

This is time to speak out, Milupi urges
Zambians

Page 7



Kambwili, Lusambo 'square up' on radio

By Malawo Malawo

COPPEBERLT minister Bowman Lusambo says Roan PF member of parliament Chishimba Kambwili should stop behaving like a mad dog.

And Lusambo says if there are thieves in Zambia, Kambwili is one of them.

But Kambwili says Lusambo is a lunatic.

To page 2



The Mast

No. 0326 SM 46 - October 1, 2017

K10

on Sunday



WE WILL
STAND
UP FOR
ZAMBIA
...again and
again - Pilato

By Mast Reporter

MUSICIAN Chama Fumba

popularly known as Pilato says Zambians will one day ask themselves how they got to a situation where there will be

no one to speak for others. And political commentator Sishuwa Sishuwa says Miti and others were detained

without cause as police were unsure of what charge to lay against them. Pilato, who was released

from police detention around midnight on Friday after being arrested by police together with Joint Action for

Accountability in Zambia pioneer Laura Miti for protesting against the government's corruption and the purchase of 42 fire tender at \$42 million, posted that Zambia was his home and his responsibility, vowing that he would stand up for it "again and again".

Kanganja must resign - HH

Page 2

To page 2

Speaking on Let the People Talk programme on Radio Phoenix on Friday, Lusambo pledged to release a detrimental dossier against Kambwili.

“We know information about Kambwili and very soon, just give me time; we’ll release Kambwili’s activities on the Copperbelt Province and the people of Zambia will judge now who is corrupt between Kambwili and the people he is accusing. We want to ask him all the questions – how he managed to do the activities, which he is doing. When you come to the Copperbelt today, the railway line between Ndola and Luanshya has been stripped and I have been asking this question to Kambwili; who participated in the stripping off of the railway line between Ndola and Luanshya [but] he has failed to answer that question and I’m still asking that question – who participated in the stripping off of the railway line between Ndola and Luanshya?” Lusambo, the Kabushi PF member of parliament, asked.

“I was very disappointed yesterday (Thursday); what he was talking about... he even said that he is just getting information from other people. But for me, I’m not going to get any information from other people about Kambwili; I know that information within myself and I’ll release it. I want Kambwili to deny the things which we’ll release; just now, I’m going to release Kambwili’s dossier because he can’t be behaving like a mad dog!”

He asked Zambians to start differentiating between leaders and jokers.

“Kambwili is just doing jokes; there is nothing that the people of Zambia can take seriously about Kambwili,” Lusambo stressed.

He further called Kambwili, a former information minister and chief government spokesperson, a mere noisemaker.

“I can assure you that Kambwili is nothing but a noisemaker!

Lusambo, Kambwili ‘square up’ on radio

Noisemakers are attention-seekers and Kambwili wants to attract attention of the people of Zambia but the people of Zambia know Kambwili of yesterday [and] they know Kambwili of today. And *nga twalikwata bakabwalala muchalo* (if we have thieves in this country), Kambwili is one of those thieves. I’m challenging Kambwili to tell the people of Zambia where the Ndola-Luanshya railway line has gone,” Lusambo said.

He also pointed out that while Kambwili was insisting that “he is as clean as Dr Kaunda’s handkerchief”, he had been in court “concerning bad activities on the Copperbelt and I can assure him that I know a lot about him.”

“Kambwili is just a human being like another person; he can’t boast that he is as clean as Dr Kaunda’s handkerchief. He is just fooling himself and he is an embarrassment to himself, to his soul and to his family. I want to assure Kambwili that he should not think that when people are quiet then they are afraid of him! We are not afraid of you, Kambwili, and the punch for punch which you have declared between you and His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, you are just wasting your time,” explained Lusambo.

Kambwili then phoned-in to refute some of Lusambo’s allegations.

“...The railway line that you’ve been talking about that ‘Kambwili stole the railway line’, when the railway line was stolen, I was living in England; I was not on the Copperbelt. And the man who stole the railway line was taken to court and he was jailed! So, everything that they have is all trash; balifye mu pressure because abo abantu niba kabolala (they are just under pressure because those people are thieves)! Edgar Lungu *afumya*

kwisa ulupiya (where has he gotten the money); K23 million in one year ushakwatapo business (when he doesn’t run any business)? These are the issues you should be answering, not ukuya pa radio ulebepesha umuntu uwakaye (unlike going live on radio to malign an innocent person),” Kambwili said.

“That chap on the radio is a lunatic! Let me say this; where I come from, uwawa tabula akabepesho. Since that chap, Bowman Lusambo has got a dossier against me, I challenge him that I can pay for a radio programme for him this afternoon to read all the things...and go and report to the police, go to the Anti-Corruption Commission. I’m raising specific issues. Lungu, before he became President, when he was just becoming MP, he declared that he had K800,000 worth of assets. Five years later, he declared K2.5 million worth of assets [and] after one year, he declared K23 million worth of assets. In his declaration as President, he never declared that he does business; his job was only minister and his job was President. If you put the allowances of the President [and] all his income [in one year], it can never come to K23 million. The question is where has he gotten the K21.5 million in one year?”

The former information minister on Thursday held a press briefing to denounce the government and exposing ways it was allegedly laundering money obtained from contracts.

He alleged that President Lungu was systematically involved “in all the corruption” currently emerging in the government.

“I have said and I want to repeat that I will not relent, I will not stop talking until the unprecedented theft and

corruption that we have seen in this government comes to an end. I’m extremely disappointed that the Head of State, who is supposed to offer leadership, is the one to defend his ministers that people are plotting against his ministers by making unsubstantiated allegations. I still insist that this issue of the fire engines and the issue of the Ndola dual carriageway will never rest until a proper inquiry is done and people are brought to book. *Nganine* (if it were me), I would have even stopped appearing in public kunsoni (because of shame) but *bakabolala balipama* (thieves are insolent)...When you have a government which has *bakabolala ababula insoni* (which has shameless thieves)... the onus is on the people of Zambia to say enough is enough! You don’t have to wait for 2021 – you can tell them now that enough is enough,” Kambwili said.

He reminded President Lungu of what he said in the US about investigations into the US\$42 million fire tender and that he didn’t know anything about the procurement of fire-fighting equipment.

“The question that you and I must ask ourselves is what has he done from the time that he came

back from America that will show all the Zambians and the international community that he is serious about investigations into the issue of the fire tenders?” Kambwili asked.

“When he arrived at the airport the first thing was [to say] that ‘some people are plotting against my ministers and I’m the judge in this matter, both in government and in the party and it is only me who can decide whether to fire these ministers or not.’ And he says ‘be careful of people that are plotting against my ministers.’ Surely, one minute you say that I don’t know anything about this procurement [of 42 fire tenders but] the other minute you are defending your ministers that they are plotting against them! Just know mwebena Zambia that the man is involved; it is very clear and everybody can see that the President is involved in all the corruption that is happening.”

He further asked what sort of evidence the President was looking for to know that there was corruption under his superintendence.

“President Edgar Lungu knows Kaizar Zulu very well and [he] knows his financial standing before he appointed him as special assistant for politics. He should not pretend that today he doesn’t know that Kaizar Zulu

owns a trademark in Dubai of bags and belts. He (President Lungu) knows that Kaizar Zulu today owns a trademark in Dubai; a shop where they sell things which are labelled with his name (Zulu’s). The President knows that Kaizar Zulu has bought a lot of property in Lusaka; the President knows that Amos Chanda has bought a lot of property in Lusaka. What more evidence is he asking for? The President knows that indeed [Steven] Kampyongo is in the custody of and he drives the three vehicles that I talked about... a white Toyota Hilux 2016 model, a black Range Rover 2017 model and a VX, which he was involved in an accident with on the Great North Road. What more evidence do you want, Mr President, for you to know that there is corruption?” asked Kambwili, who later posted on his Facebook Page that the same way Kampyongo stopped the peaceful protests by concerned citizens over the \$42 million dollars theft was exactly the same way he had asked RTSA to conceal the vehicles he received as bribes.

“Both institutions fall under his watch and he is in total control because people are scared to lose their jobs if they expose bwana. What a pathetic response to grave allegations. Asking us to go and check RTSA is as good as admitting theft and the President should act now before this government becomes a joke.”

17 Catholic Church members die in Mpulungu accident

By Abawelo Zulu

SEVENTEEN members of the Catholic Church died on the spot while several others sustained serious injuries after being involved in an accident in Mbala yesterday.

And the Road Transport and Safety Agency says it is concerned with the continued disregard of road rules and regulations by motorists.

Kasama Archdiocese communications secretary Fr Felix Chishimba confirmed the accident to Radio Maria.

He said the victims were members of a lay movement called St Vincent De Paul.

“The St Vincent De Paul members were coming from Kayambi Mission going to Mpulungu, so on the way, they passed Mbala. Now as they were approaching Mpulungu, you know it is very steep as you are going to

Mpulungu, you have to go through mountains, so I have been told that the vehicle had no breaks, it lost breaks, and then you know when you are going to a steep...you have no breaks, so it (vehicle) gained momentum and there are so many curves, so the driver couldn’t negotiate the curves and that’s how the accident occurred,” explained Fr Chishimba.

