



MINISTER POSTS PORN IN GROUP

...blames it on technology: I was trying to delete it from another group - Sichalwe

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PF Lundazi District Publicity Secretary Potipher Mbewe flips the middle finger during a campaign

PF attacks UPND in Lundazi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Lundazi Central Independent member of parliament Lawrence Nyirenda has been accused of championing violence against the opposition UPND campaign team in Munkomba ward in Lundazi ahead of next month's by-elections. According to the UPND media team and the UPND Lundazi campaign chairman Felix Ngoma, Nyirenda on Tuesday led a gang of violent PF cadres to attack the UPND campaign centre in Munkomba ward. Ngoma further alleged that the violent PF cadres were paid under the command of Nyirenda to cause havoc in the ward.

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Bwana Mkubwa MP, Ndola council petition SX' energy drink ban

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Chipata man bolts after attempting to deposit fake notes at Cavmont

By Mirriam Chabala
Police in Eastern Province have launched investigations into the forged bank notes amounting to K5,100 that were allegedly deposited into

Cavmont Bank in Chipata by a walk-in customer named Nebert Sakala who is currently on the run. The command has, in the meantime, arrested three people in connection with a break in that occurred at

Yunus Suleiman's downtown shops in Chipata where cash amounting to K108,000 was stolen. Outgoing Eastern Province Police Commissioner Alex Chilufya confirmed this in a statement yesterday To page 3

Zim's Oliver Mtukudzi dies at 66

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PF will not subscribe to church-led dialogue resolutions – Mumbi

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Foreign diplomats accredited to Zambia listen to President Edgar Lungu during the Annual Diplomatic Greetings Day at State House yesterday - Picture by Salim Henry

Opposition alliance already dead due to UPND's continued bragging, says Msoni

By Mirriam Chabala

All People's Congress (APC) president Nason Msoni says the insistence by the UPND that their government will comprise of their party alone is undermining the collective effort of other political parties in recently-formed opposition alliance. Msoni told News Diggers! in an interview that the continued bragging by the UPND that they were ready to rule because they had elected members of parliament and councillors was not just killing the alliance, but also mocking citizens who were clinging to hope that a more inclusive political structure would form government. Msoni further accused the UPND of being too confident of their popularity and warned that the party might end up disappointed just like one opposition leader was in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s just-ended presidential election. "Looking at some of the issues that we have read lately, where clearly one of the political parties in the alliance is bragging about having members of parliament, councillors, MPs and how ready they are to form their own government... That kind of political statement effectively kills off the alliance and I think it will do them a favour if they can officially quit the alliance because it's mocking citizens that were clinging to hope that a more inclusive political structure would want to form government," he said. "But obviously, buoyed by the victory of the opposition in Kinshasa by Mr Felix Tshishekede, it would appear that this has excited our colleagues to imagine that similarly, on their own,



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema throws salt on fire at the official launch of National Dialogue framework - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

they can register victory. But let me say this, what has happened in Congo was rather a political settlement as opposed to an outright win by the party that has emerged victorious. Clearly, it was one of the political settlements that has been disguised in the form of victory. So, to imagine that similarly you can win, I think it's a very dangerous trajectory to take on your own, armed with one last bullet in the chamber. He said no party that will contest elections alone in 2021 will win. It's dangerous politically to imagine that you can win and form government on your own, that is how most of the times our friends have lost it because the 2021 elections is not about going it alone. You will lose again these

elections, you will lose like you [always] lost. If you have one last bullet in the chamber, you have to be resourceful because when you fire that bullet and it's gone, that will be the end of that

political equation," he said. Msoni, however, asked the UPND not to take his words to heart, saying he was just giving them a piece of advice. "This is just a word of caution because such

statements, which are being issued by our friends have got the effect of pushing away political parties and supporting the other faction to prove a point, which will be most unfortunate under

the circumstances. So, when we talk about our fellow opposition parties, we have to be a little courteous and conscious that even those that would have wanted to support us, they will distance themselves and change strategy. An election is almost two and half years away and in the life of politics, one day is a long time, dynamics change. So, to imagine that you are the only one who is an alternative, I think it's very dangerous," he cautioned. "We think the alliance has gotten into problems because they are always expressing themselves that their government will be the government of the party. But you can't keep talking like that if you are in an alliance, that is undermining the collective effort of other political parties and obviously, from all these statements in totality, it's no longer a secret that they can pretend that the alliance is alive, to the contrary; I think the alliance has died because of those political statements. Political alliances do not work in an environment that is highly poisoned with excessive political ambitions," said Msoni.

PF will not subscribe to church-led dialogue resolutions – Mumbi

By Thomas Mulenga

PF Deputy Secretary General Mumbi Phiri says the PF and government would only implement resolutions of the dialogue process that they would be part of. In an interview, Mumbi advised that the three Church mother bodies can continue

with the "spiritual healing" as ZCID implements the political dialogue following resolutions that were made by political parties in Siavonga last year. She reminded stakeholders that all political parties including the UPND were signatories to the Siavonga resolutions and hence the

UPND should also abide. "I am the party's representative on the ZCID board and I would like to wish the dialogue process, which has been started by the Church, success. And as they have rightly put it, they have spiritual obligation to reconcile whoever they feel should be reconciled. But us, as political parties under ZCID, we already had about four resolutions that we are going to stick to political parties, which include the Public Order Act, the electoral reforms, among others," Mumbi said. "I think we were even going ahead with our programme as per communicate, which we signed in Siavonga as political parties, and when we talk as political parties, we shall implement these resolutions as political parties. But for the Church, the process has already started and we wish them the best. We wouldn't also want it to fail because they are also doing their thing, but for them to force us to say we should implement what they will discuss, no! We will implement what we will be part of." She said the church-led dialogue should be regarded as a national reconciliation prayer. "Mr. Mucheleka and his party (UPND) are not even

the right people to talk about the Church and ZCID concerning dialogue, because the UPND is a signatory to the resolutions of the Siavonga Summit. What we agreed on as political parties in Siavonga must be followed and the political dialogue that ZCID has been advocating for will go on, while the Church conducts the national reconciliation and prayers," she added. She, however, explained that the PF was not undermining the Church over the dialogue process. "I am a Catholic and my body is a temple of Christ. And people should define a church; I am a body of Christ and I am a church, I am a Catholic and I cannot undermine any person who is ordained to lead the Church and to preach the Gospel to people. I can see political parties meeting and discussing issues to do with political parties under the ZCID, those who need spiritual healing they can go to church. I am at peace; spiritual healing is an individual thing, it is not collective and no one should be forced! We are ready for the Church and you know, the Church was invited to chair the dialogue process and as ZCID, we had the semantics which we were supposed to follow," explained Mumbi.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has placed a 38-year-old man of George Compound on his defence for allegedly sexually abusing his seven year-old biological son. This followed testimony from a medical doctor at UTH Paediatric Hospital who told the Court that after the boy reported to her that his father used to abuse him, she proceeded to examine him and discovered rash on his genitals and anus, which was as a result of the alleged abuse. This is a matter where Victor Mukuka is charged with one count of unnatural offence, but had pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Nsungu Chanda last year. Particulars of the offence allege that Mukuka, on dates unknown but between January and May 10, 2018, Lusaka, had unlawful carnal knowledge of his seven year-old son against the order of nature. And when the matter came

Lusaka man in court for allegedly molesting son

up for continuation of trial, Tuesday, Bupe Musonda, a 35 year-old medical doctor at UTH Paediatric Hospital informed the Court that she was working at the paediatric centre when the seven year-old victim in the company of a well-wisher, reported to her that he had been sexually abused by his father. "He mentioned that his biological father had been having anal sex with him and that most recent episode was the night before. The boy [further] mentioned that he had never been to school and that his mother's whereabouts were not known," Dr Musonda narrated. She explained that she went further to examine the boy's genitals and the anus to look for injuries, but there was nothing.

