



PF THUGS ABDUCT

LUSAKA MAYOR

Next time I'll shoot them - Sampa



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Cabinet Ministers Prof Nkandu Luo, Jean Kapata, Sylvia Chalikosa, Nathaniel Mubukwanu and Sydney Mushanga on a pilgrimage to the Vatican City great Pope Francis at the Holy See

Don't give up on PF, President Lungu begs Kasenengwa voters

By Mirriam Chabala
President Edgar Lungu has asked the residents of Kasanengwa to keep their faith in the Patriotic Front saying it hasn't been in power long enough to deliver all its promises. Meanwhile, President Lungu has warned citizens to desist from engaging in political violence, saying it does not make sense for political party sympathisers to be

fighting when their leaders are living in harmony back in Lusaka. Speaking in Kasanengwa's Chiparamba ward where he went to drum up support for Seniso Banda yesterday, President Lungu likened the PF to a child that was still learning to walk. **To page 6**

PF, UPND cadres clash in Solwezi

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UPND Mangango MP Naluwa Mwene dies in road crash

By Mukosha Funga
UPND Mangango member of parliament Naluwa Mwene has died. Mwene who was elected opposition parliamentarian in 2016 died in a road traffic

accident yesterday along the Lusaka-Mongu Road. UPND spokesperson Charles Kakoma confirmed Mwene's death to News Diggers! in an interview. "Yes we have gotten such a

report. The only details we have at the moment are that he died in an accident on the Lusaka-Mongu Road near Itezhi-tezhi turn off; and the other four people who were in the car have been rushed to Mumbwa District Hospital, He is the only one who died," said Kakoma

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Court fines 2 Chinese K30,000 for forging visa

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Former foreign affairs Minister Harry Kalaba takes a selfie with former vice-president Guy Scott

By Tenson Mkhala
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) country representative Pierrine Aylara has praised Zambia for hosting a large number of refugees and asylum-seekers from neighbouring countries. Speaking at the National Stakeholders Consultations on Multi-year, multi-partner and Solutions Strategy in Lusaka, Tuesday, Aylara said Zambia's continued quality leadership and efforts in ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers are able to live dignifying lives should be emulated by other

UNHCR hails Zambia's peaceful reputation in hosting refugees

countries in the region. She said the dedication and support from the people of Zambia to embrace refugees seeking peace and security showed how peaceful the country was compared to other countries on the continent. "I would like to thank the government of Zambia for its continued quality leadership and effort to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers are able

to live dignifying lives in Zambia. I would also like to recognize the dedication and support from the people of Zambia to embrace the refugees who have come to search for peace and security. Zambia has a long-lasting history of providing a national protection solution for refugees who have been persecuted in the region and beyond. The country

has now been struck by huge numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries due to the political instability; countries such as Burundi and DRC," Aylara said. She noted that as long as there were no concrete political solutions to the difficulties neighbouring countries, such as Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) face, citizens from these

countries would continue to see Zambia as a safe haven for their lives. "This is a reminder to all of us that as long as there are no concrete political solutions to the difficulties that our neighbours Burundi and DRC face, women, girls, boys and men will continue to see Zambia as a safe haven for their lives," she noted. And Aylara disclosed that Zambia was currently

hosting about 74,000 refugees, including asylum-seekers. "Zambia is currently hosting about 74,000 refugees all together and these includes asylum-seekers from Angola, Burundi, DRC and Rwanda. About 45,000 are refugees and 83 per cent of these are from neighbouring DRC, representing about 21,000 who sought asylum in Zambia in the last 18 months. While more than 10,000 refugees have been settled in Mantapala in Nchelenge District in Luapula Province and 31,000 of them have settled in Kalumbila District. 20,000 in Kaoma District and over 14,000 in urban areas, such as Lusaka and Ndola," Aylara added. Meanwhile,

Commissioner for Refugees in the Ministry of Home Affairs Abdon Mawere said government was committed in ensuring that it provided a peaceful environment for asylum-seekers and refugees.

"The Zambian government will continue to provide a peaceful environment to ensuring that we take care and meeting the needs of our friends who are asylum-seekers and refugees. The government is committed in ensuring that we take extra care of our beloved friends," said Mawere.

Zambia's bonds are the world's worst - Bloomberg

By Stuart Lisulo
Zambia's Eurobonds have lost value of 10 per cent this month alone, more than any of the 75 countries in the Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Markets USD Sovereign Bond Index. According to Bloomberg, these losses have extended their decline to 23 per cent this year and sent spreads over U.S. Treasuries soaring to more than 1,000 basis points.

The plunging value has been triggered by an emerging-market selloff that is piling pressure on Zambia to stabilize its finances and strike a bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an elusive US \$1.3 billion balance of payments support package. This development comes in the wake of Zambia's creditworthiness having been downgraded twice in the past month, with

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings who cut the foreign-currency rating to 'B-' from 'B' last week on account of the growing budget deficit and pace of debt-accumulation expected to be higher than it previously forecast.

Moody's Investors Service also lowered its assessment to Caa1 shortly before that. Bloomberg also reports that yields on Zambia's US \$1

billion of notes maturing in 2024 rose 28 basis points to 14.22 per cent by 14.50 hours, London time yesterday, extending their increase in 2018 to 775 basis points.

Commenting on the Eurobond yields, Kaan Nazli, a strategist in The Hague with Neuberger Berman, the US \$300 billion money manager that owns Zambian

Eurobonds, cautioned that country's yields could rise even further due to weak macroeconomic fundamentals.

"Zambia's yields could rise further because its fundamentals are still very fragile," Bloomberg quoted Nazli as saying.

"It's not a place that investors would rush into even if emerging markets become popular again. People will

be cautious about Zambia until it produces better numbers or gets an IMF deal."

However, Zambia's revenue streams are strong enough to avert a default at least until 2022, when the US \$750 million of Eurobonds mature, according to Nazli. Bloomberg's efforts to get a comment from the Ministry of Finance failed to yield any reply by press time.

High legal fees contributing to prison congestion - German envoy

By Tenson Mkhala
German head of cooperation Christoph Ritz says the high cost of legal representation fees charged on inmates and detainees have contributed to overcrowding of

correctional facilities in Zambia.

Speaking during the launch of legal help desks at Lusaka Central and Kamwala Correctional Facilities, Tuesday, Ritz

said overcrowding in correctional facilities is a long-standing problem with overall occupancy levels higher than collective capacity.

"High cost of legal

representation fees on inmates have contributed to the current situation of overcrowding in correctional facilities. In Zambia, overcrowding in correctional facilities is a long-standing problem with overall occupancy levels three times higher than collective capacity. The immediate result of such high occupancy levels is that the State is unable to meet the basic and developmental needs of those detained in these facilities," Ritz said.

He said the justice sector in the country is characterized by limited cooperation and co-ordination between justice institutions leading to ineffectiveness and inefficiencies in the legal chain.

"Further, [the] Zambian justice sector is characterized by limited cooperation and co-ordination between justice institutions, which especially in rural areas, often leads to ineffectiveness and inefficiencies in [the]

legal chain, resulting in poor service delivery," Ritz added.

He further said that in order to address challenges in justice system, the European Union (EU) and Germany have been working together to establish paralegal help desks.

"I am pleased to inform you that on this close cooperation with Zambia Correctional Service, and through the paralegal help desks, a total of eight correctional facility paralegal help desks have been established. I must state that we have one in Choma, Mazabuka, Livingstone, Ndola Kamfinsa and Chingola. In Lusaka, we have Kamwala and Lusaka Central Correctional Facilities," said Ritz.

Meanwhile, Zambia Correctional Service deputy commissioner Tobias Mwanza said 389 out of 1,341 inmates at Lusaka Correctional Service have had legal representation.

ECZ explains PF, UPND cadres clashes in Solwezi

By Sipilisiwe Ncube
UPND and PF supporters on Monday clashed in Kamalamba Ward in Solwezi after the opposition ambushed a bus ferrying PF cadres who went to attend a rally led by Vice-President Inonge Wina, according to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ).

And the ECZ has revealed that the electoral environment and campaigns ahead of the September 6 by-elections are proceeding smoothly apart from the Kamalamba and Shikombwe wards in Solwezi and Kaoma districts respectively.