“I am told the accident happened as they were approaching Lunzua River.”

And in a statement yesterday, RTSA head of public relations Frederick Mubanga expressed the agency’s concern over the levels of disregard to road traffic regulations among motorists.

He stated that the continued disregard of road traffic rules and regulations was resulting in fatal accidents that were preventable as seen from yesterday’s Mbala accident which happened as a result of speeding and use of a

goods vehicle to carry passengers.

“Seventeen people died on the spot around 01:30 hours on the Mbala-Mpulungu road at a place called Kasimango Village. Involved is an Isuzu Forward ACK 5871, which was being driven by Light Silwimba. The accident happened after the driver failed to negotiate a curve due to excessive speeding. There were 62 passengers on board, 17 died on the spot, 42 seriously injured and three escaped unhurt. The passengers are Catholic Church members who were going to Mpulungu for a Church service from Senga Hill,” stated Mubanga.

“RTSA is calling upon all road users to ensure that only vehicles that are certified and authorised to carry passengers are used for ferrying passengers from one point to the other. The Agency is saddened by the loss of lives and joins the rest of the nation in mourning the deceased.”

We’ll stand up for Zambia again and again - Pilato

From page 1

“One day we will ask ourselves, how did we get here? It will be too late because by then our voices will be faint and our ears blocked. We will try to stand up and fight but all those that would have helped us fight will not be there anymore. Then we will ask ourselves, how did we get here? We were released last night. Thank you very much for your prayers and support. Zambia is our home, it is our responsibility. We will stand up for it again and again,” stated Pilato.

Pilato, Miti, Mika Mwambazi, Sean Tembo, Lewis Mwape, and Bonwell Mwewa were arrested and charged with disobeying lawful orders after they refused to call off their peaceful protest at Parliament, which coincided with the presentation of the 2018 national budget by finance minister Felix Mutati.

But they were released around midnight on bond, a rare act by the police as most people arrested are never released at night.

“I think Laura + 5 were released for two main reasons, which were acknowledged in confidence even by the policemen themselves. First, it was an illegitimate detention whose purpose was to keep them locked up for the duration of the budget presentation. That the protestors were released around midnight reinforces this view. The police were even unsure about what charges to lay against the protestors,” said Sishuwa Sishuwa in an interview.

“Second, the ruling authorities were increasingly getting scared about the pilgrimage processions to Emmasdale and Garden police stations that were beginning to form, and which would have intensified this morning, fuelling concerns among the ruling elites that the case was attracting too much attention, even abroad, and would have been a test case for Patricia Scotland and her Commonwealth. So their release was inevitable, given the wider context of their arrest.”

Protestors began their peaceful

walk from Puma Filling Station at Arcades Shopping mall where they assembled to the National Assembly around 12:45 hours.

Half way to the Parliament entrance, riot police advanced to stop them from proceeding and disrupted a peaceful protest by the team while letting PF cadres march freely without interruption in what they called a solidarity demonstration for finance minister Felix Mutati who unveiled the 2018 national budget yesterday.

The officers, who started pushing and tearing the placards that had various messages denouncing the government’s abuse of public resources, manhandled Pilato and Laura, who had refused to have their placards destroyed.

As this was going on, Pilato was heard telling them that they would be held accountable for the destruction in the country.

“*Tulemilandila, ifi mulechita mukalenga abaana benu ukuchula* (we are speaking for you, what you are doing will cause suffering on your children),” Pilato said.

But in response, one of officers said: “Pilato, I know you are a responsible citizen that’s why I am not roughing you up, just go.”

After seeing the resistance from the protesters, Miti, Pilato and a handful of other protesters

were arrested, dragged and bundled into a police van and taken to Emmasdale Police Station.

Earlier, PF cadres who were headed to the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport joined the fracas in what they termed as ‘helping the police’.

The slogan-chanting PF cadres in Rosa buses joined the police action to intimidate the protesters.

After noticing that the situation would get out of hand, police pleaded with the cadres to leave and they reluctantly did so.

And in an interview before they were taken to the police station, Miti wondered why police were silencing her for questioning the government on how they were using public funds.

Earlier, the police summoned Miti to force headquarters to plead with her to call off the protest at Parliament.

But Miti told deputy inspector general of police Malcom Mulenga that the event was already in full gear and could not be stopped.

“They wanted me to call off the protest but I refused. I said ‘no, I’m now on my way to Parliament to meet the other protesters’,” said Miti in an interview just after her meeting with Mulenga.

US withdraws its diplomats from Cuba

By Sasha Gonzalez in Cuba

THE US has withdrawn its diplomats from Havana leaving only emergency personnel over alleged sonic attacks.

On Tuesday, Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez on Tuesday met US Department of State secretary Rex Tillerson to discuss an alleged sonic attack on American diplomats in Havana.

The US Department of State today also issued a travel warning, advising Americans to avoid traveling to Cuba and informing them of its decision to

draw down its diplomatic staff.

However, Tillerson said Washington would maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba, “and our work in Cuba continues to be guided by the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States.”

“Over the past several months, 21 US Embassy employees have suffered a variety of injuries from attacks of an unknown nature. The affected individuals have exhibited a range of physical symptoms, including ear complaints, hearing loss, dizziness, headache, fatigue,

cognitive issues, and difficulty sleeping. Investigators have been unable to determine who is responsible or what is causing these attacks. On September 29, the Department ordered the departure of non-emergency personnel assigned to the US Embassy in Havana, as well as all family members. Until the Government of Cuba can ensure the safety of our diplomats in Cuba, our Embassy will be reduced to emergency personnel in order to minimize the number of diplomats at risk of exposure to harm,” said Tillerson.

“In conjunction with the

ordered departure of our diplomatic personnel, the Department has issued a Travel Warning advising US citizens to avoid travel to Cuba and informing them of our decision to draw down our diplomatic staff. We have no reports that private US citizens have been affected, but the attacks are known to have occurred in US diplomatic residences and hotels frequented by US citizens. The Department does not have definitive answers on the cause or source of the attacks and is unable to recommend a means to mitigate exposure.”

so when citizens demand answers, they must be allowed to [protest] but really Kanganja is trying hard to prove that he is part of lawlessness and citizens will teach him a lesson,” he said.

Hichilema said he sympathised with those arrested for protesting the rising corruption levels in the government.

“I sympathise with my sister Laura, my brother and Musician Chama Fumba also known as Pilato, my brother Lewis Mwape, my sister Mwambanzi and others (Tembo and Mwewa) who were unlawfully arrested, detained and charged yesterday (Friday) for simply demanding answers from Mr Edgar Lungu and his PF, please remain strong,” he said.

Hichilema warned that Kanganja risked going down with the PF and its leaders over corruption and other injustices.

He told the police to immediately drop the charges against the six as taking the matter to court would be mere abuse of the judicial process.

“...not doing so will again prove that the police are working hand in hand with the PF to suppress citizens but also abuse courts’ time, and Kanganja does not learn especially that he, himself, has been dragged to court before,” Hichilema said.

He wondered how long citizens would be denied their fundamental rights as police were in the forefront of abrogating the laws.

“But don’t sit idle when those claiming leadership are stealing with impunity and seemingly state institutions are there defending ills such as corruption...suppressing citizens, stealing from citizens and deliberately breaking the laws as is the case now must be stopped and amputated together with the PF and its leaders,” said Hichilema.

By Angela Quintal

A light breakfast of an omelet and a cup of black coffee eaten on the trot: Little did Radio France Internationale correspondent Ahmed Abba know it would be his last meal as a free man. Abba had a 10 a.m. assignment on July 30, 2015 – a security briefing in Maroua, the capital of Cameroon's Far North region, that the governor had convened in response to attacks by the extremist group Boko Haram.

The Far North was reeling from three suicide bombings that month that left at least 34 people dead. Although such attacks occurred almost daily in Boko Haram's base in Northeastern Nigeria, they were rare in neighboring countries. The bombings came a few days before a two-day official visit by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to Cameroon to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Abba had spent most of the previous day interviewing Nigerian refugees who had fled the extremist group.

As Abba left the governor's security meeting, two police officers arrested him. He was charged under Cameroon's anti-terror law and, after nearly two years in custody, convicted by a military tribunal of "non-denunciation of terrorism" and "laundering of the proceeds of terrorist acts." He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. His lawyer says Abba is appealing the sentence.

The government says that the anti-terror law President Paul Biya enacted in December 2014 is part of its effort to counter Boko Haram, which has carried out kidnappings as well as attacks in Cameroon. However, CPJ found that authorities are using the law against journalists such as Abba who report on the militants, and others who have reported on unrest in Cameroon's English-speaking regions or are critical of Biya's administration.