She said she only found rash on his anus and genitals. "We only found that he had rash on his buttocks and scrotum. We took a series of tests. We did HIV test, syphilis, hepatitis test and we took him for further examination. It was discovered that he had dermatitis, skin reaction to any foreign substance," Dr Musonda said. She told the Court that the rash on the boy's genitals and anus was evidence of the abuse, adding that for the child to have rash in that area there had to be contact. Dr Musonda further said other than his father, the child did not mention to her any other person who might have abused him. In cross examination, the accused asked for evidence

to prove that it was him who used to sleep with the child. In response, Dr Musonda said: "Unfortunately, in Zambia, we do not have DNA to determine who, so we use history from the victim and also of witnesses if there are any." At this point, the State informed the Court that they were closing their case after calling six witnesses. And in her ruling, Magistrate Chanda said she was satisfied that the State had established a prima facie case against the accused. She, therefore, placed him on his defence after finding him with a case to answer. The accused will open his defence on February 4, this year.

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Youth and Sports Minister Moses Mawere says People's Alliance for Change (PAC) leader Andyford Banda should not just yap about the youth empowerment funds scheme when he does not have facts. Last week, Banda said that most of the PF empowerment projects had failed because of targeting cadres and children of people with influence in government. He argued that when PAC forms government, he will change that approach and instead target the right people with talents to put the empowerment to good use. But in an interview with News Diggers! Mawere said Banda was just yapping

Andyford is just barking PF is empowering all citizens - Mawere

because he merely wanted to be heard by Zambian voters. "That is his opinion because he is in opposition and so he has to remain relevant by lying to the Zambia people. So, since the Zambian people know the truth, they cannot hear from him. We, as PF, formed government and we are government, Andyford Banda is in opposition where he will never even form government at all. So, we formed government and when you form government, all the Zambian people

become your responsibility. If you talk of PF membership, it's very small as compared to the Zambian people who voted for PF. So, it's not only members of PF who voted for PF, even people who don't belong to any political party voted for PF [and] that is why PF formed government because it had a majority vote. So, you can't tell me that all those who voted for Edgar Chagwa Lungu with 50 [per cent] plus one were all PF members," Mawere said. "So, we are government

and all government programmes are targeted at the Zambian citizens regardless of their political affiliations, regardless of their race, regardless of their religion. As long as that person is a Zambian, it is the responsibility of government to provide all necessary empowerment for those people. So, that is his opinion. And, moreover, it's not every programme, which government has initiated, which has failed. And since he wants to be heard by the Zambian people, he can continue barking like that." He added that government could not publish the names of the people who benefited from the failed Higer Bus empowerment programme because they already know themselves. "The thing is, we give empowerment to people [who] apply to the government. Unless you tell me that we publish all the Zambian people who have gotten money from government. The people who got this empowerment are well known. You can [even] go to the (Public and Private Drivers) Association because first of all, those

members were not members from government, those are youths who are members of the Public and Private Drivers Association of Zambia. The MoU is very clear; what government did was just to finance 40 per cent of the empowerment [while] Higer Corporation financed 60 per cent. The Public Private Drivers Association of Zambia through their members received that empowerment and they empowered their members," Mawere explained. "So, don't say that that empowerment, government gave to the PF cadres, no! That empowerment was given to an association, which is very private, which has got nothing to do with government. We did not influence the registration of that association, they registered on their own will. In terms of who would benefit? We did not have any influence because as long as the guideline we gave them of anyone who is Zambian, who is a youth below the age of 35 years and who operates in bus stops, as long as that person is a member of that association was eligible to benefit and

we empowered them." He said the failure by the Association to utilise the buses to the expectation of Zambians did not show any failure on government's part. "And the failure by the Association to utilise those buses to the expectation of the Zambian people does not show any failure on the part of government. We, as government, we want the private sector to run the economy of this country. We want the private sector to be the engine of economic growth of this country and that is why, as government, from time to time, we empower the private sector to ensure that they are the ones who are running the business. We don't want government to run the business. So, those youths and the association, which failed to run those buses are equally Zambians like any other Zambian; they have failed to utilise the opportunity [which] we gave them as government [and] it is the responsibility of government to make sure that people who have failed government should not be empowered anymore," he said. Asked if the defaulting association would be made to pay back, Mawere said he was waiting for a report so that he could see the condition of the withdrawn buses before making another decision.

Chipata man bolts after attempting to deposit fake notes at Cavmont Bank

By Mirriam Chabala

Police in Eastern Province have launched investigations into the forged bank notes amounting to K5,100 that were allegedly deposited into Cavmont Bank in Chipata by a walk-in customer named Nebert Sakala who is currently on the run. The command has, in the meantime, arrested three people in connection with a break in that occurred at Yunus Suleiman's downtown shops in Chipata where cash amounting to K108,000 was stolen. In a statement, outgoing Eastern Province Police Commissioner Alex Chilufya explained that unknown persons broke into Suleiman's and damaged the safe and stole cash from it. He added that three of the suspects had been arrested while two were still on the run. "Breaking into a building with explosives, was reported between 21st January, 2019, around 22:30 hours and 22nd January, 2019 around 05:00 hours, involving a female [called] Yunus Suleiman, the owner of the shop at downtown shops area in Chipata. The report was that unknown persons broke into the shop and damaged the safe box and stole from therein cash money amounting to K108,000=00. Entry and exit was through the back wall after damaging it with unknown explosive materials," he stated.

"Police have managed to recover some household goods as proceeds of crime, including some cash money. From the arrested suspects, three male suspects have been arrested in connection with the same matter namely: Chris Mbewe, aged 38 years; Edward Phiri, aged 41 years and Chris Banda aged 29 years. Two other suspects escaped, and police have launched investigations." And Chilufya stated that investigations and a manhunt had been launched to bring to book the culprit of fake bank notes, saying the police suspected that the fugitive might have quickly left the bank when he realised that bank personnel had become suspicious and started to scrutinise his transaction. "Possession of forged bank notes (counterfeit currency) was reported on 22nd January, 2019, at 14:00 hours. This occurred on the same day at around 13:00 hours at Cavmont Bank in Chipata District. The report was received from a male named Kalulu Kapalu aged 36 years of Asioloti Compound in Chipata, and also the bank manager at Cavmont also reported on behalf of the bank that a walk-in customer, named Nebert Sakala went to the bank in possession of forged bank notes amounting to K5,100-00. A docket has been opened and an investigation into the matter has been launched. The suspect is still at large," stated Chilufya.

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By Thomas Mulenga

UPND Northern Province chairperson Nathan Illunga says the provincial administration has failed to explain how funds for the 2018 Northern Province Tourism and Investment Expo have been utilised. But Northern Province Permanent Secretary Elias Kamanga described the accusations by the UPND as crazy because decisions on the awarding of contracts for projects related to last November's Expo were not made at provincial level. In an interview with News Diggers! Illunga alleged that speculation was growing that the provincial administration was involved in corrupt practices relating to the awarding of contracts in the road sector. "Nobody is ready to explain, especially when it comes to the issue of money, just

N/Province hasn't explained how Expo funds were used - Illunga

like it is being done at the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) where these controlling officers are failing to explain how they have used the money they have received so far. You have seen how permanent secretaries are failing to explain how they have used the money at the provincial administration. This is what is happening and people are suspecting here that there is a lot of corruption going on, especially where road construction is concerned," Illunga said. "There has been no explanation on how much was released by government for the Expo;

how much was raised from it; how much was spent and how much remained. Even the runway at the airport, which was supposed to be almost 5 kilometres has been reduced to about 3 kilometres and the rest of the money, nobody knows where it has gone! They are saying it would be used to construct a tower, but in their initial plan, the runway was given a certain amount of money away from the tower, but we don't know where they have taken the money." Illunga also argued that last year's provincial exposition was a failure as nothing tangible had come from it.

