

If I don't forgive those who brutalised me, I will not be different from them - HH

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Opposition UPND president Hakainde Hichilema says he will have no credibility to claim that he is different from those who brutalised him into incarceration, if he does not forgive them. Speaking yesterday during the thanksgiving prayers for his release from prison at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Hichilema also emphasised the need for dialogue. "I want to say to you on behalf of our colleagues that despite the injustices, despite the inhuman treatment that we endured following our brutal arrest of course and detention, we harbour no bitterness, we harbour no anger because the Bible says if you are angry all the time, you will make mistakes.



Continues on page 5

ECZ BOSS RESIGNS Priscilla Isaac opts not to renew contract

By Mukosha Funga
Electoral Commission of Zambia Chief Electoral Officer Priscilla Isaac has resigned with immediate effect. According to a statement issued by ECZ public relations officer Raphael Phiri, Isaac stopped work today and chose not to renew her contract which comes to an end tomorrow. "Notice is hereby given to the general public that the contract of service for the Chief

Electoral Officer (CEO) Mrs Priscilla M. Isaac will come to an end tomorrow, Thursday 31st August, 2017. Ms Isaac who joined the Commission 17 years ago as a public relations officer was later elevated to Deputy Director Elections and Voter Education, opted not to renew her contract with the Commission," stated Phiri. "The Chairperson, members and staff have wished her well in her future endeavours. The Commission has appointed

the Director of Electoral Operations Mr Chomba Chella to act as CEO." Isaac becomes the second top

official to resign from the elections body following the disputed 2016 general elections, after public relations manager

Cris Akufuna. Akufuna left the Electoral Commission of Zambia in February 2016.

Fire guts 3000 market stands, as Ndola council rules out arson

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Fire has swept through Kapalala market in Masala township in Ndola destroying merchandise in over 3,000 shops. And the Ndola City Council has ruled out arson. Meanwhile, police have arrested a charcoal trader in connection with the fire. The market has been reduced to ashes from an inferno that started between

01:00 and 02:00hours. A combined team of fire fighters and the residents managed to put out the fire, but it was too late to salvage much. According to Ndola mayor Amon Chisenga who visited the place in the early hours, over 3,000 stands have been destroyed. The cause of the fire is yet to be established. *Continues on page 4*

Police in Kasempa impound 4 Mukula trucks

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
Police in Kasempa district of North Western Province have impounded four trucks loaded with Mukula logs following a joint operation. Meanwhile Chief Mufumbwe of Mufumbwe district has claimed ownership of the Mukula logs in the three trucks saying he had engaged the purported owner Mwamba Isa to sell on his behalf so as to raise money for the upcoming ceremony. *Continues on page 4*

Lungu intervenes in Mopani, CEC power supply dispute
Story on page 7

National budget planning lacks inclusive participation – CSOs



Mutati before he presented the 2017 budget - Picture courtesy of Zambia Daily Mail

By Mirriam Chabala

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have observed that lack of inclusive participation in the planning process of the National Budget has led to slowed development in the country.

At a Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) organised workshop yesterday, Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International Zambia Coordinator Chenai Mukumba observed that many Zambian citizens had no idea what the National budget was.

“The lack of inclusive participation in the budget making process in this country is what has led to most people especially in rural areas to start thinking that they have no say in the decisions made by the government. Some of these people lack the knowledge of how and where government gets the money to fund all its departments on an annual basis without realising that the money actually comes from the tax that they pay through purchasing items, paying for roads and many other taxes. That is why they even think government is

doing them a favour when a road is constructed in their area or whatever development takes place where they live. But that is not the case, because 45 per cent of the money that government spends comes from its citizens through taxation,” Mukumba explained.

“The Zambian government needs to account for all the money it spends because almost half of it comes from revenue collections and revenue is an important tool for the fiscal policy of the government and it is the opposite factor of government spending. Revenues earned by government are received from sources such as taxes levied on the incomes and wealth accumulation of individuals and corporations and the goods and services produced in a country as well as exports and imports. Government also has its own corporations where it gets the monies from to develop the country by fixing roads for citizens, building homes for civil servants and also constructing facilities such as schools, hospitals and also to pay its people for the services that they provide. So it is important that everyone is involved in the budgeting process in one way or the other.”

Mukumba also said that government was poor with the implantation of its plans.

“We seem to be so good as a country in planning but very poor at implementing our plans. Just look at how many National Development Plans (NDPs) we have come up with over the years and nothing is being done to change anything. How are we going to achieve our vision of becoming a middle income country by the 2030 if we can't even involve key stake holders such as CSOs in the decision making process? If we don't involve the Church and the general citizenry to get views and opinions of people before making a final decision? If we continue on this path then we might as well continue spending all the country's resources and realise nothing in the end for our citizens. Good planning is very important for the development of any country,” he said.

Mukumba called on the media to use its various communication platforms to engage the public on the importance of their participation in the budget making process.

“I have discovered from my assessments that many people do not know what a budget is and they actually don't care about whether or not they know what is contained in the national budget for a given year. I am actually not surprised that they don't know anything at all about the budget because we have not decentralized the planning process of the national budget. Everything to do with decision making in this country takes place here in Lusaka by politicians and stakeholders such as Civil Society organisations. So the best way to help our people is by actually by using the media,” said Mukumba said

“If we continue leaving decisions to do with budgeting to politicians, then our problems as a country will never end because politicians follow their party manifestos when implementing policies, that is why they will bring you a road when you ask them for boreholes. It's time everyone got involved in ensuring that the national budget covers the needs of every citizen because that budget affects all of us.”

Former Health Minister, Dr Joseph Kasonde interred

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

President Edgar Lungu has described the late former Health Minister Dr Joseph Kasonde as dedicated and highly qualified professional who dedicated his life to the cause of seeing a healthy and productive people.

Speaking at the requiem mass at St Ignatius Catholic Church in Lusaka today, President Lungu further described Dr Kasonde as a man who had great passion to serving communities with total commitment and distinction.

“Let me on behalf of my government

convey our deepest condolences to the family of late Dr Kasonde, the former Minister of Health who served his country with sufficient honour and success. The nation has lost a true statesman who committed his life to the cause of seeing a healthy and productive people. The medical fraternity has indeed lost an individual who had great passion to serving communities with commitment to a clean, caring, and competent environment, the three Cs as famously referred to them,” President Lungu said.

President Lungu also said that Dr

Kasonde's selfless commitment to the medical profession was clearly evident in the various capacities he served.

And Dr Kasonde's wife Mary Kasonde said her husband was not only a family man but also a true leader of the nation who performed his duties whole heartedly.

Mrs Kasonde said this in a speech read on her behalf by Dorothy Kasanda.

Dr Kasonde who was born on January 30th 1939 and died on August 25, 2017 is survived by a wife and five daughters.

Mopani must pay cost reflective tariffs or leave – CSPR

By Mirriam Chabala
 Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Executive Director Patrick Nshindano says he would have already disconnected Mopani Copper Mines from electricity supply if he were the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) for refusing to pay tax.

In an interview yesterday, Nshindano said Mopani Copper mines could not be exempted from the upward adjustment of electricity tariffs because it was one of the largest consumers of the country's energy.

Nshindano further advised Mopani to leave the country if it was not ready to comply with the country's tax obligations. "Mopani Copper Mines has no basis for actually refusing to realign the tariffs as was agreed in the tariff agreements. As a country we have agreed the direction we are going to take of adjusting the tariffs mainly because they were unsustainable at the point they were, but also because of the challenges that the country has faced in generating energy and we need to ensure that we invest. So a number of reforms are going on which includes revision of tariffs and there is no way that the mining

sector can be exempted from the revision of tariffs because they are the largest consumers of energy in this country," Nshindano said.