In a statement issued by ECZ

public relations manager Margaret Chimanse, the UPND and PF in Kaoma have been removing each other's campaign posters as well as using unacceptable language.

"The electoral environment and campaigns are proceeding smoothly apart from Kamalamba (Solwezi) and Shikombwe (Kaoma) wards. UPND and PF clashed in Kamalamba Ward on Monday, 27th August, 2018, where UPND ambushed a bus ferrying PF cadres who went to attend a rally led by Her Honour the Vice-President, Ms. Inonge Wina. One of the cadres sustained injuries, but is out of danger. Quick action by police stabilised

and calmed the situation," Chimanse narrated.

She stated that the District Conflict Management Committee will meet today to deliberate over violence-related matters.

"In Shikombwe Ward (Kaoma), UPND and PF have been removing each other's campaign posters and unacceptable language is being used. To address these issues, the District Conflict Management Committee will meet on 29th August, 2018, to deliberate over these matters. This is part of the dispute resolution mechanism that exists within the electoral process," stated Chimanse.

By Mirriam Chabala

Zambia will now be paying higher interest rates when borrowing following the downgrading of its credit rating from B to B- by the Standard & Poor's Ratings, economist Dr Lubinda Haabazoka has warned. And Dr Haabazoka suggested that the only solution for Zambia out of the downgrade was to embark on a campaign of either restructuring its unfavourable debt or refinancing other debt to ensure that the debt service coverage ratios were favourable. In an interview with News Diggers!, Dr Haabazoka, who is Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) president, cautioned that lenders would now be sceptical about lending to Zambia because they would be looking at the country's ability to meet its principle and interest payments in the long-term. He observed that Zambia would be made to pay higher interest rates following the credit rating downgrading. Last Friday, Standard & Poor's Global Ratings downgraded Zambia's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings to 'B-' from 'B', reflecting the country's faster debt accumulation and higher fiscal deficits. "The impact of the downgrading of our credit rating will be that we are now going to be able to borrow resources at higher interest rates because the rating basically signifies the risk of default. So, what the lenders are going to look at is our ability to meet our principle and interest payments in the long-term because the negativity as indicated by rating agencies are on the long-term. In the short-run, I think we expect appetite

EAZ warns Zambia will pay higher interest due to credit rating downgrade

for Zambia issued debt to remain stable because in the short-run, we are able to meet our obligations. But what investors will be sceptical about is our ability to meet the already issued Eurobond. So, the only solution now is to start a campaign of either restructuring unfavourable debt where possible or refinancing other debt to ensure that our debt service coverage ratios are quite favourable, meaning we should be able to reduce the amount of money we are spending on debt service. This practice is done worldwide; the US government is one of the most prominent

users of such techniques," Dr Haabazoka said. "I think that the news that Zambia's sovereign credit rating has been downgraded from B to B- is quite unfortunate owing to the fact that when you look on the other factors that are used in coming up with an average rating, things like political risks, those are stable. Macroeconomic risks...the Zambian kwacha is relatively stable, inflation is in single digits and also other factors, I think they are quite strong as compared to what we are seeing in other countries, especially in Europe where, for example,

Turkey is under pressure and the other different markets. But when you look at Zambia, I think we want to look at a credit risk as being one of the most contributing factors to the downgrading. I think that the rating agencies understand that in the short-term, we will be able to meet our liquidity requirements or our obligations, but they are much more scared in the long-run [in] terms of the Eurobond because there is that talk to say, 'we need to refinance that debt.' That's why in order for us to keep a favourable rating, we need to put in measures to ensure that our prospects in the

long-term are quite positive." And Dr Haabazoka suggested called for a review of existing debts that can be refinanced. "So, I think what we need to do now is to sit down and see which debts have higher interest rates because we have financiers scattered around the world lending on the European and Western markets for as low as one to three per cent and those people are even willing to bring the money into Zambia because Zambia has been known to be a country of stable political and economic environment. We need to sit down and see which debts we can

refinance now, renegotiate or restructure debt with the Chinese to ensure that pay back is extended," Dr Haabazoka explained. "You know, what normally happens is that if we restructure the tenure of the loans, we will pay less in terms of interest and principle payments, but in the long-run, we will pay more because we are extending the length of the tenure of the loan, but at the end of the day, we will even be able to borrow more money because what is very bad is not the amount of the loan that you have or the amount of the debt to GDP; what is bad is the amount that you are paying versus the revenue that you are raising. If we had to reduce the amount of money we are paying by half by restructuring the debt, you will find that our books will be actually more cleaner and we will have a leeway to even borrow more money." Meanwhile, Dr Haabazoka said cutting down on expenditure like some international money lenders were suggesting was not the only solution of solving the country's debt crisis. "We have a lot of finance experts, and as Economic Association of Zambia, we are able to come back to sit on the table with government and other responsible agencies and provide a home-grown solution, that is why we are very sceptical and we do not encourage government to go and borrow from the IMF because the IMF will be against any restructuring or refinancing, but will tell us to cut government expenditure. And if you cut government expenditure, for example by US \$1 million, you would reduce demand in the economy by one million dollars, for example, then the economy suffers by the same one million dollars," observed Dr Haabazoka, who is also director at the Graduate School of Business at UNZA. "That is why cutting expenditure in some cases cannot be beneficial for the nation. So, as we cut waste in terms of government expenditure, we should not cut expenditure towards infrastructure projects because by reducing government expenditure, you are reducing demand of goods and services in the country by that same amount thereby reducing economic growth. So, there is a way we can deal with our debt by not punishing or not reducing economic growth. A clever way we can do it is actually sit down and do that and you will see that even our ratings will grow after the restructuring and refinancing of our debt."



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Country representative Pierrine Aylara and Commissioner for refugees at the Ministry of Home Affairs Abdon Mawere at the national stakeholders consultative meeting at Lusaka's Pamodzi Hotel yesterday - Picture by Tenson Mkhala

CTPD demands reversal of 30 ngwee Internet calling charges

By Stuart Lisulo

Government's decision to charge mobile phone subscribers a 30 ngwee per day tariff on Internet calls should be reversed because it is misguided, says the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD). In a statement issued, Tuesday, CTPD researcher Bright Chizonde stated that the government's intention to charge consumers the 30 ngwee tariff was misguided because it is based on flawed research findings. According to Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Siliya, research showed that 80 per cent of citizens are using WhatsApp, Skype and Viber to make phone calls, justifying the move to bill consumers who are on these platforms. Chizonde, however, argues that government's assertion is misguided, adding that the correct position is that only 1.3 million citizens can make Internet calls. "CTPD holds the view that this

collective decision was misguided and government must consider reversing the decision. CTPD further considers the cited research and figure to be erroneous and very misleading. According to the 2015 ZICTA ICT Survey Report, about 51 per cent of people aged above 10 years in Zambia are active users of mobile phones. Of this, less than 13.5 per cent of the users have smart-phones," Chizonde disclosed. "Furthermore, only 71 per cent of the people with smart phones use the devices to access. Over the Top (OTT) applications like WhatsApp, Viber, Facebook, Skype and Twitter for communication using instant messaging or voice calling. After doing the math, this means only about 1.3 million citizens can make Internet phone calls, which is about 8 per cent of Zambia's population. The minimal number of people using this service can, therefore, not justify the issuing of and SI seeking

to impose a tariff on Internet calling." He also rubbished government's claim that the 30 ngwee tariff would help save jobs in the ICT sector. "The view that government would save jobs by doing this is simply a misunderstanding of how business and trade operates. Government should maintain its role of providing a conducive environment for business growth, and regulation of the sector should be done through ZICTA in order to protect the interest of the mobile phone users and the economy at large," Chizonde argued. "Recently, we have observed an increase in banking innovations on the part of these same telecommunication companies such as the introduction of mobile money services. Such technological advances negatively affect the commercial banks, but the banking sector has not complained. Should the government also

introduce a tariff on mobile money services? Should emails also be taxed because they reduce revenues of the postal service?" He further stated that the tariff will only lead to an increase in the cost of doing business. "CTPD is of the view that the 30 ngwee tariff will only add to increasing the cost of communication and business in the country relative to its neighbouring countries. This will disadvantage Zambia by increasing the cost of doing business and may result in lower foreign investments in many other sectors. Government cannot start operating like a mobile provider in incentivizing users away from a particular service," stated Chizonde. "If government wanted to get a share of what the companies get, an option would have included introducing a tax at source, not targeting an end-user. Government's role is to provide a conducive environment"

Job creation has increased by 37% under PF – Antonio

By Mirriam Chabala

Former Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) Spokesperson Antonio Mwanza says employment creation in the informal sector has increased by 37 per cent in the last seven years of the Patriotic Front administration.