In addition to detaining journalists, authorities have banned news outlets deemed sympathetic to the Anglophone protesters, shut down internet in regions experiencing unrest, and prevented outside observers, including CPJ, from accessing the country by delaying the visa process. Journalists say that the risk of arrest or closure has led to an atmosphere of fear and self-censorship – an unhealthy climate considering that elections are scheduled for next year.

According to the editor of one English-language publication, the government conflates news coverage of militants or

'Journalists not Terrorists'

demonstrators with praise, and journalists don't know what they can and cannot report safely, so they err on the side of caution.

"Publications are publishing blind because the government, out of frustration, can decide that any published report is trying to favor the agitators," said the editor, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. "We are not told what the difference is about reporting the facts or acclaiming what is happening and we therefore run the risk of contravening the anti-terrorism law."

Biya, who was appointed prime minister in 1975, assumed the presidency in 1982. He is one of the world's longest-serving elected leaders. The parliament revised the constitution in 2008 to remove presidential term limits.

In addition to the Boko Haram insurgency, his administration for the past year has been grappling with clashes in the Anglophone regions between police and demonstrators, as lawyers, teachers, and other groups went on strike over claims they are being marginalized. The country's language divide and calls for greater autonomy – in some cases, secession – is a hangover from the early days of independence, when regions that were under British colonial rule unified with those governed by France. Residents in the English-speaking region say that not enough official documents are translated clearly into English, and that the predominantly French-speaking government appoints teachers and judges to their region who speak little to no English.

The turmoil in Cameroon, and Biya's increasingly authoritarian response, risk more political instability and humanitarian crises in a region that has already suffered years of war. Cameroon shares a border with Chad, the Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic, among other countries.

"With elections on the horizon, many in Cameroon rightfully fear a heightened and more violent crackdown," said Jeffrey Smith, executive director of Vanguard Africa, a U.S.-based nonprofit that advocates for good governance and fair elections in Africa. "Biya is essentially drawing upon age-old lessons that authoritarians have long relied on to maintain power: kill dissent, sometimes literally, and openly target your critics so as to create a broader chilling effect in the country."



The President's Office did not respond to CPJ's written request for comment.

Cameroon has a diverse media environment, with at least 600 newspapers, 30 radio stations, 20 television stations, and 15 news websites in operation, according to the regulatory National Communication Council. But that does not mean information flows freely.

"Honestly, in Cameroon now, most of us in the private media are free to report only what the government wishes to see," said a newspaper proprietor who like many asked for anonymity for fear of retaliation. "There is an atmosphere of fear. You don't report about the issue of federalism [or] all those issues that are considered to be unfriendly to the regime – even if they are true."

Cameroon's anti-terror law is a powerful tool of fear, according to opposition parties, the media, trade unions, and civil society and human rights organizations. The law's provisions are criticized as overly broad with easy potential for abuse of political opponents and the right to freedom of expression. The law has a maximum penalty of the death sentence, and allows authorities to detain indefinitely those accused of terrorism. It also provides for prosecution in military court, contravening Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees individuals a fair, independent, and public hearing of any criminal charges against

them, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which Cameroon ratified in 1989. The African Charter states, "Military courts should not in any circumstances whatsoever have jurisdiction over civilians." Civilians tried by a military tribunal are often denied their rights to a fair trial and appeals process.

Elie Smith, a journalist working for Canal 2 English, a privately owned satellite TV station based in Douala, said Abba's terror conviction was "a tool to intimidate other journalists."

The Biya administration wants to avoid a situation like in Nigeria where journalists covered Boko Haram and the government was unable to "control the narrative," Smith said. He noted that journalists wanting to report from the front lines in the fight against Boko Haram need authorization from the ministries of defense and communication and must be embedded.

In addition to Abba, CPJ was aware of at least four other journalists who faced charges under the 2014 anti-terror law for their reporting: Atia Tilarious Azohnwi, political editor of The Sun; Hans Achomba, a documentary filmmaker; and Tim Finnian, publisher and editor of the weekly newspaper, Life Time, were all detained in custody for several months until a presidential decree on August 30, 2017 secured their release. The decree also ended criminal proceedings against Jean-Claude Agbortem of online magazine Camer Veritas, who was on bail on accusations of inciting terrorism. All of them faced trial before a military court and, if convicted, they would have faced the death penalty.

CPJ is investigating several other cases, including Thomas Awah Junior, publisher of the monthly magazine Ahem Messenger, who was arrested on January 2 in Bamenda, and Fonja Hanson, editor of the privately owned Cameroon Report and the chief executive of the Cameroon Broadcasting Service, arrested in Bamenda on July 28, to determine if those arrests are directly related to journalism. Amos Fofung, bureau chief for The Guardian Post, was freed on August 5 without charge, after being detained for nearly six months.

Journalists detained under the anti-terror law face harsh treatment while awaiting trial. According to details shared with CPJ about Abba's March 24 testimony before the military tribunal, and people familiar with his case who spoke with CPJ on condition of anonymity, Abba was detained incommunicado for at least three months

after his arrest. Members of the intelligence agency beat him with machetes and sticks, and walked on his back in their boots. He also initially faced the death penalty.

The journalist's lawyer, Charles Tchoungang told the military court that Abba – who CPJ will honor with its 2017 International Press Freedom Award – was beaten by guards who tried to force him to reveal his sources. In his testimony at the tribunal in the Cameroonian capital, Yaoundé, Abba recounted how he was kept handcuffed and at times naked, during questioning and his imprisonment. The journalist said his legs were shackled and when he was transported via plane to the capital, he was muzzled.

Peter Essoka, president of Cameroon's National Communication Council – the media regulator whose members are appointed by Biya – denies that Abba's imprisonment is related to his journalism.

In a statement released when Abba was sentenced in April, RFI director Cécile Mégie said the French government-funded station had provided "irrefutable evidence" that Abba did not condone terrorism in his reporting. When contacted for comment for this report, Mégie directed CPJ to the broadcaster's statement.

France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Embassy in Washington D.C. did not respond to CPJ's emailed request for comment.

The documentary filmmaker Achomba was also treated harshly after his arrest on January 23, his wife, Lilian Shiya, told CPJ. When during questioning police discovered he had worked in South Africa, which has a large Cameroonian diaspora pushing for more autonomy, they accused him of covering riots in the Northwestern region to damage Cameroon's international image.

Shiya said that when she first visited Achomba in custody, his feet were swollen and he could hardly walk. Shiya said her husband later told her that police used batons to beat him on the soles of his feet, walked over his stomach and groin, and threatened to cut off his fingers. "They were making comments about him getting married and told him he would not see me anymore," she told CPJ.

The president's office and the official government spokesperson did not respond to CPJ's requests for comment about the treatment of journalists in custody.

"For fear of the unknown, many now run away from hard news, especially if it will put their lives at risk," a journalist

for an English-language outlet, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal, told CPJ. "They prefer to avoid using certain words and have suspended very heated debate slots and programs ... that may plunge them into trouble. To many, self-censorship saves them the trouble of being monitored or from the dragnet of those who seek to silence their pens."

Cameroon's crackdown on the press deepened late last year amid the unrest in the English-speaking regions, CPJ research shows. The National Communication Council handed down a series of penalties on December 6, 2016, including suspensions ranging from one to six months and bans on 14 publishers and their newspapers, one radio station managing director, and 15 journalists from 10 print and online newspapers, radio, and television stations for reports that the council said included "unfounded, offensive, and insinuating allegations."

The same month, the Ministry of Communication wrote to privately owned broadcasters instructing them to stop broadcasting political debates "concerning the current political atmosphere in the Southwest region," according to a copy of the December 1 directive, shared on Twitter.

Authorities briefly suspended broadcast permissions for the privately owned radio stations Radio Hot Cocoa in Bamenda, the capital of the Northwest region, on January 10, and Jakiri community radio station on January 12 for their coverage. Jakiri was suspended after broadcasting a parliamentarian's call to protest the marginalization of Anglophones, according to media reports.

Gideon Taka, manager at Radio Hot Cocoa, told CPJ that the National Communication Council blocked access to its offices and studio on January 10 for allegedly fueling the crisis in the Northwest region through its program "Biggest Breakfast Show." Taka said that after he called the president of the council, the station was allowed to resume broadcasting within 48 hours "on the promise to continue to be objective in handling burning issues, especially during crisis situations."

Taka said the station is now taking a more cautious approach. "This is not censorship of any kind, but our attempt to judiciously inform our listeners," Taka said.

On January 17, the government ordered an internet shutdown in the English-speaking regions, which lasted until April 20. The government said the move was intended to forestall a breakdown of law and order amid protests, strikes, and school closures, according to media reports. The shutdown was widely condemned, including by U.N. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression David Kaye, who described it as "an appalling violation of [Cameroonians'] right to freedom of expression."

On January 20, Essoka, president of National Communication Council, threatened on the state-owned Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV) to suspend or shut down any media organization disseminating "seditious" content regarding demonstrations for secession or federalism in Anglophone regions, according to press reports. Essoka named the newspapers Le Messenger, Cameroon Post, The Guardian Post, The Times Journal, broadcasters Equinoxe TV, Spectrum TV, Canal 2 International, and some community radio stations as allegedly supporting the protests, the reports said...