"The Expo is a failure! We are not seeing anything tangible that we can point at and say this is as a result of the Expo, totally nothing! There is nothing successful about it. Because you see, the provincial administration should have engaged some local contractors to do certain things, local contractors were sidelined; no single local contractor was given a contract under the so-called Expo! The provincial Permanent Secretary (Kamanga) engaged contractors from the Copperbelt, and especially from Kitwe where he used to stay, so we don't even

know what fruits it will bring for us in the Northern Province," Illunga alleged. But Kamanga trashed all of Illunga's claims, saying decisions on the awarding of contracts for projects related to last November's Expo were not made at provincial level. "That's very crazy and that's why I told you about records, because the records will show that probably 80 per cent of the people that took part in the activities were from the province. So, I really don't understand on what basis he's making those allegations. In fact, I don't make decisions when there is a tender, people bid for these tenders and information goes to the procurement committee, which offers tenders to successful bidders. In fact, it must interest Mr Illunga to know that when the contracts were being awarded to those contractors, I was not even in the office, committee meetings were even chaired by other people other than myself, I don't think I chaired more than one or two meetings because I was so busy organising the Expo, and most of the times, I was out of station," Kamanga said. He also rubbished Illunga's

assertions that last November's Provincial Expo flopped, insisting the exhibition was a success. "That's lack of reasoning, really, this Expo only finished on 25th of November last year, this is only January, it's not even 25th January and here is a person who is saying the companies haven't opened up. Surely, what kind of thinking is that? That is a very unintelligent thinking! To set up a company or even to register it, it can't take 30 days and to finally set up a company, can't be done in one month, even if you are setting up a 'kantemba.' Now, here is a person who thinks that setting up a hydro-power station would take 30 days, here is a person who thinks that setting up a four star hotel would take 30 days, here is a person who thinks that setting up an out-grower farming block of about 250,000 hectares will take 30 days, it's not possible!" explained Kamanga, adding that Illunga also expressed ignorance on the issue of the Kasama Airport runway as the construction of the airport was not under the provincial administration, but under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

PF cadres attack UPND camp in Lundazi campaigns

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lundazi Central Independent member of parliament Lawrence Nyirenda has been accused of championing violence against the opposition UPND campaign team in Munkomba ward in Lundazi ahead of next month's by-elections. According to both the UPND media team and UPND Eastern Lundazi campaign chairman Felix Ngoma, Nyirenda on Tuesday led a gang of violent PF cadres to attack the UPND campaign centre in Munkomba ward. Ngoma further alleged that the violent PF cadres, who were under the command of Nyirenda and his Lundazi Information and Publicity Secretary Potipher Mbewe, have been paid huge sums of money to wreak havoc in Mukomba. "One of the properties which they smashed was the house for Mr Mvula who is the campaign manager for John Mtonga, the candidate for UPND in Munkomba ward. We also have Raphael Lungu, who is the Lundazi District IPS, and this is a person whose house was smashed and broken into. For Mr Mvula, it was the shop, which was smashed and looted! And all this is coordinated by the Lundazi Independent member of parliament Hon. Nyirenda and they are coordinating together with this Potipher Mbewe, the IPS for PF in Lundazi. So, that video that you have seen happened yesterday (Tuesday)," Ngoma explained. He said the PF cadres, who were armed with stones, sticks and other offensive weapons followed UPND members at the campaign centre and smashed windows of a Toyota Harrier BAH 8822 as well as damaged the house of the campaign manager before looting one of their member's shop. And the UPND media team said the matter had been reported to the police. UPND said by embracing violence, the PF has once again squandered an opportunity to prove its worth and relevance to remain in power and rule the people of Zambia through democratic

and peaceful elections. Efforts to get a comment from Eastern Province Commissioner of Police Alex Chilufya proved futile as his phone went unanswered. But Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) Public Relations Manager Margaret

Chimanse said no reports of violence were recorded, according to the report submitted to the Commission by the security chief. "We have not heard those reports yet, we have just been having meetings where the security chief reported that

there is nothing to that effect. Unless we check to find out what the latest is [otherwise] I cannot comment much," Chimanse said in a brief interview. Meanwhile, Nyirenda did not answer his phone when contacted to explain his side of the story.

By Mirriam Chabala

MMD-faction president Nevers Mumba says his trip to India was not organised by government but was facilitated by his own party working in conjunction with his international partners. And Mumba has emphasised that his party will not engage in any political alliances for now, not even with the ruling Patriotic Front, insisting that the former ruling party was also organising itself ahead of 2021. In an interview with News Diggers! explaining his assignment in India, Mumba said he had always journeyed outside the country for holidays and various programmes at the end of each year, adding that the trips were organised personally and by the party, depending on the purpose of the trip. The former Republican vice-president explained that he had to speak to some investors while in India and talked them into investing in Zambia because he was a statesman who cared about Zambia. "I usually go outside the country at the end of each year for various programmes and these trips are organised by my office and one of my organisers is in Pennsylvania, (United States) Robert William, he's the one who does the planning and exchange programmes for my meetings around the world. He is originally from India himself, so he is the one who made the itinerary for me here in India and, therefore, he is on delegations together with my special assistant, Clement. But what we do is that when I am coming out to a country

Nevers explains India trip: I still have a duty to promote Zambia's interests



like this one, we send our itinerary, just information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that they know where I am because I have been vice-president, so it's important the country knows where I am. So, sometimes they inform their embassies, sometimes they don't. But this time they did inform their embassy so we paid them a courtesy call during our programme and then continued with our programmes," Mumba explained from India,

denying speculation that government paid for his trip. "Whenever I travel and I find businessmen that are coming to engage me, it is my responsibility to encourage them to do business with Zambian business people, more especially in the private sector since I am now in the private sector myself. So, we had a wonderful response from them. I was not speaking as a government official, but I was speaking as a private citizen, who is interested in promoting

the welfare of my country." And Mumba said the MMD had no intention of engaging in any political alliance with any political organisation. "Right now, the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy is concentrating on ensuring that our court case is resolved and we get our party back in shape. So, all of our efforts right now are on working on our political organisation. So, we really can't be involved in political party alliances right now because we first have to

redeem our party. How can we even be in any alliance before our party is reorganised? So, our focus right now is to make sure that we get MMD back. We are convinced that we are winning the case. And then the programme that we are going to have is the programme that we are going to announce. So, we are just waiting for the ruling and then, thereafter, we are going to announce to the nation how we shall push forward as MMD towards 2021," said Mumba.

18 year-old admits defiling juvenile girlfriend

By Zondiwe Mbewe

An 18-year-old grade nine pupil of Bayuni Primary School in Makeni has admitted before the Lusaka Magistrates' Court that he had unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16, saying he thought she was 17, adding that the two were in a relationship.

The juvenile, who resides in Lusaka's John Laing Compound, told the Court that the girl allowed him to have carnal knowledge of her but that it only happened once.

The said juvenile is facing one count of defilement of a child. It is alleged that last July, he had unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16.

When the matter came up for plea before Magistrate Nsunge Chanda, Wednesday, the juvenile pleaded guilty.

He said he had sex with the girl from his house and it only happened that same time.

The juvenile further told the Court that the girl was his girlfriend and that she told him she was 17 years old.

"She told me she was 17. She's my girlfriend," the boy said. Asked whether the victim went to school, the juvenile said no.

Further asked whether she looked 17, he responded in the

affirmative.

Asked whether she had allowed him to have sex with her, the juvenile said yes.