Mwanza who is now ruling PF deputy media director said this when he featured on UNZA radio's Lusaka Star magazine where he described the infrastructure development under his party as mammoth.

"The Patriotic front has not been in power for not even 10 years, it has been barely seven years now from 2011. But if you look at the development that the party and the government has put so far in the last seven years, it's mammoth. Let's for instance look at the issue of jobs, when the PF took over office in 2011, we had less than one million Zambians in formal employment. But now, we have a total of over 1.1 million Zambians who are employed in the formal sector, these are permanent and pensionable jobs with very good working conditions. That is a success that the Patriotic Front has scored," Mwanza said.

"In the last seven years of the Patriotic Front, their is a 37% increase in the jobs that have been created in the informal sector. In the household sector for

instance, cumulatively we have created over 900,000 jobs that have been created since PF came into office in 2011. As we are speaking right now, a lot of people have been complaining about the Mazabuka – Kafue road, the Africa Development Bank has already signed an agreement with the government of the Republic of Zambia and they have the feasibility studies and everything and

once pen and paper is put together, that road will be done because the funding has already been secured."

And Mwanza said the government had also prioritised the diversification of the country's economy from copper dependence to agriculture in order to grow the economy and create wealth amongst citizens.

"For the last 20 years, the agricultural sector has not been given the priority that

it deserves to be given, the priority has been so much on mining. But us as the Patriotic Front we realise that first of all, the mines are not owned by Zambians. So as a government that wanted to see areas of growth, we have identified agriculture to be the main area of growth where we can create more jobs, more opportunities and create more wealth for our people," said Mwanza.



Miles Sampa narrates how PF thugs threatened to kill him

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Lusaka Mayor Miles Sampa yesterday narrated how PF youths who campaigned for him ambushed and abducted him on his way from inspecting illegal structures in Matero township.

And Sampa who posted pictures of himself brandishing a pistol on his Facebook page following the attack, vowed to shoot and kill the "thugs" next time, describing them as hired chaps sent to disrupt his work.

Narrating the ordeal to News Diggers Tuesday, Sampa suspected one of the former councillors in the constituency as the one who sponsored the thugs.

"Yes indeed there was what I

can say a kidnap or holding me hostage for close to one hour by thugs who were about 20 or so. What transpired is that on Friday I received a complaint, some marketeers, some women from Matero came to my office complaining that they had been moved from where they were selling their merchandise in particular charcoal. So I went for a fact finding mission because it's my duty to respond when there are such cries from people who claim they have been displaced," Sampa narrated.

He said after ordering a stop to the construction works at the site in questions, a group of about 20 thugs started trailing him on his way back

to the office.

"When I got there, I found indeed somebody was constructing something and next to it there was another construction going on. So I told them to stop and come to my office with documentation indicating who gave them authority to construct [because] the council needs to give permission for anyone to construct. And that is how I left that place. Now on my way back I used the back route, little did I know that I was being trailed by these youths who were in a bus and then when I noticed that I was being trailed, I turned into Tobacco board and then they followed me and then 20 thugs came out drunk

and threatened violence on me, pushing me and said 'we'll kill you, we voted for you [and] what you are doing now is unacceptable.' And they were getting more and more vicious and picking up tones. Of course then they were using force violence and threats and they were claiming that they were representing those who had interest in that land that I went to inspect. And I believe those are the ones who funded them to hire a bus and to come after me and to intimidate me," he stated.

"There is a former councillor and he is a suspect and there is some other individuals and I know them and I've made a report to the police station and they are investigating. So I sneaked inside the office of the owner of that building, inside his private office and he locked me inside there, but they were hovering around that office in the corridors still screaming. And they picked up stones and waiting for me to come out and even threatening to smash the official vehicle or smash me if I come out. So while inside there that is how I called the minister of Home Affairs and told him I was under siege, and it was about an hour later or 40 minutes later that the police came with guns to rescue me from them."

And Sampa said he will start boxing as a career while keeping his gun close-by to defend himself next time.

"In the morning, I realised that they could have killed me over nothing, I am only trying to do my job. What I

am saying is that I will do my job without fear of favour and I will stick to the police protection but if it is not forthcoming, I will protect myself. I am even going to join the gym now and start lifting weights and I will start boxing as a career," said Sampa.

"I have bought a gun, it's not the only one I have other guns as well for my protection when my life is in danger. I was traumatised yesterday and throughout the night but today I picked up the courage. [I suspect] former councillor Lee Mukupa, the councillor that I made and the councillor that I personally helped to become councillor. Indeed it is those that you help that will come to stab you. It's him. When he was councillor he allocated himself over 20 plots in there to himself or his associates. Everyone in Matero knows that. So to defend himself that is what he is doing. I was just asking him to bring documentation."

And Speaking to BBC earlier Sampa said he deleted his pictures of gun toting after senior party official prevailed on him.

He said he disregarded advice not to post such pictures on the Internet but he insisted and went ahead because he wanted to send a message to his assailants that next time he would shoot them down.

"These are PF youths, I know them. I can identify them because I used to see them during campaigns, they are from Matero. They were saying, 'we voted for you,' said Sampa

Court fines two Chinese men K30,000 each for forging visa

By Zondiwe Mbeve

The Lusaka Magistrate Court has slapped two Chinese men with a K30,000 fine each for forging an immigration visa.

Wei Xuecheng, 27, an engineer and Wang Wei, 41, a businessman, had earlier pleaded guilty to forging an immigration visa.

It was alleged in this matter that on August 8, 2018, the accused while in Lusaka, forged online visa number 10341630-08/18 bearing the names Wang Wei, purporting that the travel document was issued by the Department of Immigration, when in fact not.

And when the matter came up for sentencing before Magistrate Mary Chibanga, Tuesday, the accused said in mitigation that they were first offenders

and did not want to waste the court's time by admitting to the charge.

Passing judgement, Magistrate Chibanga, however, fined the duo K30,000 each and in default, five months simple imprisonment.

She further ordered the cancellation of any permit issued as a result of the forged document in addition to other orders the Immigration Department would impose on them.

Magistrate Chibanga said the accused persons should have used laid down procedures to acquire the visas.

She added that immigration laws should be followed because they were meant to safeguard the country's security.

"The immigration laws that we have as Zambia border on the security of the country and people need to abide by them to ensure that movements

in and outside Zambia are checked," Magistrate Chibanga said.

Facts in this matter are that on August 8, 2018, the immigration officials at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) received a report in which unknown people forged an online immigration visa.

An immigration officer, Geoffrey Mukwasa, apprehended Wei and Wang and confiscated the forged visa, and further interviewed the duo in connection with the alleged forged document.

"Upon examination and verification, it was discovered that the online visa in question was forged. When further interrogated, the accused did not give the immigration officer a satisfactory answer justifying their possession of a forged visa," read the facts.



Landlords, sinking Knives and floating boats

That evening the heavens saw it fit to open its bowels without a 'signal'. After two consecutive weeks of uninterrupted sunshine and dryness in the middle of the rainy season; frogs and bugs finally crept out of hiding and were chorusing hymns of jubilation as the human race receded into sheltered enclaves. It was a quiet evening and was definitely going to be a silent night although it was not yet Christmas.

It was raining heavily in Makeni Township. Although it was almost midnight, Banda was glued to the window of his house. There was a peculiar sparkle of joy and pride in his eyes because he was finally in his own house, he was now his own landlord and was no longer paying rent.