"If that exemption is done on the mines then that means only the poor Zambian citizens will have to pay for electricity and there is no way that Zambians can be subsidising big multinational corporations like Mopani Copper Mines. So it's only inevitable that the revisions are done and undertaken. So the refusal on the part of Mopani Copper Mine to comply is illogical because any responsible corporate needs to realise that we should not only be interested in making profit. When you are investing in a country you need to get a win-win situation where there are benefits that accrue to you as well as benefits that should accrue to the nation."

Nshindano charged that Mopani was an irresponsible investor which never cared about the interests of Zambians. "Mopani is on record of having not paid corporate income tax for a very long time mainly because they were not declaring any profits but further to that, there are a number of



CSPR executive director Patrick Nshindano

allegations that have been levelled against Mopani which border on issues to do with tax avoidance as well as environmental degradation. So all these are cases that are there yet to be proved. But all along, what we have been calling for as civil society organisations is that we need responsible investors in this country who have the interest of the nation as well and also those who realise that Zambia needs to come first and avoid these opec agreements that make it

difficult for Zambia to benefit from its natural resources. The mining sector is one of them," he said.

Shindano advised the Copperbelt's Mining giant to leave the country if it did not want to comply with payment of tax.

"We have continued to grapple with the mining sector in terms of taxation and it's contribution even when you talk about job creation, the mines that are even threatening are actually the lowest employers because of

the mechanization and continues to do that including Mopani itself. When Mopani took over the operation of the mines if you compare the number of employees it had and the number of employees it retained is actually a fraction on its own, so we need to ensure that the interests of Zambians are protected and that's why we as CSPR are putting up a call to action not only to our fellow civil society but also to the citizens to be able to rise against such

injustices in our society," said Nshindano.

"It is completely unfair and uncalled for, if Mopani doesn't want to operate in Zambia let's find another equitable partner because Zambia has been mining for a very long time and as country, it's about time we realised that unless we have substantial shares in these mines, we will just remain with pits and these investors would have gone but also the generation that is yet to come will suffer."

Noel Nkoma drags ex girlfriend's sister to court over her 'sexy dreams'

By Diggers Reporter
 Betternow Finance Corporation chief executive officer Noel Nkoma has sued his ex girlfriend's sister for defamation over her allegations that he uses supernatural powers to have sexual intercourse with her sister in her dreams.

According to a statement of claim filed in the High Court on yesterday, Nkoma submitted that Ingrid Mulonda-Mphande, who was his ex girlfriend Mwitwa Mulonda's sister, authored and circulated defamatory Whatsapp messages.

"That on or about 28th July 2017 at 10:26, the Defendant did author and circulated, or caused to be circulated the underlisted Whatsapp messages defamatory to the Plaintiff. The verbatim words complained of were couched in these terms: 'Morning goodmorning, am really sad to hear

what Mwitwa has just been telling the family? She says she has been dreaming about you saying things to her in a satanic witchcraft manner, if that's true Noel you should STOP because you will make your innocent souls in your family suffer a million times? We have formed a prayer band at church and we wake up every 02 just to pray for you to get back to the sender and you don't continue playing with GOD'S anointed children you will melt by thunder and fire? LIVE HER LIFE ALONE AND LET HER MOVE ON LIKE YOU ARE? Otherwise we will use FORCE on you and you will be exposed openly by the sangoma you have been using over the years, WE KNOW HIM?????" read the claim.

"On the same day, the 28th of July 2017 at 11:29am, there was a further Whatsapp message sent by the Defendant which stated the following:

'Awe suwa. Its not funny. I am tired. Every time dreaming of him. Never a time passes and I wonder why someone I don't even think of. All these years why. Imagine the last one yesterday, he came and gave me to iron a stripped blue shirt and white collat. I said I didn't want and didn't want to have anything to do with him he said 'the relationship will only end when he says so'. Every time dreaming of someone sleeping with me. He is always in the dreams. The other day he was wearing a brownish Cordero trousers and white shirt at katemo just walked the house. Can't remember what he said. I am even losing track of the dreams, too many."

Nkoma interpreted the words to mean that he was involved in witchcraft and aimed to torment Mwitwa in her sleep supernaturally.

"The words complained of were

circulated by the Defendant and people were called upon and/or were informed that supplicatory and imprecatory prayers had ensued in a bid to arrest the alleged evil spirits of the plaintiff. The Plaintiff completely denies the allegations purveyed by the Whatsapp messages and the Defendant will, at trial, be put to strict proof thereof," read the claim.

"In consequence, the Plaintiff's reputation has been seriously damaged and has suffered considerable distress and embarrassment...by reason of the words complained of, the Plaintiff has been seriously and gravely injured in his personal reputation, business reputation, professional reputation, credit, integrity and has been exposed to public scandal, odium and contempt." Nkoma is seeking damages for defamation, interests and any other relief the court might deem fit.

The Patriotic Front is ruling by decree, says Habasonda

By Mirriam Chabala

University of Zambia Political Science lecturer Lee Habasonda says he is concerned about the Patriotic Front's style of governance because they do not consult before formulating policies. And Habasonda says the Constitutional Court was too ambitious when it allowed prisoners to vote.

In an interview with News Diggers! Habasonda observed that Zambia was being dragged towards an authoritarian style of governance.

"Government has no business prying in the private life of its citizens. Government

should not just wake up and declare mandatory [HIV] testing for its citizens, this is a sensitive matter and therefore, they should have first taken it to Parliament and a full Parliament because the Parliament that sits now is one part of Zambia. After that, they should have created debate in the media, civil societies and in Universities and after building consensus that would give them legitimacy to pass such a law because Zambians would have agreed to say yes, this is a problem we need to address this way," Habasonda said.

"But no it just looks like it's a copycat from the

Rwandan President Paul Kagame whose democratic credentials are questionable even if he gets 98 percent (votes). So Zambians are worried that the country is sliding towards authoritarian style of governance where people just wake up and impose mandatory HIV testing, they wake up and unbundle the University of Zambia without talking to the stakeholders. So these are the concerns that we have."

And Habasonda wondered why the Constitutional Court allowed prisoners to vote when their rights were suspended.

"I think that things like

allowing prisoners to vote may be a good thing but the law suspends the rights of individuals when they are in incarceration so I don't know whether voting rights have a special meaning if prisoners are allowed to participate. I only agree with the ruling to the extent that because they live in prisons which are determined by the State then their votes can contribute to changing the conditions in prisons but in principle I do believe that when you are a prisoner, actually some of your rights are suspended and you don't need to enjoy them by virtue of being in prison," Habasonda said.

"So with regard to the Constitutional Court, I am saying yes it is a right that must be enjoyed because it reflects on the conditions in prisons but I think that Zambians needed to debate this carefully because really what I see in our democracy is that while some ideas may be good they were not subjected before the majority of the Zambians and as a result, all the time we don't get decisions that are unanimously accepted. I think building consensus around some of those decisions is important and I am not saying that the ConCourt must go

and consult because they follow the law and from where I stand obviously I am experienced in the area of human rights and there is nothing wrong with our prisoners voting but for our situation in Zambia, I think that prisoners have not gotten to a level where they can be voting."

He said it would have made more sense for Zambians in the diaspora to vote.

