the background.

It's mainly RTSA and ourselves as RDA because you know that the care, maintenance and construction of all public roads is vested in RDA and once that is done, then RTSA takes it up to enforce whatever systems that are put in place. But you know as a country we have also grown economically and there are more activities now. We have more vehicles now than ever before. I think very soon we should be coming up with a strategy on all those things," Ndhlovu pledged.

Asked on the rationale considered when setting the existing speed limits, Ndhlovu said the variety of road users was of concern to the agencies.

"There are situations where certain areas are densely populated, so obviously you have to come up with measures such as speed humps as

part of road safety. So we do have a role to play as RDA in that the World Road Safety Action Plan is a decade of awareness and all those things which has been running from the year 2011 to 2020 so that there is consideration especially on the pedestrians and all the other vulnerable road users; be it cyclists and the others," said Ndhlovu.

"At the moment if you see even the roads that we are currently constructing or currently putting up, we have a special consideration for pedestrians. So we do put walkways by the sides and we have elongated the shoulders so that there is easy passage for cyclist and other road users. So in the densely populated areas, obviously there are these coming measures that we have put in place like speed humps just to slow down traffic in those particular areas. But again in highway areas we are working in conjunction with RTSA and we are also going to factor in all the concerns that are coming from different stakeholders."



PATRIOTIC FRONT



Why we deserve your vote

Leaving no one behind

PF GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE UNDER DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME NUMBER 2

"A DIVERSIFIED AND EXPORT-ORIENTED MINING SECTOR"

By Hon Davies Mwila

In his address to Parliament on 30th September 2016, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu stated that:

"As part of our Industrialisation and Job Creation Agenda, Mining will continue to play a key role in our economic growth and diversification to maximise benefits from this sector. Zambia possesses higher comparative advantages in mining, which has to be diversified away from copper to other precious minerals, to include oil and gas exploration; so as to mitigate against the changes in the prices of copper. There is need to shift our mind-set from the belief that we can only obtain higher growth from copper within the mining sector at the expense of other precious minerals whose prices at the international market are equally competitive.

In addition, Government will promote value addition in the sector with a view to obtain more benefits through processed products such as jewellery, cables, and other finished products, for use on the local and international markets. Within the spirit of promoting an integrated approach to development, Government will promote an environment aimed at promoting a productive relationship between the mines and mine suppliers to contribute to the growth of medium and small-scale entrepreneurs, (and) to maximise on our job creation prospects."

As espoused by President Lungu in the speech cited above and in line with the 7NDP, the PF Government is implementing several programmes aimed at delivering "a Diversified and Export-Oriented Mining Sector" in Zambia. A few of these programmes and interventions are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Small-Scale Miners' Financial Access and Empowerment Programmes

In order to empower and facilitate financial access to small-scale miners in Zambia, the PF Government has prioritized the promotion and production of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) in order to create employment and accelerate inclusive development in line with the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). The PF Government is promoting ASM by supporting mining of gravel, clay, stones, limestone, granite and phosphates; which collectively make a significant contribution towards diversifying the sector and economy, especially if it is quarried, processed, and manufactured domestically in industries such as agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

Furthermore, the PF Government under President Lungu is facilitating financial access to small-scale miners through such programmes as the Development Mineral Capacity Building Programme. This is an African, Caribbean Pacific and European Union (ACP-EU) Development Minerals Programme, which is a three-year €13.4 Million capacity building programme. The Programme is coordinated by the ACP Secretariat, financed by the European Commission and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by UNDP and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development. This Programme is actively supporting sustainable and inclusive development in the industrial

minerals, construction materials, dimension stones and semi-precious stones sectors through capacity development of key stakeholders such as regulatory agencies and local governments; private stakeholders including small-scale mining enterprises, construction companies, mining and quarrying associations; as well as training centres, universities, civil society organizations and community groups.

The ACP Group of States is the largest intergovernmental association of developing countries with 79 Member States from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Member States work together for the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and the integration of ACP States into the world economy. All Member States apart from Cuba are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement which gives the ACP Group a privileged relationship with the European Community. Through this ACP-EU Development Programme, the PF Government is successfully empowering small-scale miners through capacity development and increased access to financing.

Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Strengthening Programme
Under this Programme and in line with the 7NDP, the PF Government has strengthened the enforcement of existing laws and regulations on occupational health, safety and environmental protection. This is in order to curb preventable mining accidents, and provide maximum protection to human health and environmental wellbeing.

The Vision 2030 among other things states that: "The nation Zambians aspire for, should be characterized (by) development policies consistent with sustainable environment and natural resource management principles". By so doing, the PF Government is significantly contributing towards actualizing Zambia's Vision 2030 objective, which is to become: "A Prosperous Middle-Income Nation by 2030". Promoting Local And Foreign Participation In Mining Value Chains And Industrialization
In line with the 7NDP and in order to accomplish Vision 2030, the PF Government is promoting Local and Foreign Participation ("investment") in Mining Value Chains as well as Industrialization in general. A prime example of such promotion of participation ("investment") in mining value chains is, China Non-Ferrous Metals that has invested US Dollar 850 Million at the South Ore Deep Mining Project in Kalulushi. This investment has led to the creation of over 1,000 jobs for Zambians.

In addition, the PF Government is also facilitating industrialization as evidenced by the recent signing of an agreement between Central African Cement Company and Sinoma CBMI to set up one of the largest cement factories in Ndola at the total cost of 480 Million United States Dollars. Once the plant is commissioned, it will produce 2 million tons of cement will be produced per year. 1000 jobs will also be created during the construction phase.

Promoting Petroleum and Gas Exploration
In keeping with the 7NDP prescriptions to attain Vision 2030, the PF Government has established a governance framework and enabling environment

for the petroleum and gas sector, as evidenced by investments into petroleum and gas exploration.

The PF Government has established a governance framework and enabling environment for this promising sector so that all petroleum and gas exploration is undertaken in an efficient, safe and environmentally-friendly manner, and in a way that ensures maximum benefit to all Zambians.

The PF Government is promoting exploration for petroleum and gas in Zambia. For example, Tullow Oil, a United Kingdom firm, started exploring for oil and gas in Northern and Luapula provinces in 2017. Although Zambia does not currently produce oil, soil samples which were sent to European laboratories showed good traces of crude in the aforementioned provinces.