During that two weeks dry spell in the middle of the rainy season, Banda had managed to complete building his house, and it was a miracle, a dream come true. Although the floor had just been done hence was not completely dry, the house was ok; it had walls all around, a roof and doors.

Building this house had not been easy, apart from scrapping all his savings and the soft loan of K50, 000 he had gotten, it had taken a lot of sacrifice, hard work and endless battles with bricklayers and caretakers who kept disappearing with cement and building tools.

Today, however is different. Banda's peculiar smile has left his face and found itself on the surface of the wall of his new house. The hose looks like it is smiling because there is a large crack starting from the window level up to the roof. It's just three months since the rains finished and the ground is almost dry yet there

had been no earthquake to cause cracks to his house like that. Worse, the plaster near there ground is peeling off badly and the walls look bend.

Being a wise man from the east, Banda has against all odds called his monkey eating cousin from the North to help him with charms to fight back and restore his house back to its former glory.

'Your house has not been bewitched mbuya', Mulenga explained, "what is causing these cracks is called 'Uneven Settlement of the structure'. Since you had used the 'Chinese Style' of building where you did not make a slab but just put a foundation footing followed by a ring; the walls and the slab are separate and are moving separately. The walls are not resting on the slab so under the weight

of the roof they are like knives edges cutting down while the slab owing to its large surface area is stationery because it is just floating on the ground like a boat. Now that the soil is getting dry, the soil is shrinking thus moving the house disproportionately. If it had been on a single slab it would have been moving as one unit hence it wouldn't have cracked."

'Zambia has no serious earthquakes and everyone is building using the Chinese style and their houses are intact. Besides it is much cheaper and allows you to live in the house as you complete building', Banda interjected. 'Yes you are right mbuya, it is fine to use the 'Chinese style' but only if the soil is compact and well drained otherwise it's not in all places where it can work and at the rate your house is cracking there is nothing that can be done to save it apart from breaking it down and building another one before it falls on you.' Mulenga clinched.

The main function of the foundation is to give stability and strength to the building by safely anchoring it to the ground and transmitting the forces and loads imposed on it to the ground in a way that prevents the building from damage or collapse.

Although skewed away from the common eye, the foundation is one of the most important parts of any building. It may seem intelligent and cost saving an initiative to compromise on the quality and quantity of materials for the construction of a foundation yet the consequences of a poorly done foundation can be catastrophic to both the building and the environment on which a building is built.

The major determinant of the type and materials to be used on the foundations falls in the domain of specialized sciences hence whenever one wants to put up a building foundation it is important to consult either an architect, a structural engineer or anyone with legitimate building construction information.

The Zambian climate has varied soil types and structure hence particular attention to has to be taken. The nature of the soil upon which the foundation will lay and the building type and size has a great effect on deciding the type of foundation to use so no single foundation design fits all occasions.

While it is possible to correct mistakes made during the construction of walls or the roof, mistakes made in the



foundation are the most critical and hardest to correct so whenever you are building a foundation watch out for the following tips:

Supervision: the key to a good quality building is to make sure the work is properly supervised by a person who knows and understands the work. This person must be knowledgeable about the material combinations and building processes.

Site Preparation: the building once set out cannot be moved so position the building properly. The soil upon which the foundation will sit must be well compacted, treated with anti-termites and should be properly damp proofed to avoid moisture getting in the mouse from the ground. Trees with large growing roots are a danger to have near the building.

Building Process: Concrete slabs and foundation footings require to be properly watered once built so that the concrete dries properly without cracking due to excess evaporation. Proper aggregate mixtures of Stone, Sand and Cement have to be adhered to so that the foundation is strong and durable.

Building is great investment, do it right.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Two men of Mongu, Western Province, a soldier and businessman, have appeared in the Lusaka Magistrate Court on two counts of seditious practices.

The duo, Gift Malezo, 25, a businessman and Moonga Kachimba, 38, a soldier, are alleged to have uttered seditious words against the ruling Patriotic Front and its leaders.

Particulars of the offence in count one are that Gift Malezo and Moonga Kachimba, on July 13, 2018, in Mongu Western Province, uttered seditious words namely; "chikala Kampyongo,

Soldier who called Kampyongo "chikala" appears in court

this is just a friendly warning naba PF, you have stolen a lot, FIC (Financial Intelligence Unit) has brought the truth, we have been watching, remember 1997 what happened, what Zimbabwe Army did small. Through the army units we have strong trained platoons, which are preparing for the same exercise. You

think we are happy with the peanuts we get if you become a fun, copper will end up in your heads." And in count two, the accused persons on the same date in Mongu, Western Province, uttered seditious words namely; "Kampyongo, you go and tell your foolish Lungu that we are not fools, serious President Mnangagwa

awarded the soldiers with 22 per cent salary. I know where our generals go to train, but we say enough is enough. Last time, we were promised 50 per cent salary just that coup in Zimbabwe, the VEEP said this, we are not kids to be treated, watch your backs." And when the matter came up for plea before magistrate Alice

Walusiku, Tuesday, the duo, who are remanded in custody, could not take plea after the State applied for an adjournment, saying the indictment needed to be attended to. "Before they can take plea, the indictment needs to be worked on. We apply that the matter comes up on August 30, 2018, for plea," the State said.

The court, however, denied the duo bail, saying they could only apply for bail after taking plea. "You can only do that after I have attended to your matter. Then that's when you can apply for bail," Magistrate Walusiku said. The matter has been adjourned to August 30, 2018 for plea.

By Mirriam Chabala

President Edgar Lungu has asked the residents of Kasanengwa to keep their faith in the Patriotic Front saying it hasn't been in power long enough to deliver all its promises.

Meanwhile, President Lungu has warned citizens to desist engaging in political violence saying it does not make sense for political party sympathisers to be fighting when their leaders are living in harmony back in Lusaka.

Speaking in Kasanengwa's Chiparamba ward where he went to drum up support for Seniso Banda yesterday, President Lungu likened the PF to a child that was still learning to walk.

The Head of State also asked the residents to vote for Banda because it would be hard to work with an opposition MP.

"I beg you to consider giving us Sensio Banda in order to continue working on what Victoria Kalima left, if you give me any other candidate as member

Do not give up on PF, Lungu tells Kasanengwa residents

of parliament, I will find it very difficult to work with him. The next thing which is very important is to know that those [other] political parties don't want to work with the ruling party. So don't gamble, I have said this because I know that we are in a hurry to develop this constituency, especially here where we are in Chiparamba area. We made Kasanengwa a district because we wanted you to be getting what is rightfully yours from the government and not through Chipata district. I know there are those people who think PF is not bringing development at a fast enough pace but let me tell you that we've only been in power from 2011

but what we have done can be seen already. I have only been for three years plus but you can see what we are doing," President Lungu said.

"You can compare with our friends in MMD without disrespecting them, they were there for 20 years but you see what they did in 20 years, you can also compare to the many years of UNIP and what they did but compare the 27 years to the few years that PF has been in power. You must remember those of you that have been lucky to have children, when a child is born it doesn't start crawling immediately it's born no, it starts sitting by it's own and standing much

later until they start walking by themselves. So that is exactly where we are as PF, so please I am begging you give us space to work and bring development to our people."

And President Lungu promised that farming inputs would be delivered on time this year.

"I know people who are coming here think we don't know what is going on, we are also farmers by the way. We had a bumper harvest the other year, the only thing we cannot do is to bring the rains when God hasn't allowed it to come. My duty is to ensure that fertiliser and seed are here in good time and after I have done all that then I should fall

on my knees and pray that the Almighty gives us rains. But you've heard people say when the price of copper goes up they will say it's Edgar but when the prices fall they don't acknowledge, that's how bad these people are. So don't listen to them they don't mean well for the Zambian people. But for those of us who care, we don't need to do what they do, we just want to continue working for the people of Zambia. I will come through in weeks to come to ensure that all the farming inputs are in place. I will make sure that the e-voucher system is in place so that we are able to access all the farming inputs. That's my job and also to pray that rain comes on time. That's all I can do because I am only human," President Lungu said.

Meanwhile, President Lungu called for non violent campaigns in Kasanengwa.