"So I think priority should have been given to people in the diaspora to vote. Those who have not any of their rights suspended. How do you allow a prisoner to vote and not a person who is in the diaspora? So those are the difficulties I have with the ConCourt's kind of thinking. Let's allow the diaspora people to vote then we can look at those groups whose rights are suspended because they have been imprisoned," said Habasonda.

"I am assuming that we are referring to prisoners and not detainees, so these are people who have been found guilty and have been kept in prison either Mukobeko or Mwembeshi for a long time. I think the voting is practical except that as we have said most of our institutions are politicized so the prison authorities may behave the way that police does and so again exclusive participation comes in and eventually the system doesn't work. So because of the state of democracy in Zambia the ConCourt is a little too ambitious."

Fire guts 3000 market stands, as Ndola council rules out arson

From front page

Meanwhile, Kabushi member of parliament Bowman Lusambo said the market was a place for thousands of people who depended on trading for the livelihoods.

"It is with a deep sense of concern that I announce that almost the entire Masala Kapalala Market in Masala Township, Skyways Ward in Kabushi Constituency has burnt to ashes destroying merchandise belonging to hundreds of Marketeers who depend on this market for their livelihoods," Lusambo who is also Copperbelt minister said.

"Information gathered so far indicate that the fire started around 01:00 Hours. The cause of the fire has not yet been identified and the fire has since been put out by a brave team of fire fighters with the help of the local people. I would have visited the scene this morning but I am away in Lusaka attending to Cabinet duties but I wish to assure my people that I will visit

the scene later today and empathise with the victims of this devastation."

Later after he visited the scene in the afternoon, Lusambo cried as the traders joined while others encouraged him to be strong.

And the Ndola City Council says the fire at Kapalala Market could have been a result of negligence on the part of some traders who spend nights there.

Ndola mayor Amon Chisenga ruled out arson but said it was up to police to investigate.

"For now, we rule out any possibility of arson. However, we leave it to the police for investigations. We want to establish if it

was negligence from the traders because we hear some people sleep in the market. So we will wait for the investigations to be concluded. We are not going to speculate," said Chisenga.

"Yet again another market is gutted and it is unfortunate that we have this issue at hand. We do not want to speculate now that it could be an act of arson, especially that the state of threatened emergency is still in force. We pray that the fire was as a result of negligence of our marketer."

Later police Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga told News Diggers! that police had arrested a charcoal trader

who is believed to have left the fire burning

Katanga explained that the fire started after a brazier was left unattended to by the trader who went to offload charcoal that was being brought.

"There was a brazier which was left in the makeshifts. In the early hours of today. One office loader had gone to offload some charcoal and left the brazier unattended to which exploded and the fire spread to other wooden makeshifts. Due to the wind the fire spread [quickly]," Katanga said.

"The suspect has been arrested and charged with criminal negligence contrary to section 372 chapter 87 of the laws of

Zambia. The suspect was taken to the scene and six witnesses testified and will appear in court tomorrow for the subject offence."

Meanwhile, Katanga also said that 12 people had been arrested for looting while the market was burning.

"12 people were arrested in connection with looting and are detained in police custody, while the goods are recovered. Let me warn members of the public going to the media and spreading lies and causing alarm. We will not tolerate that. The long arm of the law will visit them. We are not short of laws to ensure that law and order prevails," said Katanga.

Kasempa police impound 4 Mukula trucks

From front page

North Western province police Commissioner Auxensio Daka in a statement said the trucks which were headed for

Lusaka from Mufumbwe, were intercepted in Kasempa around 03:00 hours.

He added that police have arrested and detained

16 people in connection with the transportation of Mukula.

"The intercepted trucks are a Freightliner Registration number AJD 9465 ZM

Registration number ND668-438T carrying 130 logs driven by Ephraim Phiri aged 28 of Matero House number 2920 in Lusaka. The

owner of the logs, Adrian Tembo is also in custody. Another truck was a Volvo Registration number AJD 9001 trailer Registration number AJC 8074T, carrying 130 logs driven by Siphelani Hamonga aged 32 of Naluwama Mazabuka District. Freightliner truck Reg number AJD 8501 trailer Reg number AJD 8503T Carrying 140 logs driven by Oscar Chibumulilo aged 45 of Chibolya compound House number 46 Lusaka. Freightliner Reg number ALD 7934 trailer Reg number AJD 4743T Carrying 140 logs driven by Boyd Tayali OYD whose aged is unknown

of Kapiri Mposhi but he escaped after parking the vehicle," Daka said.

Daka said that the owner Mwamba Isa is also in custody.

"The owner of the logs Mwamba Isa is also in custody while Chief Munyambala of Mufumbwe District is claiming ownership of the logs in the three trucks saying he had engaged Mwamba Isa to sell on his behalf to raise money for the ceremony. There is also a Chinese national male Feng Lei in custody who happens to be the buyer of the said logs in three trucks. There are also lorry boys, helpers and others in custody taking the number to 16. They have no documents and there is a ban on production and conveyance of Mukula tree," said Daka.

Police arrest charcoal trader in connection with Ndola market fire

By Diggers Reporter

POLICE in Ndola have arrested a charcoal trader for criminal negligence over the gutting of Kapalala market.

Copperbelt Police Commissioner Charity Katanga told News Diggers! that the suspect's name would be withheld due to heightened tension among affected shop owners.

Katanga explained that the fire started after a brazier was left unattended to by the trader who went to offload charcoal that was being brought.

"There was a brazier which was left in the makeshifts. In the early hours of today. One office loader had gone to offload some charcoal and left the brazier unattended to which exploded and the fire spread to other wooden makeshifts. Due to the wind the fire spread [quickly]," Katanga said.

"The suspect has been arrested and charged with criminal negligence contrary to section 372 chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia. The suspect was taken to the scene and six witnesses testified and will appear in court

tomorrow for the subject offence."

Meanwhile, Katanga also said that 12 people had been arrested for looting while the market was burning.

"12 people were arrested in connection with looting and are detained in police custody, while the goods are recovered. Let me warn members of the public going to the media and spreading lies and causing alarm. We will not tolerate that. The long arm of the law will visit them. We are not short of laws to ensure that law and order prevails," said Katanga.

From front page

So we harbour no hatred, and I therefore say on behalf of our colleagues; I Hakainde Hichilema having reflected on everything that happened in light of every word of God and the love of our lord Jesus Christ! We do hereby forgive all of those, and they are many, who were involved in our brutal arrest and subsequent detention. If we did not forgive them, we would have not credibility to claim that we are different from them," Hichilema said.

"Suffice to say this country needs dialogue, there is no alternative to dialogue, am not aware of any alternative to genuine dialogue. I yet stand here to be challenged if there is any because the opposite or absence of dialogue is not desirable in any country including our lovely country Zambia. Because of this realisation, we in the UPND have always been open to dialogue. It is in line with the word of God that we believe that is based on the truth, on fairness, and open minded, and one which leads to lasting solution. There is no value in dialoging, then after dialoging you retain to the same old habits and acts, it doesn't help. So a genuine dialogue must lead to creation of lasting solutions."

Hichilema said that his incarceration had not broken him but instead strengthened his spirit.

"Our beloved friends, we all are aware that Zambia is a Christian nation, it is therefore imperative that we love one another. The Bible in Romans 12 vs 17-18 tells us that we should not repay evil with evil. But that we should strive to live at peace with all men. Furthermore, the Bible teaches us to live at peace with one another in order to attract God's blessings," he said.