The exploration phase by Tullow Oil is expended to take between 2 to 10 years; the development phase will take about 3 to 10 years, while the production phase will take about 20 to 50 years. However, once oil deposits are confirmed to be in the areas under exploration, the PF Government has already put in place mechanisms which shall ensure that an emerging Petroleum Industry is well-organized, well-developed and well-managed in order to deliver maximum benefits and opportunity-sharing for all Zambians. More so, an emerging Petroleum Industry in Zambia would significantly boost current Government efforts to diversify the Zambian economy as well as create employment countrywide.

CONCLUSION

In line with the PF Manifesto and the 7NDP, the PF Government is delivering a diversified and export-oriented mining sector by implementing various programmes and projects, some of which are mentioned above. Due to these efforts by the PF Government, there has been tangible progress in diversifying, capacitating and industrializing the sector and other related sectors.

To echo the words of His Excellency President Edgar Lungu as he concluded his 2016 address to Parliament:

"We must all invest in hope and hard work that must lead all of us to a place of affluence. This we can do as a united, peaceful and democratic society. In the collective power of this nation, I have great hope. In the patience and resilience of our people, I have no doubt. Zambia is our common heritage. It is our common inheritance. Let us all work towards nation building. Let us build a nation that celebrates diversity and aspiration. Let us reject all forms of illiberal values. We are tolerant nation and so we must remain. Our country was built on a foundation of hard work and unity. Let us be patriotic in order to build a stable, peaceful and prosperous Zambia. Country interest must come before political party interest. In the words of that great son of Africa, Nelson Mandela, "let there be work, bread, water and salt for all".

The PF Government under President Lungu has unequivocally "invested in hope and hard work" as it delivers a diversified and export-oriented mining sector for the betterment of Zambians everywhere.

The Author is Patriotic Front Secretary General

We don't want laws that will hamper media growth - Dora

Sipilisiwe Ncube
Information Minister Dora Siliya says government has continued working with both the public and private sector to ensure that the legislation under IBA does not hamper the growth of the media industry. Speaking when she officiated at the Northern Province expo media awards Friday evening, Siliya noted that a number of newspaper media houses were suffering financially due to emerging online platforms.

"The government in its commitment to press freedom so far has issued over 115 radio licenses and most of these licenses are community radios which have become the real cornerstone for every district. With now digitalisation, we have seen over 50 TV broadcasting licenses being given. I do know that most of the private television stations are struggling and I have continued to urge the parties both the public broadcaster and the private stations to continue to talk and come to a logical commercial agreement. And I am aware that with new media, most of the newspapers, we have about ten newspaper publications so far but most of them have a lot of financial challenges, challenged with new online media," Siliya said.

"With the IBA overseeing media houses, we continue to recognise that there are some lacunas in the legislation, in technical capacity but we have continued to work closely with the media, private and public sector to ensure that the legislation in place under the IBA does not hamper the growth of the media industry. Very soon, we will be taking to Parliament the Access to Information Bill which is the citizens bill to avail the citizens the right to information as required

from government and other government institutions." And Siliya said the purpose of holding provincial expos was to relook at the comparative advantages of the different provinces.

"It was government that took the initiative to begin the provincial expos and these expos, the whole aim is to have accelerated development because of decentralisation that government instead of focusing on national level, it begins to focusing on provinces and look at the comparative advantages on those provinces. The whole idea of these expos is not just to hold them for their sake, it is that they must result in investment, they must result in us taking advantage of the comparative advantages of these various provinces, so that it must result in jobs

being created and in wealth being created and in that process, the media is at the centre," Siliya said.

Speaking at the same event, Northern Province Minister Brian Mundubile acknowledged the role of the media and added that it was through the media that history about the World War I was re-written.

"Northern Province will never be the same again and thanks to the transformation agenda by the Patriotic Front party that has brought about these expos and other initiatives that bring about development and of course this great team is led by His Excellency the President Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu. We are very lucky that we recognised the role of the media very early and engaged the media right from the start. To the media

I would like to say thank you and well done. As Northern Province we are proud to have rewritten the history. The world now know that World War I ended in Zambia. For the past 100 years, it was believed that the World War I ended in Europe and that the war ended on November 11, 1918. We went all out in partnership with the media to correct and restate the facts and the facts are that World War ended in Zambia on the 25th of November 1918, and in Mbala in particular. So without the media, it was not possible to have corrected the facts," said Mundubile.

Other people who attended the ceremony included Local Government Minister Vincent Mwale, Director of Public Prosecution Lillian Siyuni, Northern

Province PF chairperson Lazarous Bwalya, Chinsali MP member of parliament Kalalwe Mukosa, Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary Charles Sipanje and his Northern counterpart Elias Kamanga, former ZNBC director general Chibamba Kanyama, and former Lusaka mayor Fisho Mwale among others.

Among the journalists who scooped the awards included Felix Nkinke of New Vision newspaper who walked away with the best overall award, Joseph Phiri of ZNBC radio 2 who scooped the best radio journalist award, Njenje Chizu of Prime TV with best television award and Winnie Mwelwa and Cindy Sipula both of ZANIS.

The best blogger award went to Kelvin Sichizya a

freelance journalist while the best local language journalist award went to Mary Munasokwe of ZANIS and Lombe Musonda of ZNBC Bemba section.

Others were Mary Munasokwe, Christine Mwaba from Times of Zambia who won the best print media award and Francis Lungu of Zambia Daily Mail as well as Nkweto Mumba of ZANIS who scooped the Minister's award while radio Mano won the best overall institution coverage award.

And according to the organisers of the awards, the sponsors of the awards were ZESCO, multi Choice Zambia, Topstar, Japan International tobacco leaf, Mpanga Yamambwe Lodge, and the Lusaka Provincial administration among others.

Mumbi Phiri will be to blame if Grey Zulu dies - Levy Ngoma

By Mirriam Chabala

Former Sinda MMD member of parliament Levy Ngoma says Patriotic Front deputy secretary general Mumbi Phiri will be to blame if veteran politician Grey Zulu was to die. And Zulu says Zambians will not be distracted from denying President Lungu a chance to contest the 2021 elections because they already know that he is not eligible to go for a third term despite the Constitutional court determining otherwise.