"I want to advise my colleagues [in the opposition] that we have a job to do for all these people here. And let's vote peacefully, if we fight we are just injuring ourselves. Edgar Lungu is in Lusaka drinking tea, HH is in Lusaka drinking coffee, Chishimba Kambwili is somewhere else drinking milk... eh why are you fighting? People in Parliament do drink tea together, these MPs from UNIP, MMD, UPND, PF they drink tea together so why should allow your children to be fighting for politics? After all, the nature of our politics in Zambia now is nomadic, you can move from one political party to another to another until you find your success. So I ask you to respect life and property and stay away from politics, we only have one Zambia one nation," he said.

President Lungu said he was disappointed that the residents were scrutinizing Banda's tribal heritage.

"First we have to know, what does 'one Zambia, one

Nation' mean? All of us here are responding very well when somebody says 'one Zambia' but do we know what that means? I am asking this because I am very disappointed to hear that the campaigns here are centred on whether Sensio Banda is Ngoni or Chewa. But it's not important whether Sensio Banda is Ngoni or Chewa because PF has got no tribe. If PF was tribal, I wouldn't be President myself because [Michael Sata] was not Nsenga but I am Nsenga and himself was from somewhere in Mpika. But for you here in Chiparamba you want to be asking whether Sensio Banda is Ngoni or Chewa, my heart bleeds for you people. What should concern you is whether Sensio Banda will deliver effectively as a member of parliament, not whether he's Chewa or Ngoni," said President Lungu.

"I didn't know what tribe the late Victoria Kalima was, I didn't know but I knew she was an effective representative and that's why we adopted her in 2016 and that's why you voted for her. You are not going to vote for Sensio Banda because he belongs to PF or because as President I come from here, no! You are going to vote for Sensio Banda because he's going to work with the party which is delivering. You gave us more than 20 names of potential candidates to choose from and the party settled for Sensio Banda because we thought he was the best candidate for this time around. I was sure and we are sure in PF that Sensio Banda will not let you down, he will deliver on behalf of the people Kasanengwa constituency. As a member of parliament in PF I will make sure that I supervise him until he delivers, if he fails I will deal with him. I cannot say the same thing about the other candidates because I don't know them."



L-r: Higher Education Minister Prof Nkandu Luo, Lands Minister Jean Kapata, Minister in the Office of the Vice-President Sylvia Chalikosa, North Western Province Minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu and Central Province Minister Sydney Mushanga pose for a photo with the Apostolic Nuncio at the Vatican in Italy. The ministers travelled to attend a Catholic gathering in Rome

Farming inputs ready for distribution in N/W Province, says Inonge Wina

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Vice president Inonge Wina says agriculture inputs for the 2018/2019 farming season are ready for distribution in the North Western Province of Zambia.

Wina announced this upon her arrival at the Solwezi Airport, Monday, where she went on a two day visit to inspect a number of developmental projects as well as to meet with the residents.

And senior Chief Kasempa of the Kaonde people of

North Western Province has commended the Patriotic Front Government for looking into the plight of the vulnerable in the area by availing Social Cash Transfer to 3,408 people.

And chief Kasempa also commended government for installing 23 solar hammer mills in the province.

He was speaking when the Vice President paid a courtesy call on him.

Meanwhile chief Kasempa appealed to government to complete the construction of a district hospital, and

tarring the Kasempa-Mumbwa Road among other uncompleted projects. Wina is scheduled to have

meetings in Kasempa, Zambezi and Solwezi and later scheduled to travel to Western Province.

Incest-accused man gets K5,000 bail

By Zondiwe Mbewe

The Lusaka Magistrates' Court has granted a 38-year-old man of Misisi compound accused of having carnal knowledge of his eight-year-old daughter, K5,000 bail in his own recognizance, with two working sureties.

Alick Banda, a general worker, is facing one count of incest by males.

Particulars of the offense are that Banda on July 1, 2018 in Lusaka, allegedly had carnal knowledge of his eight-year-old daughter.

And when the matter came up for mention before magistrate Fides Hamaundu, Tuesday, Banda asked for bail pending his trial.

And in response, magistrate Hamaundu granted the accused person

K5,000 bail in his own recognizance with two working sureties.

The court however could not proceed with trial because consent to prosecute Banda had not yet been given by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The matter has since been adjourned to September 11, 2018 for another mention, awaiting for consent to prosecute.

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President Edgar Lungu has observed that Zambians have a talent of complaining with a lazy attitude towards work, while relying on government to give them handouts without working for them.

The head of State remarked during the commissioning of the MISSOIL Processing Plant in Mambwe District, Eastern Province, that Zambians were failing to develop their inner potential to improve their living conditions but were fast to say “*boma ilanganepo*”.

“I am very impressed with what I have seen, I say I am impressed because I have heard people say ‘we are suffering’. But then I ask them ‘what are you doing to get out of that box of suffering which you are trapped in?’ because we all have it within ourselves to improve ourselves but most people want *Boma ilanganepo* (the government should look out for us), *boma ilanganepo bwanji?* Me I tell them that we are simply here to create an enabling atmosphere or environment that is convenient for you to be able to identify your potential,” said President Lungu.

“What I am seeing is that Zambians have a talent of complaining and complaining and complaining, the truth is that we can break out of any suffering just like this lady (founder of MISSOIL Processing Plant) has risen from

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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What's President Lungu's talent?

nothing to where she is now where she has employed a lot of people. Let's identify our different talents and capabilities so that we partner with those that have further knowledge so that we develop our potential.”

President Lungu has a valid point. It is not right for people to just sit and wait for the government to do everything for them. But again, there is a very valid reason why people have the right to demand for help from their government, as they strive to survive.

When God created human beings, He gave each one of them a special talent which they could use to survive whatever harsh environment they may be faced with. God did not create governments. He created leaders by giving certain human beings the talent of solving problems,

the ability to tolerate weaknesses in others and the heart of sacrificing for others. But he definitely did not create a single government.

For many thousands of years when people were hunter-gatherers and small-scale farmers, humans lived in small, non-hierarchical and self-sufficient communities. In some cases, a chief of a tribe would be selected by various rituals to test the strength or talent of individuals to lead others.

With the increase of populations, the desire to control water, land and other agriculture resources became a catalyst for the development of social, economical and political structures; which later developed to be what we call governments today.

Governments are the institutions which

people with the desire to lead others, like President Lungu, conjured up with the intention of maintaining what they referred to as collective interests. Under this civilized system of governance, it is the people who finance government operations. Not just the working class, but every citizens who buys or sales products at a market place. These people pay all forms of taxes to enable the government protect the so-called common interests.

That is what gives the people of Mambwe District the right to make various types of demands to President Lungu, the man who is in charge of their national and natural resources. It is not out of laziness that they say “*Boma ilanganepo*”.

We don't believe that there is a single citizen

of this country who just sits at home waiting for a government messenger to knock on the door with a plate of free nshima. Zambians are not as lazy as our President is trying to portray them. We work hard to survive, but it is the responsibility of government to provide basic human needs to the population.

But because of selfishness and greed, our government has violated the principal of rewarding the taxpayer by providing basic human needs and necessities like clean drinking water, health facilities, education etc. That is why you see a Head of State getting irritated when citizens say “*Boma ilanganepo*”.

When a leader of a country is irritated by demands from the population to provide basic human needs, it

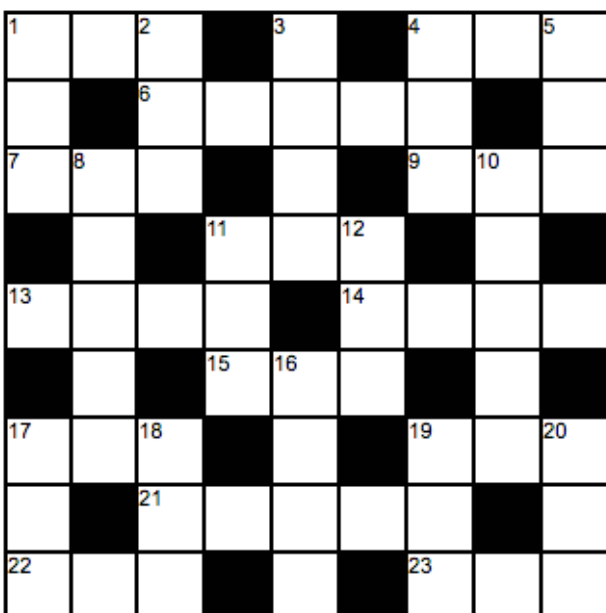
means he lacks the talent to lead others. It means he does not have good leadership qualities and does not recognize the fact that “*Boma*” is the people themselves. When citizens say *Boma ilanganepo*, they are simply making a request that part of their money should be used to fix a particular problem in their locality.