To be continued.

Don't hide under veil of prayer and fasting, Musenge advises Lungu

By Darius Kapembwa

NATIONAL Democratic Congress secretary general Mwenya Musenge says President Edgar Lungu should not hide under the veil of prayer and fail to account for many issues being raised in the country.

In an interview, Musenge, a former Copperbelt minister and Chimwenwe PF member of parliament who was recently expelled from the ruling party, said the National Day of Prayer, Fasting and reconciliation scheduled for next month would be meaningless if President Lungu does not confess and repent over the corruption by his inner circle.

"Firstly, as we are getting closer to the National Day of Prayer and Fasting that was declared a holiday by His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, there are more questions than answers. The President's name has been dragged into serious corruption issues and as NDC member, I thought that the President was going to use his speech to Parliament to respond to those serious allegations. As we know that Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu holds the highest office in the land and that whoever ascends to that position should be a man of very high integrity and for his name to be entangled in so many issues of shame is very embarrassing," Musenge said. He said President Lungu was

not being a leader by remaining quiet and leaving Zambians to speculate.

Musenge said questions around the procurement of 42 fire engines at US\$42 million and the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway project were just a tip of the iceberg.

He suggested that all public contracts and tenders awarded to some companies and individuals during the two years President Lungu had been in office should be revisited and investigated.

"It will not help for the President to hide under the veil of prayer and fasting and fail to account... As a Christian, I believe your sins can only be washed away when you confess. As long as President Lungu does not apologise for these atrocities, he won't be forgiven. It is my prayer that as we go for prayers, the money that was spent on fire tenders be reimbursed to government as a way of repentance as true Christians do. We need value for money for the Lusaka-Ndola road. Mere prayer and fasting won't clear these issues away. True Christians confess their sins. The blood of Jesus does not cleanse sins that you don't confess, otherwise this day will be meaningless," Musenge said.

And Musenge said the government must disclose how much it had realised from the sale of Mukula logs that were seized countrywide by law enforcement agencies.

"There is an issue of the Mukula tree; tonnes and tonnes of the Mukula logs were confiscated by the State and later a decision was passed by the President that the confiscated Mukula logs be sold by ZAFFICO. But the nation has not been told whether that was procedural and what law was used to allow ZAFFICO to sell the logs. Secondly, the nation has not been informed how much money was raised from those tonnes and tonnes of Mukula. Thirdly, we want to know into which basket this money went and how this money has been utilised. Because if ZAFFICO performed the agency of selling on behalf of government, we ought to be told how much was realised and how much went into control 99 for transparency's sake," said Musenge, adding that there was a syndicate in the Mukula tree trade that had continued to get permits to harvest and export the resource at high level.

Lawyer encourages L/stone girl in distress

By Prince Lubanga

EDUCATION is the backbone for women empowerment and national development, says Livingstone lawyer John Kapepe.

Speaking when he donated K13,000 to Ndano Lubasi, a 20-year-old vulnerable Livingstone who shared her challenges in The Mast, Kapepe of MAK partners said he was very happy that despite her challenges, Lubasi overcame all odds.

"Please make sure that you put away all thoughts of your hardships so that you can take care of your family. You can make it, you can change the country because education is the backbone for women empowerment and national development," Kapepe said.

He said he would help Lubasi to meet her educational requirements.

"I will monitor your performance and if you work hard and get good results, I will help you every year and also give you K500

on a monthly basis," Kapepe said.

Lubasi, who was accompanied by Response Network director Haakon Sigseth and Elizabeth Banda, uncontrollably shed tears and thanked Kapepe.

Lubasi, whose parents are not in any gainful employment, has been under Response Network school sponsorship since Grade 6 and has been accepted to study medicine at the Copperbelt University.

INSPECTOR General of Police Kakoma Kanganja has no shame and a sense of justice in him. If Kanganja had a bit of shame and a sense of justice in his heart, he would have serious difficulties stopping the protest by the Joint Action for Accountability in Zambia against corruption.

The other week, Kanganja was allowing Patriotic Front cadres all over the country to protest against finance minister Felix Mutati and demanding his resignation or removal. But today, the police is stopping people from protesting the corruption surrounding the purchase of 42 fire tenders at \$42 million.

The decision by the Joint Action for Accountability to go ahead with their protest without a police permit is right and deserves the support of all. We should never be afraid to raise our voices for honesty, truth and compassion against injustice, lying and greed. If all of us countrywide would do this, it would greatly change the governance of our country.

Henry David Thoreau said, "Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves." Nothing strengthens an abusive or corrupt regime so much as silence. We all have a duty as citizens to challenge corruption. One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust police decisions, orders.

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the abusers, the corrupt, never the abused, the ones being robbed, plundered, exploited. Silence encourages the crooks, never their victims.

To sin by silence, when we should protest, makes cowards of us. Mahatma Gandhi said, "Silence becomes cowardice when occasion demands speaking out the whole truth and acting accordingly."

Albert Einstein said, "If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity." Protest beyond unjust police decisions, orders is

not a departure from rule of law and order, democracy; it is absolutely essential to it.

"An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law," said Martin Luther King Jr.

A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against

Corruption has to be challenged, protested

Our view

Email: themastonline@gmail.com
Website: www.themastonline.com
Cell: +260 950 268 279

a corrupt government. "Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official," said Theodore Roosevelt.

We love Zambia more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, we insist on the right to protest the harmful decisions and actions of her government perpetually.

Elsa Tamez said, "God remains silent so that men and women may speak, protest, and struggle. God remains silent so that people may really become people. When God is silent and men and women cry, God cries in solidarity with them but doesn't intervene. God waits for the shouts of protest."

The human voice is still the most paramount vessel or weapon to use, to uphold justice and to protest against injustice.

The only weapon that we have in our hands is the weapon of

protest. That's all. Protest is when we say, 'I don't like this.' Resistance is when we put an end to what we don't like. And protest is when we say, 'I refuse to go along with this anymore.' Resistance is when we make sure everybody else stops going along too.

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can quietly become a power no government can suppress, a power than can transform the world. It has always been the prerogative of children and half-wits to point out that the emperor has no clothes. But a half-wit remains a half-wit, and the emperor remains an emperor.

Edgar Lungu's Zambia is not Zambia: not today's or tomorrow's, but yesterday's. Edgar's Zambia is brutal, perverse, regressive, insular, corrupt and afraid. There is no hope in it; there is no light in it. It is a vast expanse of darkness and desolation.

And that is a vision of Zambia that most of the people in this country cannot and will not abide. Confrontation is not bad. Goodness is supposed to confront evil. History permits us to be responsible: not for everything, but for something.

The power of the people is much stronger than the people in power. We don't know about you, but each one of us has only one life, and we don't want to spend it in a sewer of injustice, corruption. To spend one's life being angry, and in the process doing nothing to change it, is to us ridiculous. We could be mad all day long, but if we are not doing a damn thing, what difference does it make?

Those who make peaceful protest against injustice, corruption impossible will make violent protest inevitable. But what we need to search for and find, what we need to own and perfect into a magnificent, shining thing, is a new kind of politics; the politics of forcing accountability.

Remember Bob Marley's clarion call: "Get up, stand up, stand up for your rights. Get up, stand up, don't give up the fight."

N/Korea bolsters defences after US bombers' flight as rhetoric escalates

NORTH Korea appears to have boosted defenses on its east coast, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said on Tuesday, after the North said US President Donald Trump had declared war and that it would shoot down US bombers flying near the peninsula.

Tensions have escalated since North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3, but the rhetoric has reached a new level in recent days with leaders on both sides exchanging threats and insults.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho said Trump's Twitter comments, in which the US leader said Ri and leader Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer" if they acted on their threats, amounted to a declaration of war and that Pyongyang had the right to take countermeasures.

Yonhap suggested the reclusive North was in fact bolstering its defenses by moving aircraft to its east coast and taking other measures after US bombers flew close to the Korean peninsula at the weekend.

The unverified Yonhap report said the United States appeared to have disclosed the flight route of the bombers intentionally because North Korea seemed to be unaware. South Korea's National Intelligence Service was unable to confirm the report immediately.

Ri said on Monday the North's right to countermeasures included shooting down US bombers "even when they are not inside the airspace border of our country".

"The whole world should clearly remember it was the US who first declared war on our country," he told reporters in New York on Monday, where he had been attending the annual United Nations General Assembly.

"The question of who won't be around much longer will be answered then," he said.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders denied on Monday that the United States had declared war, calling the suggestion "absurd".

Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said war on the Korean peninsula would have no winner.

"We hope the US and North Korean politicians have sufficient political judgment to realize that resorting to military force will never be a viable way to resolve the peninsula issue and their own concerns," Lu told a daily news briefing.

"We also hope that both sides can realize that being bent on assertiveness and provoking each other will only increase the risk of conflict and reduce room for policy maneuvers. War on the peninsula will have no winner."