Last week, Mumbi who is a nominated member of parliament, warned that no single Bemba should stand up to practice Chimbuya

with Easterners when Grey Zulu dies, a statement which did not settle well with Ngoma.

Ngoma further said Mumbi would have to take responsibility of Grey Zulu's death whenever he dies because she has prophesied his death.

"The moment former Secretary General for UNIP and former Vice-President for this country dies, we are going to blame her because it appears Mumbi Phiri has got more information that Mr Grey Zulu will pass on soon before her. We will have her to blame if that happens because only God knows the day that a person is going to die. So we wish

comrade Grey Zulu long life and not death as being prophesied by Madam Mumbi Phiri anytime soon. We are with him and we still want to see him alive for the foreseeable future, not those useless insinuations coming from the rank and file of the Patriotic Front. Don't play Chimbuya in that way, it can bring hatred in the nation, it can bring about serious finger pointing in the nation," Ngoma said.

"The PF is known for wanting to divert the attention of the people, they know that now the discussion is about chimbuya. Now is about Bembas being thieves so that people forget about that Constitutional court

judgment. They want to divert the attention from real issues. But we are not going to accept that, the real issue here is that President Lungu knows what he talked about so let him answer."

He said the PF leadership was lacking caliber.

"It's quiet unfortunate that something like that came from madam Mumbi Phiri. But this is what happens when you have got people who don't know what to do in positions of leadership. When you have got leaders whose preoccupation is to take Jameson or leaders who when they wake up they have to take Nsuko (sniffing powder) and then their minds go haywire, they

resort to such cheapness and lowering the dignity of the mark of leadership. What madam Mumbi Phiri is doing by trying to defend one Edgar Chagwa Lungu is uncalled for. The statement by President Lungu should not be taken lightly. He's the Commander-In-Chief, whatever the President says means two things. Either it's a very important policy position or it is what he has received through his intelligence gathering," said Ngoma.

"For president Lungu to get off the hook, it does not require Mumbi Phiri to say what she said. That's just casting all manner of aspersions against the people of Eastern Province, that if they marry each other then they are going to produce ugly children. It's very unfortunate that the PF under President Lungu want to take the people of Zambia for granted. You don't play chimbuya like that. If they want to be schooled, let them go back to elders and they will be told at which juncture those issues of chimbuya are supposed to be played. It's not every occasion where you can do chimbuya. But maybe because the President realised that there are a lot of thieves in his government and he's having it rough to control, but what does he need to do that as Commander-In-Chief? He should not play to the gallery but take action."

ECZ explains exclusion of Kafue by-election from next round of polls

By Mirriam Chabala

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) says elections for the Kafue council chairmanship were not included on the February 12, 2019, by-elections schedule because it has not been more than 30 days since its occupant resigned. ECZ public relations manager Margaret Chimanse explained in a statement that the Commission could only consider an office of a councillor or any other elective position as vacant after the required notice period of 30 days, as per the Zambian constitution, elapses.

"The procedure for conducting

of By-elections for Councillors or Mayors (or Council Chairpersons) is governed by Part XI of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016. Article 157 (2) (b) of the Constitution provides that the office of Councillor becomes vacant where: "the councillor resigns by one month's notice, in writing, to the mayor or council chairperson." In line with this provision it is a requirement of the law that the effective date of the resignation notice is thirty (30) days after giving the written notice. The Electoral Commission of Zambia can only

therefore consider an office of Councillor as vacant after the required notice period of thirty (30) days," stated Chimanse.

"The public is therefore informed that despite the reported number of councillors having had resigned in the last one (1) month, the effective date of resignations do not qualify to hold these by-elections at the same time as the Sesheke Parliamentary and seven (7) Ward By-Elections scheduled for 12 February 2019. Proceeding otherwise would be contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. The Commission therefore wishes to

assure the general public that as an electoral management body created under the Constitution, it will duly uphold the rule of law. The Commission further looks forward to the continued enhancement of the electoral process through mutual accountability and responsibility by all stakeholders."

Chimanse was responding to UPND deputy secretary general Patrick Mucheleka, who had earlier last week raised eyebrows after noticing that the Commission had omitted the Kafue council Chairmanship from the list of next round of by-elections.

What is left to say about our Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa that we haven't said already? Nothing! But yet, it is still so hard to ignore his continued controversy. Today we find ourselves still asking the same question about this young, enterprising Zambian politician who seems to be on a free fall from stardom. How did an upcoming star political leader, with so much going for him, get to this level, where people begin to question his sanity?

In our interview with this Lusaka Mayor, two months ago, we explicitly asked him if he was running mad. Some readers felt that we were deliberately being malicious with the aim of putting the civic leader's name into disrepute. That is not true at all. News Diggers enjoys a cordial relationship with the Lusaka Mayor who has a long-standing history with its editors; but it is also the responsibility of this newspaper to put this personal relationship aside and interrogate this elected leader's performance on behalf of the electorate.

In our previous opinion, we recalled that in 2014, Miles Sampa was the closest contender to the PF presidency. Either him or Mr Edgar Lungu was going to take over from Michael Sata. They both seemed to be equal competitors as they battled to the extent of dividing the ruling party – Inonge Wina leading the Edgar Lungu faction and Guy Scott pushing the Miles Sampa agenda.

Several people within and outside PF felt sad after the much younger, less controversial and more sober presidential aspirant lost the bid to be on the ballot paper. Miles Sampa was widely perceived as the new generation leader, and

Imagine a Zambia under Miles Sampa's Presidency

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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because he demonstrated that he had his eyes affixed on future prospects of leading the country, his departure from PF attracted a lot of followers.

We also recalled how when he succeeded to form the United Democratic Front Party, which propelled him to the leadership of the Orange Alliance, he commanded so much respect for Eric

Chanda and Elias Chipimo (whose political parties were older) to pave way for him. Miles Sampa was the new generation hero.

But they say everything happens for a reason. Against all odds, God has allowed Miles Sampa to bounce back into political leadership, so that the people of Zambia can experience a snippet of what it would be like to live

under his Presidency.