So we do not agree with President Lungu when he says his role ends at “simply creating an enabling atmosphere or environment that is convenient for citizens to be able to identify their potential”. God already created a perfect atmosphere and environment for all of us to identify our potential.

President Lungu owes the citizens of this country a responsibility to distribute the country's resources equitably, with a priority towards the most needy and vulnerable. He needs to ensure that government provides services to people including those that don't like him.

But to be able to do that, President Lungu first needs to identify his own inner potential. This brings us to a very cardinal question that we must seek to answer as we strive to survive under this regime. What is our Head of State Good at? What is his talent? What special gift does our President have that distinguishes him from the rest of us and makes him a suitable person to lead us?

Crossword puzzle 175



“Inspiration is a guest that does not willingly visit the lazy.”
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

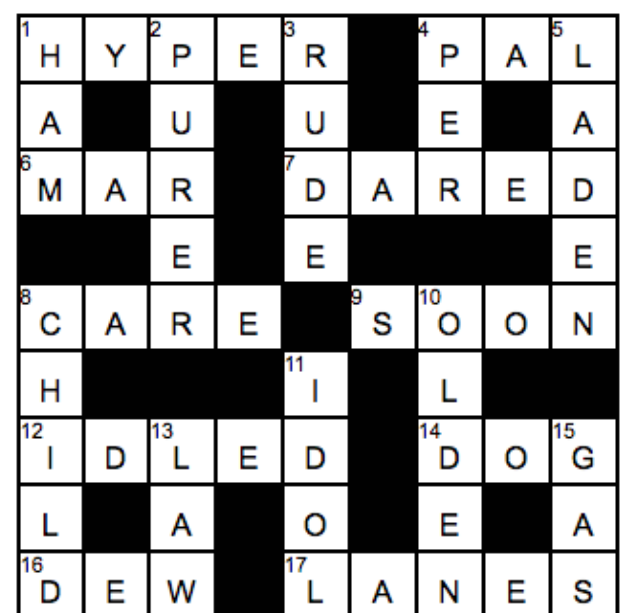
Across

1. Significant time period
4. Non-neutral particle
6. Breakfast order
7. ___ Angeles
9. Related people
11. I am, you ___
13. Male deer
14. Sprouted
15. Energy unit
17. Whichever
19. Pig's home
21. Worship
22. Legs, when sitting
23. Kitchen spray

Down

1. Snake-like fish
2. Muscle man's six-pack
3. Left after cut heals
4. Writing liquid
5. Woman in religious order
8. Time after time
10. Bumbling
11. Historical period
12. Scrambled or poached food
16. Top of a house
17. Feel poorly
18. Babble on
19. Labor Day mo.
20. Root vegetable

Solutions to puzzle 174



Reader's feedback

Bank of Zambia to abolish unwarranted bank charges

Editor,
"Smart move." - John Gabreal Mwewa

"Good move." - Vincent K Siwale

"Loooooong overdue." - Kenny Chaps Njobvu

"Finally, the Bank is acting in the interest of the people of Zambia." - Jameson Chibomba

"Most people have no idea how much money they are milked of by these banks. Just checking your bank balance or making a deposit on an ATM may attract a charge! But it's not yet time to celebrate, let BoZ effect the abolishment first then we can celebrate" - Michael Moyo



Nkombo's right to tell outsiders calling for HH's resignation to back off

Editor,
"I agree with Nkombo, but is he telling us they can't respect Zambian people or respect democracy?" - James Scotch Phiri

"Garry is right outsiders; should back off. BUT the same many outsiders can make UPND win or lose on an election; don't overlook them." - Christopher Phiri

"Nkombo, you are right." - Previous Muchaili

"Ba Nkombo, you are right. No need of going ku convention. We as UPND are okay with the leadership. What is their problem? Let them concentrate on removing these thieves called PF leadership." - Urwylor Kalota

"No Mr Nkombo! Here's what I think, if Zambia allows Lungu a third term then we are trully screwed. Not only because Lungu is a bad leader, but because we need to protect our Contitution at all costs, it's what nations are built on. Now, coming back to Mr Garry Nkombo, it's evident that Hakainde has no bite. Like it or not, am not a PF supporter hence my wish for a stronger man to challenge and take the throne from the corrupt regime that sits on it and introduces more taxes everyday. Hakainde must resign so that someone with bite can take over and hopefully change the trajectory of mother Zambia." - Mundia Hantuba

"Leave HH alone." - Victor Sumbwa Mulife

"I am saying people who are around him must be changed; we need fresh blood..." - Macmillan Shimukonka

"Garry Nkombo knows that UPND without HH is finished." - George Mundia

Edgar Lungu on delivering success between 2021-2026

Dear Editor,
"This man is walking a path of self-destruction. This pursuit of the third term will only bring him grief. It's frightening and worrying to see a president continue to breach the Constitution, which he swore to uphold by undermining all institutions of governance, including the ConCourt. How dare he still comment on the case that is before the ConCourt? What makes him think he is going to deliver what is failing to deliver now? He may probably succeed in intimidating the Judiciary and possibly rig another election, but in the end he will be a broken man." - Simon Chinyama

"Lungu, your term ends in 2021 by constitutional orders. You are not allowed to contest again. I know you looking at how you want to remain in power; you will use a common defence tactic by wrong-doers ati: 'there is a technicality and a lapse on the Constitution...'" - Emmy Kanyembo

"Jameson is bad when consumed in excess. No wonder he sleeps at every public function. This man likes dreaming." - Mainde D Keembe

"It's amazing to see a president who's also a lawyer blatantly disregarding the supreme laws of the land. Can someone explain how we compromised to such standards?" - Ackim Mwanamuzenge Neene

"Are the 2021 presidential elections results already out? Even the presidential inauguration has already passed. What a pity!" -

Mukati Mui

"What will happen if the ConCourt rules that he cannot stand in the 2021 elections?" - Ernest Masaiti

RTSA's increase of Airport Road speed limit to 100km/hr

Editor,
"The 100 km/hr speed limit is not possible on the KKIA road as the road in its current state is a death trap!" - Poza Nom

"Just put up speed limits; it should come standard with every road contract. Take Kafue Road at Sandy's roundabout; the speed limit drops from 80 to 60 to 40 in a short distance. Cops always used that technicality to capture motorists. Assuming everyone on the roads knows limits is almost entrapment. Also, paint speed humps with lasting paint, not the cheap stuff that fades like toothpaste." - Joe Mumba Kawimbe

"It was illogical for RTSA, a firm run by technocrats, to have handled the speed limits that way before public concerns." - Mathews Kunda

"So, he thinks everyone can see Chongwe, Chisamba as a town or built up area?" - Kennedy Mwanamakondo

Theresa May to pledge Africa investment boost after Brexit

Theresa May is to announce plans to boost Britain's investment in Africa after Brexit, during her first trip to the continent as prime minister.

At a speech in Cape Town, she will say she is "unashamed" about ensuring the UK also benefits from its aid spending.

Speaking on her way to South Africa, she also played down warnings from the chancellor about the economic damage a no-deal Brexit could cause.

She will also visit Nigeria and Kenya during the three-day trade mission.

The trip - which will see Mrs May meet the presidents of all three countries - aims to deepen economic and trade ties with growing African economies ahead of Britain leaving the EU in 2019.

Arriving in South Africa on Tuesday morning, Mrs May



The prime minister met pupils at a Cape Town school at the start of her trip

is expected to say she wants the UK to overtake the US to become the G7's biggest investor in Africa by 2022. She will announce an

"ambitious new approach" to the UK's aid spending in Africa, by using it to help British private sector companies invest on the

continent.