"My experience and those of my colleagues of being incarcerated has not broken us but has strengthened us in our resolve to see a better Zambia for all. All Zambians need is observants to the rule of law, adherence to fair justice, [this is] very important. We all know that God is a just God and he hates injustices. We are therefore focused to see a fully functional society where all institutions of government without exception, within the law, they must uphold the rule of law. They must dispense justice to all the citizens and residents of Zambia without exception."

He said that if given an opportunity to serve Zambia, he would correct a lot of wrong things in prisons.

"Brethren, we believe that God allowed our incarceration so that we can learn and know the prison life and understand

I forgive all those who brutalised me - Hichilema

what really goes on inside there and prepare on how to humble ourselves and how to handle the prison issues including the state of our prisons, congestion, basically dehumanizing treatment that goes on in those prisons. I must tell you that if I didn't go to prison in the manner that I did, I would have never believed anybody telling me what is obtaining in those prisons. God's way.. And I think its fair to say when God gives us the opportunity to serve this country, we will do the correct things, we will make the lives of prisoners better. Therefore allow me to state that a country that is divided against itself cannot stand, it is for this reason that I urge all of you our colleagues of this country to put our differences aside and focus on the common good of our great nation Zambia," Hichilema said

And Hichilema urged the church to continue playing its mandate of mediating for the country in times of conflict.

"The above line is that the church has a divine mandate in ensuring that it mediates in times of conflict, promotes truthfulness and justice, teach peace, love and unity, and speak for the Holy space. Very important. I think thats a noble role of the church. It is our duty those who can tell the story as is, it is to commit ourselves to changing these negative ways, to create no space for these negative ways in our country. We commit our lives to unifying this country again," said Hichilema.

Among the notable people who attended the thanks giving prayers were Hichilema's wife Mutinta, UPND Mazabuka Member of Parliament Garry Nkombo, UPND national Chairperson Mutale Nalumangoand, Secretary Genral Stephen Katuka, veteran politician Vernon Mwaanga, FDD Spokesperson Antonio Mwanza, Former Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Sketchley Sacika, NGOCC Chairperson Sara Longwe, Former Lusaka province Minister Obvious Mwaliteta, Former first lady Maureen Mwanawasa, Freedom fighter Martin Jangulo, Bishop John Mambo, NAREP vice president Charles Maboshe, UNIP vice president Njekwa Anamela among



UPND leader Hakainde Hichilema with wife Mutinta recive flowers during the thanks giving church service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross August 29, 2017 picture by Tenosn Mkhala

many others. Apart from thanking God for the peaceful release of

Hichilema from prison, the church also prayed for the Executive; President Edgar

Lungu and his cabinet, the judiciary and legislature. The church further prayed

for the continued spirit of unity among political party leaders.



Home affairs minister Stephen Kampyongo at the 2017 Police Day at the Lusaka showgrounds on March 4 - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

Don't relax, Kampyongo tells police

By Mukosha Funga

Minister of Home Affairs Stephen Kampyongo says police must not remain calm thinking that everything is well. Commenting on the fire that gutted Kapalala market in Ndola, Kampyongo said it was regrettable and asked police to "reactivate" themselves.

"It is indeed sad and regrettable that when we have enjoyed relative calmness and peace, we have recorded another disaster in the inferno that gutted Kapalala Market. But I want to just appeal to our people to remain calm and for our men in uniform, the Zambia Police Service, I think it is time we reactivate ourselves, there shouldn't be any time to relax and think that all is well," Kampyongo said.

He also asked citizens to remain calm until as investigations into the cause of the fire were still underway.

"So mine is just to appeal to our people to remain calm and we can't start speculating now until thorough investigations are exhausted to establish what the cause of fire could have been," said Kampyongo.

The market has been reduced to ashes from an inferno that started between 01:00 and 02:00hours. A combined team of fire fighters and the residents managed to put out the fire, but it was too late to salvage much. According to Ndola mayor Amon Chisenga who visited the place in the early hours, over 3,000 stands have been destroyed.



Students doing RESEARCH PROJECTS DIPLOMA/DEGREE/
MASTERS/PhD

Contact (+260978918920/mwalenelson@yahoo.com)
For EXCELLENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

Mapenzi Chibulo's father asks court to grant him damages for loss of life

By Diggers Reporter

Mapenzi Chibulo's father has asked the Lusaka High Court to enter a default judgment in his favor in a case in which he is seeking damages for his daughter's death. Mapenzi, a UPND supporter, was allegedly shot dead by the police after the cancellation of the UPND rally on July 8, 2016 which was scheduled to be held in Lusaka's Chawama

township.

In this matter, Douglas Chibulo sued the Attorney General over the death of his daughter, claiming damages for loss of life due to what he termed negligence by police. But the Attorney General has not yet filed a defense prompting Douglas to ask the court for a default judgement. Douglas said the Attorney General had neglected to file

defense and did not also file an application for extension in which to enter appearance and file defense as well as to give reasons for the delay as provided for in the order of directions issued by High Court judge Pixie Yangailo. In a statement of claim, Douglas stated that the police carelessly, in their effort to disperse people who were peacefully parading in a match past, used live ammunition to shoot at unarmed citizens.

Chibulo further argued that his daughter was murdered in cold blood after sustaining a bullet injury in her skull adding that Mapenzi's death was caused by gross negligence of police officers as they used live ammunition on innocent citizens. The Lusaka Magistrates' Court had sent back the case to police for further investigations after a failed inquest to ascertain the actual killer.

Former Red Cross bosses sue State for malicious prosecution

By Diggers Reporter

Former Red Cross Society chief executive officer Charles Mushitu has sued the state for malicious prosecution. Mushitu, alongside Sydney Chituta, a former finance and administration manager and Kelvin Chiposwa, who was a board member at Red Cross Society are demanding K2,425,500 as special damages in

legal fees.

The trio is also claiming K47,830 as damages on money spent to hire taxis to attend the criminal court trial and pre trial meetings with counsels.

Mushitu and two others also want damages for mental distress, anguish and inconvenience

arising from malicious prosecution.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, the trio stated that they were appearing in the Subordinate court from September 16, 2013 to May 17, 2017 for 48 times on abuse of authority of office and

destroying evidence which charges were maliciously leveled against them by the Drug Enforcement Commission.

They were accused of abusing the authority of their office when they misapplied K267,000,000 meant for orphans and

vulnerable children in Sesheke and Kazungula districts when the said money was lawfully borrowed by Red Cross through its policy of inter project borrowing.

They were however acquitted by magistrate Aridah Chulu on May 18, 2017.

ZNAS challenges timber exportation ban in High Court

Subcontractor sues Avic International for breach of contract

By Diggers Reporter

AVIC International has been sued by a subcontractor for unlawfully deducting US\$8,598.22 from the contract price.

In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court, Kaungu General Dealers Limited stated that AVIC International subcontracted it to carry out road construction and maintenance works along Chilimbulu Road and Ibex Hill in Lusaka at a cost of US\$ 12,180.56 which contract was verbally agreed upon by both parties. But AVIC allegedly breached the contract by only paying the subcontractor K 22,039.00 on grounds that the deductions were done in order for AVIC to recover the cost of flags and sign boards that had been left on the sites.

Kaungu General Dealers averred that at no time did it offer to purchase the said sign boards and the parties did not discuss the prospects of using AVIC's sign boards and flags.

The company stated that in any event the defendants prices were shockingly exaggerated and were fixed unilaterally.

Kaungu General Dealers is now claiming damages for breach of contract.



By Diggers Reporter

The Zambia National Association of Sawmillers wants government's decision to ban the exportation of timber to be stayed by the High Court.