We wonder if those in the Patriotic Front knew that this is what they were sponsoring to the office of Mayor, or they are also as shocked as the rest of the Lusaka residents. One morning you see the Mayor posturing with a gun to shoot his political enemies, then you hear the party leadership counseling him. The other morning

you hear that the Mayor of Lusaka has appointed his own acting Mayor against the law, quickly we see the Attorney General and the Ministry of Local government sitting him down.

If we were to be frank, we would liken this situation to that family that decides to, in the spirit of promoting equal opportunities, appoint a

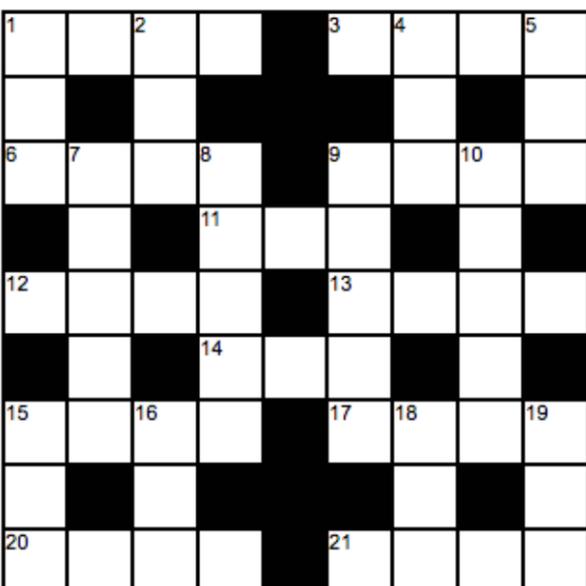
retarded son to manage a very sensitive business, while keeping their eyes on him, lest they find he has burnt down the whole place.

We woke up to some hilarious pictures just the other morning, showing the Mayor of Lusaka distributing toffee sweets to prisoners. From eating lunch worth K700 to distributing retro sweets worth K20 to hundreds of prisoners. Well, we don't want to call this insanity, but let's look at it this way; this is the thinking capacity of the overall boss of Zambia's capital city. This guy really loves controversy, for whatever reason. Can someone out there imagine a Zambia under Miles Sampa's presidency.

We have no option but to join those who are asking these questions: Is there a curse in the office of Lusaka Mayor? Could it be that some aggrieved PF member who wanted the position has bewitched His Worship the Mayor? Or is this a case of clinical depression caused by divorce for a man who was so deeply in love with his wife? There has to be an answer somewhere. We shouldn't just watch and create joke about him when we can clearly see that something is wrong.

Yes, we do not think that President Edgar Lungu is the best that Zambia can offer, but if there is nothing wrong that has happened to Miles Sampa. If this is whom he has always been; then indeed it was a better curse to have the so-called drunkard in State House than entrusting this sober guy with the responsibility of making presidential decisions. Sadly the Mayoral position is sinking Mr Miles Sampa further instead of restoring him back to his glory days in politics.

Crossword puzzle 258



“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”
- Bob Hope

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|--|---|
| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ache 3. Small discoloration 6. Engrave 9. Weight measurement 11. Yours and mine 12. Singing threesome 13. Gets sick 14. Sign of infection 15. Lawyer's charges 17. Darned 20. Fuse metal 21. Ignore | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prefix meaning before 2. Company name abbr. 4. ___ capita 5. Thomas nickname 7. Succinct 8. Basketball, slangly 9. Park feature 10. Let happen 15. Minimal 16. Long fish 18. Caribou kin 19. Small taste |
|--|---|

Solutions to puzzle 257



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.

'Govt deserves support in standoff with mines over tax regime'

Dear Editor,

"Best decision ever, ba PF! I am with you on this one. It is time we woke up as a country; the mines can't be blackmailing us all the time. They

did so in the past and we never really enjoyed their output to the economy. Let them feel our full force this time around. Let's deal with them!" - Gabby Gabby

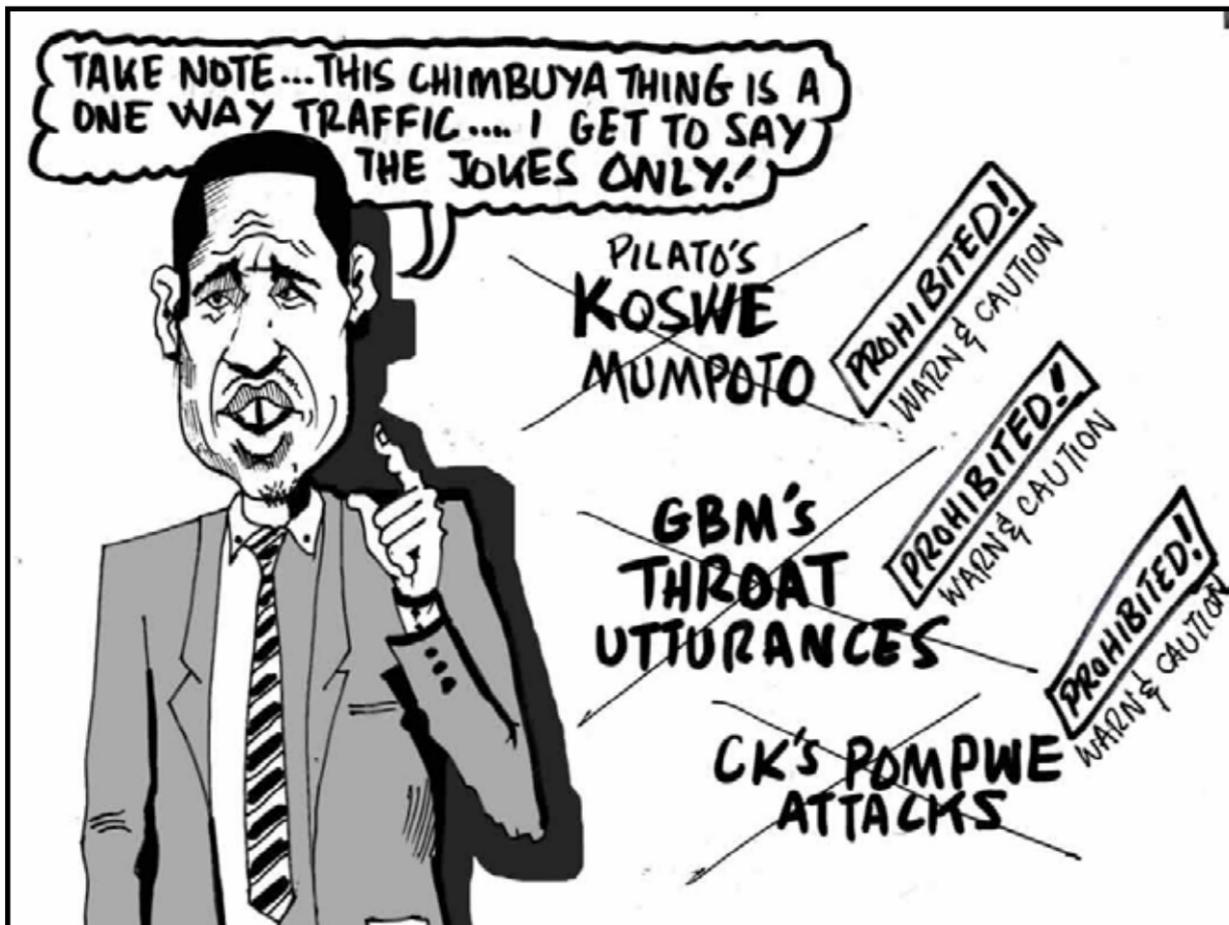
"This is long-overdue. I mean, we have been generating very little value from our copper, which is a wasting asset! Government should not back-peddle on this one no matter the arm-twisting and blackmail by the mining companies." - Enoch Siame