While repeatedly calling for dialogue to resolve the issue, China has also signed up for increasingly tough UN sanctions against North Korea.

China's fuel exports to North Korea fell in August, along with iron ore imports from the isolated nation, as trade slowed after the

latest UN sanctions, but coal shipments resumed after a five-month hiatus, customs data showed on Tuesday.

In Moscow, Russia's Foreign Ministry said it was working behind the scenes to find a political solution and that using sanctions against North Korea was almost exhausted.

During a visit to India, US Defense Secretary James Mattis said diplomatic efforts to deal with the crisis were continuing.

"You have seen unanimous United Nations Security Council resolutions passed that have increased the pressure, economic pressure and diplomatic pressure, on the North, and at the same time, we maintain the capability to deter North Korea's most dangerous threats," he told reporters in the Indian capital.

US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers escorted by fighter jets flew east of North Korea in a show of force after a heated exchange of rhetoric between Trump and Kim.

North Korea has been working to develop nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the US mainland, which Trump has said he will never allow.

The United States and South Korea are technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in a truce and not a peace treaty. - BBC

Botswana sells huge diamond for \$53m

A ROUGH diamond about the size of a tennis ball, recovered from the Karowe mine in Botswana in November 2015, has been sold by Canadian-based Lucara Diamond Corp for \$53m.

The 1,109-carat stone, at present the world's largest uncut diamond, was bought by British diamond business Graff Diamonds for \$47,777 per carat, and will now be cut and polished, Lucara said.

The Canadian firm had previously tried to sell the diamond at a Sotheby's auction in June 2016, but bidding failed to reach the reserve price.

The stone, called Lesedi La Rona, or Our Light in the national language of Botswana, is said to be 2.5bn-3bn years old.

Laurence Graff said: "We are thrilled and honoured to become the new custodians of this incredible diamond. - Reuters

Uganda opposition accuse special forces of ejecting MPs from parliament

AT LEAST five Ugandan lawmakers received hospital treatment for injuries sustained while being dragged out of the parliament by plain-clothes security guards that opposition MPs said were really soldiers from President Yoweri Museveni's special forces.

The clashes erupted in the chamber on Tuesday and Wednesday over a motion to end a constitutional limit on the president's age, effectively allowing 73-year-old Museveni, one of Africa's most entrenched "Big Men", to extend his 31 years in power.

Reinforcing lawmakers' suggestions that soldiers had been involved in the incidents, television footage showed Uganda's special forces commander was in parliament just before dozens of MPs were forcibly removed.

Ugandan authorities have not commented

on the suggestions.

Rights groups denounced the incidents as a violation of the parliament's bar on police or soldiers entering the chamber.

"In effect what happened was an overthrow of the constitutional order," said Nicholas Opiyo, a Kampala-based human rights lawyer and political analyst.

One of the ejected MPs, Gaffa Mbwatekamwa, sported a cracked left arm in bandages and a sling as he described his ordeal.

"These guys grabbed me from behind and one twisted my arm. I started screaming and another one squeezed my balls," he told Reuters at a Kampala hospital where he was visiting a fellow injured legislator.

He and other MPs said they had also been punched and kicked by the security guards. Mbwatekamwa added that some of the

alleged guards were recognised as members of the armed forces.

That claim was backed up by footage aired on Thursday by the private NTV Uganda channel of Special Forces Command (SFC) Colonel Don Nabasa pacing the corridors of parliament moments before the security guards burst into the chamber.

Police chief Kale Kayihura also told the NBS television channel police had enlisted the help of "sister" security agencies to clear parliament, a term frequently used by police to refer to the armed forces.

Police spokesman Asan Kasigye denied legislators had been beaten by security personnel. A spokesman for the Special Forces Command said he could not comment beyond the statement from the police chief. - Reuters

Egypt cops arrests 7 over rainbow flag at concert

EGYPTIAN police arrested seven people on Monday after they were seen raising a rainbow flag at a concert, security sources said, in a rare public show of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights in the conservative Muslim country.

Security sources said the seven were arrested for "promoting sexual deviancy," a euphemism in Egypt for homosexuality, after they were seen on camera raising the rainbow flag at a Mashrou'

Leila concert, a popular Lebanese alternative rock band whose lead singer is openly gay.

Egyptian Public Prosecutor Nabil Sadek ordered the State Security Prosecution to immediately investigate the incident, state news agency MENA reported.

The public prosecutor has not yet announced a decision on whether formal charges will be filed and a case brought to court. - BBC

A YOUNG boy is sitting under the shade of a wide neem tree, playing with sticks in the sand. A man, not his father, is watching him closely. And a woman, not his mother, picks him up to go inside.

This mismatched family of three has been brought together by the most tragic of circumstance.

Until very recently they were total strangers. But they have one thing in common, they were living with Boko Haram in a camp deep in the Sambisa forest before they escaped, just over a month ago.

We came to this army base in the north-east to meet the man, Mohamed (not his real name). He was a member of Boko Haram until he decided to run away from the group and surrender to the Nigerian army.

From what he tells me, Mohamed must be in his 30s but the wrinkled frown fixed around his eyes makes him look older.

He is small with a sturdy frame and wearing a new stripy blue polo shirt given to him by the army - who have facilitated our meeting. When he came out of the forest he said he had nothing.

'A Boko Haram commander's wife persuaded me to escape with her'

Mohamed joined Boko Haram three years ago, when they took his home town of Banki.

He had a small business there buying, selling and repairing mobile phones. As the militants approached, he ran hundreds of miles away towards the border with Cameroon.

But a friend convinced him to come back to take care of his business, assuring him it would be OK. When he came back, the friend forced him to join the group.

"He made me carry his rifle," he said. "I knew he was Boko Haram. I didn't want to join him but I didn't have a choice. I knew he would kill me."

For three weeks they rode around attacking villages in the area. He said he disagreed with what they were doing but he feared for his life.

"We were just roaming around

from village to village to round up women to marry."

Soon afterwards, they were pushed out of Banki by the Nigerian army, to a base deep in the Sambisa forest - a vast area on the border between Nigeria and Cameroon.

"Our camp was located deep inside the bush where there are big, big trees and we used aluminium roofing sheets to build big houses from mud where we all stayed," he said.

"There were about 500 in each camp. Each camp was named for a town. I counted at least 12 camps."

But the marauding continued. In his time with Boko Haram, Mohamed said he fought in six battles.

"When we captured a town, the emir that led the conquest would be the leader of that town. People were in their houses and we would go house-to-house collecting the women.

"Some of the men ran, but if they were members of the vigilante we would kill them.

"When we went out to attack, we shot indiscriminately, I have no way of knowing how many people I killed."

For the first few years, the militants seemed to be well funded. They paid foot soldiers a wage but when the army bombed the place where they kept the money those salaries dried up.

So Mohamed set up shop in the forest, buying and selling phones.

"Everybody had a phone. If we go to war, they collected people's phones, they gave them to me and I would sell them."

Soon, he was appointed as a bodyguard to a senior commander and had some

insight into the workings of the upper echelons of Boko Haram, although he didn't know where the money came from.

He told me that as an ordinary soldier he never met the group's leader, Abubaker Shekau.

But Shekau would send one of many emissaries from his hiding place to give orders to commanders.

As a bodyguard, Mohamed was tasked with guarding the commander's young wife, Aisha (not her real name).

Aisha was captured with her young daughter three years ago in the town of Mubi. She was forced to marry three times, each time chosen by a senior commander.

"The commander taught me how to shoot," Aisha told me. A few years into her detention, her two-year-old daughter got sick and died.

She was desperate to escape. When we spoke, she shielded her lips with her headscarf. She was shy and soft-spoken but defiant.

"My husband knew I wanted to run away," she said. "That's why he told his bodyguard to follow me everywhere".

But Aisha saw something in this bodyguard that she didn't see in other Boko Haram members.

"I knew he was a nice, kind-hearted man," she said. She decided to convince him to escape.

They started plotting but Mohamed was afraid.

He thought the military would punish him if they surrendered. But Aisha had listened to BBC Hausa radio programmes in the bush and heard that the army was offering amnesty to Boko Haram members who defected and she told him it would be OK.

They were caught meeting late at night, the commander thought they were having an affair and they were tied up.

But Aisha managed to loosen the rope around her wrists, she freed Mohamed and they ran.

"I knew the area very well so we just followed the bush," Mohamed explained. They reached a military roadblock and raised their hands in the air to surrender.

Since the surrender they said the army has been treating them well. Though we spoke to them in the presence of an army spokesperson, they seemed relaxed.