At this point, Magistrate Chanda asked the State to ensure that the victim was brought to court to determine the real age.

"Before going into facts, I want the victim to be brought before Court to see if the defence is standing. I need to confirm [and] on the same day we can proceed with facts," said Magistrate Chanda.

Matter comes up on January 29 for facts, as the juvenile remains remanded in custody.



A police officer interrogates a suspected thief who was caught stealing a car at the University of Zambia yesterday

Bwana Mkubwa MP, Ndola council petition ban of Power SX' energy drink

By Thomas Mulenga in Lusaka and Daniel Chansa in Ndola

Bwana Mkubwa member of parliament Dr Jonas Chanda says 56 people have lost their jobs at Revin Zambia Limited after the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) halted the production and distribution of the 'Natural Power SX' energy drink.

And Ndola Town Clerk Wisdom Bwalya says the local authority will send officers to Lusaka to find out why results of the Natural Power SX Energy Drink have taken long.

In a statement, Dr Chanda also expressed disappointment with the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority

(ZAMRA), ZABS and the Ndola City Council (NCC) for only instituting investigations against the Revin Zambia Limited after getting a complaint from a Ugandan national who 'suffered' a six-hour erection after consuming the drink.

"Two days ago over 56 workers at Revin Zambia Limited in Ndola, the company that produces the 'Natural Power SX Energy drink' were sent on circumstantial leave following the suspension of the production and distribution of the product by the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), Ndola City Council and Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS). ZAMRA, NCC and ZABS halted the production and distribution of the 'Natural Power SX Energy drink' following a complaint from a Ugandan national who reportedly suffered a six-hour erection after consuming the commodity, and the reported ban of the product by the Ugandan National Drug Authority and Uganda Bureau of Standards who 'alleged' that the drink contains sildenafil citrate 'erectile dysfunction' in men and pulmonary hypertension," Dr Chanda narrated.

"Consequently, ZAMRA, NCC and ZABS announced that they had instituted local investigations on the 'Natural Power SX Energy drink' and collected samples of the raw materials from the manufacturer Revin Zambia Limited in Ndola, and of the finished product for analytical tests to

determine if there is any truth to the claims being made. ZAMRA, NCC and ZABS further advised the public to immediately desist from consuming the drink until concussive results are released that either confirm or dismiss the allegations, and the manufacturers of the Product, Revin Zambia Limited based in Ndola, were ordered to halt the production and distribution of the energy drink until all investigations have been concluded and appropriate action taken."

Dr. Chanda said some local media houses have already reported that laboratory results have shown that the energy drink was safe for human consumption and wondered why ZABS and ZAMRA were delaying to release the results to the public.

"Before they can even release results of their investigations, local media have already reported that test results of the various laboratory tests carried out on the 'Natural Power SX Energy Drink' have confirmed that the product is safe for human consumption. They claim this is according to test results obtained from the Zambia Bureau of Standards, the Malawi Bureau of Standards and the South African National Accreditation System," Dr. Chanda added.

"I, therefore, urge ZAMRA, ZABS and NCC to quickly release the results of the investigation and officially communicate these to the public and the workers at the company because the longer they are taking to release the results, the more the over

56 workers and their families who have been sent on leave because of a lack of activity at the plant, will continue suffering."

He also expressed disappointment with ZABS and ZAMRA for only instituting investigations against the Revin Zambia Limited only after getting a complaint from a Ugandan national.

"I also wish to express my disappointment that it had to take a reported incident in Uganda and action by the Uganda National Drug Authority and Uganda Bureau of Standards in order for ZABS, ZAMRA to act. Where were ZABS and ZAMRA all this time that the 'Natural Power SX Energy drink' has been on the market and was actually certified by them as being safe for public consumption?" wondered Dr. Chanda.

And in an interview, Bwalya said he will send his officers to Lusaka to inquire of the investigations because families were suffering.

"As a local authority, we had to do what we did because we followed the law. However, it is of concern that the investigations for the results have taken long. We will send our officers to Lusaka so that we know where we are standing," said Bwalya.

"We understand that over 56 people have being sent home and this is not good. Those are families that need to provide for their children. You know, it's January, and a lot of them need to pay school fees and other services. We hope that things will be done soon so that we keep jobs."

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N D C
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom
Why we deserve your vote



TOURISM SECTOR

By Mwenya Musenge

Zambia's massive potential in the tourism sector has the potential to create employment, reduce poverty levels and contribute to the growth of the economy. Zambia's economic sector is facing a lot of challenges that are undermining the development and flourishing of this sector. These hitches are largely due to mal-administration, and the lack of political will. The issues that need to be addressed in Zambia's tourism sector include; High taxes, poor infrastructure to support access to the country's tourist destination sites and the Lack of a marketing strategy.

To promote tourism in Zambia the national democratic congress party will;

Identify and list economic activities that will be branded and identified as tourism activities for easy marketing.

We will reduce red-tape and bureaucracy associated with opening up business start-ups and entrepreneur ventures in the tourism industries. By doing so we will encourage entrepreneur ventures into local tourism and also strategies to enable Zambians venture into local tourism.

We will also stream line taxation and registration in tourism industry and revise downwards visa fees for visitors who come into our country for tourism purposes

NDC party will also identify areas and zones whose tourism potential has not been exploited due to them being inaccessible because of bad infrastructure. Businesses that set up tourism facilities in these areas will be given tax incentive to promote their businesses and encourage other businesses to venture into these areas.

We will open up our water-ways for tourism, such as: The Zambezi river from North- Western Province to Livingstone and allow ferries to move along the rivers. This will enable various sites along the river to be developed into Tourism sites.

We will revisit all laws governing water fronts in favour of protecting locals living those areas and enable access by both foreign and local tourists

Tourism in Zambia is very expensive and rated as being for the rich and foreigners. Local tourism helps in the equitable distribution of resources around the country, especially from urban areas to rural areas. To improve local tourism;

We will remove sales tax whenever a local tourist accesses tourism services or pays for lodging, game drive, boat cruises and other



activities identified as tourism activities in areas identified as tourism zones.

We will also reduce taxes upon registration and ensure that the industry creates special rates for locals, SADEC region, COMESA and international visitors.

We will also give tax relief on company tax for tourist firms that attract market and provide 35% services identified and classified as tourism services to Zambian citizens.

To alleviate and do away with the bottle necks in accessing tourism destination sites, we will ensure that we improve infrastructure by constructing Air strips, roads and telecommunication infrastructure in areas designated as tourism zones.

Zambia marketing strategy of our tourism sector has largely been misplaced, with the focus on the Victoria Falls only, neglecting other areas with equal tourism potential.

Our marketing strategy when elected into office will be to ensure that we have tourism attaches on all our foreign missions who will be marketing Zambia's tourism in those regions.

We will restructure the Zambia National Tourism Board and adequately fund it to ensure that our tourism potential is sufficiently marketed.

We will also strengthen the national heritage and conservation in all tourism activities across the country.

For a long time, our nation as no benefitted

sufficiently from our wildlife, especially the local people who live near or in national parks. In order to preserve our wild life and conserve nature the national Democratic Congress party will;

National parks and wild life authority will be transformed into a research and marketing institute to manage hunting licenses in a way that will bring in forex into the country and protect our endangered species.

We will cut red tape and bureaucracy that hinders Zambians and locals from obtaining hunting licenses and participating in game cropping. This includes marketing our national wild life

Game cropping and hunting licenses will be a preserve of Zambians and locals who will in turn sale to foreigners and investors and the locals will be given 75% of the value of all hunting concessions. This will go towards building schools, hospitals and social amenities in the local area.

We will train and deploy all locals in national parks and game reserve areas as game scouts.

Give rewards to locals who help and curb down illegal poaching. Proceeds of all illegal poaching will be given to the locals.