"Let us deal with them! They can't continue manipulating Zambians like this. Let them go and let us nationalise them." - Muzabwela Hambulo

"Government's resolve to go all the way will be tested on this standoff. To give in to the blackmail by the mines will not bode well for future mining tax changes. Government cannot surrender its sovereign authority on tax administration to the mines." - Felix Nkonge

"On this issue, the government should be very firm because these 'INFESTORS' have reaped heavily on our resources. If these crooks want to leave, let them leave and look for new investors who will respect Zambian labour laws unlike threatening government with job cuts so that Zambians can continue wallowing in poverty. Never!" - Jay Jnr Micheal

"The evil one here is govt, which wants to increase taxes and leave the work of bargaining to the trade unions, and after some time, come back and castigate them!" - Remnants Simonda Nalumino



RTSA on impounding 800 vehicles with political number plates in 2018

Editor,

"This is a blatant lie! Just say you have been counting the number of vehicles with 'ECL 2021' number plates from January, 2018, to now and the figure has gone up to 800. You think we still living in dark days!?" - Joe Captain
 "Oh, please, we still see those vehicles moving around. Even Cosmo Mumba's Prado has a funny number plate, but moves around freely on the pretext of his alleged 'closeness' to the powers that be!" - Dennis Wei Mulenga

"RTSA lies! Just seen a vehicle with 'ECL 2021'." - Steven Njeki Mundemba

"But we still see 'ECL 2021'." - Sylvester Hamiyanda

"Just last week I bumped into a BMW 3-series with number plate 'ECL 2021'." - Benny Katongo

"We saw them impounding all other vehicles, and even taking bribes, but how is it possible that we missed the impounding of those conspicuous wretched vehicles?" - Victor Chansa

"The only people to stop this nonsense is ECZ if at all they're people with a clear conscience. How can you allow adverts of an election whose beginning of campaign is not yet set? Anyone with any advert for 2021 now is doing clean rigging! Period." - Sylvester Moomba

ZAMPOST closure over workers' unpaid salaries

Editor,

"I am foreseeing a lot of such happenings in the year 2019 because we spent a lot of our revenue on unnecessary world trips, hence suffocating our Treasury." - Maseka Mutesi

"The money spent on a reckless trip to Japan could pay the workers!" - Elliot Sakala

"Dictator Edgar Lungu's reckless PF party regime spends millions of kwacha on useless things and neglects to support and subsidize important institutions like ZAMPOST. There's need to carry out a forensic audit at ZAMPOST." - Chivunda Samusungwa

"So, after the Social Cash Transfer saga, there's no money to get paid, ba ZAMPOST?" - Robby LM

"Too bad about what's happening in our beloved mother Zambia!" - Ritah Mwika Mwilima

A tsunami following a volcanic eruption killed at least 168 people when it slammed without warning into popular beaches around Indonesia's Sunda Strait on Saturday night, cutting a swathe of destruction and triggering mass panic as it swept inland.

Hundreds of buildings were destroyed by the wave, which hit the coast of southern Sumatra and the western tip of Java about 9:30 pm (1430 GMT) following the eruption of a volcano known as the "child" of the legendary Krakatoa, national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

'Volcano' tsunami kills at least 168 in Indonesia

Search and rescue teams were scouring rubble for survivors, with 168 confirmed dead, 745 people injured and 30 reported missing across three regions, he said. Dramatic video posted on social media showed a wall

of water suddenly crashing into an open-air concert by pop group "Seventeen" -- hurling band members off the stage and then flooding into the audience.

In a tearful Instagram post, frontman Riefian Fajarsyah said the band's bassist and

road manager had been killed.

Images of the aftermath of the tsunami in coastal areas showed a trail of uprooted trees and debris strewn across beaches. A tangled mess of corrugated steel roofing, timber and

rubble was dragged inland at Carita beach, a popular day-tripping spot on the west coast of Java. Asep Perangkat, who fled Carita beach Saturday night, said he was with his family when the wave surged through the town, carving a path of destruction.

"Cars were dragged about 10 metres and so were containers," Perangkat told AFP.

"Buildings on the edge of the beach were destroyed, trees and electric poles fell to the ground.

"All the residents that are safe ran to the forest," he said.

In Lampung province, on the other side of the strait, Lutfi Al Rasyid said he fled the beach in Kalianda city in fear for his life.

"I could not start my motorbike so I left it and I ran... I just prayed and ran as far as I could," the 23-year-old told AFP.

- Initial error -

Authorities say the tsunami may have been triggered by an abnormal tidal surge due to a new moon and an underwater landslide following the eruption of Anak Krakatoa, which forms a small island in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra.

"The combination caused a sudden tsunami that hit the coast," Nugroho said, but added that Indonesia's geological agency was working to ascertain exactly how it happened.