Aisha and Mohamed put their escape down to the fact that Boko Haram was in disarray. - BBC

NATURAL REMEDIES

THE GREATEST KING FROM CENTRAL AFRICA. do you want to become a millionaire, billionaire or trillionaire, early money in SAMEDAY. Unfinished work by other doctors are welcome. Call: prof motto, 0964-205442. 1-2 October 17 Inv 1602

HAVE YOU FAILED IN ALL YOUR TRIALS, CALL MAMA H A B I B A, quick loans, cash at hand, delayed illuminat, sale of pension, property, pass exams 0979-382650 or 0961-818763 1-6 october 17 Inv 1602

RICHES IS YOUR CHOICE WITH CHIEF EZRA.. Get rich quickly, bring back lost lovers (1day), credits & debts, delayed pensions & loans, business boosting & job promotions, church growth, marriage problems, evil diseases, revenge on your enemies & showing your problems live on mirror. NB. DISCOVER SECRETS BEHIND SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE WITH CHIEF EZRA. Call 0972790639/0964150971. 1-17 october 17 Inv 1602

STOP SUFFERING KING BUDDA-BUDDA & MESSANGER JOY The greatest King of illuminate expert come today and join the club of millionaires/billionaires/trillionaires with no sacrifices, no disappointment come and enjoy new life of money. Call: 0974-469710 1-8 october 17 Inv 1604

HELLO READERS OF THIS PAPER AM DANIEL ZULU FROM WOODLANDS, I would like to send my gratitude to Papa Chiwedde for having helped me to sell my house, which took us almost years to sell it because people used to come and view it, some promised to buy but none of them showed response and ended up failing, until I contacted Papa, he casted me his quick sace spell, after I was casted a spell, I was told that in only 7 days my house will be sold, after which it happened in 5 days and I got the exact amount I wanted for it. His spell really works faster, I can't state furthermore, please don't hesitate to Contact/ whatsapp Papa +260 960-948933 1-12 october 17 Inv 1601

CHIEF ODONGO, ARE YOU FEELING TOTALLY HELPLESS, HEART BROKEN & FINANCIALLY MISERABLE? come to chief odongo & solve your long lasting problems, bring back lost lovers (same day), lost money (24hrs), delayed pension & loans, evil diseases, marriage problems, men's problems (big & strong), get rich quickly, become financially stable. NB: IT'S YOUR TIME TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE. call: 0978-430849/0964-150971. 1-7 october 17 Inv 1602



Build a stronger economy

Dear editor, We as Zambians must begin to build a strong economy now. The donor community is exiting in the next 10 years. They will focus only on trade and economic diplomacy. There will be no free money given, not even for social welfare. We have to bridge the gap in terms of budgetary support in sectors where we still have donor support. This will reduce our fiscal space for capital projects. We must prepare to pay for the Eurobonds while still investing in capital projects. We have not yet finished building universities in each province; we are still upgrading our health facilities; we still need to bring more people on social cash transfer to reduce poverty at household levels in rural areas; out of 67,000 kilometers of roads in Zambia, less than 10,000 have been worked on since independence. The infrastructure sector needs an investment of more than \$10 billion every five years if we have to reach the standard of a lower middle income economy, according to the World Bank report on financing gaps. Growth in population, coupled with increased urbanisation which can be a potential threat on national security, political stability and social unrest, are other areas that we need to focus on. These are the economic threats that require long term and dedicated planning. Mwamba Lusaka

Letters TO THE Editor

ARIES (Mar 21- Apr 19)

The rest of the world doesn't have it nearly as easy as you do -- in fact, it's a given that most of them aren't at all sure what to do about their needs and desires. You, however, are absolutely having a blast with the good energy the universe has sent your way. The nice thing to do is to offer to help anyone who seems to be flailing or freaking out. If you're just not in the mood, of course, there's another good option: find a more suitable companion and excuse yourselves.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20)

Loving someone who loves us just as deeply as we love them is the best thing you can hope for -- and you know that deep down. At the moment, however, you're so involved that you may not be able to tell the difference between positive and negative in terms of relationships. If you're feeling skeptical, one of your best friends will be more than happy to help straighten it all out for you. All you have to do is ask for their advice the next time you see them.

GEMINI (May 21 - Jun 21)

You may be feeling somewhat suspicious, but let it ride. Your people have always been fair to you, and you've always trusted them. Right now, though, you're not feeling quite so sure about their loyalty. If it lasts, don't feel too bad, and try not to give them the chance to prove you right. Put off discussion of anything that you might not want the rest of the world knowing about, and make sure all your bases are covered.

CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

You don't usually live at the heart of adventure. Usually, you'd rather stay home, snuggle up with your partner or one of your pets and stay comfy. Here's the deal: Right now you're bored, restless and ready to try just about anything. It may not be at all like you, but that's just the way it is now. It's certainly not a bad thing, but you should expect to raise some eyebrows - and to be pretty pleased with yourself.

Your Stars

LEO (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You are typically quite inspirational to others, and today is no exception. One thoughtful word, phrase or sentence can have the same effect on someone close as an hour-long speech by someone less informed and motivated than you. Still, you really need to pull out all the stops now and do what you can to help someone turn their life around. You've got what it takes to fire them up, and they've got what it takes to listen. It's the perfect combination!

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

You've definitely got what it takes to be an inspiring speaker -- even if it's because you know exactly how to agitate your listeners into submission. No matter how it happens, satisfy yourself that it simply does happen. And at the moment, acknowledge that you're feeling just the right level of intensity to speak the truth, either way. As long as your intentions are pure, the final result can't help but be the same.

LIBRA (Sep 23 - Oct 23)

Even though you've known them for a good long while, you're still not quite sure what a certain special person is really all about -- especially when they're interacting with the people you care about the most. It wouldn't be so crazy just now to find that you're paying more attention to those who are tried and true, rather than those you're not 100% sure of -- and no one would think to blame you for it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)

Someone out there is counting on you right now for a very important favor (important to them, anyway). They need you to speak the absolute truth. You know it's going to be difficult, as it always is, but you also know it's the right thing to do. Fortunately, you're perfectly equipped to handle the job. Find the right way, the right time and the right place to talk with them -- and remember to go easy on them!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You need to keep quiet about something you're dying to talk about, which is absolute torture today -- but it's decidedly important under these circumstances. Try as hard as you can to distract yourself with something (or someone) pleasant, preferably hanging out with those who have absolutely no idea what's going on. If you can, get out of the house or office and conveniently forget to pick up your mobile phone on the way out.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The line between flirting and confusing is especially thin today, so make sure you're not toying with anyone you care about! Even if it all feels innocent and playful, you need to be sure you know what you're dealing with. Flirting is one thing, but playing with someone you think might be interested when you're absolutely not just isn't fair. Of course, if you're both single and you may be interested, then have at it and have fun!

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

When you're happy, everyone is happy (well, almost everyone -- some don't get it yet). You have an eccentric, irreverent, zippy sense of humor that comes out at the strangest times. After the five-second delay, most folks need to catch up, you usually reduce your audience to tears. The best part for most is that it's just casual observations that bring it on. You're on stage now, no matter where you are. Get ready for an onslaught of new fans.

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You're quite sensitive, and you know that it's quite a mixed blessing. You may be open to others' feelings, but sometimes it's to such a degree that you can't separate yours from theirs. You may have just realized that you've been over-involved in a certain person's life lately, and you're beginning to wonder whether this focus is healthy for either of you. Relax! It's a mild obsession, and it hits us all from time to time. Take a deep breath -- and maybe a breather -- to distract yourself. You'll be fine.

Court dismisses chief Matebo's case against 6 over Malwa installation

By Womba Kashala

THE KITWE High Court has dismissed a matter where chief Matebo of the Kaonde speaking people of Solwezi district had sued six members of his chiefdom seeking an order that any purported installation of Newton Malwa or any other person as chief Matebo is null and void.

According to an order dismissing the matter signed by High Court judge Mercy Makubalo on September 21, the matter was struck out on September 1, with liberty to restore but it was not restored.

"This matter, having been struck out on the 1st September, 2017, with liberty to restore within 14 days and the matter not having been restored, it is hereby ordered that the matter be and is hereby forthwith dismissed for want of prosecution," read the order in part.

Chief Matebo, whose real name is Collemba Mulemena Matebo, had cited Malwa, Rabecca Lubozha, Kapemba Bectin Jifunka, Harrison Nyambi, Frank Mwanate and Fanwell Kapemba.

The plaintiff sought a declaration that he was the legitimate chief Matebo of Solwezi.

He also wanted an order of injunction restraining the defendants from interfering in the administration of the Matebo chiefdom and that the defendants be restrained from dethroning him.

Chief Matebo claimed that the President of Zambia had not withdrawn or revoked his gazette as chief.

This is time to speak out, Milupi urges Zambians

By Natalie Ngosa

CHARLES Milupi says Zambians must rise and stop PF government officials from stealing public resources.

Milupi, who is ADD leader, in an interview, said corruption in the PF government was stinking and all can see it.

"We want the judiciary also to do its job. But in like manner, we expect civil society and non-governmental organisations to speak out...it is not just the opposition that see these things. It is not just the opposition that will suffer when so much money is gone. It is every Zambian, student, civil servants, marketers and so on. Let us all rise and say, 'you thieves, you will not do this anymore.' We expect the police to work hard... where there is corruption and those people who are busy

stealing? That is why they can even go public and beat up police men. To them, the fear of the uniform is no longer there... that's what corruption does. That's what bad governance does," Milupi said.