The highlighted reforms discussed will ensure a thriving tourism sector, competitive internationally and ensure access to our citizens and non-citizens. It will also ensure increased income generation for our local tourism entrepreneurs and government treasury.

Zimbabwean music legend Oliver Mtukudzi dies



Minister Sichalwe posts porn in WhatsApp group, apologises

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Chiefs and Traditional Affairs Minister Lawrence Sichalwe yesterday accidentally posted a pornographic video in a WhatsApp group called "What Government is doing", and struggled to delete as ruling PF youths who are members of the group, took turns roasting him for circulating the obscene material.

The 58-year-old minister, who succeeded President Edgar Lungu as Chawama member of parliament, admitted that technology challenged him, adding that he was trying to delete the said video from a different WhatsApp group, but ended up forwarding it to "What government is doing".

The group members, however, did not buy the excuse, arguing that if he was trying to delete it from a different group, it meant that he posted it himself as WhatsApp could not allow anyone to delete what he did not post in a group.

Although the minister himself does not feature in the 30 seconds obscene video which was apparently filmed by an unknown third party, the youths demanded that Sichalwe must face the law for circulating pornography, adding that it was unacceptable for a government leader holding his position to be found with such material on his phone.

The video depicts a woman laid on an office table, screaming with pleasure, as a man performs oral

sex on her.

Minister Sichalwe, who is otherwise an inactive member of the group, made his very first contribution at 14:02 hours, and apparently did not realise until about an hour later when group members who initially could not identify his phone number petitioned him to delete the obscene clip.

"Honourable Lawrence Sichalwe MP, what is happening to your phone?" asked group admin Fidelis Ngoma, at which moment other group members got agitated to learn that it was in fact a Cabinet Minister in charge of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs who had dropped the surprise.

"My apologies. [It] was not meant to be posted on the blog. [I] was trying to delete from another blog. This modern technology...!" Sichalwe apologised before deleting the video.

Some other senior members of the ruling party joined the minister in expressing remorse, but the more they attempted to silence the youths, the more the members got angry.

"Don't tell us to shut up. First of all, the minister must have been watching that porn during working hours, that is unacceptable. We now know what the minister was doing during working hours, he was trying to send a pornographic video to someone, but before sending it, he was watching. Yes he has apologised, but it does not

end there. Here many people did not have access to that video, now he has access to that because the Honourable Minister has circulated that porn during working hours, using a phone that we bought [as taxpayers]," argued one PF supporter called Prince Chanda.

"So this behaviour of saying 'because the one who has circulated it is a minister, lets shut up [will not be accepted]. A lady in Chingola is facing criminal charges right now for circulating obscene material. It is an offence and there is precedent. Now, here is a person who is supposed to be implementing that policy, doing the same thing. We are dealing with hypocrisy now and we must deal with it like any other person."

"Ubupuba pachintubwingi mulenashako. Who sends such a nonsensical video on a platform like this kweena? Uku kutumpa, shaaa! (this is being stupid)," reacted another PF supporter.

Another one argued: "We know that it's the minister who posted, but the question is, who was he forwarding it to? He runs a ministry so we demand to know."

"But the Honourable in question has never posted anything on this platform just for a very first time, boom! He posts unbaptised video file... Perhaps he's preparing [for] ladies night tonight," another one mocked.

But in an interview with News Diggers! Sichalwe explained that the

video was brought to his attention as a problem that needed to be dealt with, but that he had no interest in handling it since he could not report issues of that nature to his superiors.

"It was being brought to my attention that there are these activities happening somewhere in our circles. So, for me, I had no interest to handle it because I could not even report to my superiors over such and that was the more reason I was deleting it. You can [even] follow it up, it's somewhere on Facebook, I don't know...they call it: 'Top Secret' you can find what is written there," said Sichalwe.

Later yesterday, Ministry of National Development Planning spokesperson Chibaula Silwamba issued a statement, dismissing reports that the participants in the pornographic video were employees there.

"The individuals reported to appear in the said obscene materials do not, and have never, worked for the Ministry. We note with deep contempt the mischaracterisation that the false reports have portrayed. We wish to warn perpetrators that production, dissemination or possession of obscene materials is a punishable offence. Section 177 (1) of the Penal Code of the Republic of Zambia states that any person who is found guilty of making, producing or possessing obscene materials is liable to imprisonment for five (5) years.." stated Chibaula.

The iconic 66-year-old musician, nicknamed Tuku, had been struggling with his health for over a month.

Jazz musician Oliver Mtukudzi has passed away, according to multiple news sources in Zimbabwe.

A tweet was initially sent out by Zimbabwean publication Masvingo Mirror.

According to the tweet, the publication "has it on good authority that he died two hours ago in the ICE at Avenues Clinic in Harare".

The musical icon's death has since also been reported in NewsDay as well as Health Times, who reported that the death has been confirmed by a reliable family member.

His record label, Gallo Record Company, has also confirmed his passing.

The 66-year-old musician, nicknamed Tuku, had been struggling with his health for over a month.

No statement has been released yet by the family and the cause of Mtukudzi's death is not yet known.

Tributes immediately began pouring in on social media.

As well as possibly the country's best-known musical export, Mtukudzi was a businessman, philanthropist, human rights activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Southern Africa Region.

He released 58 albums. **Citizen**

After taxpayers vehemently complained and challenged the First Lady to rescind her decision of traveling with a 25-member government delegation to receive four fire trucks donation in the United States of America, madam Esther Lungu went ahead.

It is not like the people's cry fell on deaf ears, State House heard what citizens complained about and they even responded with conflicting statements. The First Lady's senior private secretary Ms Florence Chawelwa told the people that the Zambian government was paying for the entire delegation's travel logistics, arguing that a donor-funded trip would compromise the security of a President's wife.

State House Press Aide, however, told taxpayers that government would only foot part of the delegation's bill, further justifying that it was necessary for the First Lady to travel with the listed huge delegation of workers who were going to inspect if the donated trucks "were in conformity with Zambian standards". Of course we wondered what would happen if, upon arriving in Los Angeles, the First Lady and her band discover that the fire Engines were tailor made for Beverly Hills. Would they then reject the donation and fly back to Zambia empty handed?

But anyway, our point is that State House heard the lamentations of the people of Zambia over the expenditure on this American trip, but they deliberately chose to ignore. Someone must have said, 'Zambians will always talk, don't be distracted, just get your bags let's go'.

To them, that was called 'being focused'. Even after their assignment captured in these images is done, all those 25 travelers will remain in America, gallivanting and enjoying their time in Los Angeles, feeling they are making Zambia proud.

None of those who travelled on this trip were able to give an account of what

What does Esther's foundation stand for?

NEWS Diggers!
Ear to the ground

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they would remaining doing in America for the rest of the month. We find this arrogance very disturbing. People who have access to public funds need to have a heart for the poor. Like we said in our

previous editorial opinion on this matter, it doesn't make any logical sense for government to spend millions of kwacha on 25 people who want to go and receive a donation that is worth much less.

But that brings us to the cause that the First Lady's Foundation is fighting for. What is it exactly that the President's wife wishes to advocate for under her charity? What is the motto and mission

statement for the Esther Lungu Foundation? What are its goals and objectives?

We are asking these questions because we don't think that the First Lady's Foundation has an interest

is pursuing justice for the marginalized; it has no interest in pushing for good healthcare for the vulnerable people; it has no business with educating the poor; and it has nothing to do with the physically challenged in society.