He added that the death toll would likely increase.

Video footage posted to social media by Nugroho showed panicked residents clutching flashlights and fleeing for higher ground.

Indonesian authorities initially claimed the wave was not a tsunami, but instead a tidal surge and urged the public not to panic. **AFP**

US government shutdown set to last through Christmas

A partial US government shutdown that entered its second day on Sunday was set to stretch through Christmas, after Congress adjourned for the weekend with no deal in sight to end an impasse over funding for President Donald Trump's wall on the US-Mexico border.

Due to the shutdown -- in which several key US agencies ceased operations at 12:01 am (0501 GMT) Saturday -- Trump said he would remain in Washington over Christmas instead of going to Florida.

"I am in the White House, working hard," the Republican president tweeted. "We are negotiating with the Democrats on desperately needed Border Security (Gangs, Drugs, Human Trafficking & more) but it could be a long stay."

Trump has dug in on his demand for \$5 billion for construction of the border wall, a signature campaign promise and part of his effort to reduce illegal immigration. Democrats are staunchly opposed, and the absence of a deal meant federal funds for dozens of agencies lapsed at midnight Friday.

The House of Representatives and the Senate held sessions on Saturday, but both chambers adjourned without agreement, and no votes were expected until Thursday.

Visitors to the capital's park-like National Mall, home to attractions including war memorials and the towering Washington Monument, criticized the shutdown which added to an air of chaos in a capital still reeling from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis's resignation last week over Trump policies.

The uncertainty also helped pushed Wall Street into another rout on Friday, ending its worst week in a decade.

"Oh I think it's ridiculous. It's unnecessary," Philip Gibbs, a retired business professor from South Virginia, said of

the shutdown.

Jeffrey Grignon, a Wisconsin healthcare worker, said the politicians "need to stop acting like children" and do the work they were elected to do.

"It isn't just one or two people. It's all them," he said.

The year's third shutdown

Another visitor, Howard Vander Griend, 57, predicted Trump will come out a winner

from the budget impasse.

"I don't think the shutdown will pressure president Trump at all," said Vander Griend, of Tennessee. "So I think he will get what he wants and I think that's a good thing."

Although tourists could still stroll along the Mall and visit its open-air sites, they found public restrooms closed. Some other Washington tourist sites including the

White House Visitor Center, National Christmas Tree, and National Archives -- home to the US Constitution and other historic documents -- were closed.

Some national parks have shuttered completely, but New York's governor provided funding to the Statue of Liberty monument and Ellis Island so those attractions could remain open. **AFP**

In a rare emotional address ahead of his abdication next year, Japanese Emperor Akihito said he took "deep comfort" that his long reign had been one of peace as he remembered the "countless lives" lost in World War II.

Akihito, in a pre-recorded speech to mark his 85th birthday Sunday, also paid tribute to the Japanese people and Empress Michiko, the first commoner to join the tradition-bound imperial family who has been at his side for 60 years.

His voice trembling as he discussed the legacy of World War II, the emperor pointed to the "countless lives" lost in the conflict, which was fought under the name of his father Hirohito, who died in 1989.

Akihito also reiterated the importance of "accurately" teaching history to young people.

"I have believed it is important not to forget that countless lives were lost in World War II and that the peace and prosperity of post-war Japan was built upon the numerous sacrifices and tireless efforts made by the Japanese people, and to pass on this history accurately to those born after the war," he said.

"It gives me deep comfort that the Heisei Era (his reign) is coming to an end, free of war in Japan," he said.

During his reign, the soft-spoken Akihito has used his speeches and travels to express his strong pacifist



Japanese emperor stresses his peaceful reign ahead of abdication

views, which are sharply at odds with the aggressive expansionism Japan pursued under his father's rule.

His insistence on remembering history is in sharp contrast with conservative ideologues who have attempted to gloss over Japan's wartime record.

The widely adored emperor will next year become the first Japanese royal to abdicate in

more than two centuries.

His eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne on May 1.

Akihito said his reign had been a quest to determine the role of the emperor as a "symbol of the state" under Japan's pacifist post-war constitution, in contrast to his father Hirohito who was regarded as semi-divine.

And he thanked Empress Michiko for standing by his side.

"As I come to the end of my journey as emperor, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart the many people who accepted and continued to support me as the symbol of the state," he said, his voice quavering.

"I am also truly grateful to the empress, who herself

was once one of the people, but who chose to walk this path with me, and over 60 long years continued to serve with great devotion both the imperial family and the people of Japan."

Akihito has worked to bring the royal household closer to the people and frequently visited the disadvantaged and families hit by natural disasters. **AFP**

Barca confirm further 'conservative treatment' for Umtiti

Samuel Umtiti will return to Barcelona on December 30 for further "conservative treatment" on his knee after undergoing therapy in Qatar.

The France international last featured for Barca almost a month ago in Barca's 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid on November 24, but a persistent knee issue has troubled him ever since.

Umtiti had been having treatment with specialists in Qatar ever since the end of November.

He has played just seven times in La Liga this term, having also missed two months when the knee injury first flared up in September.

Barca have been severely impacted by injuries at

centre-back this term, with Clement Lenglet and Gerard Pique the only fit senior players for the position in Saturday's 2-0 win over Celta Vigo.

The club are yet to give a return date for Umtiti, though they will be helped

by the loan signing of Jeison Murillo in January.

A club statement on Umtiti's return to Spain read: "Samuel Umtiti was evaluated by the club's medical services staff at the team's training centre this morning due to the

discomfort in his left knee. "Samuel Umtiti will return on December 30 to continue undergoing conservative treatment on his knee.

"This conservative treatment plan was announced on December

2, with the goal of allowing him to heal his left knee discomfort.

"The player was in Doha, Qatar in recent weeks for physical therapy treatment under the supervision of the club's medical services staff." *Goal.com*



Pogba has not won a war, he cannot be bigger than Manchester United, says Schmeichel

Paul Pogba has not "won a war" against Manchester United, according to Peter Schmeichel, who believes Ole Gunnar Solskjaer can help the France star reach his potential.

Solskjaer's temporary tenure at United got off to a flying

start on Saturday, as the Red Devils hammered his former club Cardiff City 5-1.