Private sector investment is key to driving growth and "unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit" in

Africa, she will say.

Mrs May is also expected to say that creating jobs on the continent - where many countries have young

populations - is "in the world's interest".

It is the best way to tackle extremism, instability and migration to Europe, Mrs May will claim, adding that otherwise the environmental and economic impacts will reach every corner of the world.

BBC political correspondent Ben Wright said like other European leaders the PM saw "huge economic potential to tap" in Africa and was keen to support economic stability in the region in order to "stem the flow of migration".

Talking to journalists on board RAF Voyager on Tuesday morning, Mrs May reiterated that she believed a no-deal Brexit was still better than a bad deal - adding no-deal "wouldn't be the end of the world".

Last week Chancellor Philip Hammond warned in a letter that a no-deal Brexit could damage the economy.

The warning came hours after Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab sought to play down the risk of a no-deal as he issued guidance for businesses in that eventuality - describing the impact as a "potential short-term disruption".

The prime minister, who will be accompanied by a 29-strong business delegation to the three Commonwealth countries, previously said the trip would be a "unique opportunity at a unique time for the UK". **BBC**

North Korea still poses a "serious and imminent threat", Japan said Tuesday in its first annual defence review since tensions eased on the Korean peninsula.

Japan's 2018 defence white paper also took aim at China's rise as a military power, saying Beijing was sparking "strong security concerns in the region and international community, including Japan". Last year's defence review was published at the height of the tensions with North Korea, amid nuclear and missile tests and with US President Donald Trump threatening to rain down "fire and fury" on Pyongyang if it kept up its threats.

But since then, a spectacular diplomatic detente has taken place, culminating in the historic summit between Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on June 12.

Nevertheless, Tokyo insisted on Tuesday: "There is no change in our basic recognition concerning the threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles."

Pyongyang continues to post "an unprecedentedly serious and imminent threat to Japan's security and (to) significantly damage the peace and security of the region and the international community", according to Tokyo.

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera acknowledged in the document that North Korea had begun dialogue with

NKorea still 'serious and imminent threat': Japan

former foes the US and South Korea.

"But we cannot overlook the fact that, even to this day, it possesses and fully deploys several hundred missiles that put nearly all of Japan within range," stressed the minister.

In response, Japan is steadily upgrading its capacity to shield the nation from the North's arsenal, including a plan to spend some \$4.2 billion over the next three decades on installing and operating US radar systems. The defence ministry is expected later this week to request a record 5.3 trillion yen (\$47.6 billion) for the budget for the fiscal year starting from April.

Despite the historic handshake in Singapore, there has been little progress in denuclearising the Korean peninsula and Washington-Pyongyang relations appear to have taken a turn for the worse, with Trump abruptly scrapping a planned visit to the North by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The white paper also reiterated Japan's worries about China's increasing military spending and expanding naval ambitions.

It complained that Beijing was trying to "change the status quo by coercion", referring to

such actions as building up disputed islands in the South China Sea and expanding naval activities around East China Sea islands disputed with Japan.

The white paper drew ire from Seoul by repeating

Tokyo's longstanding claim of sovereignty over islands which Japan calls Takeshima. The islands are controlled by South Korea, which calls them Dokdo.

"The Japanese government must bear in mind that

repeating such unjustifiable and groundless allegations over Dokdo will not be helpful at all in building forward-looking relations between the two countries," the South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement. **AFP**

Leading journalists join call for EU copyright reform

Leading journalists from more than 20 countries joined a call Tuesday for European MPs to approve a controversial media reform aimed at forcing internet giants to pay for news content.

European Parliament lawmakers return in September to discuss the proposal, a first draft of which was rejected last month after a fierce debate.

The so-called copyright and neighbouring rights law aims to ensure that producers of creative content -- whether news, music or movies -- are paid fairly in a digital world.

But the plans have been firmly opposed by big US tech firms such as Google and Facebook, as well as advocates of internet freedom.

An open letter signed by more than 100 prominent journalists from major news outlets warned Tuesday that "this fleecing of the media of their rightful revenue" was "morally and democratically unjustifiable".

"We have become targets and our reporting missions cost more and more," said the letter written by AFP foreign correspondent Sammy Ketz and published in several European newspapers including France's Le Monde.

"Yet, even though (the media) pay for the content and send the journalists who will risk their lives to produce a trustworthy, thorough and diverse news service, it is not they who reap the profits but the internet platforms, which help themselves without paying a cent," the letter said.

"It is as if a stranger came along and shamelessly snatched the fruits of your labour."

The editorial urged the European Parliament to "vote massively in favour of neighbouring rights for the survival of democracy and one of its most remarkable symbols: journalism".

Major publishers, including AFP, have pushed for the reform -- known as Article 11 -- seeing it as an urgently needed solution against a backdrop of free online news that has wiped out earnings for traditional media companies.

But opponents have called it a "link tax" that will stifle discourse on the Internet.

Resistance has been especially heated to Article 13: the proposal to make online platforms legally liable for copyrighted material put on the web by users.

Music legend Paul McCartney as well as major music labels and film studios had lobbied politicians urging them to come together and back the changes.

Critics, however, argue the reform will lead to blanket censorship by tech platforms that have become an online hub for creativity, especially YouTube. **AFP**

Spurs ace Ginobili retires from NBA

San Antonio Spurs star Manu Ginobili confirmed his retirement from basketball on Monday, bringing down the curtain on a 23-year career that included four NBA Finals victories.

The 41-year-old Argentine star, widely seen as the most successful foreign player in the history of the NBA, confirmed his retirement in a brief posting on social media. "Today, with a wide range of feelings, I'm announcing my retirement from basketball," Ginobili wrote.

"IMMENSE GRATITUDE to everyone (family, friends,

teammates, coaches, staff, fans) involved in my life in the last 23 years. It's been a fabulous journey. Way beyond my wildest dreams."

The veteran shooting guard was a key part of the San Antonio teams which won four NBA crowns between 2003 and 2014 after he joined the league in 2002 from Italian team Virtus Bologna. As well as the four NBA titles, Ginobili was twice selected for the All Stars, in 2005 and 2011.

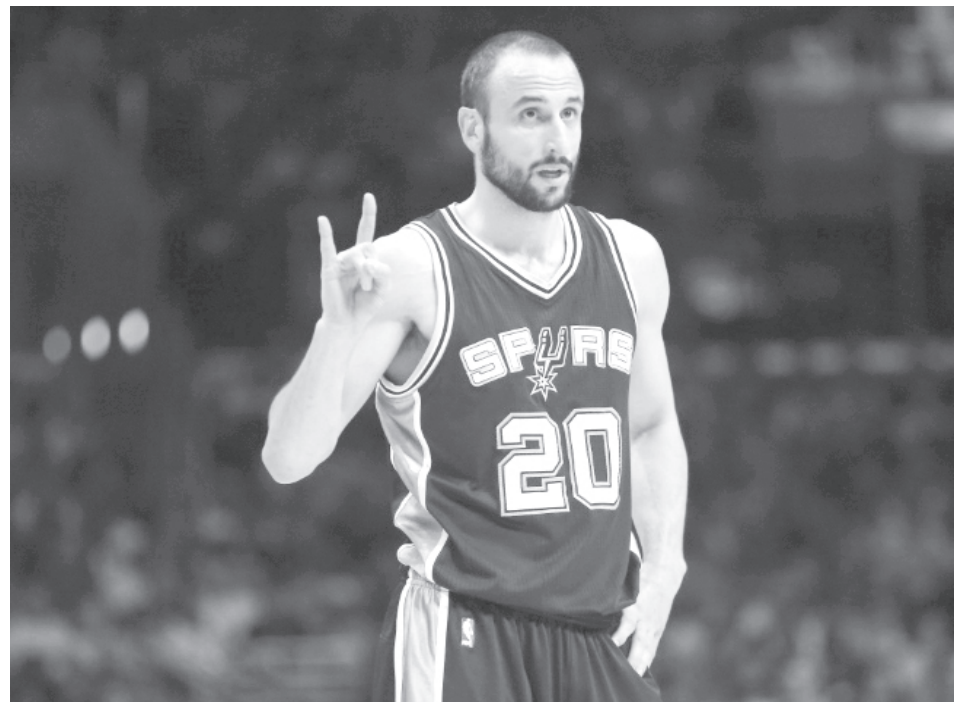
He also helped Argentina score a shock gold medal victory at the 2004 Olympics

in Athens.