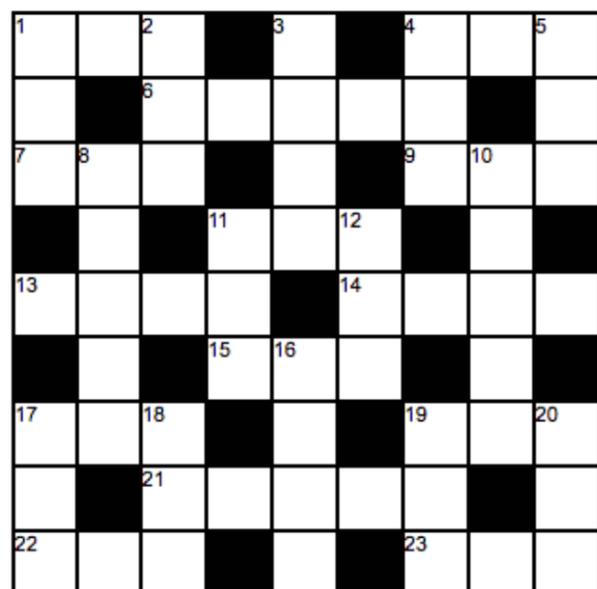
If at all the First Lady is concerned about the plight of any of the needy groups listed above, then surely her Foundation lacks common sense. How can they allow that wastage of money when women are giving birth on the floor in hospitals? How free is her conscience there in America, knowing that hundreds of Zambians will die because they won't have access to medical facilities?

How can it make sense for her to travel all the way to America, wasting all that money to go and earn this picture with the Los Angeles Fire Department, an assignment which she could have very easily delegated two people while she sits down in Lusaka waiting for the donation?

Esther Nyawa Lungu and her husband do not come from rich families. They have seen suffering before and some of their relatives are still wallowing in abject poverty, they are surviving under a dollar a day. Have they forgotten already?

There is a saying in Chewa which translates to mean that, a person must never forget where they are coming from because the moment you are enjoying wealth, just know that poverty is calling on you. Osaibala kwamene muchokela amai Lungu.

Crossword puzzle 278

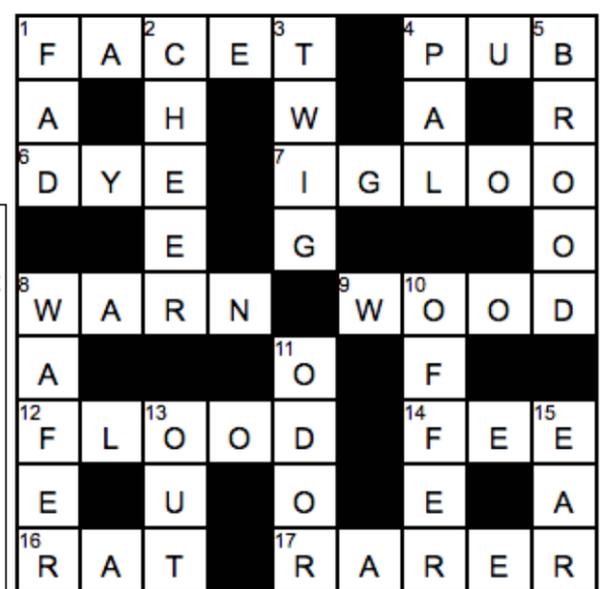


"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

- Martin Luther King Jr

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Crimson or ruby | 1. Tear |
| 4. What we breathe | 2. Father |
| 6. Later on | 3. Molecule component |
| 7. Group of seals | 4. Fingers to shoulder |
| 9. Dad's partner | 5. Brink |
| 11. Australian bird | 8. Heart or brain, e.g. |
| 13. Monster like Shrek | 10. Grayish green |
| 14. Tall ship feature | 11. Long fish |
| 15. Tell a mistruth | 12. Utilise |
| 17. Pen filler | 16. Type of tea |
| 19. Plead | 17. Mischievous one |
| 21. All possible | 18. Piano part |
| 22. Settle a debt | 19. TTYL |

Solutions to puzzle 277



Reader's feedback



'Edgar Lungu's government appointments are tribal'

Editor,

"So, we have new PS only from two regions when such positions are technocrats and not cadres, and all we do is watch. This kind of tribalism should stop! The PF is busy destroying our country on tribal lines. Someone will say they are appointed on merit; does it mean there no Lozi's, Tonga's, Lenjes or Kaondes in the Ministries who can't be PS? I am disgusted! This is not the Zambia I thought I would be

living in. We seem to one people in everything else, but when it comes to appointments, only a certain tribes have the right to be appointed. Let us practice one Zambia, one nation; we are being destroyed by senseless people!" - NamaKando Nyambe

"PF is tribal. Almost all the names are from Eastern, Northern, Muchinga and Luapula!" - Frazer Bwalya Musonda

"Does it mean we should change our surnames to access the jobs? Wow! Zambia, my country." - Maluba Kafeko

"Recent appointments ever since Lungu came to power are either from Eastern..." - Derrick K. Kalasa

ND's OPINION: Sishuwa's analysis on what HH offers Zambian voters

Editor,

"I hope Mr Hichilema and his advisors read this very carefully. If and when the issues raised in this editorial are analysed, digested and applied politically, this will stand HH candidature in good stead. The issues are pertinent and should not be glossed over." - Kanyata

Mubita

"The writer is saying the truth to a larger extent. Even me, personally have failed to understand HH's vision for Zambia; I have listened to him on many fora on many occasions and purely failed to articulate his vision, dreams, plans, and goals clearly for this

country. I have always said that leadership is about communication and be able to articulate your vision and subsequently convince the people to follow you. But hey, HH doesn't have that critical and essential aspect of leadership called charisma (influence) to create rapport with the electorate. I miss the days of the late president Michael Chilufya Sata, may his soul rest in eternal peace, when he was in opposition talked about the fiasco and the successes of MMD and how he was going to do it better than MMD when given a chance to run government." - Lawrence Chimukwaya

"An article worth reading. Well-articulated." - Jonathan Musondah

"Naturally good leaders fail to articulate issues they are good at doing it practically. Look at Levy Mwanawasa the way he was & others." - Miyoba Amigo

"The interview HH had on Deadnbc, Zulu didn't give him chance to talk about what he is capable of doing, but Zulu was trying to know where HH got his money..." - Kalaluka Brian

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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Note that we block facebook users who use abusive language

The problem with non-performing civil servants

Editor,

"Is it the civil servants or the environment in which they work? As a case in point, do you know that their a civil servants who have been acting in positions for over 2 years? Realistically, do you expect such an employee to give their very best? Would they be motivated to perform diligently? In my view, the blame should be placed at the hands of the bigwigs in these ministries failing

to create the enabling environment and provide the enabling resources to these civil servants to do their jobs. There should never be a difference between the civil servants of today and yesteryear because their culture should remain the same from one administration to the next. In other words, the civil service should remain intact otherwise we all reap the whirlwind." - Kanyata Mubita

Zimbabwe: Danger of voting for change instead of progress

Editor,

"Insightful and informative article." - Ngwenya Hlazo

"Very insightful editorial!" - Cde Mutale Captain Fantastic

"I agree. Voting out versus voting in is critical." - Musonda Chibamba

"Wow!!! This is a great and fantastic advice!!! I hear you, News Diggers!" - Muzunya Sikambale

"The economic problem in Zimbabwe is historical and, therefore, cannot be

attributed to Emmerson Mnangagwa's inefficiency. Zimbabweans will have to be patient enough to see meaningful democratic change." - Munsaka Lutenta

"It's a lesson for Zambia, too, indeed. Those that have seemingly crossed the floor from PF to the 'opposition' but yet cling on to PF membership. They call themselves consultants or 2021 presidential candidates of other parties. These are the same politicians that got into govt with PF in 2011. When Sata died they fought day and night, seeing nothing wrong, to preserve a party that's taken money out of people's pockets and has also made Zambians pay not just high taxes, but more taxes." - David M Mwanangombe



Pilgrims confess at the Youth Park in Panama City on the eve of the arrival of Pope Francis for the World Youth Days, on the eve of the arrival of Pope Francis for the World Youth Days, on January 22, 2019. RAUL ARBOLEDA / AFP

Young at higher risk of asthma attack, says charity

Young people are at a higher risk of having an asthma attack than any other age group living with the condition, the charity Asthma UK is warning.