Pogba, left out against Liverpool as Jose Mourinho's spell ended with a 3-1 defeat at Anfield, returned to the side for Solskjaer's maiden game, and took a starring

role with two assists.

Mourinho's well-publicised issues with the midfielder added to the troubles at Old Trafford, but Schmeichel insists that the club must not allow Pogba to believe that he is bigger than the club.

"Mourinho did put himself in the limelight, not in the correct way or the way that you want the United manager to be," Schmeichel told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"There were stories about the manager being at war with certain players. That's happened many times, but the club has always been able to deal with that in the dressing room.

"I want to see Pogba being a United player as good as everything else he does in life.

"He's absolutely brilliant

on social media, and he's projecting himself to be this incredibly important player.

"We've seen it at Juventus, we've seen it with France, we haven't seen it with Manchester United and what's really important here is that no player, regardless of how much money they make, how much they've been bought for, has ever been bigger than the club or the manager.

"This has been now portrayed like Pogba has won a war, this doesn't work for me, that cannot happen for United.

"It's now really important that the club deal with this situation. Pogba, or any other player, cannot be bigger than the club."

And Schmeichel believes that his former team-

mate Solskjaer can use his experience as United's reserve team coach to aid Pogba's development.

"Ole is definitely a different personality and a different direction," Schmeichel added.

"He's stuck to the tradition and the history of the club, and respected it all the way, and had a great run as reserve coach for the club, and this is significant, because he was dealing with players like Pogba and Jesse Lingard, and these players that seem to be the players that Mourinho had problems with.

"I think this is key, and the brief that Ole has got is to tame that situation, make someone like Pogba play to the potential that we know already that he has got."

Goal.com



Billy Stanlake of the Adelaide Strikers bowls during the Adelaide Strikers v Melbourne Renegades Big Bash League Match at Adelaide Oval on December 23, 2018 in Adelaide, Australia - AFP

Nainggolan suspended by Inter for 'disciplinary reasons'

Radja Nainggolan has been suspended by Inter for "disciplinary reasons", the Serie A club announced on Sunday.

The Belgian midfielder only joined Inter in June from Roma in a deal reported to be worth €38 million (£34m/\$43) plus Nicolò Zaniolo, though he has failed to live up to expectations.

Nainggolan has scored two goals in 11 Serie A outings, with Inter currently sitting third in the table.

But he looks unlikely to feature in their next few games following Inter's shock announcement that he will be barred from "football activity".

Inter's statement read: "Inter can confirm that Radja Nainggolan has been temporarily suspended from football activity for disciplinary reasons."

The news comes at the end of a difficult week for the combative midfielder, as it was reported on Thursday that a gang had been falsifying his cheques and managed to rob him of approximately €150,000.

According to reports, an investigation into the crime is then claimed to have found Nainggolan suffered significant losses at a casino.

Inter have not stated the reasons for Nainggolan's suspension, but he has long been seen as a contentious figure in Italian football. *Goal.com*

MBA president bemoans league's incompetence

By Alex Chilumbwe

The Midlands Basketball Association (MBA) league is lacking competition and it is evident in the results recorded by the top four teams in Magic Sparks, NAPSA Breeze, Green Buffaloes and UNZA Honeys, notes MBA president Maziko Phiri.

Phiri said that as part of the 2019 super league plans, the association will embark on creating a balance among teams as a way of intensifying competition in the female category.

Speaking to Goal Diggers! in Lusaka yesterday, Phiri noted the need for teams to be allowed to absorb as many international players as possible.

"We have four teams in Buffaloes, Breeze, Honeys and Sparks dominating the table while other clubs keep going down. I think this is because only these four clubs have international players from Zimbabwe so others need to be boosted as a way of intensifying competition," said Phiri.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwean

international player who plays for Magic Sparks, Mary Chawayipira noted that Basketball was more marketable in Zambia compared to Zimbabwe.

She thanked the Zambia Basketball Federation for paving the way for Zimbabwean and Malawian players to play in the Zambian league.

"We could have been in our won countries and making less money right now but because the Zambia Basketball Federation paved way for us, we are making the

most out of our talent. We have stronger grassroots Basketball in Zimbabwe but the league is not as interesting as the Zambian one," she noted.

Mary also pledged her commitment to ensure that Sparks win the 2018 league title.

"Our campaign for the league title is so far going well. We just need to Saturday focused and play for everything. Our biggest rivals are Honeys but we can do what they can do on the court. I will just keep encouraging my teammates

and utilize everyone's effort on the court," said Chawayipira.

The following were the weekend results for the super league in both the female and male categories.

Magic Sparks 79 and Hotspurs 27 (Female Super League)

Green Buffaloes 90 and Nishati Shells 34 (Female Super League)

Nishati Denvers 77 and Matero Magic 101 (Male Super League)

Green Eagles 69 and Bulldogs 80 (Male Super League)

Hawks 72 and Lcc Looters 81 (Male Super league)

Manchester United should never ever be outworked - Solskjaer

Manchester United caretaker boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says he warned his players that they "should never be outworked" before Saturday's thrashing of Cardiff City. The Red Devils claimed a 5-1 win in south Wales courtesy of two goals from Jesse Lingard and one each from Marcus Rashford, Ander Herrera and Anthony Martial. "One of the things I talked about is that a Manchester United team should never ever be outworked," he said. "It doesn't matter what team you play: you should run more than them and then your skills will give you a chance of winning again.