"...that's what dictatorship does. Institutions of governance are no longer considered. So we expect everybody, whether it is security or what, to rise up to the occasion and protect our country. This bad governance, this dictatorship is now manifesting itself in this stinking corruption that we have never seen. If late president Fredrick Chiluba was bad in corruption, then he was three out of 10, this lot, they are 9 out of 10. Everything is clear. It's an open book. Unfortunately, for them, it is at a time when the coffers in Zambia are totally empty. So, all this they are stealing, they are stealing by way

of acquiring more loans that we will never be able to pay back. So, we are getting these expensive loans, which are going straight into their pockets. That is why finance minister Felix Mutati must come out in the open and tell us what it is we owe the world. The money that the Chinese are giving us is not well tabulated. Is it US\$30 billion...how much do we owe the world?"

Milupi said the nation did not have money to spend US\$42 million on fire tenders.

He said Zambia equally had no money to spend so much on the Lusaka-Ndola dual carriageway.

"All this is full of corruption.

Where there is corruption, you will see projects. Projects are like faeces to a fly, that's why they get so much attracted to projects because that's where

they make money from," Milupi said.

"We have public workers who are fed up with what is going on in government. The institution that should be dealing with matters of public procurement is Zambia Public Procurement Authority. Where are they? They are keeping quiet now; they want to come out when Lungu is gone and say 'he used to do this and that'. But then, Zambia would have lost so much. You people, come out! Save your professionalism."

He wondered what Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Patrick Matibini was doing to help the country.

"We go to Parliament, that is why we say Matibini as the Speaker, he should run a Parliament that is separate from the executive but equal to the executive. That is what the Constitution says. That Parliament of Matibini should hold this executive to account on these matters of corruption and procurements that are shocking everybody. But what are they doing? They are quiet. Where is the accounts committee? We expect the Public Accounts Committee to rise to the challenge and raise these issues. We expect the debates in Parliament to come up. These people should be held to account otherwise Matibini and his Parliament are not doing what they are supposed to do. Their role is to hold the executive to account," said Milupi who added that Parliament was there to make laws, legislate, allocate resources, hold the executive to account and represent the people.

PF councillor, others sue Kabwe council over land

By Kaungu Ndumba

LUANGWA PF ward councillor Bernard Chisanga and 26 others have sued Kabwe Municipal Council claiming that the purported re-entry of their 26 plots without following procedure is illegal, null and void.

According to a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court on Wednesday, Chisanga and 26 others indicated that they were successful applicants to commercial plots in Lukanga Township in Kabwe.

The plaintiffs, who are represented by lawyer Tutwa

Ngulube, are also claiming damages for unlawful occupation and development of the said plots.

They stated that Kabwe Municipal Council's land agency was suspended by the Minister of Lands in June 2017 and appointed the provincial lands officer as administrator on behalf of the defendant.

They stated that while the Municipal Council was an agent of the Ministry of Lands, the council in 2014 advertised commercial plots situated along the prime location of Great North road adjacent and opposite the new shopping Mall in

Kabwe.

The plaintiffs submitted that they responded to the said adverts and that individually and severally applied for the said plots.

"The first defendants through their respective committee allocated the said plots to the successful applicants namely the plaintiffs inter alia paid the acceptance of offer charges and development charges and were allowed to start developing the plots. Without due regard to the procedures for repossession or adequate compensation, the defendants have started developing the plaintiffs plots,"

read the claim in part.

They stated that inquiries into why the slabs and developments they had put had been erased using graders revealed that the municipal council had started developing the area into Transit bus Station.

Chisanga and 26 others claimed that the land belonged to them and that until they are either compensated adequately or until they consent to the land being repossessed from them.

They added that the procedure for repossession has neither been done and that they have not been compensated for their land.

"The Town Clerk and the

Mayor have of late been supervising graders clearing the said plots a function that falls squarely under the directorate of engineering and that the amount of interest generated by the two officers has caused anxiety among the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs shall aver that the first defendant has no authority to re-enter the said lands and that power vests in the commissioner of Lands," they stated.

Chisanga and others further alleged that the Kabwe Municipal Council has borrowed heavily using the said land as collateral for what they are terming PPP project.

2018 Budget Address by Honourable Felix C. Mutati, MP Minister of Finance Delivered to the National Assembly on Friday, 29th September, 2017

MR. SPEAKER, I beg to move that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018, presented to the National Assembly on Friday, 29th September, 2017.

2. Sir, I am a bearer of a message from His Excellency, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia recommending favourable consideration of the motion that I now lay on the Table.

3. Mr. Speaker, this is my second address since I was granted this rare and momentous task to serve as Minister of Finance. The walk has not been easy, but collectively we have made notable successes as I will highlight in my address. I once again wish to thank His Excellency, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia for giving me this opportunity. I also thank my Cabinet colleagues, all members of this august House and the Zambian people for their support.

Further, I wish to applaud the church, media, private sector, civil society organisations and cooperating partners for their support in our development endeavours.

4. Sir, during the official opening of the second session of the twelfth National Assembly, His Excellency, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia reminded the nation of the need to uphold our national values and principles, which are centred on patriotism and love for one another as enshrined in our national anthem "one land and one nation is our cry". I wish to reiterate the President's call, as it is critical if we are to effectively implement our development agenda and meet our aspirations as a nation, without leaving anyone behind.

5. Mr. Speaker, the people of Zambia deserve peace and stability, decent employment, quality public services and a conducive environment where they can thrive, create their own wealth and prosper. Achieving these outcomes is the task with which the Zambian people have entrusted us.

6. Sir, this we shall attain through the diligent pursuit of the strategic objectives contained

in the recently launched Seventh National Development Plan. We aspire to make a reality of the Plan's theme of "accelerating development efforts towards the Vision 2030, without leaving anyone behind".

7. Mr. Speaker, during the nine months of implementing the Economic Stabilisation and Growth Programme, dubbed "Zambia Plus", a lot has been achieved. The Patriotic Front Government is cognisant of the fact that our people deserve much more. We have made strides, yet challenges still remain. Youth unemployment and poverty levels remain high. To this end, Government is resolved to work tenaciously to uplift the wellbeing of our people and enhance their meaningful participation in the economy.

8. Sir, inclusive growth is only possible if we are steadfast in collectively implementing bold policy decisions and reforms. This year, Government implemented austerity measures that have started showing positive results in securing a sustainable growth going forward. Through these measures Government significantly reduced the accumulation of arrears. As a result of the reforms, Zambia's credit rating outlook and investor confidence have improved. Government is mindful that despite this positive outlook, the measures in the short term have not yet favourably impacted on the welfare of the people. The long term benefits will be inclusive growth and prosperity.

9. Mr. Speaker, by working collectively, we can ensure that our goals and priorities are clearly defined. Our resolve for inclusive development remains unwavering. Our actions remain fiscally prudent. It is in this context that the theme of the 2018 Budget is "Accelerating fiscal fitness for sustained inclusive growth, without leaving anyone behind."

10. Sir, my address to this august House is in four parts. In Part One, I review the performance of the global and domestic economies during 2017 and present the outlook for the rest of the year. Part Two, outlines the macroeconomic objectives, policies and strategies for 2018. In Part Three, I present the details of the 2018 budget and in Part Four, I conclude.

PART I GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN 2017

Mr. Speaker, the global economy is projected to grow by 3.5 percent in 2017, compared to 3.2 percent in 2016. This is mainly premised on a projected 4.6 percent growth in the large emerging and developing economies, driven by the gradual improvement in commodity prices.

12. Sir, growth in advanced economies is expected to strengthen to 2.0 percent in 2017 from 1.7 percent in 2016. Sub-Saharan African growth is projected to expand to 2.7 percent in 2017 from 1.3 percent in 2016, driven by increased agricultural and mining output.

13. Mr. Speaker, as global economic activity gains momentum, commodity prices are expected to continue strengthening in 2017. Copper prices are projected to average US\$5,827 per tonne in 2017 compared with an average of US\$ 4,868 per tonne in 2016. Similarly, international crude oil prices are expected to surge upwards to an average of US\$49.0 per barrel in 2017 from an average of US \$42.8 per barrel in 2016.

14. Sir, the Zambian economy in 2017 has continued to rebound. Growth is expected to be above 4.0 percent from 3.8 percent in 2016. Key drivers will be the mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors supported by improved electricity generation. It is worth noting that the Zambian economy has outpaced the Sub-Saharan African economic growth of 2.7 percent. This is a reflection of the sound economic policies that this Government has put in place.

15. Mr. Speaker, I now outline in detail, the developments in the domestic economy.

Real Sector

16. Sir, crop production during the 2016/2017 farming season was favourable with significant increases in the output of maize, Irish-potatoes, rice, tobacco, groundnuts and soya beans.