In June 2017, Minister of Lands Jean Kapata extended the ban on timber exports to all types of timber in the country following the ban of harvesting and exporting Mukula logs.

But the association, through its secretary general William Bwalya, said the Minister's decision to ban the exportation of timber was irregular as it would

affect the welfare of their members who depend on harvesting and exporting timber for their livelihood. Bwalya stated that before the licenses expired, the Ministry of Lands suspended the export of timber without concrete reasons.

Bwalya also submitted that most of the saw millers had been denied concessions as only 59 were given licenses.

He says despite showing concession licenses to security agents, the state had continued to seize their products.

CEC to resume power supply to Mopani after Lungu's intervention



resumption of power supply to the mine today. The agreement which has been facilitated by government is to be amicably concluded between MCM and CEC over an agreed period of six (6) weeks. During the same period, Mopani and Government will also conclude other outstanding matters on Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds and transfer pricing disputes," Chanda stated.

"The Minister of Finance Hon. Felix Mutati, the Minister of Energy Hon. David Mabumba and the Minister of Mines, Hon. Christopher Yaluma facilitated the Mopani-CEC talks that went on late into the night in Lusaka on 29th August 2017."

He stated that Mopani would inform labour

unions that there was nothing to worry about as all disputes were being addressed.

"Mopani will today inform Labour Unions that negotiations are taking place in good faith and therefore there was no cause for panic. All other matters incidental to the power impasse will be addressed by Mopani management. Glencore Limited directors, the owners of Mopani were represented by Mr Telis Mistakidis who flew in from Geneva, whilst CEC was led by Chief Executive Officer Mr Owen Silavwe," stated Chanda.

"His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia earlier in the day met Glencore Directors to discuss the situation at Mopani."

On August 11, CEC restricted power supply to Mopani from 190 MegaWatts to 94 MegaWatts saying the mine did not want to pay the revised tariffs. Negotiations between the two institutions failed forcing Mopani to announce that they would retrench 4,700 workers. Energy Minister David Mabumba also revealed that Mopani was making \$3 million in losses every day as a result of the

By Mukosha Funga
The Copperbelt Energy Corporation will today resume normal power supply to Mopani

Copper Mines following President Edgar Lungu's intervention. This is according to a statement issued by

Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda. "Mopani Copper

Mines (MCM) and the Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) have reached an agreement that will lead to the

Multichoice slashes subscription prices

By Mukosha Funga
Multichoice Zambia has announced a reduction in subscription fees across all packages effective September 1. At a media briefing in Lusaka this morning, Managing Director Ngoza Matakala said prices had reduced up to 16 per cent. "True to our commitment to put our customers at the heart of everything we do, it is my pleasure to announce today a decrease on DSTV subscription across all packages effective 1st September 2017. The price decreases will be as follows: DSTV Premium subscription will reduce by 3.4 percent and will now be at K790, Compact Plus subscription will reduce by 16 per cent and will now be at K450, Compact subscription will reduce by six per cent and will now be at K300, Family subscription will now reduce by two per cent and will now be at K200 and Access subscription will reduce by seven per cent and will be at a price of K100," said Matakala. "This is a clear demonstration that as a business, we stick to our customer first promise. This is what we mean when we say to you that with DSTV, you get the real deal, we are the real deal. You get wholesome quality

content that you can only find on DSTV and nowhere else. Let me end by assuring you that DSTV is the best option for digital migration in Zambia. It operates on the best digital technology and comes with only the best in both local and international content." She said the company

recognized the tough economic conditions in the country. "Multichoice continually reviews its packages and price due to the dynamic market conditions with interest of our customers at heart and with one objective in mind; to delight customers by constantly offering them

more value. We are delivering more value to our customers by giving them access to amazing local and international content at a price that they can afford," said Matakala. "The business recognizes that we are living in tough economic times and want to reward customers for their on-going loyalty

and support. In April 2016, we had a price drop on all packages in order to provide relief to our customers in our current economic conditions. Remember that with GOTV and DSTV, you are already digital and you do not need to buy another decoder because we are here to stay."



A charcoal dealer carries five bags of charcoal on a bicycle - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

We find it strange that since Mr Hakainde Hichilema was released from Prison, he has not met President Edgar Lungu at State House, let alone at Church. It has been half a month now, but the two leaders still seem to be avoiding one another. They are shying away from physical interaction.

It was surprising to note that Mr Hichilema missed an opportunity to meet President Lungu at the requiem mass of the late Joseph Kasonde on August 29, 2017. Had the UPND leader found time to attend that church service, surely it would have been difficult for President Lungu to ignore him. That would have been the moment for Zambia. It didn't happen.

On the other hand, President Lungu knew very well that on the same day, later in the afternoon, Mr Hichilema was expected at a thanksgiving church service. But like wise, our Head of State was not interested. The two functions were taking place at St Ignatius Parish and Cathedral of the Holy Cross - less than a kilometer apart - yet our two leaders were too busy for each other. It seems ego is still at play here. No wonder there is no clear roadmap to the much talked about dialogue. The initial efforts for speedy reconciliation seem to have run out of gas.

This raises questions about the deal brokered by the Commonwealth envoy Patricia Scotland. It seems no one knows what was contained in that agreement apart from the two leaders and perhaps the nosy presidential aides. The rest of Zambia is still in suspense. Both UPND and

When is the Lungu, HH dialogue?

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

Diggers! is published by NEWS DIGGERS MEDIA LTD
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.
PO Box, 32147. Cell: +26077122344/0965815078
Email: editor@diggers.news/mukosha@diggers.news

To advertise in the Diggers! ePaper or website:
Call +260953424603/+26077122344 or
Email: advertising@diggers.news or visit us at
Temp 8, Alex Chola Road, Nyumba Yanga, Lusaka.

PF supporters are wondering what President Lungu and the UPND leader agreed to do and not to do before this fake truce was arrived at.

What were the conditions for the release of the UPND leader from prison? So far, we know that a deal was entered into because the Commonwealth intermediary told us so. Therefore, we are no longer wondering how the unorthodox nolle prosequi in the treason case was manufactured.

"I have held separate discussions with the President and the leader of the opposition, to explore whether there was scope for an agreement which could take the parties forward. I should confirm that they have both agreed not to look backward but in order to promote peace, stability, and the public good, to look forward to the next election, to give dialogue, peace, and harmony a chance.

This agreement has been genuinely entered into, clearly in the interest of the people of Zambia..." said Scotland.

Well, the interest of the people of Zambia is to know the interest of their Head of State and his main political rival. What form of agreement is it that the two leaders entered into which is still not uniting them? Was it a gentleman's agreement or was it printed on paper where the two appended signatures? Zambians need to know because there doesn't seem to be progress on the much talked about dialogue.

From the two leaders, what we have heard is the need for true reconciliation; the importance of dialogue between aggrieved parties in order to move Zambia forward. President Lungu and president Hichilema have been speaking the same language for some time now, but despite all the cuddling, there has been no action.

Who is to blame? No doubt, President Lungu is not being the gentleman that he claims to be in this matter. He still seems threatened by Mr Hichilema. He doesn't believe in this reconciliation, otherwise he would have extended an invitation to the opposition leader by now. It seems President Lungu fears giving Mr Hichilema presidential limelight, that's why he is uncomfortable meeting him in person. Our President is willing to dialogue with South Africa's Mmusi Maimane and Julius Malema "even at short notice" but two weeks after Mr Hichilema's release, the Head of State is still hesitant to meet him. He can't imagine standing in front of journalists, taking a photograph with the opposition leader who doesn't recognise him as Head of State. That is the agony of the so-called reconciliation.