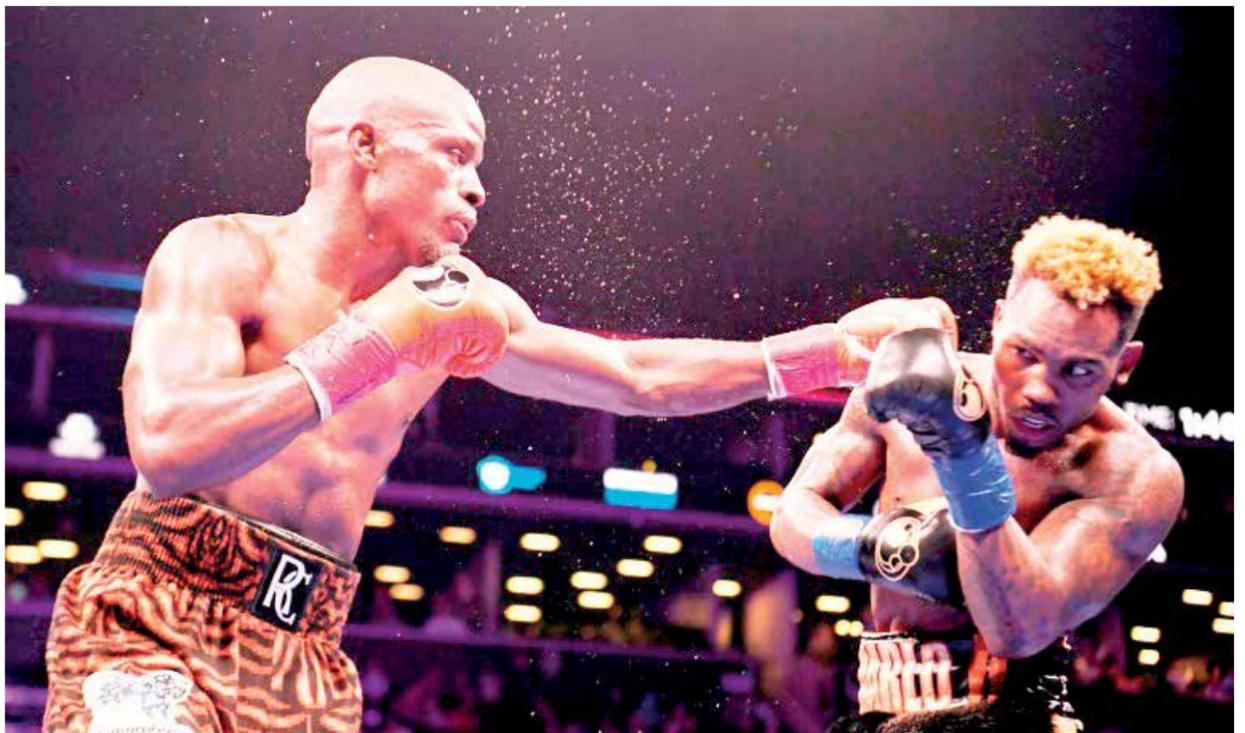
"I said the same to these lads as I do back home in Molde: 'Just work harder than them, enjoy yourselves, pass it forward, run forward, if you lose the ball I don't mind as long as you work to win it back', and they did.

"When you've got players like this with quality, they're always going to create chances.

"There's quite a few [positives]. The attitude and application of the boys when you go out there and see them, the attitude has been fantastic. The dressing room, the way they approached this game, because it's been a difficult week for everyone and to get the focus and perform as well as they did impressed [me].

"Now we can settle down and play, because that was key today. The first 15, 20 minutes, we know the energy of the crowd, we knew they were going to come long, first balls and second balls."

Cardiff boss Neil Warnock was left to rue what he described as Sunday-league defending as they suffered their heaviest defeat of the season since a 5-0 loss to Manchester City in September. *Goal.com*



Tony Harrison punches Jermell Charlo on the way to a 12-round unanimous decision for the WBC super welterweight world title - AFP

Harrison tops Charlo in shocker for WBC super welterweight title

Tony Harrison dethroned World Boxing Council super welterweight world champion Jermell Charlo with a controversial unanimous decision Saturday that brought jeers from the

Barclays Center crowd in Brooklyn.

Previously unbeaten Charlo was the aggressor throughout, but neither fighter landed any devastating blows and the judges gave the all-American

showdown to Harrison by scores of 116-112, 115-113 and 115-113.

"You know they took that fight from me," said Charlo, who fell to 31-1 with 15 knockouts. "I was there, pushing the

action the whole time. He was moving around just going to the jab, one or two punches. He didn't win that fight."

But the new champion, who improved to 28-2 with 21 wins inside the distance, insisted there should be no doubt about the outcome.

"I grinded. I grinded, I grinded and I grinded," he said. "I showed championship composure. I didn't have to do much. I used my jab. I used my ring generalship. I kept him at bay."

Harrison was offering a rematch when the disbelieving Charlo muscled into his ring interview.

"He knows I won that fight," Charlo said.

The fight was the first of a twin bill that featured Charlo's twin brother, Jermall Charlo, who retained his WBC interim middleweight title with a unanimous decision over late substitute Matt Korobov.

Jermall Charlo won by scores of 119-108, 116-112 and 116-112, coming on strong on the later rounds and pummeling Korobov in a decisive 12th to improve to 28-0 with 21 wins inside the distance.

Korobov, who stepped up from the undercard after intended opponent Willie Monroe Jr. failed a drugs test, fell to 28-2. *AFP*

MAZEMBE GETS \$150,000 BONUS

...after kicking out Zesco from CAF league

By Alex Chilumbwe

A 1-1 draw against TP Mazembe at Levy Mwanawasa stadium on Saturday saw ZESCO United drop to the CAF Confederations Cup.

George Lwandamina's team needed a win to secure a place in the CAF Champions league group stage after a 1-0 defeat in Congo DR during the first leg of the TP Mazembe tie but the Congolese outfit proved to be too strong over both legs,

winning 2-1 on aggregate.

Meanwhile, TP Mazembe players cooled off to a 150,000 dollar bonus for qualifying to the group stage of the CAF Champions League.

ZESCO were in control of the game in the early stages, taking the lead in the 13th minute through the 2018 FAZ/MTN League Player of The Year nominee, Lazarous Kambole. But the five time CAF Champions league champions

used their experience to great effect as they absorbed ZESCO's pressure before equalizing in the 39th minute through veteran midfielder Tresor Mputu.

The Zambian outfit, although missing key players in Misheck Chaila, attacker Winstone Kalengo and defender David Odhiambo still managed to dominate the Congolese giants but failed to add another two goals to seal qualification.

In the second half, ZESCO showed less

hunger for another goal and Mazembe found the chance to pin the Ndola-based outfit to their half of the pitch. Mazembe got the chance to take lead through a penalty taken by Malengo in the 75th minute but Jacob Banda gave it a heroic save.

ZESCO did little to trouble the Mazembe defence in the final minutes of the game until the two sides played out to a 1-1 draw.