17. Mr. Speaker, growth in the fisheries sub-sector strengthened for both capture and aquaculture fisheries to 77,029 metric tonnes for the period January to June 2017 from 56,241 metric tonnes in the same period in 2016. This was explained by higher participation by commercial and

emergent fish farmers in aquaculture, and enhanced enforcement of fisheries regulation in capture fisheries.

18. Sir, in the livestock sub-sector, there was an increase in the livestock population to 4.9 million during the period January to June 2017 from 4.3 million compared to the same period in 2016. This was due to the stocking and re-stocking programmes and improved animal disease control programmes.

19. Mr. Speaker, on account of improved water levels, electricity generation in the first eight months of 2017 increased by 23.7 percent to 9.4 million megawatt hours from 7.6 million megawatt hours during the corresponding period in 2016. This has significantly reduced load shedding creating better prospects for industrialisation.

20. Sir, as at end August 2017, copper production stood at 510,369 metric tonnes, with the end year production expected to exceed the 2016 output of 770,000 metric tonnes.

21. Mr. Speaker, following the initiative to modernise Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport, tourist arrivals at the airport increased by 23.6 percent in the first half of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016. We anticipate similar trends at Ndola and Lusaka once the modernisation projects have been completed.

External Sector Performance

22. Sir, the performance of the external sector has improved relative to 2016. Zambia's trade balance recorded a surplus of US\$388.3 million during the first six months of 2017 compared with a surplus of US\$45.8 million during the corresponding period in 2016. This was mainly driven by higher export earnings relative to imports. Total export earnings were 25.8 percent higher at US\$3.9 billion compared with US\$ 3.1 billion in the corresponding period in 2016.

23. Mr. Speaker, copper export earnings were higher by 38.1 percent at US\$ 2.9 billion from US\$ 2.1 billion in the corresponding period in 2016. This was due to a rise in both export volumes and prices. Non-traditional exports, however, marginally declined to US\$ 811.7 million during the first six months of 2017 from US\$ 835.5 million during the

same period in 2016.

24. Sir, Gross international reserves as at end-August 2017 were estimated at US \$2.3 billion, relatively unchanged from the end-2016 level. This translates into 3.2 months of import cover.

Monetary and Financial Performance

Mr. Speaker monetary performance in 2017 has been positive. The exchange rate of the Kwacha against major tradable currencies has been relatively stable appreciating by approximately 4.0 percent to date. Inflation has fallen significantly to 6.6 percent in September 2017 from 18.9 percent during the same period in 2016. The Bank of Zambia eased monetary policy significantly in 2017. The policy rate was reduced from 15.5 percent in January to 11 percent in August 2017. Statutory reserve ratios reduced from 18 percent to 9.5 percent over the same period. The overall performance and condition of the financial sector remained satisfactory as at end- August 2017. The banking sector also maintained a strong capital adequacy position and satisfactory earnings performance.

26. Sir, despite the easing of monetary policy, commercial bank average lending rates only fell marginally to 26.6 percent in August 2017 from 29.4 percent in December 2016. Private sector credit remained subdued, contracting by 2.9 percent as at end August 2017. Asset quality also deteriorated as reflected by increased non-performing loans to 12.2 percent relative to total loans, compared to 9.7 percent as at end- December 2016. This is above the internationally acceptable threshold of 10 percent. However, measures are being taken to reverse this trend and restore asset quality in the banking sector.

27. Mr. Speaker, Government has successfully restructured the Intermarket Banking Cooperation that closed last year. I am glad to inform the House that the shareholder agreement for the new restructured bank has been concluded and the capital requirement has been met. The new bank will operate under the name of Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank and will take

To be continued

Morocco confirm friendly international with South Korea

MOROCCO have confirmed they will play South Korea in a friendly match in Switzerland on 10 October, three days after a

crucial 2018 World Cup qualifier against Gabon. Coach Herve Renard sees the game as key to getting his squad

into shape for the final World Cup fixture away to Group C leaders Ivory Coast on 6 November.

"This friendly is part of preparations for the last round of qualifying for the 2018 Fifa World Cup in Russia," the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) announced on its website.

Morocco have drawn four and lost once in five previous meetings with South Korea.

The Asians have already qualified for the World Cup in Russia, their tenth appearance, becoming the only side outside of Europe and South America to be ever-present since 1986.

Renard has named five locally-based players in his 26-man squad to face Gabon in

Casablanca on 7 October, with Dutch-born midfielder Hakim Ziyech leading a cast of 21 overseas based stars, including Mehdi Benatia and Younes Belhanda.

The duo of Amine Khammas and Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez, part of the squad who defeated Mali 6-0 at home and drew 0-0 away, have been dropped.

Ivory Coast lead the group with seven points, one more than Morocco while Gabon have five.

Morocco, the first African country to reach the round of 16 at a Fifa World Cup in 1986, also participated in the 1970,

1994 and 1998 tournaments.

Morocco squad:

Goalkeepers: Munir Kajoui Mhamdi (Numancia, Spain), Yassine Bounou (Girona, Spain), Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti (Ittihad Tangier)

Defenders: Nabil Dirar (Fenerbahce, Turkey), Achraf Hakimi (Real Madrid, Spain), Marouane Da Costa (Istanbul Basaksehir, Turkey), Mehdi Benatia (Juventus, Italy), Ghanem Saiss (Wolves, England), Hamza Mendil (Lille, France), Jawad Yamik (Raja Casablanca), Mohamed Nahiri (Wydad Casablanca)

Midfielders: Youssef Ait Benasser (FC Caen, France), Karim El Ahmadi (Feyenoord, Netherlands), Mbark Boussoufa (El Jazira, UAE), Younes Belhanda (Galatasaray, Turkey), Fayçal Fajr (Getafe, Spain), Amine Harit (Schalke, Germany), Hakim Ziyech (Ajax Amsterdam, Netherlands), Oussama Tanane (Las Palmas, Spain), Noureddine Amrabat (Leganes, Spain), Mohamed Ounajem and Ismail El Haddad (Wydad Casablanca)

Forwards: Aziz Bouhaddouz (St Pauli, Germany), Mimoun Mahi (Groningen, Netherlands), Khalid Boutayeb (Malatya Spor, Turkey), Rachid Alioui (FC Nimes, France) - BBC

The Mast SPORT

INJURY RULES MWILA, BANDA OUT OF NIGERIA CLASH



By Mast Reporter

SOUTH Africa based striker Brian Mwila has been ruled out of next Saturday's Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Nigeria due to injury.

Team doctor George Magwende told Fazfootball.com that Mwila who scored a brace in the 3-1 win over Algeria at Heroes Stadium on September 2 has not fully recovered from the injury sustained on national duty. Magwende said Belgium

based Emmanuel Banda had also been ruled out due to injury.

"Brian (Mwila) will not be part of the team as he had a recurrence of the injury he suffered during the Algeria game. It is best to give him time to fully recover," he said.

Coach Wedson Nyirenda has since replaced the duo with Power Dynamos midfielder Alex Ng'onga and Zesco United's John Ching'andu.

The team leaves for Accra, Ghana on Sunday where they will set up base

ahead of their encounter against Nigeria on Saturday.

Zambia wins councils netball crown

By Mast Reporter

ZAMBIA has been crowned this year's southern African Local Authorities and Municipal netball champions.

And Zambia's High Commissioner to South Africa Emmanuel Mwamba has congratulated the netball champions for making Zambia proud.

Zambia, represented by the Lusaka City Council, emerged champions after beating Muhalakwena of Limpopo Municipality.

According to a statement issued by first secretary for press and public relations at Zambia's High Commission in South Africa Naomi Nyawali, Lusaka City Council defeated their rivals 30-28 in a closely contested game played at Steve Tshwete Municipality grounds in Middelburg, South Africa.

Nyawali stated that LCC netball team progressed to the finals unbeaten in the group stage, even defeating former champions Buffaloes of Eastern Cape Municipality.

She stated that Zambia also participated in various disciplines, including volleyball, chess, football and pool represented by Kitwe City Council, Kabwe, Kalulushi and Chilabombwe municipalities.

And High Commissioner Mwamba said it was from such events that the Zambian flag continued to fly higher.

High Commissioner Mwamba noted that Zambia was not only good in football but also other sports disciplines.

Hamilton on pole as Sebastian Vettel starts at back in Malaysia

LEWIS Hamilton took pole position for the Malaysian Grand Prix as rival Sebastian Vettel suffered another blow to his title hopes.

Two weeks after Hamilton opened a 28-point lead over the Ferrari driver with victory in Singapore as Vettel crashed out, the German will start last at Sepang.

Vettel suffered an engine problem in final practice and although it was changed for qualifying, it did not run properly.

Hamilton fought off a challenge by Vettel's team-mate Kimi Raikkonen despite Mercedes struggling all weekend in Malaysia.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was third fastest from team-mate Daniel Ricciardo while Hamilton's team-mate Valtteri Bottas could manage only fifth, 0.682secs adrift.

Raikkonen may well rue a lock-up at the final corner on his final qualifying lap. The Finn was on course to take pole from Hamilton until that error and ended up losing out by just 0.045 seconds. - BBC