So then, what dialogue and reconciliation are the two

leaders preaching about if they can't seize an opportunity to meet in public and show that indeed they have buried their differences? This is not a good sign. We expect our political leaders to walk the talk, practice what they preach and lead by example.

Mr Hichilema's message of forgiveness on Tuesday was inspiring, but it must not end at speech.

"I want to say to you on behalf of our colleagues that despite the injustices, despite the inhuman treatment that we endured following our brutal arrest and detention, we harbour no bitterness, we harbour no anger because the Bible says if you are angry all the time, you will make mistakes. I therefore say on behalf of our colleagues; I Hakainde Hichilema, having reflected on everything that happened in light of every word of God and the love of our lord Jesus Christ, we do

hereby forgive all of those, and they are many, who were involved in our brutal arrest and subsequent detention. If we did not forgive them, we would have no credibility to claim that we are different from them," said Hichilema.

We encourage Mr Hichilema to forgive, but he must not forget. If he forgets, he will not be any different from those who illegally brutalized him. We say this because forgetfulness is what has brought the PF where it is today. Those in PF who are running government have forgotten how the MMD government treated them. They have forgotten how they used to be illegally brutalised by the MMD commanded police; how teargas was illegally used to disperse Michael Sata's political assemblies. We recall that Sata's boys like Judge Ngoma were imprisoned on political charges by the MMD up to the time PF won elections in 2011.

It is very important, therefore, that Mr Hichilema forgives his aggressors with all his heart, but forgetting, he must not. He must remember not to forget so that if and when his time comes to serve Zambia, these illegalities will not be repeated. Most importantly, whatever is contained in that Commonwealth agreement, we urge Mr Hichilema not to be compromised because a politically compromised HH is of no use to Zambia's democracy.

What Barack Obama's record breaking Mandela tweet tells us about the world

What is it about former US President Barack Obama's record-setting tweet - it has already surpassed 1.6 million retweets and 4.5 million "likes" - that has captured the imagination of the world?

In the tweet Obama quoted Nelson Mandela: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..."

Judging by the replies and comments, the tweet seems to have offered some respite to the rapid depletion in social morale in the US after the recent Charlottesville violence. White supremacists gathered in the Virginia town for a "Unite the Right" rally on August 12 to protest against plans to remove the statue of the Confederacy general, Robert E Lee. The violent extremists chanted racist and pro-Nazi slogans.

One of them, James Fields (20), allegedly rammed a car into anti-fascist demonstrators, killing activist, Heather Heyer (32).

Then came the current US President Donald Trump's press statement that effectively legitimised the racism as perpetuated by the rightwingers: We're closely following the terrible events unfolding in Charlottesville, Virginia. We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides.

Why did the Mandela words resonate now?

Obama's stroke of genius

Amid incredulous scenes of flagrant neo-Nazism - incredulous, that is, in an era of progressive human rights - and the inevitable and necessary protest against the rally, the words of Nelson Mandela resounded with a gentle wisdom and a kindly warning.

It was not so much a case of Obama simply not being able to find the correct words to respond to such a loathsome occurrence. After all it's not uncommon to use someone else's words or sentiment to make a statement on social media. I too have done this on occasion.

In this instance, however, the use of Mandela's words was calculated. Strategically speaking, it was a stroke of genius.

Articulating the poignant message as a "direct quote" tweet enabled Obama to pass on a discreet message saturated with meaning because of its content and because it was attributed to its originator.

But, as we have seen on Obama's timeline, the direct-quote tweet was given added meaning because of who had sent it, and its timing.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation sent out the same quote as a tweet on 29 July. But it enjoyed just over 1,100 "likes", 18 replies and 737 retweets. While this is obviously related to the number of followers, the point is that the overwhelming global resonance with the quote via Obama's twitter timeline, is not simply because of its content, as profound as it is.

In this case, Obama may have chosen these words precisely because they offered some distance from the political space in America. Had he tweeted a strong and powerful message in his own name or using his own words - which he is clearly skilled at doing - the message may have been regarded as merely playing the opposition card, or indeed, more likely, the race card. Either of these two imaginary readings would inevitably have been shut down either by political loyalists or increasingly courageous racists.

By using Mandela's quote as a response to Charlottesville, Obama maintained a sophisticated balancing act, while offering a few poignant messages of his own:

America is at risk of legitimising racial hatred in much the same way as South Africa did during apartheid;

Far-right conservative politics erodes the natural inclination of the human condition towards compassion; and

Trump's views represent irresponsible leadership, and are a veritable seedbed for social hostility.

Perhaps that is why the echoed words of Mandela caused such an outpouring of support and resonance among twitterati. It said what progressively-minded individuals wanted to say, but simply couldn't find the words.

Moral authority

I think the tweet raises another



Barack Obama 
@BarackObama

 Follow

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..."

interesting sociological point about moral authority. In a context in which there is such a deflation of morale - such as the violence in Charlottesville and the blatantly irresponsible responses from Trump - any sound-minded progressive individual might hope, or even pray, for some kind of voice of reason.

Under normal circumstances, and especially in a predominantly Christian society such as the US, this voice of reason may be

found in the Bible. But the right wing rally-goers had traded its life force for a narrative of exclusion that supported their bigotry. Invoking the words of the venerated icon Mandela, then, offered the necessary kind of gravitas or moral weight.

I can't help but consider how Mandela's legacy continues to offer respite to the world, though sometimes in quite different ways. In one case, it is Obama's political wisdom that prompts him to use the words of Mandela to balance

out rising social discontent, and to challenge racial hatred.

In another case, just under our noses, the African National Congress (ANC) with its increasingly dishonourable political leadership, invokes Mandela's legacy to balance out rising social discontent about its own moral bankruptcy. Perhaps Mandela too, is, tragically, a man for all seasons.

Caryn Abrahams, Senior lecturer, School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand

Warren Buffett becomes top shareholder in Bank of America



American billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway group has officially become the top shareholder in Bank of America after exercising its right to buy 700 million shares at a discount.

Buffett had received the warrants in 2011 after investing \$5 billion in the bank, which was suffering at the time from the fallout from the global financial crisis.

Bank of America said Buffett had acquired the shares for about \$7.14 each well below their Tuesday closing price of \$23.58.

Buffett's investment is now worth \$16.51 billion, meaning he has made a capital gain of nearly \$12 billion.

"In 2011, we welcomed Berkshire Hathaway as a shareholder, and we appreciate their continued support now as our largest common shareholder," the bank's CEO Brian

Moynihan said in a statement.

Buffett's other holdings include major assets in real estate and insurance. He is also the biggest shareholder in Wells Fargo. AFP



Indians wade through a flooded street during heavy rain showers in Mumbai

SA minister blasts African leaders' 'health tourism'

A South African minister has criticised African leaders who seek medical treatment abroad.

Aaron Motsoaledi condemned "health tourism" while speaking in Zimbabwe. President Robert Mugabe, who frequently receives treatment in Singapore, had left the meeting of health ministers when

Dr Motsoaledi made the comments.

Mr Mugabe's spokesman has said that the president's doctor "is not only Zimbabwean, he is actually black... He is very, very, very black".

George Charamba made those comments to Zimbabwe's state-run Herald newspaper in May, insisting

that President Mugabe was not turning his back on Zimbabwean medical help.

Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari and Angola's José Eduardo dos Santos have also been criticised for seeking medical treatment abroad this year.