The findings come from a poll of more than 10,000 people with asthma, which also found that young adults are twice as likely as people over 60 to need emergency care for their condition.

According to the Asthma UK survey, which included 751 replies from people aged 18-29, two-thirds (67%) of young adults said they were not getting basic asthma care, higher than any other age group.

Basic care includes having a written asthma action plan, an annual review and an inhaler technique check.

Asthma UK says that there are a number of reasons why young adults may be getting worse asthma care, including a complacency around the seriousness of asthma or an inability to get a GP appointment.

More than a quarter (28%) of the young people in the survey said they did not attend their asthma review. More than one in 10 (12%) said that their GP surgery was too busy, so they were unable to book a review. More than half (57%) said they did not receive a reminder that their review was due.

Dr Samantha Walker, Asthma UK's director of research and policy, said: "Healthcare professionals need to make sure they

are giving everyone with asthma guidelines-based basic care, and people with asthma of all ages should take responsibility for their own health by attending appointments and taking their medication as prescribed."

Prof Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "Asthma must never be underestimated as it is a serious condition that can claim lives in any age group."

"We really sympathise with our younger patients who are finding it hard to book a GP appointment, but we are working harder than ever and seeing more patients than ever. Unfortunately, we have a chronic shortage of family doctors right across the country because investment in our service has not kept pace with demand and there is a limit beyond which we can no longer guarantee safe care."

"GPs and our teams are highly trained to manage asthma in partnership with our patients, including identifying symptoms, prescribing appropriately and monitoring treatment. "We encourage the use of personal asthma action plans for patients and we aim to work with all patients with high-risk conditions to ensure they are undergoing regular reviews."

"It is also vitally important that patients understand their own treatment

and how to properly use equipment, such as inhalers, spacer devices and peak flow meters, and GPs take every step to

encourage patients of all ages to feel more confident about managing their condition effectively and appropriately." **BBC**

Zimbabwe troops 'used systematic torture'-HRC

A government-appointed human rights group in Zimbabwe has accused soldiers of using "systematic torture" in a crackdown on protests.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission strongly criticised authorities for using troops to quell demonstrations.

Unrest broke out more than a week ago following a sharp rise in fuel prices.

A government spokesman defended the crackdown, telling the BBC: "When things get out of hand, a bit of firmness is needed."

Reports have emerged of assaults allegedly carried out by the military in various parts of the capital, Harare.

Soldiers in Harare were seen beating a large group of minibus drivers on Tuesday.

The BBC's Andrew Harding in Harare spoke to a man who said he and about 30 others had been rounded up and beaten by soldiers for "more than two hours".

The continuing violence raises further questions



about President Emmerson Mnangagwa's control over the military, which helped bring him to power 14 months ago, our correspondent adds.

President Mnangagwa has promised that abuses against civilians will not be tolerated.

In a blunt statement, the commission said at least eight deaths had been reported since last week, "mostly attributed to use of live ammunition".

"Armed and uniformed

Egyptian TV host jailed for interviewing gay man

An Egyptian TV presenter has been sentenced to one year of hard labour for interviewing a gay man last year.

A court in Giza also fined Mohamed al-Ghiety 3,000 Egyptian pounds (\$167; £130) for "promoting homosexuality" on his privately owned LTC TV channel.

The gay man, whose identity was hidden, had talked about life as a sex worker.

Homosexuality is not explicitly criminalised in Egypt, however, the authorities have been increasingly cracking down on the LGBT community.

They routinely arrest people suspected of engaging in consensual homosexual conduct on charges of "debauchery", immorality or blasphemy.

The most recent case came about after lawyer Samir Sabry, who is well known in Egypt for taking celebrities to court, filed a lawsuit against Ghiety for his interview which took place in August

2018.

The TV host, who has voiced homophobic views on a number of occasions, spoke to a gay man who expressed regret over his sexuality and described life as a prostitute. The man's face had been blurred to conceal his identity.

Egypt's top media body, the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, immediately took the channel off air for two weeks, citing "professional violations".

The prosecuting lawyer, Mr Sabry, accused the TV host of revealing there to be financial gains of "practising homosexuality", state-owned al-Ahram newspaper reports. In addition to the jail term and fine, the misdemeanours court also ordered Ghiety to be put under surveillance for one year after serving his sentence, Mr Sabry said.

The verdict could be appealed against and suspended if Ghiety paid bail of 1,000 Egyptian pounds, pending the appeal's outcome, he added. **BBC**

members of the Zimbabwe National Army and the Zimbabwe Republic Police instigated systematic torture."

It said the torture was "organised" in that security forces targeted men close to where barricades had been erected, and near areas torched by protesters or looted.

On Monday Mr Mnangagwa, 76, broke off a trip to Europe to deal with the continuing unrest. **BBC**

He had been due to attend the Davos economic summit where he was expected to seek investment for Zimbabwe. Back in Harare, he took to Twitter to urge all sides to work together to fix a broken economy.

In a series of tweets, he said violence or misconduct by security forces was "unacceptable and a betrayal of the new Zimbabwe", adding: "If required, heads will roll."

.BBC

By Abraham Kalito
Former World Bantamweight Champion (WBC) Catherine Phiri will challenge current champion Fatuma Zareka for the title in Nairobi on March 23, Oriental Querries Boxing promotion manager Christopher Malunga announced yesterday. Phiri lost the WBC title in 2017 to 37-year-old Marian Juarez on unanimous points to surrender the belt to the Mexican. But Malunga told journalists during a press briefing in Lusaka that Phiri, who camped yesterday in preparation for the bout, is looking forward to defeating the Kenyan international and

Catherine to challenge Kenya's Zareka for WBC

re-possessing the title. "Straight away, I will go into Cathy's situation and I think a lot of people have been trying to call me to find out what's next for the champ. I'm happy to announce that Catherine Phiri will fight Fatuma Zareka on the 23rd of March in Nairobi. This date has been confirmed by Fatuma's camp for the

BBC, so we are looking forward to that camp and we are waiting for the contract for us to sign so that the fight can take place. But the date has officially been confirmed. And also for Cathy, it's a tough one but we know the weaknesses of Fatuma Zareka, and we are looking forward to winning, she is looking forward to

winning," Malunga said. And he announced that boxer Alfred Muwowo will challenge UK's Jay Harris for the Commonwealth lightweight title in Cardiff's Ice Arena on March 1, 2019. "Alfred Muwowo is going to fight Jay Harris, a British national from UK, who has a record of 14 fights all wins and eight of

them by knockout, while Alfred has got ten fights all wins and out of those he has got also eight of them by knockout. Very good margin. Alfred is 21, he is going on 22, while the other boxer is 28 years old. The fight will take place in UK, in Wales for the Commonwealth lightweight title fight in Cardiff, in Ice Arena,

which is a boxing arena, and we are looking forward to that fight. The boxer is already in camp and I am happy that he is doing very well with training programme brought forward by the boss. Yesterday, I checked on his training programme and also how the boxer was doing, I think he is in good shape," said Malunga.