He is one of only eight players in history -- and the only non-US born player -- to have won four NBA championships and an Olympic gold.

Ginobili's retirement signals the final end of an era at San Antonio where he was a key pillar of championship-winning teams alongside Tim Duncan (retired) and Tony Parker, who left the team last month.

Tributes to Ginobili quickly swept across social media following his retirement. **AFP**



Athletics star Siame dreams big

By Alex Chilumbwe

Zambia Athletics national team star Sydney Siame has expressed happiness over his performance in the just ended season where he broke two national records in 100 and 200m races. And Siame says he is looking forward to breaking his season best records in the oncoming season that starts November, 2018. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Siame reflected on the national records he broke and all the international competitions he participated in. "It has not been an easy

road and it keeps going. I'm happy with my performance in the just ended season and I look forward to breaking more national and international records. I have a good seasonal best in 100m with a time of 10.6 seconds and breaking a 200m national record with 20.18 seconds. It is not easy to break two national records in one season, I'm just so happy about it," he said. "I'm also hoping in the next season, I can reduce the time to 10 seconds flat. We have a very experienced coach at national level who ensures we train within

time. This allows me to balance work and personal life. We train in accordance with the programme. Our coach understands we also have other pressing personal issues but athletics is my life. He is the reason I will achieve my goal of winning the world championships. I have already competed with

world record holders and could reach the semi finals so am heading somewhere." The sprinter is ranked fourth in 200m in Africa and fifth among Commonwealth countries. He further highlighted his achievements from athletics. "All that I have now is because of athletics and that

is the reason I give it my all. I was educated because of it, got a job through it and even my Nike sponsorship is totally because of it. Because it has brought me this far, I now have a big dream of wanting to be ranked first in the world in all my races. Success in this field does not come there and then but when it

comes, it is worth the wait. There are no shortcuts and upcoming athletes should not for a second think of doping. It will just end their careers. They should work extra hard and work inertly. Discipline, hard work and determination will take them far. There is so much talent in Zambia," advised Siame.

By Alex Chilumbwe

Exodus Boxing Academy(EBA) owner Anthony Mwamba has appealed to boxers in the country to maintain a high level of discipline both inside and outside the ring. Mwamba also advised boxers to seek quick medical advice each time they felt a little discomfort within themselves. Speaking to Goal Diggers! Mwamba said it was cardinal for boxers to

EBA demands high level discipline from boxers

exhibit best behaviour in all areas of life adding that they were role models to many people in society. "Boxers are not expected to be involved in street brawls

or any kind of misconduct. They are role models to young people in society that want to emulate everything they do both in and outside the ring. People

should feel safe around a boxer and there should be an overriding sense of responsibility among them. Any kind of bad behaviour means either being banned

or suspended and that is slowing down progress. In case a boxer feels ill or a little discomfort, he or she should immediately seek medical advice

and see that all is well. They should not force themselves to continue training when they are not okay. They are humans like any other so they can be excused. I do not think there is any promoter or manager who would want to abuse a boxer who is not well," said Mwamba. Mwamba's remarks came after the return of Joseph Mulima to the ring. Mulima had been on a medical break from boxing for several months and could not hide his excitement over his return. "I'm very happy to be back in the ring and to be doing what I love. I will take it easy but still train very hard to catch up with other boxers' fitness. I was unwell as well as engaged with other issues but now am back. I also did not force myself when I was not well so it helped me get back quickly. This is a good sport that I chose and I love it so much. I will do my best to make a strong and memorable comeback from my medical break and my first priority will be winning league fights," said Mulima.

By Alex Chilumbwe

Shepolopolo coach Enala Simbeya says there is a calming and winning spirit prevailing over the girls in camp that gives her hope they will compete favourably in both COSAFA Castle cup and Africa Cup of Nations. Simbeya also expressed happiness over her players' response to newly introduced tactics and mind challenging approaches to the game. "Training has been intensified. I'm very happy with current mood among the girls. I was worried that it would be hard for them to adapt to new things that I introduced to them. Like

Shepolopolo in winning spirit

I mentioned in the previous interaction, I really was focusing on their mindset and it is working well. They understand and master new tactics very well, they are able to apply them

and they do all this in a short time," Simbeya said. Asked on the COSAFA Castle Cup vision, Simbeya said her girls would win with the high morale they possessed. "The spirit is high and it is all

the winning kind of spirit. There is so much love among them, one would think they are from the same club. That is what I love the most among them. They have own discussions about how they

want to win the COSAFA and take African giants in the African cup," said Simbeya. Shepolopolo will be looking to beat their previous COSAFA achievement where they finished third.

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ETOILE DRAW DUMPS ZESCO

By Alex Chilumbwe

ZESCO United football club yesterday could not utilize their home advantage in their CAF Champions League group match against a Tunisian side Etoile du Sahel in Ndola at the Levy Mwanawasa stadium. ZESCO struck first and early in the 8th minute through their goal scoring machine Lazarus Kambole, and maintained their lead heading into the second half in an intense game that saw back and forth attacks on either side of the pitch. Hopes of holding on to the lead were high among ZESCO supporters but a 70th minute equalizer from Etoile's Bedoui meant that ZESCO needed more to go through to the next round. In the end it was not to be as the game ended in a stalemate. In a post match interview, ZESCO coach George Lwandamina bemoaned his sides inability to collect maximum points which would have given them better chances of qualification. "We needed to collect



maximum points to have any chance of qualifying to the next stage. Now our qualification is dependent

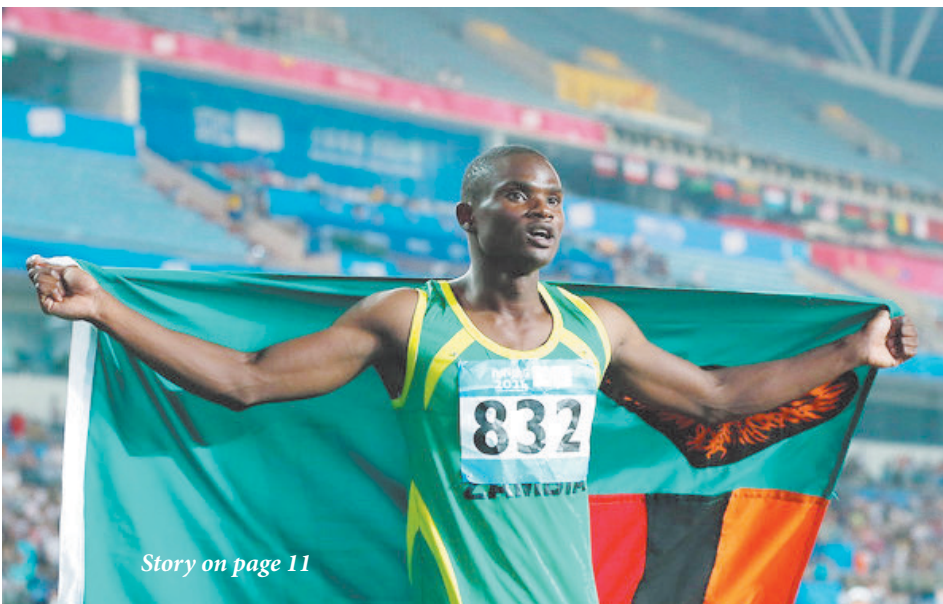
on the result that will be between Primero du Agosto and Mbabane Swallows that we beat [Swallows] 3-0 in

our previous encounter. We should have avoided this math but that is just about the game of football," said Lwandamina.

Meanwhile Premeiro De Agosto beat Mbabane Swallows 2-1, a result which dumped ZESCO out of the

competition as Premeiro De Agosto took second place behind leaders of group D Etoile du Sahel

Athletics star Siame dreams big



Story on page 11



United have lost two of opening three PL games for first time since 1992 as Tottenham stunned Manchester United with a 3-0 win at Old Trafford on Monday Night. Photo credit: Supersport