At this week's conference Dr Motsoaledi said:

"We are the only continent

that has its leaders seeking medical services outside the continent, outside our territory. We must be ashamed of that."

"This is called health tourism. We must promote our own," he added.

Dr Motsoaledi also urged governments to increase funding to local facilities.

He has been praised by South

Africans for using public hospitals instead of private facilities.

Analysis: Shingai Nyoka, BBC Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

It was the elephant in the room as over 30 of Africa's health ministers met to discuss strategies to tackle the continent's public health problems.

Ghost tomato factory showcase for Nigeria's farming problems

At a state-of-the-art plant in northern Nigeria, shiny machines stand next to a conveyor belt ready to crush tomatoes to satisfy the country's insatiable demand for tomato paste.

But a lonely cleaner mopping the floor is the only sign of activity in Nigeria's biggest tomato factory, equipped with the latest Italian and German technology. There aren't enough tomatoes to run it.

It's a powerful symbol of Nigeria's uphill challenge to build up agricultural production and end costly food imports to feed its 190 million people. The West African nation imports staples from milk to wheat to tomato paste, with funds it mainly earns from exporting oil.

The conglomerate of Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, launched the plant in March 2016, contracting Italian engineers working for months on a 350 euro-a-day allowances to set up the machines outside Kano, the main city in the north. On paper this looked like a smart move as Nigeria imports up to 400,000 tons of tomato paste annually. The tinned paste is an ingredient in Nigerian tomato stew, used as the base for a host of traditional meat stews, sauces, soups and rice dishes that are staples of Nigerian cooking. Dangote Group had thought of every technical detail, even setting up a control room linking its engineers to experts in Italy in case there was a problem.

But it underestimated the difficulties involved in getting tomatoes, despite signing deals with some 5,000 farmers guaranteeing them to pay more than the market price.

Lacking fertilizers and working with their bare hands, the farmers have been unable to produce the quality and quantity the plant needs to make

paste. Much of the last season's output was wiped out by a pest.

The plant has been so far unable to find other supplies despite Nigeria producing some 1.5 million tons of tomatoes annually. A lack of good roads due to decades of corruption means tomatoes would perish on the way. Half of the country's output gets wasted.

Bar a few weeks, the plant has been standing idle, said its frustrated manager said A.L. Kaito, the managing director of Dangote Farms in charge of the plant.

"We are trying to weather out the storm, the cost is horrendous," said Kaito. "It's a nightmare."

Dangote spent some 4 billion naira (\$12.74 million) on the plant and now plans to set up its own tomato cultivation scheme for around ten billion naira to cover up to 70 percent of its needs, buying land and tractors. Experts from Israel, Mexico and Spain will be flown in.

PROBLEMS

The tomato plant hopes to restart work in January at just half of its capacity of 1,200 tons a day after the next season, in the meantime costing 5 million naira every month.

Dangote has kept workers sitting at home on the payroll: the Italians spent months training them on the new machines.

The investment is paltry for its owner, who is spending billions of dollars on cement plants, sugar and rice schemes across Africa. His cement business alone posted revenues worth in 615 billion naira in 2016.

But for President Muhammadu Buhari the idle plant is a major setback after another tomato factory in Lagos threw in the towel in November

2016, unable to import tomatoes due to a lack of hard currency as Nigeria struggles with recession. Buhari had, since his election in 2015, made it a priority to end dependency on food under the motto: "We must produce what we eat."

To encourage agriculture investments like the Dangote plant, the government has waived duties for greenhouse and processing equipment.

It is also giving subsidies to rice farmers and is considering expanding the scheme to tomato growers, a senior official in the federal ministry of agriculture said.

Officials had hoped to create jobs in agriculture to fight poverty in the north where some unemployed young men have joined an eight-year insurgency by Boko Haram jihadists.

But experts and farmers say, after decades of corruption holding back road and electricity projects and an obsession with producing oil, it will take time to improve the tomato output.

Low quality seed and a lack of power for pumping water means tomatoes can be grown only during the dry season, which creates a glut in March.

Farmers then lay out their tomatoes alongside highways hoping motorists will buy them. Anything that does not get sold within 24 hours is usually wasted due to a lack of cold storage.

They also ship some to Lagos, the southern megacity 1,000 km (600 miles) south of the factory. A basket of tomatoes sells for 2,000 naira in Lagos, but only around 10 percent of that ends up in farmers' pockets as traders and truckers take their cut.

"We don't have fertilizers and there is no power for cold rooms," said Sani Yadakwari, chairman of the some 10,000 tomato farmers in Kano state. "We need subsidies for our production." *Reuters*

The list of African heads of state who have recently sought medical treatment

abroad includes President Muhammadu Buhari, Angola's outgoing President José Eduardo dos Santos, Zimbabwe's 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe, Benin's President Patrice Talon and 80-year-old Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

When Dr Motsoaledi made the comments in a plenary session, his remarks were met with silence from the other member states represented.

Dr Motsoaledi admitted his position is a controversial one, but added that it needed to be said.

Mugabe's medical leave in 2017

17 Jan: President Robert Mugabe leaves Zimbabwe on an official trip then, according to the Standard, takes a detour to Singapore for routine checks

8 May: State media report that Mr Mugabe has left for Singapore on another routine medical check-up

9 July: Mr Mugabe leaves again for Singapore - a youth rally is postponed as a result and the main opposition accuse him of "ruling from a hospital bed". *BBC News*

Taylor Swiftly breaks four YouTube and Spotify records

The scene in Taylor Swift's new video where she raids the bank vault of a music streaming company is coming true.

In just four days, the star has broken four major streaming records, beating the likes of Adele and Ed Sheeran.

Look What You Made Me Do was played a total of 10,129,087 times on Spotify last Friday, the day of its release, more than any other song has achieved in a single day.

The video also broke YouTube's one-day streaming record.

It received 43.2 million views in 24 hours, smashing the record set by Psy, whose video for Gentleman was watched 38 million times in one day in 2013. She also overtook Adele's Hello as the most-watched video on day of release.

As Swift sped ahead of Psy's tally, her director Joseph Kahn celebrated on Twitter, telling fans "you are all amazing".

Swift also set a new benchmark with the song's lyric video, which attracted 19m views on its first day - more than double the previous record-holder, Something Just Like This by The Chainsmokers and Coldplay.

And in achieving the most Spotify streams in a day, Look What You Made Me Do also beat the record for first-day streams, formerly held by her friend Ed Sheeran for Shape of You.

The figures defy the polarising reviews for Swift's comeback single, a melodramatic pot-boiler which sees the pop queen turn on her critics declaring, "maybe I got mine, but you'll all get yours".

Spin magazine called the track "hard" and "cheerless", while the New York Times described the lyrics as "powerful, yet joyless".

Rolling Stone was more positive, praising Swift and playing the villain and "owning her bad press instead of merely brushing it off".

The lyrics contain a barely veiled reference to Kanye West and Kim Kardashian, who tussled with Swift when she objected to the line "I made that bitch famous" in one of West's songs.

The video casts its net wider, referencing everything



from Swift's relationship with Tom Hiddleston to her recent victory in a sexual assault case. Missing the (admittedly heavy-handed) humour, Variety magazine described the video as "so narcissistic and self-referential that one

could spend 5,000 words unspooling it".

Fans were more forgiving, cheering Swift as she turned the tables on her detractors.

"Iconic. Perfect. You destroyed the haters," wrote Natalia Kozanecka,

while Alex Goldschmidt said "congratulations in advance" for winning all of next year's MTV Awards. One caveat to Swift's streaming success is that, on Spotify at least, interest in her comeback single dropped over the weekend.