Fans baffled as Liverpool star Mohamed Salah goes offline

Fans were left baffled on Wednesday after Liverpool's star Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah appeared to have deleted all of his social media accounts where his followers number in the millions. The Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts of Salah, who is idolised in Egypt and Liverpool, went offline without warning

a day after he posted a cryptic tweet. "2019 Resolution: Time to get in touch, for real," said the final tweet, screenshots of which were shared widely on social media. Those navigating to his Twitter account on Wednesday could only see a message reading "Sorry, that page doesn't exist!". On Instagram, the message

read "The link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed." A similar message appeared on Facebook. It was not immediately clear whether the shutdowns were deliberate. Some fans speculated that Salah deleted his accounts due to a dispute he has had with the Egyptian Football Association over his image rights.

Pliskova slays Serena as Djokovic cruises into semis

Serena Williams's bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title was brought to a halt in sensational style at the Australian Open Wednesday by Karolina Pliskova, but fellow former champion Novak Djokovic cruised into the semi-finals. The American great had beaten world number one Simona Halep in the fourth round but folded against the tall Czech seventh seed, who saved four match points before winning 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 under the hot Melbourne sun. Her reward is a clash against Japan's Naomi Osaka for a place in the final, after the Japanese fourth seed brutally swatted aside the

injured Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-1. World number one Djokovic enjoyed an early night when courageous Kei Nishikori retired with a thigh strain when losing 6-1, 4-1 after going through three five-set epics during the tournament. It kept the Serb's bid for a record seventh Australian title on track and he will now meet French 28th seed Lucas Pouille, who beat power-serving Canadian Milos Raonic 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4 to make his first Slam semi. It was a gut-wrenching defeat for Williams, who battled back from a set down and was leading 5-1 in the third and serving for

the match, only to throw it away with some wild shots as frustrations bubbled to the surface. "There's nothing I did wrong on those match points. I stayed aggressive. She just literally hit the lines on some of them," said the dumbfounded 37-year-old, who rolled an ankle but refused to blame it for the defeat. Since returning last year from giving birth, Williams has made four unsuccessful attempts to match Margaret Court's long-time standing 24 Grand Slam titles, and the wait continues with the French Open in May her next chance. "The big picture for me is always winning," she added.

"I'm not going to sit here and lie about that. It hasn't happened yet, but I feel like it's going to happen." For Pliskova, it is only her third semi-final at a major. She made the last four at Roland Garros in 2017 and the US Open a year earlier, where she beat Williams before losing the final to

Angelique Kerber. Asked about facing Osaka next, Pliskova replied: "She's dangerous but nobody is more dangerous than Serena." A focused Osaka rolled past Ukraine's Svitolina, who was troubled by neck and shoulder problems. **AFP**

Others saw it as a possible new year's resolution. Salah has taken the Premier League by storm since signing for Liverpool in the summer of 2017, scoring 50 goals for the English club in just 72 appearances. Earlier this month, Salah was named the African Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. **AFP**



Chambeshi summons 30 Under-23 locals to camp

By Abraham Kalito
Zambia's Under-23 national team coach Beston Chambeshi has selected 30 local players for a residential camp ahead of the March 20 first leg AfCON qualifier against Malawi. The team will be in camp twice on January 28-31 and on the weekend of February 11. Chambeshi added that he would also include foreign-based players later to complete his squad. Zambia will take on Malawi on March 20 in Blantyre before hosting the junior flames four days later. The 2019 U-23 AfCON, which will be hosted by Egypt, will also be used as a qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The top three finalists will qualify for the Olympics. Zambia last participated at the Olympics in 1988 where they famously beat Italy by more than four goals. **FULL SQUAD.**

G O A L K E E P E R S
Mangani Banda (ZANACO), Jackson Kakunta (Power Dynamos), Charles Muntanga (Nkwazi), Tyton Zulu (MUZA)
D E F E N D E R S
Moses Nyondo (Nkana), Prosper Chiluya (Nkwazi), Solomon Sakala, Shemmy Mayembe (both Zesco), Sydney Phiri (Gomes), Paul Banda (Lusaka Dynamos), Luke Banda (NapsaStars), Kebson Kamanga (Nkwazi), Dominic Chanda (Circuit City) (**M I D F I E L D E R S**)
Boyd Musonda (Zanaco), Harrison Chisala (Nkana), Linos Makwaza junior (Power Dynamos), Satty Phiri (Circuit City (Red Arrows) (**S T R I K E R S**)
Happy Nsofwa (Lumwana), Joseph Phiri (Red Arrows), Stephen Banda (MUZA Academy), Davy Daka (Power Dynamos), Theophilus Kasonde (Paramilitary), Bwalya Chella (Young Buffaloes), Benson Kolala (Nchanga Rangers)

CAF ACQUITS JANNY OF CORRUPTION

By Abraham Kalito and Alex Chilumbwe

Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) general secretary Adrian Kashala has refuted reports that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has lifted a provisional suspension imposed on Zambia's FIFA referee Janny Sikazwe who was accused of corruption in November last year but Reports across some sections

of the media indicate that CAF Disciplinary Committee lifted Janny's suspension

after investigations found insufficient evidence to substantiate the corruption

allegation. "After having thoroughly checked the elements

presented to them regarding the violation by Mr Janny Sikazwe of CAF Regulations, in particular Arts. 82, 136, 152, of the CAF Disciplinary Code: The Disciplinary Board decided that there is no sufficient evidence to implicate the involvement of Mr. Janny Sikazwe regarding the allegations of corruption made against him. Therefore, the Disciplinary Board decides: The provisional suspension of Mr. Janny Sikazwe is lifted," a CAF verdict read. But Kashala told goal diggers! in an interview Wednesday that the association would not comment on the matter because there was no official communication from CAF on the ruling which was held on 13 of January. "As much as it is very pleasing to the ears, we have not received any official communication from Confederation of African Football (CAF) concerning

the lifting of Janny Sikazwe's provisional ban from football. We are patiently waiting for that good news but we will not rely on online publications or social media reports about the lifting of the ban. We won't make any statement until we receive official or formal communication from CAF," said Kashala. Sikazwe's suspension came after he officiated the CAF Champions league second leg match between Angolan outfit Primeiro de Agosto and Esperance de Tunis of Tunisia, with the former losing the match. Primeiro de Agosto then filed complaints against Sikazwe claiming that he was in violation of CAF Regulations Articles 82, 136 and 152 of the CAF disciplinary code. Sikazwe is the first ever Zambian referee to have officiated at the FIFA world cup finals




PUBLIC DISCUSSION FORUM (4)

News Diggers in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) is inviting governance stakeholders, investors, mine workers, mining contractors, economists and all concerned Copperbelt residents to a Public Discussion Forum

SPEAKERS:

Mineworkers Union of Zambia president Mr. Joseph Chewe	Zambia Chamber of Mines President Mr Goodwell Mateyo	Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mr. Michael Nyirenda
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Also featuring at the event:
Ministry of Finance technocrats, CBU school of mines and School of Business

Topic: New Mining Tax and job loses

VENUE: **Hotel Edinburgh - Kitwe**
DATE: **Thursday, January 24, 2019**
TIME: 18:00 HOURS | CHARGES: FREE!!

Hazard is not a leader - Sarri

Maurizio Sarri has praised Eden Hazard's qualities as a great footballer, but says that the Chelsea star is 'not a leader'. Sarri hit the headlines last week for publicly chastising his squad after a 2-0 loss to Arsenal, claiming that his players are 'very difficult to motivate' and that they perhaps shouldn't be playing at the highest level. The Italian then went on to say that a new player, or even an 'old head', could be the answer to turning the Blues' fortunes, suggesting that the club lack leadership. Sarri was questioned further on the subject on Wednesday and the Chelsea boss cited Cesar Azpilicueta and David Luiz as potential leaders for the team, though turned heads by stating Hazard is not on that list. "He's more of an individual player than a leader," Sarri said. "He's very important for us, of course, because he's a great player. He can win a match in two minutes, sometimes one minute. "He is one of the best in the world, but at this moment he is not a leader." *Goal.com*