According to publicly-available data, Look What You Made Me Do was streamed 5.43 million times on Saturday - a drop of 2.48 million.

By contrast, Ed Sheeran's Shape of You (which previously held the one-

day streaming record) saw its streaming tally increase in its second 24 hours on the platform.

Look What You Made Me Do precedes Swift's new album, Reputation, which is released in November. **BBC News**

Russell Brand's radio interview with Elvis impersonator breached broadcasting code

Russell Brand has landed in hot water again with broadcasting watchdog Ofcom - this time over a radio interview with an Elvis Presley tribute act.

During his Sunday show on digital station Radio X, Brand asked Presley impersonator James Burrell if he had "ever had sex as Elvis".

The show went on to include an anecdote about the late singer and a prostitute.

Ofcom ruled the material was "inappropriately scheduled" given that children could have been listening.

"The item was broadcast before lunchtime on a Sunday... with no prior warning for listeners about what was going to be discussed," it wrote in its August bulletin.

"Given the programme was pre-recorded... the licensee could have done more to limit the effect the 'adult themes' may have had on children in the audience."



The show in question went out in May.

Ofcom previously took action against the comedian

over prank telephone calls he made to the actor Andrew Sachs during his BBC Radio 2 show in 2008.

The news of his latest infringement comes three days after his marriage to partner Laura Gallacher,

which he spoke about on the most recent edition of his Radio X show. **BBC News**



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns serve to Dusan Lajovic of Serbia & Montenegro during their first round Men's Singles match on Day Two of the 2017 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on August 29, 2017 in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. Yahoo Sports

Federer escapes in five-set US Open thriller as rain brings chaos

Roger Federer survived a five-set battle to defeat American teenager Frances Tiafoe and reach the US Open second round on Tuesday, keeping his bid for a record sixth New York title alive. The 36-year-old Swiss, chasing his third major of the year and 20th of his career, prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to avoid losing in the first round of a Slam for the first time since the 2003 French Open. The fast and furious duel under the roof of Arthur Ashe Stadium was one of only nine matches to be completed as torrential

rain swept 55 matches off Tuesday's schedule. At times, Federer also looked as if he was about to disappear with the deluge, struggling with a back injury as well as the all-out assault of Tiafoe, the big-hearted 19-year-old son of immigrants from Sierra Leone. But the veteran survived to register his 79th win in New York and set-up a second round match-up with either Russia's Mikhail Youzhny or Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia. "It was more than a test. We enjoyed it out there, we kept fighting, trying and it was exciting," said

Federer, who finished with 17 aces, 41 winners and 56 unforced errors. "I had a slow start. I was worried about the back injury. In the fifth set, it was a coin toss and it went my way tonight so I am very happy." "I am feeling extremely well. This will give me great confidence," added Federer, who missed the 2016 tournament with injury and was playing under the \$150 million Ashe roof for the first time. The back problem, which Federer suffered in losing the Montreal final to Alexander Zverev and ruled him out of the

Cincinnati tournament, restricted his movement in the opening set. World number 70 Tiafoe claimed it on the back of an uncharacteristic 18 unforced errors by the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion. Federer swept through the next two sets before Tiafoe leveled by storming through a 24-minute fourth set. In the decider, Federer broke for 3-1 but wasted a match point as he served at 5-3 and was broken by the American. But Tiafoe's nerve failed him in the 10th game and the match was over when

he dumped an off-balance forehand into the net. The win took Federer's first-round record in New York to 17-0 while world number one Rafael Nadal, a two-time champion in New York, went to 13-0 after the French Open winner claimed a 7-6 (8/6), 6-2, 6-2 win over Serbia's Dusan Lajovic. The 31-year-old Spaniard was critical of the noise inside the Ashe stadium, which was amplified to distracting levels by the roof, which was closed for virtually the whole day. "I understand it's a show, but under the roof we need to be a little bit more strict about the noise. All the noise stays inside, and this is difficult," said Nadal. With play on the outside courts trimmed to a mere 90 minutes, it means 87 singles matches will be staged on Wednesday. Japan's Naomi Osaka was one of just seven women to get through to the second round, aided by playing under the roof. The world number 46, born in Japan to a Haitian father and Japanese mother, clinched a 6-3, 6-1 win over sixth seed

Angelique Kerber, who became the first women's defending champion to lose in the first round since Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2005. Osaka, who surrendered a 5-1 final-set lead on the same court in losing to Madison Keys in the third round 12 months ago, fired 22 winners as Kerber went tumbling out of the world's top 10 as well as the tournament. "At 4-1, I was hoping I don't do what I did last year," said the 19-year-old Osaka, who admitted suffering a brief flashback to her tearful loss to Keys. Kerber is the third top seed to go out in the first round after number two Simona Halep and seventh-seeded Johanna Konta lost on Monday. World number one Karolina Pliskova, the runner-up in 2016, eased past Poland's Magda Linette 6-2, 6-1 on the back of eight aces and 29 winners. French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko downed Spain's Lara Arruabarrena 6-2, 1-6, 6-1 in a match relocated from Court 17 to Ashe. **AFP**

Mwepu jets in, eager for action against Algeria

By Diggers Reporter

Zambia Under-20 winger Enock Mwepu says he has not come to warm the bench but for action against Algeria. Mwepu of Austrian club FC Liefering is one of seven 2017 U20 AFCON winning stars who also reached the 2017 FIFA U20 Cup quarterfinals in South Korea called up for Saturday's 2018 FIFA World Cup Group B qualifier against Algeria at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka. Mwepu was the first of those European-based Under-20 stars on day one of training at Woodlands stadium Lusaka on Monday morning.

"I am here to play and not here to stay on the bench, so I am ready for the challenge. I am very excited to be called to the national team and I am hoping to do my best," said Mwepu. "Every team that we meet is a big team. Algeria is just a name but if we work as a team, not even Algeria can stop us but we are looking forward to winning this game." This is Mwepu's debut senior call-up and he is looking forward to facing Zambia's all-time North African nemesis Algeria whom Chipolopolo have only beaten twice in twelve encounters.



Messi and Dybala not guaranteed to start, says Argentina coach

Argentina head coach Jorge Sampaoli stressed he won't necessarily start both Lionel Messi and Paulo Dybala in their upcoming World Cup qualifier against Uruguay. *Yahoo Sports*



CHIPOLOPOLO ASSEMBLE FOR ALGERIA CLASH

By Diggers Reporter
Zambia are almost at full strength with just one player yet to join camp on Tuesday. Russian-based striker Fashion Sakala of Spartak Moscow was expected to join camp by Tuesday evening after taking care of a league obligation late on Sunday. But the rest of Fashion's fellow Zambia Under-20 call ups have joined camp in Lusaka.

Emmanuel Banda, Patson Daka, Moses Nyondo, Boston Muchindu, Edward Chilufya and Enock Mwepu were all part of Tuesday morning training with their senior counterparts led

by captain and goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene. But Zambia only held one training session in the morning and took the afternoon off after a gruelling full day of practice

on Monday. And for a second successive session, Zambia on Tuesday held training behind closed doors this time at Nkoloma Stadium after also practicing away from

preying eyes on Monday afternoon at Woodlands Stadium. Meanwhile, Algeria are expected on Thursday on a charter flight from Algiers for the September 2 date at

National Heroes Stadium. Zambia and Algeria are tied on 1 point each in Group B. They are one point behind 3rd placed Cameroon and five points adrift of leaders Nigeria.

